

Correlation between Parenting Styles and Peer Attachment with Aggressive Behavior Potentials in Adolescent Boys

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Abstract

Background: Adolescence is a transitional phase that causes biological, cognitive, social-emotional, and behavioral changes. One of the issues of concern is aggressive behavior in adolescents. Parenting styles and peer attachment are one of the factors that have an influence on potential aggressive behavior in adolescent boys.

Objectives To analyze the relationship between parenting styles and peer attachment to the potential aggressive behavior of adolescent boys.

Method: The subjects were junior high school male students who are cared for by both biological parents and can follow all of the research procedures. The research design was cross-sectional with total sampling technique. Subjects performed anamnesis related data self, parent demographic data, and peers. (PAQ), (IPPA) (BPAQ). The analyzes used were Pearson, Spearman, and Anova.

Results: The majority of parenting styles was permissive (34.06%; 48.00%). Parenting styles and peer attachments did not have a significant relationship with potential aggressive behavior ($p = 0.798$; $p = 0.071$; $p = 0.695$). There was a negative correlation of peer attachment with alienation dimension ($p = 0.001$). Other significant dimensions with potential dimensions of aggressive behavior were trust ($p = 0.018$; 0.022) and communication ($p = 0.029$; $p = 0.000$).

Conclusion: Parenting styles and peer attachments did not have a meaningful relationship with potential aggressive behavior in adolescent boys. However, there were some significant correlations between the dimensions of parenting and peer attachment with potential dimensions of aggressive behavior.

Keywords: *Peer attachment, Parenting styles, Aggressive behavior potential, Adolescents.*

Introduction

Adolescence is a transitional phase from child to adult. This transition leads to biological, cognitive,

social-emotional, and behavioral changes. One of the issues of concern is aggressive behavior ¹. Fighting behavior of male students in a year period of about 22.00% in Sweden, 44.00% in the United States, and 76.00% in Israel ². In Indonesia, acts of violence and crime committed by adolescents increased from 3 thousand cases (2007) to 4 thousand cases (2009). The level of fights among students also increased from 108 cases (2008) to 327 cases (2014) ³.

Aggressive behavior is one of the external behaviors of adolescents. Adolescent boys are 2.5 times higher in aggressive behavior than girl ⁴. Factors related to the emergence of aggressive behavior include the interaction between nature (heredity, biological) and

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nurture (experience with the environment, such as parenting and peer attachment). The interactions of both run continuously and influence each other causing an adjustment or adaptation. Parenting styles is one of the major predictors of child behavior, but there is no definitive and comprehensive theory of how parents shaped child development ⁵.

Social attachment with peers also contributes to the emergence of aggressive behavior. There is a positive correlation between peer attachment in the group with intentions of aggressive action in adolescents aged 13-16 years, determined by peer influence and self-selection, i.e., if the adolescent wants to take aggressive action then he will look for peer group which facilitates his actions or so should be ^{6,7}. Peer attachment affects life satisfaction and well-being of adolescent ⁸.

Method

The subjects were the 8th-grade male students in SMP Negeri 1 Yosowilangun and SMP Negeri 1 Randuagung Lumajang Regency that meets the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The study design was cross sectional in May-June 2017. The sampling technique

was total sampling with 127 students. To demographic data collection such as age, ethnicity, entering puberty or not, sex education source, presence/absence of abuse history, a form of abusive behavior, substance or drug use and never or not committing a crime ⁹. Prior to the identification of the subject first, the researchers conducted a test of ethics (No.135/EC/KEPK/FKUA/2017) in Dr.Soetomo Surabaya, Indonesia.

In the parenting styles variables, the subject will fill in the Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ). This instrument consists of 10 statements measured by 5 points Likert (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree). In his judgment, the total number of points for each type of parenting and mother's parenting (authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and combination) will be calculated ¹⁰.

The subjects will also conduct peer attachment examination using Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment-Peer Version (IPPA) questionnaires. IPPA was a self-report questionnaire with 25 statements and the Likert 5-point answer format was almost never, rarely, sometimes, often, almost always ¹¹.

