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Aggression in Relation to Family Climate of Scheduled Caste and Non Scheduled Caste Adolescents of Punjab

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Abstract:

The present study examined the relation between aggression and family climate of scheduled caste and non scheduled caste adolescents. Manifest Aggression Scale and Family Climate Scale were used to assess aggression and family climate of adolescents. The sample was comprised of 800 adolescents from urban and rural schools of Punjab. Product moment method of correlation was applied to calculate the data. Mix results were found regarding aggression in relation to family climate of scheduled and non-scheduled caste boys and girls.

Keywords: Aggression, family climate, adolescents

1. Introduction

Aggression and violence are the most vital issues which the modern society faces. Despite widespread education, independence, freedom of thought and speech, freedom from deprivation, fulfilment of basic needs and wants and improvement of socio economic conditions, aggression and violence are on the rise. The remarkable increase of violence and aggression in the behaviour of the educated and uneducated, the rich and the poor, employed and the unemployed reminds one of the world full of these dangerous, chronic and infectious diseases. Aggression and violence are the diseases of human mind which are difficult but not impossible to cure.

Aggression doesn't develop overnight and is largely home bred. Aggression can find its roots to one or combination of factors like increased exposure to violence through televised media and web (Huesman *et al.*, 2003), lack of parental guidance and supervision, persisting tense environment and usage of foul language at home, lack of communication or fairly low communication between an adolescent and the parents, peer pressure at the school, increasing sedentary lifestyle and excessive intake of junk food.

Parent child relationship is an important area of study which needs to be focussed upon owing to the fact that due to changing social scenario parents are not being able to meet the needs and expectations of their adolescent children. There is less likelihood of them being considered as a role model by their adolescent children as children are much more exposed to their moods of socialization and they learn the value system which is not their home value system but the value system of the society as a whole.

It is essential to mention here that one of the purposes of this research is to help parents know as to how they are perceived by their children irrespective of what they do for the latter.

Aggression is rooting deeply into the folds of society and aggression in adolescents is not an exception. We come across many incidents of aggression committed by adolescents. The major cause of increase in aggression amongst youth is materialism (Efrat and Shoham, 2013), over competitiveness and over expectations from the society as a whole. Research helps in understanding that adolescents need to be treated and understood in a different and sensitive manner whether at school or family or society as a whole.

Family, the seat of social learning, has been considered as an institution where the child learns the process of socialization (Hurlock, 1972). Through the process of socialization the child learns the ways of the society that inturn mould early stages of development. Like many other forms of behaviour, aggressive behaviour, too, is learned and acquired in the family.

A close-knit contented family is a cherished ideal for adolescent's sound mental health. Adolescents express themselves better when their parents are warm and more involved in their child's life. A warm cohesive family with low level of interpersonal conflicts do a better job of meeting the child's physical and psychological needs than families characterized by high level of conflict and disengagement from each other (Sandler *et al.*, 1989). Valuing each other in a family is great but not enough. Family members who do not spend time together are also disadvantaged, because daily interaction increases the sense of cohesion in families and provides opportunities for resolving minor conflicts. Crouter *et al.*, (2004) found that families who share more quality time together have much warmer family relationship resulting in better psychological adjustments. Some parents indirectly encourage their children to be

aggressive. Antisocial aggressiveness develops due to long term impact on child rearing (Baron and Richardson, 1994). According to McWhirter *et al*, (1998) almost all the children who are abused in their families find themselves at risk of future problems. Adolescents in these families have poor emotional and behavioural control. Some become easily upset, usually disturb the smooth running of the school with unusual behaviour, and have discipline problems. Abusive parents destroy personal, social, moral and physical dimensions of the child's self-concept. Physical abuse of children is a risk factor for violence in adolescence. Adolescents who are aggressive and violent are more likely to have experienced physical abuse during childhood (Robbins, 2000). Tedeschi and Felson (1993) also concur that there is intergenerational transmissions of violence. Children learn to engage in violence when they observe any form of physical punishment at home.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the relationship of aggression with family climate among scheduled and non scheduled caste girls belonging to
 - Rural Areas.
 - Urban Areas.
2. To find out the relationship of aggression with family climate among scheduled and non scheduled caste boys belonging to
 - Rural Areas.
 - Urban Areas.

