

Parental and Peer Attachment and its Correlation with Aggressivity Among Late Adolescents

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Abstract

Aim: To assess the parental and peer attachment and its correlation with aggressivity among late adolescents. **Introduction:** Parent-adolescent relationship continues to play a key role in influencing the adolescent's development. Attachment is a basic human need for a close and intimate relationship between adolescents and their parents. The impact of peers, whether positive or negative, is of crucial importance for personality development during adolescence. **Objective:** To assess and correlate parental & peer attachment with aggressivity among late adolescents. **Methodology:** A correlational research design was used to assess the level of parental & peer attachment with aggressivity among late adolescents (200), selected by convenience sampling technique, studying in selected nursing colleges of Ludhiana, Punjab. Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment was used to assess the level of parental and peer attachment and Aggression Questionnaire was used to assess the level of aggressivity. **Result:** Findings revealed that the 97.5% of late adolescents had secure maternal attachment & only 2.5% had insecure maternal attachment and 93.5% had secure paternal attachment while 6.5% showed insecure paternal attachment. In case of peer attachment, 99% of late adolescents showed secure peer attachment and 1% showed insecure peer attachment. Regarding aggressivity, 53.5% late adolescents had severe level of aggressivity, 44.5% had moderate level and only 2% had mild levels. There was no correlation between maternal attachment and aggressivity however, weak positive correlation was found between peer attachment and aggressivity and very weak positive correlation was found between paternal attachment and aggressivity. The association of level of parental attachment, peer attachment and aggressivity was found significant with gender. **Conclusion:** Thus, the study concluded that there was very weak positive correlation between paternal attachment and aggressivity and there was weak positive correlation between peer attachment and aggressivity whereas there was no correlation between maternal attachment and aggressivity.

Keywords: Maternal attachment; Paternal attachment; Peer attachment; Aggressivity.

Introduction

Attachment is a basic human need for a close and intimate relationship between adolescents and their parents. The term "attachment" is used to describe aspects of intense, intimate emotional relationships with particular emphasis on parent-adolescent interactions and the emotions adolescents feel towards their parents. Attachment is often defined as an emotional tie or bond between two people.¹

The goal of parental attachment is to ensure the protection, comfort, and assistance needed for survival. Secure parental attachment with adolescent positively influence the way the adolescent is capable of giving a meaning to his existence. But it also serves as a strong point in how he manages himself in different social context as a responsible person.²

Peer relation during middle childhood and adolescents are an important part of children's social and emotional development. Children and adolescents pick up essential social and communication skills for their peers as they move into late adolescence and early adulthood. Peer conflict is not necessarily a bad thing; disagreement and conflict are part of life, and children and adolescents need to develop skills to resolve

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disagreement. However, peer conflict can cause significant emotional and physical harm and can lead to aggressive behavior when youth lacks the social skills necessary to cope with their frustrations. Therefore, it is important to identify peer conflict and aggressive behavior and to promote positive peer conflict resolution techniques for child and adolescents.³

Men are more involved in aggressive risk-taking behavior than women, not only when it becomes to physical aggression but also in verbal one such as in the actual case. Men maybe more vulnerable to risk factors of displaying aggressive behavior related to the inappropriate parenting pattern compared to women. The risk factors for the types of aggression are the same, but that men are more exposed to risk factors than women. These negative transactions increase the risk of being exposed on the path of risky behavior and involves many of the adolescent's risk-taking behavior leading to criminality.⁴

Methodology

Research design- Correlational research design

Research setting- DMCH College of Nursing, Ludhiana, Punjab

Target population – 17-19 years of nursing students

Sample size- 200 late adolescents

Sampling technique: Convenience sampling technique

Description of tool(s)

The research tool was divided into three parts:

Part A: A tool to assess the socio demographic profile of adolescents.

Part B: A standardized tool to assess the parental and peer attachment among adolescents by inventory of parent and peer attachment (IPPA) by Armsden & Greenberg in 1987.

Part C: A standardized tool to assess the aggressivity among adolescents by Aggression Questionnaire (AQ) by Buss and Perry in 1992.

Socio demographic profile: This section includes age, gender, type of family, residential status, socio-economic status and religion.

Inventory of parent and peer attachment (IPPA) by Armsden and Greenberg in 1986: Three broad dimensions were assessed: degree of mutual trust, quality of communication, and extent of anger and alienation. The IPPA is a five point likert scale. It

has 25 items for the mother, 25 items for the father and 24 items for the peers.

Aggression questionnaire (AQ) by Buss and Perry in 1992:

The Aggression questionnaire was developed in order to assess the aggressive behaviour in adolescents. It is a five point likert scale. It consists of 29 statements.

Reliability of tool(s)

The reliability of IPPA tool was established with the use of test re-test method by using of Pearson's coefficient of correlation. The tool was found to be highly reliable ($r = 0.94$).

