



## The Relationship between Parental Treatment and Aggressive Behaviors among Adolescent Students

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** The study aims at assessing the parental treatment and aggressive behaviors among adolescents and to find out the relationship between parental treatment and aggressive behavior.

**Methodology:** A descriptive correlational design that is initiated for the period of January 1st to July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021; The sample of the study includes 220 students from the intermediate school male students in schools in the Karkh and Rusafa in Baghdad have ranged in age from (13-15) years, the researcher used the convenient sampling method (non-probability sample) in which the students were selected purposively. Parental Treatment Scale and Aggressive Behavior Scale were used for achieving the goals of current study. The data have been collected through the utilization of the self-administrative report as a mean of data collection. Statistical analyses were conducted by using statistical package for social science (IBM SPSS Statistics) version 26.0.

**Results:** The study found that the majority of the students' parents have moderate (good) awareness regarding parenting treatment to deal with their sons (80%). The students are showed moderate level of aggressive behavior towards others, self and properties (56.4%, 47.3%, and 50.9% respectively). There is high significant relationship between parental treatments and aggressive behavior towards others and self at p-value= 0.001, 0.005 respectively

**Conclusions:** The study concludes that there is direct link between parental treatment and aggressive behavior among adolescents; negative parental treatment correlates with higher aggressive behavior while positive parental treatment reduces aggressive behavior.

**Recommendations:** The study recommends that administration of educational institutions should have the role in focusing on school counsellor as well as educate the parents how to deal with their children.

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## العلاقة بين المعاملة الوالدية والسلوك العدواني بين الطلبة المراهقين

### المستخلص:

**الأهداف:** تهدف الدراسة الى تقييم المعاملة الوالدية والسلوك العدواني بين المراهقين وإيجاد العلاقة بين المعاملة الوالدية والسلوك العدواني.

**المنهجية:** دراسة ارتباط وصفية أجريت للفترة: الأولى من كانون الثاني إلى الخامس من حزيران ٢٠٢١؛ تضمنت عينة الدراسة ٢٢٠ طالب من المرحلة المتوسطة في مدارس الكرخ والرصافة ببغداد وتراوحت أعمارهم بين (١٣-١٥) سنة، استخدم الباحث أسلوب العينة الملائمة. حيث تم اختيار الطلاب بشكل قصدي. تم استخدام مقياس المعاملة الوالدية ومقياس السلوك العدواني لتحقيق أهداف الدراسة الحالية. وتم جمع البيانات من خلال استخدام تقرير الإدارة الذاتية كوسيلة لجمع البيانات. وتم إجراء التحليلات الإحصائية باستخدام الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية (IBM SPSS Statistics) الإصدار ٢٦.

**النتائج:** وجدت الدراسة أن غالبية أولياء أمور الطلاب لديهم وعي متوسط (جيد) فيما يتعلق بالمعاملة الوالدية مع أبنائهم (٨٠٪). وأظهر الطلاب مستوى متوسط من السلوك العدواني تجاه الآخرين والنفس والممتلكات المدرسية (٤٦,٤٪، ٥٠,٩٪). هناك ارتباط معنوي كبير بين المعاملة الوالدية والسلوك العدواني تجاه الآخرين والنفس عند قيمة دلالة معنوية = ٠,٠٠٥، ٠,٠٠١ على التوالي.

**الاستنتاجات:** استنتجت الدراسة بوجود رابط مباشر بين المعاملة الوالدية والسلوك العدواني لدى المراهقين. حيث ان المعاملة الوالدية السلبية ترتبط بسلوك عدواني عالي لدى المراهقين بينما المعاملة الوالدية السلبية تقلل السلوك العدواني لدى المراهقين.

**التوصيات:** بناءً على نتائج الدراسة، خلصت الدراسة إلى أن الآباء على دراية متوسطة بالسلوك العدواني مع أطفالهم؛ ويعاني الطلاب من مستوى متوسط من السلوك العدواني تجاه الذات والآخرين؛ أخيراً، يتأثر السلوك العدواني بالمعاملة الوالدية.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** المعاملة الوالدية، السلوك العدواني، المراهقين

### Introduction

Aggressive behavior is a common health problem that reported among children and adolescents and might lead to psychological problems and influence on psychological health among family members and other persons in the community<sup>(1)</sup>.