3. Method

Descriptive survey method was used in the study.

4. Sample

The study was conducted on 800 adolescents (400 males and 400 females) studying in urban and rural schools of Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar & Patiala district. Sample size was equal for all four districts.

5. Tools

1. Manifest Aggression Scale (Singh, 1986)
2. Family Climate Scale (Shah, 1990)

6. Procedure

First of all proper rapport was established with the participants. The scales were distributed to students inside classroom during the year 2013-2014 and were asked to fill the questionnaires according to instructions. They were assured that their responses would be kept confidential. The students required 75-80 minutes to complete the measures.

7. Result and Discussion

The first objective of the study was to find out the relationship of aggression with family climate among scheduled and non-scheduled caste girls belonging to (a) rural area (b) urban area. For this purpose the correlation with product moment method was calculated between scores of aggression of the different categories of scheduled and non-scheduled adolescent girls namely, the category of rural and urban and their family climate. The values of correlations are given in table 1-4 and the pictorial form is shown in figures 1-4.

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.26**
Negative	100	-0.05

Table 1: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Caste Rural Girls
** Significant at 0.01 level

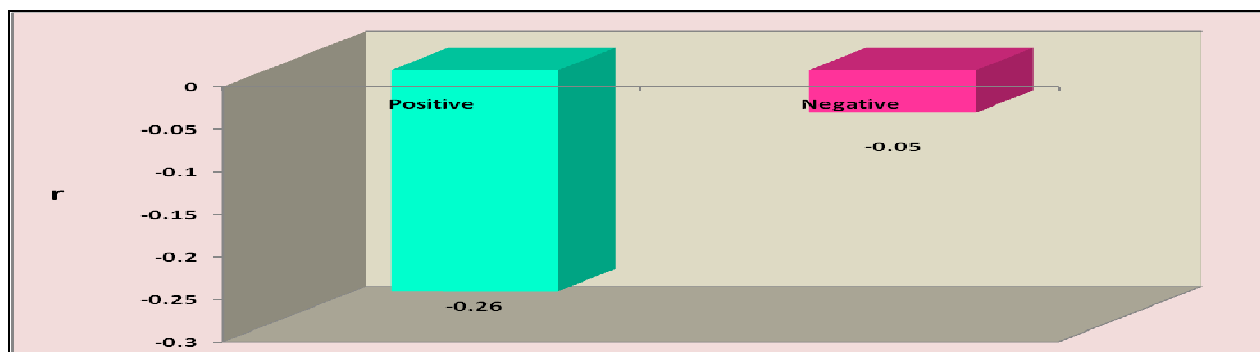


Figure 1: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Caste Rural Girls

Table 1 and Fig. 1 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of scheduled caste rural girls. The coefficients of correlation of positive family climate of scheduled caste rural girls with their aggression were -0.26 which was negative and significant. The coefficient of correlation of negative family climate with aggression of scheduled caste rural girls was -0.05 which was not significant. This result is in line with study conducted by Bajwa and Sharma (2013), who found significant correlation between aggression and family climate of adolescent girls of eleventh grade studying in Ahmedgarh city of Punjab. The above discussion reveals that a significant relationship exists between aggression and positive family climate whereas no significant relationship exists between aggression and negative family climate of scheduled caste rural girls.

