



# The relationship between mother's parenting patterns and aggressive behavior of adolescent son in risk environments

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## Abstract

**Background:** Adolescence is the development phase of the transition from child to adulthood. Harsh maternal parenting, demands for a lot of attention, and acts of omission are thought to be predictors of aggressive behavior. This study aims to analyze the relationship between maternal parenting with the aggressive behavior of adolescent boys in risk environments.

**Methods:** This was an observational-analytic study with a cross-sectional design of 127 junior high school boys in the area at risk of total sampling. The research instrument used the Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) and the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ).

**Results:** The average total value of potential aggressive behavior was 80.6±9.1. Mother's parenting had a significant correlation with the dimension of anger ( $p = 0.024$ ). However, no significant correlation was found between maternal parenting and total behavioral potential ( $p = 0.071$ ), maternal parenting and physical aggression ( $p = 0.191$ ), verbal aggression ( $p = 0.400$ ), and hostility ( $p = 0.321$ ).

**Conclusion:** Maternal parenting is related to the anger dimension in aggressive adolescent behavior.

**Keywords:** Maternal parenting, aggressiveness, Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ), Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ)

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## INTRODUCTION

Adolescents in the transition period of life experience a phase of identity search impacting aggressive behavior. Parenting, genetic, and environmental interactions play a role in the emergence of aggressive adolescent behavior. There is news of aggressive behavior of adolescents marked by fighting behavior, harassment, theft and robbery, substance abuse, and various other acts of crime unsettling the public in various media almost every day (Capaldi et al. 1996). The prevalence of aggressive behavior disorder in men can be two times higher than in women (Boat et al. 2015, Erskine et al. 2013, Salmanian et al. 2017).

Abusive, punitive parental care, chaotic home conditions, and parental divorce lead to permanent resentment, hatred, and bitterness, contributing to children's maladaptive behavior (Sadock et al. 2015). Mothers who often protect their children from the consequences of wrong initial behavior and do not acknowledge or allow the activities (Haseeb et al., 2020) of a crime committed by their children are aspects that support crime in their children often associated with behavioral disorders (Setiawati 2014).

The family has an important role in efforts to develop a child's personality (Bakhtiar et al. 2019). In social systems, families are groups of people who live together because of marriage, reproduction and caring for children. The family is an outstanding organization paving the way for humans to develop physically, mentally, and socially. Parenting is a predictor of child welfare in terms of social competence, academic achievement, psychosocial development, and behavior problems (Shayesteh et al. 2014, Terry 2004).

Parenting plays an essential role in the formation and occurrence of external and internal behavior problems. Parenting is a specific behavior chosen by parents in caring for, raising, and educating their children (Luo, 2020). Darling and Steinberg (1993) differentiate parenting into parenting practices and parenting patterns. A parenting practice is defined as the specific behavior used by parents in dealing with their children, while parenting is an emotional atmosphere used by parents in raising their children (Darling et al. 1993).

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**Table 1.** Statement Items of the Type of Parenting

Type of Parenting	Statement Items	Total
Authoritative	4, 5, 8, 11, 15, 20, 22, 23, 27, and 30	10
Authoritarian	2, 3, 7, 9, 12, 16, 18, 25, 26, and 29	10
Permissive	1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, and 28	10

From several parenting styles, it is known that parental rejection, behavioral control, and psychological control influence the child's socio-emotional adjustment. Parental rejection is related to internal behavioral problems and is also a predictor of external behavior such as delinquency, behavioral disorders, and substance abuse. Behavioral control is the fulfillment of a child's need for support and protection that has a positive impact on a child's development and does not cause behavioral disorders (Sittisom, 2020). Meanwhile, psychological control prevents psychological autonomy from children and it has a negative effect on emotional adjustment (Shah et al., 2016). Psychological control is known to be related to external and internal behavior problems. Parenting patterns affect the formation of adolescent identity (Nunes et al. 2013, Shayesteh et al. 2014). Therefore, this study aimed to analyze the relationship between maternal parenting with aggressive behavior in adolescent boys in risk environments.

## METHODS

The method used in this research was analytic observational research with the cross-sectional approach and statistically tested by correlation test. The inclusion criteria were teenagers aged 13 to 15 years, living in risky areas, getting permission from parents, taken care of by their fathers and mothers. Exclusion criteria are teenagers 13-15 years with organic disorders. Sampling was performed by total sampling technique. Measuring instruments used are the Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) and the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ).

### Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ)

This instrument, developed by Buri (1991), is a measuring tool assessing how children respond to parenting. PAQ is designed to measure parenting as stated by Baumrind (1971). PAQ consists of 30 statements, with 10 statements for each type of parenting, measured by 5 Likert points (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree). In the assessment, the total number of points for each type of parenting father and mother (authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and combination) is calculated in **Table 1** (Buri 1991).

**Table 2.** The Assessment of BPAQ Score

Dimension	Calculated Directly (Statement Item Number)	Calculated Inversely (Statement Item Number)
Physical aggression	2, 5, 8, 11, 13, 22, 25, 29	16
Verbal Aggression	4, 6, 14, 21, 27	-
Anger	1, 12, 18, 19, 23, 28	9

This instrument was used by Royke, MD in 2012, and translation and back translation has been carried out at the Language Center of Universitas Airlangga. Validation and reliability were also carried out by Elisabet Situmeang with p between 0.060 - 0.903 and Alpha Cronbach value of 0.896 (said to be good if >0.600) (Kalalo et al. 2012, Situmeang et al. 2017).

### Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ)

This instrument, developed by Arnold H. Buss and Mark Perry (1992), is a measuring tool that evaluates aggressive behavior. This questionnaire consists of 29 statements divided into 4 dimensions or subscales: physical aggression (9 items), verbal aggression (5 items), anger (7 items), and hostility (8 items). Rating scores using 5 Likert points were modified to make it easier to understand (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree) using the assessment set out in **Table 2**. The higher the score obtained, the higher the aggressive level, and vice versa. For permission to use, based on Buss-Perry (1992) on page 453, no permission is needed if this questionnaire is used for research purposes (Buss et al. 1992).

A translation and back translation has been carried out for this instrument at the Language Center, Universitas Airlangga. Validation and reliability have been carried out by researchers on 30 teenage students of state junior high schools in Lumajang Regency, Indonesia and p values of 0.019 - 0.645 and Alfa Cronbach of 0.800 (said to be good if >0.600) were obtained. There are 15 valid items and 14 invalid items. The questionnaire was then corrected for several sentences to make it easier for respondents to understand.

## RESULTS

**Table 3** shows the results of the average value of the total potential for aggressive behavior. The potential for violent behavior towards oneself and others is  $80.6 \pm 9.1$ . Based on the dimensions of potential aggressive behavior, the average physical aggressive dimension was  $24.8 \pm 3.7$ , verbal aggression of  $14.8 \pm 2.2$ , anger of  $17.9 \pm 3.0$ , and hostility of  $23.0 \pm 3.5$ .

**Table 3.** Distribution of Potential Aggressive Behavior Data for Male Students in Risk Environments in 2018

Potential for aggressive behavior	Value Range	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Total Score	25-145	80.6	9.1	56	109
Physical aggression	9-45	24.8	3.7	15	36
Verbal aggression	5-25	14.8	2.2	9	22
Anger	7-35	17.9	3.0	11	25
Hostility	8-40	23.0	3.5	15	31

**Table 4.** Relationship between Types of Mother Parenting with the Potential for Aggressive Behavior in Male Students in Risk Environments in 2018

PAQ	n	BPAQ				
		Total Score	Physical aggression	Verbal aggression	Anger	Hostility
Authoritative	24	83.7 ± 8.2	25.7 ± 3.3	15.5 ± 2.6	18.9 ± 3.2 <sup>a</sup>	23.6 ± 3.4
Authoritarian	27	81.6 ± 9.2	24.7 ± 3.8	14.9 ± 2.1	18.2 ± 2.8 <sup>ab</sup>	23.9 ± 3.2
Permissive	61	78.5 ± 9.0	24.2 ± 3.9	14.6 ± 1.9	17.1 ± 2.8 <sup>b</sup>	22.6 ± 3.2
Combination	15	82.2 ± 9.1	26.0 ± 2.7	14.5 ± 2.4	19.1 ± 3.4 <sup>a</sup>	22.6 ± 4.6
P value*		0.071	0.191	0.400	<b>0.024</b>	0.321

\*Anova test

Note: Superscript letters (a, b, ab) show significant differences using the LSD double comparison test (P&lt;0.05)

**Table 4** shows that most maternal parenting is permissive parenting having a parenting pattern with low responsiveness and demandingness. Statistical analysis showed that there was no relationship between maternal parenting with the potential for aggressive behavior ( $p = 0.071$ ), dimensions of physical aggression ( $p = 0.191$ ), verbal aggression ( $p = 0.400$ ), and hostility ( $p = 0.321$ ). The mother's parenting had a significant relationship with the dimension of anger ( $p = 0.024$ ).