A human being is passed through life time in many stage of growth and development, one of adolescent period that may associated with behavioral change such as aggressive behavior<sup>(2)</sup>. Among adolescents, the aggressive behavior may contribute to school health and adolescent health, which is defined in term of behavioral and emotional response that may transferring to others<sup>(3)</sup>.

Aggressive behavior is often observed during adolescence. At the same time, is one of the most important mental health problems for adolescents associated with various behavioral and psychological disorders among young people<sup>(4)</sup>. The national survey reported that one of ten children experiencing aggressive behavior. In the United States, about 10% of adolescents exposed to various aggressive actions, and about 30% experiencing aggressive behavior in their life time as psychological disorder<sup>(3)</sup>. In 2018, UNISCO stated that about 30% of all students experience various aggressive actions at their school<sup>(5)</sup>.

Parental styles defined as “the methods that parents used to the upbringing of their children”. Each parent

has a special approach by which deal with their children <sup>(6)</sup>. While Naima describes parental treatment methods in ways that followed the parents in the treatment of children during their development socially, while making children aware of during this treatment that both the father and the mother give love and affection of family and appreciation, and give family emotional warmth or hatred, and feel misery emotional family and deprivation <sup>(7)</sup>.

The methods of parental treatment have an effective role in the formation of the family and the upbringing of children, its goals and standards differ between societies and within the same society from time to time and from one family to another. Many scientific studies confirm that a child who grows up in a normal family will be satisfied his social, emotional, moral, and psychological needs, and also affect his personality and behavior <sup>(8)</sup>. While children who is raised in a socially disturbed family, he acquires some aggressive behaviors. The family is the first environment responsible for the molding of the child's personality, and it is

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study aims at assessing the parental treatment as well as the aggressive behavior among adolescents and to find

### **Methods and materials**

A descriptive correlational design that was selected for achieve the goals of the current study. The study was conducted in Iraq, capital city of Baghdad for the period of 1st January to 5th July, 2021. For the quantitative survey, the target population consists of all male students at governmental intermediate schools in Al-Kirhk and Al-Rusaffa sectors whose ages range between 13 and 15 years old.

the institution in which all roles are played the various social activities that the child practices during his life, and it is also the basis that surrounds the child's responses towards his environment in which he lives, and the family is the source of morality for children towards honesty, integrity, loyalty, repulsion and other values, and that there are many factors dictated by circumstances of contemporary life, which led to a comprehensive change in the way of life and the way parents deal with their children <sup>(9)</sup>.

The attitude of the parents of the child's upbringing and the basis of the impact on the adult sons and configure personal preferences and their attitudes and their outlook on life and behavior, it is the starting point and the cornerstone of development and growth <sup>(10)</sup>. If it represented the parents in the family offers peace and love that is reflected on the children with proper adjustment <sup>(11)</sup>. Therefore, the current study is about exploring the association between parental treatment and aggressive behavior among adolescents as considered the important link to their psychological health.

out the significant relationship between them.

A purposive sample consisted of (220) students from the intermediate school male students in schools in the Karkh and Rusafa in Baghdad have ranged in age from (13-15) years which are selected based on the criteria of: students who are living with their parents, students with both alive parent, and student whose father married only one wife. The school were selected randomly (lottery selection), seven schools were selected to involved in

current study: Al-Yaman Intermediate School, Al-Gazaliya Intermediate School, Al-Razi Intermediate School, Al-Shoara'a Intermediate School, Al-Iraq Intermediate School, Al-Shaheed Hussein Intermediate School, and Osama Zaid Intermediate School.

The Parental Treatment Awareness Scale <sup>(12)</sup> was used for current study to assess the parents' awareness about their treatment for children. It is composed of 13-item self-reporting questionnaire gives a total score. Each item is scored on a 2-point scale with higher scores indicating good parental treatment. The score ranged from 0-1 (0= no, 1= yes) the score was estimated by calculating the range for total score and divided into three level and interpreted as: Poor= 0 – 4.33, Moderate= 4.34 – 8.67, and Good= 8.68 – 13.