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.09
Negative	100	0.04

Table 2: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Caste Urban Girls

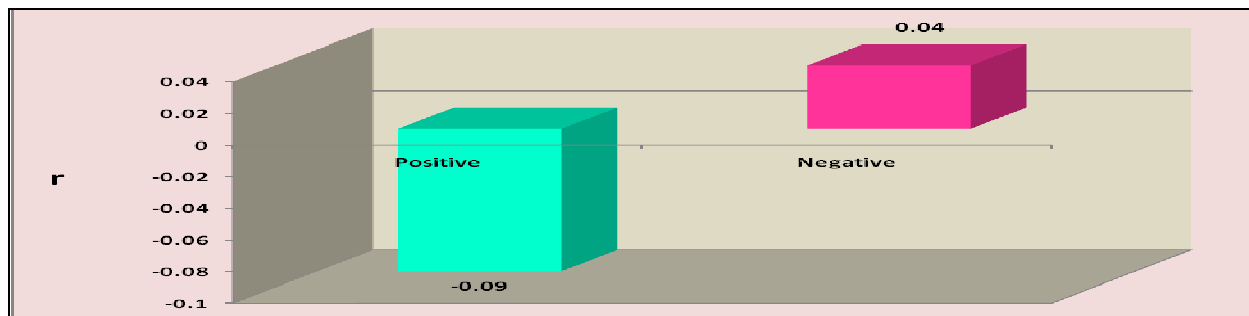


Figure 2: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Caste Urban Girls

Table 2 and Fig. 2 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of scheduled caste urban girls. The coefficients of correlation of positive family climate of scheduled caste urban girls with their aggression were -0.09 which was not significant. The coefficient of correlation of negative family climate with aggression of scheduled caste urban girls was 0.04 which was also not significant.

The above discussion reveals that no significant relationship exists between aggression and positive as well as negative family climate of scheduled caste urban girls. The result is in contrast with the findings that parental rejection demotes need for achievement and is associated with the main causes of anti-social behaviour like indiscipline and aggressiveness (Mukherjee, 1973).

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.4**
Negative	100	0.42**

Table 3: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Caste Rural Girls

** Significant at 0.01 level

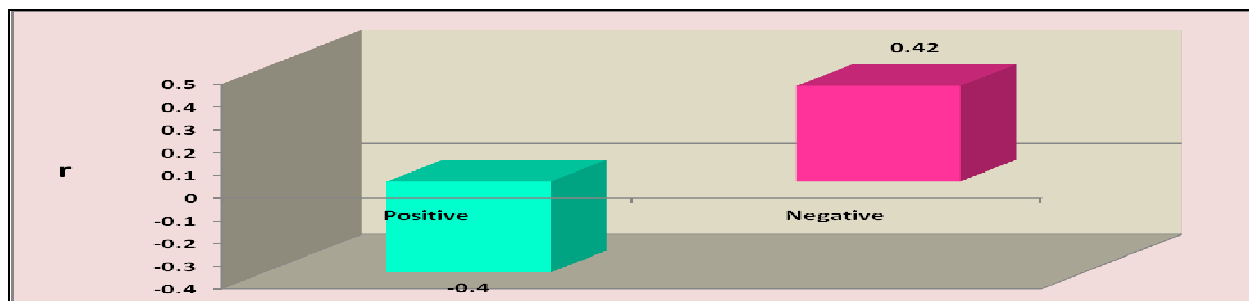


Figure 3: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Caste Rural Girls

Table 3 and Fig. 3 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of non-scheduled caste rural girls. The coefficients of correlation of positive and negative family climate of non-scheduled caste rural girls with their aggression were -0.4 which was negative and significant and 0.42 which were positive and significant. It reveals that a significant relationship exists between aggression and family climate of non-scheduled caste rural girls. The result is consistent with findings of Holden and Ritchie (1991) who reported that children from violent families were more aggressive, more difficult temperament than the comparison children. Also Vissing *et al* (1991) noted that aggressive girls tend to come from homes characterized with higher levels of verbal aggression.

