

# Parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents lead to child aggressiveness: A study

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**Abstract:** Child-parent relationship has undergone very significant changes in the recent past mainly due to the processes of globalization, modernization, industrialization, migration, social media and education. Earlier the child-parent relationship was harmonious and peaceful but now it has been seen as non-harmonious and conflicting and children show the signs of anger, confusion, frustration and aggression. Parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents leads to aggressiveness in a child. Neglectful parenting means dismissing the children's emotions and opinions. Lack of proper parenting is the primary cause of violent and aggressive behaviour in children because it is the responsibility of parents to provide every basic need to child. The other reasons which make a child aggressive toward parents is poverty of parents, mental health problems of parents, financial problems of parents because parents cannot provide proper parenting to children which led aggression in children. Based on a sample of 200 respondents and using an intensive approach through the case study method, the study has been carried out in the rural and urban areas of Srinagar district of the Kashmir valley and aimed to trace the causes of child aggressiveness /anger and the effect of parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents on aggression of children. The author found that these variables were profound and the impact of parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents has a significant impact on aggression of children.

**Keywords:** Child-parent relationship, child aggressiveness, parental negligence, improper parenting, parents will, Kashmir.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The child-parent relationship consists of a combination of behaviours, feelings, and expectations that are unique to a particular parent and a particular child. The relationship involves the full extent of a child's development of the many different relationship people form over the course of the life span, the relationship between parent and child is among the most important.<sup>1</sup> In a broad sense, nurturance also includes meeting emotional and social needs such as helping children feel secure and loved. Studies carried in child development shows that physical care, love and concern are very important for children's healthy growth. Control refers to the parent's practice of authority and responsibility for the welfare of children. Parents use control to socialize children, in other words, through control children take on the behaviour patterns, personal priorities and attitudes desired by a society. The quality of the child-parent relationship is affected by the parent's age, experience, and self-confidence, the stability of the parents, marriage; and the unique characteristic of the child compared with those of the parents. Parents play a significant role in the child's perception of child-parent relationship. Results of the child-parent researches clearly point out the fact that parent's personality, in terms of extroverted, introverted, is the significant variables. The two types of parent's personality play a different role while affecting the relations between the parents and children. Even the attitudes of parents play a significant role in relationship with their children. The research studies have shown that the influence of unfavourable parental attitudes upon personality development of a child in a way that as children grows older anti-social behaviour in the form of aggression, lying,

steeling, swearing becomes common. This shows more overt expression of anti-social and hostile behaviour with less inhibition and anxiety that do children whose parent's attitudes are more favourable.<sup>2</sup>

Parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents leads to aggressiveness in a child. Parenting can be simply defined as "the process or the state of being a parent". Once you have a child, you are involved in the process of parenting. However, it is not that simple and Morrison defined parenting as "the process of developing and utilizing the knowledge and skills appropriate to planning for, creating, giving birth to, and rearing and/or providing care for offspring". This definition implies that parenting starts when there is a plan for it and it involves not just bringing up the children but also providing care for them. There are several characteristics of parenting. First of all, with the advance of medical knowledge and technology, parenting becomes a choice in life. Secondly, being a parent is a life-long commitment. Thirdly, it involves responsibilities as parents are responsible to take good care of their children physically as well as psychologically. Lastly, parenting involves not just the couple but all the family members since the birth of a child affects the whole family. The quality of parenting depends on several factors. Firstly, the mature personality of the parents is the basic factor of good quality parenting. It also contributes to the stable and intimate marital relationship, which is the second factor of high quality parenting. Thirdly, the parents' motivation of having a child would affect their way of parenting. Fourthly, whether the pregnancy is planned or not is also an important factor as planned pregnancy implies better preparation to be a parent. Whether the parents' level of expectation on the child is appropriate will certainly affect their parenting quality. Parents' unrealistic expectation will exert pressure on children. Lastly, the child's temperament and physical attributes is also a factor. A difficult child with physical handicap will make the parenting task more difficult than an easy baby with adorable attributes. In other words, the term parent refers to a father or mother who is related to a child by blood. This definition holds whether the child is legitimate or illegitimate.