Aggressive behavior scale <sup>(13)</sup> was used to assess the aggressive behavior among adolescents, A special form of teachers which applied, the scale is compose of 27 items indicating three types of aggressive behavior: (10) indicating oriented others aggression, (7) show aggression towards self and (10) show aggression towards school things. A 5-Likert scale was used for scoring the each item as: Seldom=1, rarely= 2, sometimes= 3, often= 4, and always=5. The range score is calculated for each domain and divided into three levels; domains of "aggression toward others" and "aggression toward school things" ranged as Low= 10 – 23.33, Moderate= 23.34 – 36.67, and High= 36.68 – 50, while the domain of "aggression

The instrument's content of this study was reviewed by "Institutional Review Board (IRB)" in Nursing Faculty at Baghdad University before conducting a study. In expansion, the participants' agreement was obtained before engagement in this study. This work has

toward self is ranged as Low= 7 – 16.33, Moderate= 16.34 – 25.67, and High= 25.68 – 35.

A preliminary questionnaire was designed and presented to 5 experts for the determination of content validity. These experts were five faculty members in the College of Nursing, University of Baghdad two faculty members from the Baghdad Teaching Hospital, three psychiatrist faculty members from Baghdad Hospital teaching (psychiatric wards). For the purpose of reliability, the questionnaire was administered to 8 parents and their student. The Internal consistency method was applied to determine the reliability which show that questionnaire is consistent (Cronbach Alpha= .85).

In the quantitative study, the respondents were first contacted and asked to provide their consent in case they are willing to participate. After their consent had been secured, the respondents were asked to indicate the most appropriate time for them to conduct the interview. Then, using the semi-structured interview guide was conducted in Arabic with each of the respondent. The duration of the interviews oscillated between 10 and 15 minutes.

All interviews were held at the respondents' place of work. No payment was offered nor requested. As is standard in qualitative interviews, follow-up questions were used to clarify vague responses. Each interview was terminated when data started to repeat itself. After this, they were thanked for their participation.

#### **Data analysis:**

The data were analyzed by application of descriptive and inferential statistics through the Statistical Program for Social Siences (IBM-SPSS, version 26.0).

#### **Ethical Considerations**

Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for studies involving humans.

been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical

**Results**

**Table1. Distribution of the Students according to their Socio-demographic Characteristics (N= 220)**

<i>Scholastic stage</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Mother's education</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
First	68	30.9	Illiterate	60	27.3
Second	92	41.8	Primary	18	32.7
Third	60	27.3	intermediate	28	12.7
			Preparatory	28	12.7
<i>Family member</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	College	20	9.1
3-5	52	56.4	Postgraduate	12	5.5
6-8	84	38.2			
9-11	8	3.6	<i>Father's job</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
12 ≤	4	1.8	Working	176	80
			Doesn't working	44	20
<i>Age</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>			
12-14 year	144	65.5	<i>Mother's job</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
15-17 year	76	34.5	Working	68	30.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>100</i>	Housewife	152	69.1
<i>Father's education</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>			
Illiterate	36	16.4	<i>Income</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Primary	36	16.4	Insufficient	40	18.2
intermediate	60	27.3	Barely sufficient	112	50.9
Preparatory	44	20	Sufficient	68	30.9
College	40	18.2			
Postgraduate	40	1.8			

**F**= Frequency, **%**= Percentage

Table 1 reveals that 41.8% of the students were selected from the second intermediate stage who's their age was ranging 12–14-year-old and living in family of 6-8 member. The variables regarding their parents indicated that father and mother education were secondary and primary education (27.3% and 32.7%), 80% of father are working while 69.1% of mothers were housewife, the monthly income for half of them were barely sufficient (50.9%).

**Table 2. Level of parenting treatment showing by Students ' Parents (N= 220)**

<i>Level</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Poor	0	0	2.20	0.404
Moderate	176	80		
Good	44	20		

**f**= Frequency, **%**= Percentage, **M**= Mean, **SD**= Standard deviation

Table 2 indicates that the majority of the students' parents have moderate (good) parental treatment to deal with their sons (80%).