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.05
Negative	100	-0.01

Table 4: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Class Urban Girls

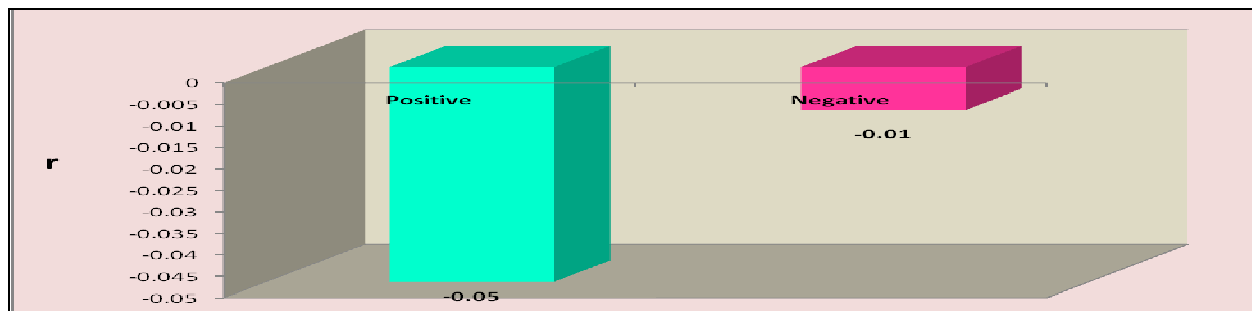


Figure 4: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Caste Urban Girls

Table 4 and Fig. 4 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of non-scheduled caste urban girls. The coefficients of correlation of positive and negative family climate of non-scheduled caste urban girls with their aggression were -0.05 and -0.01 which were not significant. It reveals that no significant relationship exists between aggression and positive as well as negative family climate of non-scheduled caste urban girls. The result is in agreement with findings of Garg (2014) that significant negative correlation exists between family climate and aggression among adolescents.

The second objective of the present study was:

To find out the relationship of aggression with family climate among scheduled and non-scheduled caste boys belonging to (a) rural area (b) urban area. For this purpose the correlation with product moment method was calculated between scores of aggression of the different categories of scheduled and non-scheduled adolescent boys namely, the category of rural and urban and their family climate. The values of correlations are given in table 5-8 and the pictorial form is shown in figures 5-8.

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.70**
Negative	100	0.62**

Table 5: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Caste Rural Boys

** Significant at 0.01 level

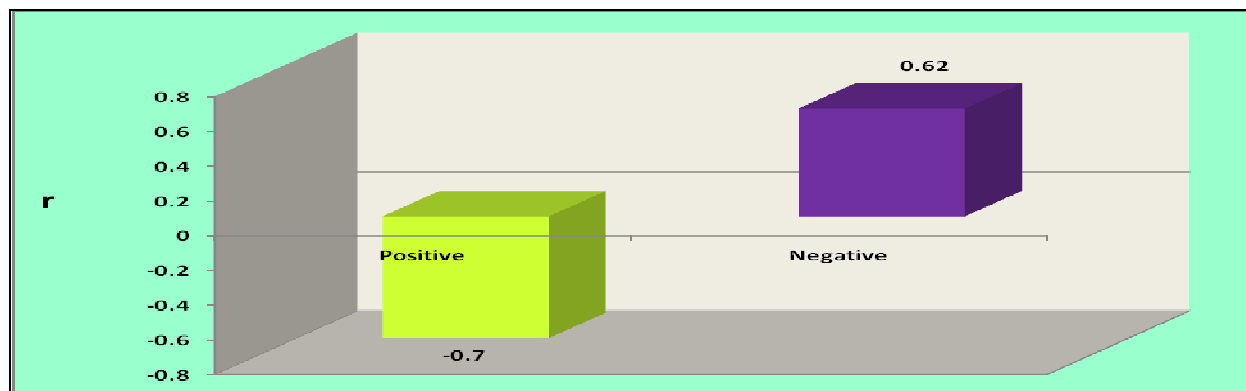


Figure 5: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Class Rural Boys

Table 5 and Fig. 5 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of scheduled caste rural boys. The coefficients of correlation of positive family climate of scheduled caste rural boys with their aggression were -0.70 which was negative and significant. The coefficient of correlation of negative family climate with aggression of scheduled caste rural boys was 0.62 which was positive and significant. The findings of Lopez *et al.* (2008) are in line with the above result confirming the association between family environment and aggressiveness among adolescents.

The above discussion reveals that a significant relationship exists between aggression and positive and negative family climate of scheduled caste rural boys.