Results

Table 1. Characteristics of Basic Data Parents Subject Research

Variables	Father's Percentase	Mother's Percentase
Characteristics of Parent Demographics		
Education		
Elementary school	44.10	52.80
Junior high school	26.00	22.80
Senior high school	26.80	22.00
Bachelor degree	3.10	2.40
Jobs		
Labor	14.20	9.40
Government employees	3.90	0.00

Cont... Table 1. Characteristics of Basic Data Parents Subject Research

Private employees	29.90	14.20
Farmer	33.10	18.20
Unemployee	1.60	52.00
Others	17.30	6.30
Earnings of parents		
< 1.000.000	29.10	
	55.10	
1.000.000-<3.000.000	10.20	
	5.60	
3.000.000-5.000.000	0.01	
	0.02	
> 5.000.000	0.03	
Family history with violent behavior		
Yes	26.80	
No	73.20	

Table 2. Relationship Between Parenting styles of Father and the Potential of Aggressive Behavior in Boys

Parenting styles of father	%	Mean ± SD Potential of Aggressive Behavior				
		Total Score	Physical aggression	Verbal aggression	Anger	Hostility
Authoritative	25.20	80.8 ± 10.4	25.6 ± 3.9	14.8 ± 2.4	18.1 ± 3.5	22.2 ± 3.8
Authoritarian	22.00	79.8 ± 8.5	24.3 ± 3.7	15.1 ± 2.4	17.4 ± 2.8	23.0 ± 3.3
Permissive	34.60	80.1 ± 7.7	24.4 ± 3.4	14.5 ± 1.9	17.7 ± 2.8	23.5 ± 3.1
Combination	18.10	82.1 ± 10.4	25.0 ± 3.9	15.0 ± 1.9	18.9 ± 3.0	23.2 ± 3.7
p-value ANOVA		0.798	0.411	0.562	0.321	0.430

Table 3. Relationship Between Parenting Styles of Mothers and Potential Aggressive Behavior in Male Students

Parenting styles of mother	%	Mean ± SD Potential of Aggressive Behavior				
		Total Score	Physical aggression	Verbal aggression	Anger	Hostility
Authoritative	18.90	83.7 ± 8.2	25.7 ± 3.3	15.5 ± 2.6	18.9 ± 3.2 a	23.6 ± 3.4
Authoritarian	21.30	81.6 ± 9.2	24.7 ± 3.8	14.9 ± 2.1	18.2 ± 2.8 ab	23.9 ± 3.2
Permissive	48.00	78.5 ± 9.0	24.2 ± 3.9	14.6 ± 1.9	17.1 ± 2.8 b	22.6 ± 3.2
Combination	11.80	82.2 ± 9.1	26.0 ± 2.7	14.5 ± 2.4	19.1 ± 3.4 a	22.6 ± 4.6
p-value ANOVA		0.071	0.191	0.400	0.024	0.321

Note: The superscript letters (a, b, ab) show significant differences using the LSD double comparator test (p <0.05)

Table 4. Relationship Between Peer Attachment and the Potential of Aggressive Behavior in Boys

	Potential of Aggressive Behavior	Physical Aggression	Verbal aggression	Anger	Hostility
Peer attachment	p = 0.695 r = 0.035	p = 0.844 r = -0.018	p = 0.067 r = 0.163	p = 0.061 r = -0.156	p = 0.094 r = 0.149
Trust	p = 0.155 r = 0.127	p = 0.620 r = 0.044	p = 0.018* r = 0.210	p = 0.465 r = -0.065	p = 0.022* r = 0.203
Communication	p = 0.060 r = 0.167	p = 0.866 r = -0.015	p = 0.029* r = 0.194	p = 0.726 r = -0.031	p = 0.000* r = 0.322
Alienation	p = 0.001* r = -0.289	p = 0.322 r = -0.089	p = 0.054 r = -0.171	p = 0.006* r = -0.244	p = 0.001* r = -0.301

*p value <0.05

Characteristics of Parents's Basic Data

The majority of parent education was primary school with the father of 44.10% and the mother of 52.80%. As for the job, the majority of father was more as farmer (33.10%) and mother as housewives (52.00%). The largest parent's income was Rp. 1,000,000, - up to less than Rp. 3,000,000, - (55.10%). Then, 26.80% of subjects said to have a family with violent behavior (table 1).