**Table 3. Level of Aggressive behavior among the students (N=220)**

<i>Aggressive behavior</i>	<i>Severity</i>						<i>M.S</i>	<i>SD</i>
	<i>Low</i>		<i>Moderate</i>		<i>High</i>			
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>		
Toward others	60	27.3	124	<b>56.4</b>	36	16.4	1.89	0.658
Toward self	92	14.8	104	<b>47.3</b>	24	10.9	1.69	0.663
Toward properties	84	40	112	<b>50.9</b>	20	9.1	1.69	0.635

F= Frequency, %= percentage, M.S= Mean of score, SD= Standard deviation

Table 3 depicts that the students showing moderate level of aggressive behavior towards others, self and properties (56.4%, 47.3%, and 50.9%).

**Table 4. The Relationship between Parenting Treatments and Aggressive Behavior among Students**

<i>Parenting treatments</i>	$X^2$	<i>d.f</i>	<i>P-Value ≤ 0.05</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<i>Aggressive behavior</i>				
<b>Towards others</b>	246.947	208	0.005	<b>S</b>
<b>Towards self</b>	243.324	176	0.001	<b>S</b>
<b>Towards properties</b>	241.847	224	0.197	<b>N.S</b>
<b>Total</b>	311.769	320	0.619	<b>N.S</b>

$X^2$ = Chi-square, *df*= Degree of freedom, *P*= Probability, **N.S**= Not Significant

Table 4 reveals that there is high significant association between parental treatments and aggressive behavior towards others and self at p-value= 0.001, 0.005 respectively, while there is no significant relationship between parental treatments and aggressive behavior towards properties, while there is no significant between parental treatment and aggressive behavior in total score.

**Discussion**

The analysis in table 1 indicated that the highest percentage of the students were from the second intermediate stage who's their age was ranging 12-14 years old and living in family of 6-8 member. The variables regarding their parents indicated that father and mother education were secondary and primary education (27.3% and 32.7%), 80% of father are working while 69.1% of mothers were housewife, the monthly income for half of them were barely sufficient (50.9%). Such findings are unique for current study which may be unrepresentative for population.

It has known of parenting treatment finding that majority of the students' parents have moderate (good) parental treatment to deal with their sons (80%). Such finding may be interpreted that parents learns from their grandparents how to treat their children as they living in restricted cultures in addition to hold on society ethical system which based on norms and beliefs that re attached to culture and religious concepts. A study conducted in Saudi Arabia that found significant differences in parental treatment value<sup>(14)</sup>.

The findings related to aggressive behavior showed that students experiencing moderate level of aggressive behavior towards others, self and properties. Such findings may reveal the stressful life event that the students experiencing due to recovery from pandemic COVID as well the deteriorating socioeconomic status, and even the media which may play an important role in creating aggressive behavior among adolescents especially the action movies and so on. In addition to that, they student are at important transitional period in their life; the adolescence which may contribute to their aggressive actions. A study found supportive evidence for current study that reported moderate level of physical aggression among teenagers <sup>(15)</sup>.

It has shown that there is high significant relationship between parental treatments and aggressive behavior towards others and self at p-value= 0.001, 0.005 respectively, while there is no significant relationship between parental treatments and aggressive behavior towards properties, while there is no significant between parental treatment and aggressive behavior in total score. A study found supportive evidence for current study which reported that parenting treatment has significant influence in physical aggression among adolescents <sup>(16)</sup>. Another study reported a significant link between aggressive behavior and parental treatment; indirect link “parental psychological control” that lead to aggressive behavior among adolescents <sup>(17)</sup>.

### Conclusions

Based on the study findings, the study concludes that there is direct link between parental treatment and aggressive behavior among adolescents; negative parental treatment correlates with higher

aggressive behavior while positive parental treatment reduces aggressive behavior.

### Recommendations

The study recommends that administration of educational institutions should have the role in focusing on school counsellor as well as educate the parents how to deal with their children. Replication of study with a large sample with more variables is required for deep investigation.

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