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.67**
Negative	100	0.62**

Table 6: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Caste Urban Boys
 ** Significant at 0.01 level

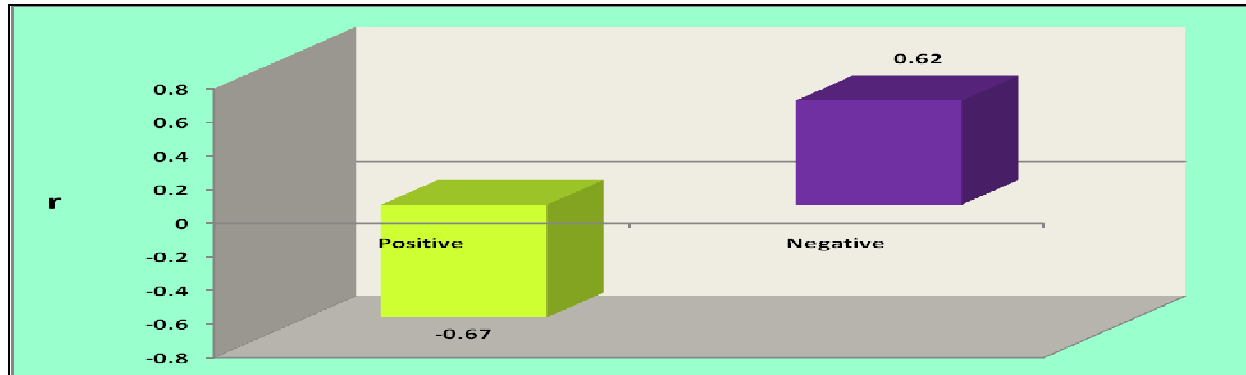


Figure 6: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Scheduled Caste Urban Boys

Table 6 and Fig. 6 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of scheduled caste urban boys. The coefficients of correlation of positive family climate of scheduled caste urban boys with their aggression were -0.67 which was negative and significant. The coefficient of correlation of negative family climate with aggression of scheduled caste urban boys was 0.62 which was positive and significant.

The above discussion reveals that a significant relationship exists between aggression and positive as well as negative family climate of scheduled caste urban boys. This is supported by findings of Rothbaum and Weiz (1994) that parenting style adopted by parents play a vital role in the development of children. Parental warmth and support in positive family climate are associated with relatively low levels of children’s aggressive behaviour.

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.23**
Negative	100	0.05

Table 7: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Caste Rural Boys
 ** Significant at 0.01 level

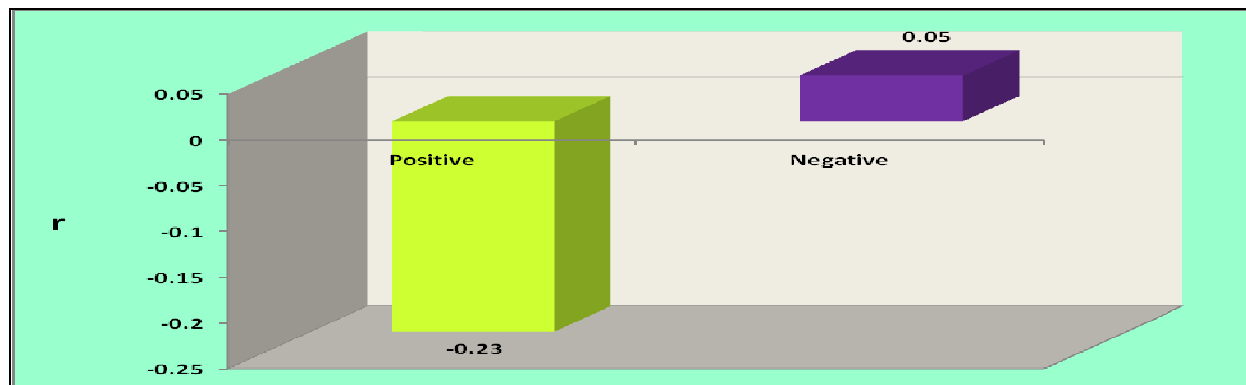


Figure 7: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Caste Rural Boys

Table 7 and Fig. 7 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of non-scheduled caste rural boys. The coefficients of correlation of positive family climate of non-scheduled caste rural boys with their aggression were -0.23 which was negative and significant. The coefficients of correlation of negative family climate of non-scheduled caste rural boys with their aggression were -0.05 which was not significant. The result is supported by Bajwa and Sharma (2013) who found significant correlation between aggression and positive family climate of boys and non-significant correlation between negative family climate and aggression.