The reliability of Aggression Questionnaire was established with the use of test re-test method by using of Pearson's coefficient of correlation. The tool was found to be reliable ($r = 0.85$).

Ethical Consideration-Approval from ethical committee of DMC & H, Ludhiana was taken.

Plan of data analysis

The analysis of data was planned according to the objectives of the study. Data obtained was analyzed in terms of descriptive statistics i.e. mean, standard deviation and in terms of inferential statistics i.e. t - test and ANOVA. Calculations were carried out manually using calculator, Microsoft excel, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 16 version.

Results

Section - I

Section - II

Objective 1: To assess parental and peer attachment among late adolescents.

Objective 2: To assess aggressivity among late adolescents.

Section - III

Objective 3: To find out the correlation of parental and peer attachment with aggressivity among late adolescents

There was no correlation found between maternal attachment and aggressivity, whereas there was statically significant very weak positive correlation between paternal attachment and aggressivity and weak positive correlation between peer attachment and aggressivity.

Table 1: Distribution of adolescents as per socio demographic profile.

Socio-demographic variables	f (%)
N=200	
Age completed (in years)	
17	006 (3.00)
18	052 (26.0)
19	142 (71.0)
Gender	
Male	017 (8.50)
Female	183 (91.5)
Type of family	
Nuclear	140 (70.0)
Joint	060 (30.0)
Residential status	
Hostel	164 (82.0)
P. g.	036 (18.0)
Socio-economic status	
Upper class I	019 (9.50)
Upper middle class II	098 (49.0)
Lower middle class III	072 (36.0)
Upper lower class IV	010 (5.00)
Lower class V	001 (0.50)
Religion	
Hindu	071 (35.5)
Sikh	107 (53.50)
Muslim	019 (9.50)
Others	003 (1.50)

Table 2: Distribution of late adolescents as per maternal attachment.

N=200

Level of maternal attachment	f (%)
Secure	195 (97.5)
Insecure	05 (2.50)
Mean score of late adolescents as per maternal attachment=97.25±10.39	

Table 3: Distribution of late adolescents as per paternal attachment.

Level of maternal attachment	f (%)
Secure	187 (93.50)
Insecure	13 (6.50)
Mean score of late adolescents as per paternal attachment=88.31±10.47	

Table 3: Distribution of late adolescents as per peer attachment.

Level of maternal attachment	f (%)
Secure	198 (99.0)
Insecure	02 (1.00)
Mean score of late adolescents as per peer attachment=87.29±11.54	

Table 5: Distribution of late adolescents as per aggression.

n=200		
Level of aggressivity	Score	f (%)
Mild	29-67	04 (2.00)
Moderate	68-106	89 (44.5)
Severe	107-145	107 (53.5)

Table 6: Correlation of parental and peer attachment with aggressivity among late adolescents.

n=200			
Variables	Mean±SD	r value	p value
Attachment with mother	97.25±10.39		
Aggressivity	89.96±14.56	0.061	0.391NS
n=200			
Variables	Mean±SD	r value	p value
Attachment with father	88.31±10.47	0.061	0.048
Aggressivity	89.96±14.56		
n=200			
Variables	Mean±SD	r value	p value
Attachment with peer	87.29±11.54	0.190	0.007
Aggressivity	89.96±14.56		

*Significant at $p < 0.05$, NS: non-significant at $p > 0.05$

Table 7 (a): Association of parental attachment with selected socio demographic variables.

n=200								
Socio demographic Variables		n	Attachment with mother		Attachment with father			
			Mean±SD	F/t value	p value	Mean±SD	F/t value	p value
Age	completed (in years)							
17		06	106±8.89	F = 2.259		95.50±10.52	F= 1.587	
18		52	96.52±9.99	p=.107 ^{NS}		88.71±10.24	p= .207 ^{NS}	
19		142	97.14±10.51			87.86±10.51		
Gender								
Male		17	100.88±7.73	t=2.402		94.52±10.00	t= 8.268	
Female		183	96.92±10.57	p=.123 ^{NS}		87.73±10.35	p=.004 [*]	
Type of family								
Nuclear		140	96.52±10.85	t=3.400		88.15±9.70	t=1.190	
Joint		60	99.00±9.12	p=.67 ^{NS}		88.68±12.18	p=.277 ^{NS}	
Residential								
Status		164	95.96±10.12	t=.193		87.17±10.14	t=1.861	
Hostel		36	103.79±9.57	p=.661 ^{NS}		93.94±10.67	p=.174 ^{NS}	
P. g.								

Cont.....

Socio-economic Status						
Upper class I	19	101.21±8.53		90.05±7.24		
Upper middle class II	98	97.87±8.92		88.42±10.11		
Lower middle class III	72	95.04±12.15	F=2.099 p=.03*	86.69±11.23	F=0.781 p=.539 ^{NS}	
Upper lower class IV	10	98.40±11.24		95.70±11.64		
Lower class V	01	111.00		87.00		
Religion						
Hindu	71	101.70±8.59		89.90±7.08		
Sikh	19	97.87±8.92	F= 2.525 p= .060 ^{NS}	88.42±10.11	F=2.438 p= .066 ^{NS}	
Muslim	10	95.04±12.15		86.69±11.23		
Others	73	98.40±11.24		95.70±11.64		

Table 7 (b): Association of peer attachment with selected socio demographic variables.