## DISCUSSION

The mother's parenting has a significant relationship with the dimension of anger. Combination parenting showed a higher anger level than other parenting, and permissive mother parenting showed a lower anger level than other parenting. In contrast, the results of the statistical analysis of other variables showed no relationship between maternal parenting with the potential for aggressive behavior, dimensions of physical aggression, verbal aggression, and hostility.

The average value of this study subjects was classified as moderate compared to the middle range (the total range of potential aggressive behavior was 29-145). This value is almost the same compared to previous studies in Malaysia conducted on 426 adolescent boys and girls; the average value of the potential for aggressive behavior in subjects aged 13-14 years was  $99.16 \pm 11.55$  (ranges from values 34-136) with 58.5% of research subjects categorized as moderate (Duru et al. 2015).

Based on the prevalence of behavior problems, including aggressive behavior, 3-6% of adolescents at the age of 12-14 years showed deviant behavior. One explanation of aggressiveness in adolescence is due to the desire to be dominant in social interactions with peers (van Hazebroek et al. 2016). Also, this can be caused by imitating their peers and the influence of the internet (Kurniawati 2018, Usni et al. 2018). Previous studies have suggested differences between the quality of relationships with parents and friends and the occurrence of psychological distress based on gender, where men tend to develop external behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse or aggressive behavior, whereas women tend to develop internal behaviors such as anxiety, depression, and ideas of suicide (Tambelli et al. 2012). Another form of aggressive behavior is bullying causing social problems (Erika et al. 2017).

Another report stated the pathological relationship between the parents and the child is the important cause of conduct disorder in aggressive children (Ghozali 2003). This can affect their mental health (Effendy 2018).

Based on gender theory, this difference affects the form of aggressive behavior carried out; where in adolescent boys are more likely to carry out physical aggression than women. This is consistent with the current research found that physical aggression has an average value higher than the dimensions of another dimension of potential aggressive behavior (McQuade et al. 2016). A longitudinal study conducted on children for six years found that physical aggression can be more often carried out in the aftermath of a child due to several predictor factors, such as gender (more males than females), low family economic status, low maternal education, and parenting patterns that often use violence (Côté et al. 2006).

In this study, the most maternal upbringing was permissive parenting, which has a parenting pattern with low responsiveness and demandingness. Parents with this parenting method are loosening expectations of the child's maturity and wrong behavior. When dealing with children, they usually underestimate and do not care, are not responsible, do not take a leadership role, provide rules and discipline, and supervise children. In extreme conditions, parents may even ignore or reject their children. Adolescents who are raised with such parenting can grow as impulsive persons, act as they wish, and are associated with other less responsible behaviors (Calam 2001, Doinita et al. 2015, Scotts 2008, Terry 2004). In addition, previous study mentioned that maternal religiosity was found to significantly moderate the relationship between physical harsh parenting and child behavioral problems (Alsarhi et al. 2019).

In the formation of social abilities in children, parental discipline is needed. Several studies have shown that children's aggression is driven by inconsistent and inconsistent parenting characterized by the use of emotional or physical punishment and aggression combined with low parental involvement in positive matters. In combination parenting, children can experience some parenting that can be done inconsistently and cause aggression also occurring in the form of anger (Buchmann et al. 2014). Permissive parenting is characterized by low control of behavior by

parents who are often associated with various kinds of inability to adjust, such as withdrawal behavior and low relationships with friends. A low level of affection in permissive parenting is also a predictor of decreasing external behavioral problems but increases the risk of future internal behavioral problems (Aunola et al. 2005). Parental control and adequate supervision can help adolescents develop self-control that is expected to reduce aggressive behavior (Özdemir et al. 2013).

## CONCLUSION

Mother's parenting has a relationship with anger dimension. However, parenting does not have a relationship with the level of potential for aggressive behavior, dimensions of physical aggression, verbal aggression, and hostility.

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