The relationship between Parenting styles with the Potential of Aggressive Behavior

The majority of parenting styles were permissive in the father (34.06%) and mother (48.00%) and other authoritative successive parenting (25.20%; 18.9%), authoritarian (22.00%; 21.3%), and combination (18.1%; 11.8%). The type of parenting in the father ($p = 0.798$) and the mother ($p = 0.071$) did not have a significant correlation with the total aggressive behavior potential level. In contrast to the pattern of foster parenting, maternal upbringing has a significant correlation with anger dimensions ($p = 0.024$) with combined parenting patterns showing higher anger levels than other parenting (Table 2).

The relationship between Peer Attachment and Aggressive Behavior Potential

Peer attachment has no significant correlation with potential aggressive behavior ($p = 0.695$). Only the alienation dimension has a negative correlation with potential aggressive behavior ($p = 0.001$). The dimensions of trust and communication have a significant correlation with verbal aggression ($p = 0.018$; $p = 0.029$) and hostility ($p = 0.022$; $p = 0.000$). The alienation dimension has significant negative correlation with anger ($p = 0.006$) and hostility ($p = 0.001$), with weak correlation strength (table 3).

Discussion

Father and mother's parenting styles do not have a meaningful relationship with potential aggressive behavior. Other studies also have similar conclusions. The role of parenting is only marginal. Sometimes, the child is more easily affected by the mother than by the father. A low affection level in permissive parenting is also a predictor of declining external behavior problems, but increases the risk of internal behavioral problems later on ¹².

Peer attachment is not related to potential aggressive behavior. This is in contrast to research in Malaysia, but the same conclusion is that there is a negative correlation between the alienation dimension and the potential for aggressive behavior ⁶. The dimensions of trust and communication are related to the dimensions of verbal aggression and hostility. This condition can also be explained by the child's efforts to meet the needs of companionship with peers ¹³. Thus, although there are trust and communication but aggressive behavior can still occur ¹⁴. On the dimensions of verbal aggression associated with teen communication with peers. Although verbal, but the psychological effects on people who experience worse than physical aggression ¹⁵. While the alienation dimension is negatively related to anger and hostility. Children with withdrawal have a higher risk for internal behavioral problems that may lead to anxiety and depression ¹⁶.

Most of the subjects aged 14 years with Javanese, have been puberty and get sex education via the internet. At the age of 13-15 years was a puberty of men with information media also influential convey information about sex in adolescents ¹⁷. The educational and socioeconomic level of the subject's parents was largely in the lower middle class which is one of the factors to the child's aggressive behavior ¹⁸. Parents who give physical punishment/aggression to children become predictors of aggressive behavior in the future through the formation of aggressive fantasy. The majority of subjects have close friends with between 1-3 people, have a group of friends. The subjects mentioned that the behaviors that followed include involving brawl, damaging goods, violating the rules, and using alcohol/drugs together. The influence of peer groups or peers was very strong in adolescence. Teenagers who are part of a peer group were signs of adaptation and separation with parents as well as replacing the focus of loyalty to friends ¹⁹.

Foster parenting for most fathers and mothers is a permissive parenting pattern, which has a pattern of parenting with low responsiveness and demandingness. Permissive parenting patterns can make teenagers grow up as impulsive people, act at will, and relate to other less responsible behaviors ²⁰. The average peer attachment value of the study subjects can be classified at moderate levels almost the same as in previous studies ⁹. The old attachment theory suggests that there was parental influence in the relationship of a child, but attachment to peers was known to have an effect when the child is in

adolescence²¹.

The old attachment theory suggests that there was parental influence in the relationship of a child, but attachment to peers was known to have an effect when the child is in adolescence⁶. Physical aggression is caused by several predictor factors such as gender, low family economic status, low maternal education, and a pattern of abusive care²².

Conclusion

Parenting styles and peer attachments did not have a meaningful relationship with potential aggressive behavior in adolescent boys. However, there were some significant correlations between the dimensions of parenting and peer attachment with potential dimensions of aggressive behavior.

Conflict of Interest: There is no conflict of interest.

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Ethical Clearance: This study was approved by Ethical Commission of Health Research Faculty of Medicine University of Airlangga (No.135/EC/KEPK/FKUA/2017) in dr. Soetomo General Hospital Surabaya, Indonesia.

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