Socio demographic variables	N	Mean±SD	F/t value	p value
Age completed (in years)				
17	06	100±5.13		
18	52	88.19±10.81	F= 1.587	
19	142	86.42±11.70	p= .207 ^{NS}	
Gender				
Male	17	90.00±5.43	t= 8.268	
Female	183	87.04±11.93	p=.004 [*]	
Type of family				
Nuclear	140	86.91±11.19	t=1.190	
Joint	60	88.18±12.36	p=.277 ^{NS}	
Residential status				
Hostel	164	86.56±11.80	t=1.861	
P. g.	36	90.55±9.78	p= .174 ^{NS}	
Socio-economic status				
Upper class I	19	89.21±5.96	F=0.781	
Upper middle class II	98	87.81±11.97	p= .539 ^{NS}	
Lower middle class III	72	85.86±12.16		
Upper lower class IV	10	89.90±10.76		
Lower class V	01	77.00		
Religion				
Hindu	71	88.60±6.41	F=2.438	
Sikh	19	87.81±11.97	p= .066 ^{NS}	
Muslim	10	85.86±12.16		
Others	73	89.90±10.76		

*Significant at p<0.05, NS: non- significant at p>0.05

In Table 7(b), there was statistically significant association of peer attachment with gender.

Table 7 (c): Association of aggressivity with selected socio demographic variables.

Socio demographic Variables	N	Mean±SD	F/t value p value
n=200			
Age completed (in years)			
17	06	93.33±21.60	F= .183
18	52	89.51±12.81	p= .833 ^{NS}
19	142	89.98±14.92	
Gender			
Male	17	91.58±9.95	t=2.948
Female	183	89.81±14.93	p= .048*
Type of family			
Nuclear	140	90.70±14.38	t= .113
Joint	60	88.25±14.95	p= .737 ^{NS}
Residential status			
Hostel	164	90.13±14.43	t= .451
P. g.	36	89.41±15.76	p= .503 ^{NS}
Socio-economic status			
Upper class I	19	90.13±14.43	F= .092
Upper middle class II	98	89.41±15.76	p=.964 ^{NS}
Lower middle class III	72	87.00	
Upper lower class IV	10	84.00	
Lower class V	01		
Religion			
Hindu	71	89.90±15.59	F= .309
Sikh	19	89.68±1.40	p= .776 ^{NS}
Muslim	10	89.70±1.82	
Others	73	94.70±4.07	

*Significant at $p < 0.05$ NS: non- significant at $p > 0.05$

In Table 7(c), there was statistically significant association of aggressivity with gender.

Section-IV

Objective 4: To find out association of parental and peer attachment and aggressivity among late adolescents with selected socio demographic variables.

Discussion

In the present study, It was found that 97.5% of late adolescents had secure level of maternal attachment and 2.5% had insecure level of maternal attachment. In case of father, 93.5% of late adolescents had secure level of attachment and 6.5% had insecure level of attachment. Majority (99%) of late adolescents had secure level of attachment and only 1% had insecure level of attachment.

A similar study was conducted by Dervishi E and Ibrahim S (2018), to assess the parental attachment with aggressivity during adolescence. The results showed that 89% of adolescents had secure attachment with mother and 85% had secure attachment with father.⁵

In the present study, It was found that more than half (53.5%) of late adolescents had severe level of aggressivity whereas, 44.5% had moderate level of aggressivity and only 2% had mild level of aggressivity.

A similar study conducted by Fatima S, Malik S K (2015), to assess the cause of aggressive behaviour among secondary school students. The results revealed that more than half (55.5%) of girls showed aggressive behaviour. Also, majority (66.67%) of boys showed aggressive behaviour. The main cause

behind aggressive behaviour was home & family background i.e. parent child relations.⁶

In the present study, It was found that there was no statistically significant correlation between maternal attachment and aggressivity. However, there was weak positive correlation between peer attachment and aggressivity and very weak positive correlation between paternal attachment and aggressivity.

A similar study was conducted by Bloodworth J E(2013) to assess attachment style and its influence on aggression. The findings showed that there was a negative relation ($r=-.251$, $p=0.006$) among attachment with care-giver and aggression.⁷

In the present study, It was found that there was statistically significant association of level of parental attachment, peer attachment and aggressivity with gender.

A similar study was conducted by Choon L J, Hasbullah M, Ahmad S, Wu S L (2013) to assess parental attachment, peer attachment and delinquency among adolescents in Selangor, Malaysia. The results revealed that there is significant association of aggression with gender.⁸

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