It reveals that a significant relationship exists between aggression and positive family climate and no significant relationship exists between aggression and negative family climate of non-scheduled caste rural boys.

Dimensions of Family Climate	N	Correlation
Positive	100	-0.29**
Negative	100	0.02

Table 8: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Caste Urban Boys
** Significant at 0.01 level

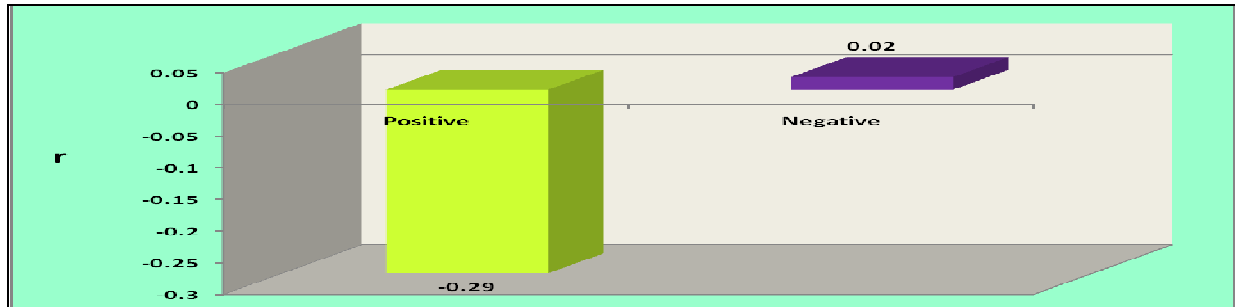


Figure 8: Coefficient of Correlation between Aggression and Family Climate of Non-scheduled Caste Urban Boys

Table 8 and Fig. 8 show the coefficients of correlation between aggression and family climate of non-scheduled caste urban boys. The coefficients of correlation of positive family climate of non-scheduled caste urban boys with their aggression were -0.29 which was negative and significant. The coefficients of correlation of negative family climate of non-scheduled caste urban boys with their aggression were 0.02 which was not significant. The result is again in line with study conducted by Bajwa and Sharma (2013) on eleventh grade boys and girls of Ahmedgarh city of Punjab.

It reveals that a significant relationship exists between aggression and positive family climate and no significant relationship exists between aggression and negative family climate of non-scheduled caste urban boys.

8. Conclusions

Results indicated that significant relationship exists between aggression and positive family climate for scheduled caste as well as non scheduled caste rural girls whereas no significant relationship exists between aggression and negative family climate of scheduled caste rural girls. For scheduled caste and non scheduled caste urban girls, no significant relationship exists between aggression and positive as well as negative family climate. In case of boys belonging to scheduled caste, significant relationship exists between aggression and positive as well as negative family climate of rural and urban area boys. Significant relationship exists between aggression and positive family climate of non scheduled caste rural and urban boys whereas no significant relationship exists between aggression and negative family climate of non-scheduled caste rural and urban boys.

9. Implications of the study

Salient implications of the study are enumerated below:

- The findings of the study would help the parents, counsellors and educationists to identify various contributing factors towards development of aggression among adolescents.
- This study will help the parents in knowing that family climate greatly affect adolescents' aggression. This knowledge will be helpful for the parents in preventing development of aggressive behaviour in adolescents and enabling them to handle difficult situations through positive family climate, loving family relationship, good communication between parents and adolescents.
- The results provide empirical feedback to the professionals and NGOs to chalk out appropriate workable strategies and programmes for helping adolescents who are at risk of violent behaviour.
- The research provides a useful reference material for further studies in this field.

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