Detached parents are neither responsive nor demanding they may be careless or unaware of the child's needs for affection and discipline. Neglectful parenting is also called in uninvolved, detached, dismissive, or hands-off the parents are low in warmth and control, are generally not involved in their child's life are disengaged, understanding, low in responsiveness and do not set limits.<sup>3</sup> Neglectful parenting can also mean dismissing the children's emotions and opinions. Parents are emotionally unsupportive of their children. But still provide their basic needs. Provide basic needs mean food, housing and toiletries. Disorganized children don't know what to expect from their parents. A child with relationships learns to predict how his parent will react, whether it is positive or negative. Disorganised children will do things that seem to make no sense sometimes these children will speak really fast and will be hard to understand.<sup>4</sup> Child-parent relationship has undergone very significant changes in the recent past mainly due to the processes of globalization, modernization, industrialization, migration, social media and education.<sup>5</sup> Family has important role to make the future of a child because family is the basic social institution in which child socialize properly and inculcate discipline, norms, values and moral of the society.<sup>6</sup> Earlier the child-parent relationship was harmonious and peaceful but now it has been seen as non-harmonious and conflicting and children show the signs of anger, confusion, frustration and aggression. Parents of young people are often blamed for the delinquent behavior of their children. In some courts parents are even penalized for the antisocial conduct of their children (e.g., Bessant and Hil 1998<sup>7</sup>; Drakeford 1996<sup>8</sup>; Dundes 1994<sup>9</sup>). Although lay as well as scholarly theories assume that a link between parenting and delinquency exists, clear conclusions concerning the magnitude of this link are difficult to draw. An important reason for this difficulty is the heterogeneity of the studies and their findings in this field of research.<sup>10</sup> Face-to-face relationship is regarded as an essence for a good parent-child relationship in which both child and parents understand each other's needs, wishes, ideas, emotions, motivations and aspirations. In the traditional societies, the Face-to-face relationship between parents and children was very close, strong and appreciating but in modern societies this type of a close bond has weakened mainly due to the social processes like impact of globalization, modernization, migration, industrialization, modern education and specialized division of labour.<sup>11</sup> Two perspectives have been adopted in the parenting literature: research that is focused on dimensions of parenting and research focusing on typologies (Darling and Steinberg 1993<sup>12</sup>; O'Connor 2002<sup>13</sup>; Ten Haaf 1993<sup>14</sup>). Dimensions are concepts to categorize parenting behaviors such as affection, punishment, monitoring, whereas typologies are constellations of parenting dimensions such as an authoritative parenting style which is a combination of supportive parenting, attachment and guiding the child's behavior by explanation and appropriate expectations for conformity<sup>15</sup>.

## 2. RESEARCH DESIGN

Based on a sample of 200 respondents and using an intensive approach through the case study method, the study has been carried out in the rural and urban areas of *Srinagar* district of the *Kashmir* valley and aimed to understand the effect of parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents on aggression of a child. The tools which have been

utilized for collecting data were interview schedule and observation method. For enhancing objective of the research both open ended and closed ended interview were framed along with above these two research tool. Descriptive research design was used to get information from respondents and it sought description and reasons for intergenerational dynamics of parent-child relationship and issues and challenges. For operational definitions, parents include adult males and females who are married and have children. Children were defined as in the age-group of 14-25 years and were unmarried. Besides, community members and socially notable persons were approached to identify and facilitate interaction with the respondents.

**Hypothesis of the Study:**

In the broader theoretical context, an attempt was made to develop a proper and realistic research hypothesis regarding the topic of research. The main hypothesis in this regard could be put like that the causes of child aggressiveness /anger lies in parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents and this has a profound effect on aggression of a child.

**Objectives of the Study:**

1. To highlight the nature of parenting style;
2. To identify the causes of child aggressiveness /anger;
3. To trace the effect of parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents on aggression of a child.

**3. CHILD AGGRESSIVENESS /ANGER**

**3.1. Lack of proper parenting and child’s aggression:**

Although societies thrive when people help each other, it is also an unfortunate fact of life that we often hurt each other. Behaviour intended to coerce or harm other people is called aggression. Social psychologists often distinguish between two types: instrumental aggression, which is committed for the sake of some reward, such as money, power, defence; and angry aggression an emotional type of behaviour committed with the intention of harming another person. In this context, the respondents were asked to reveals their ideas which as shows below:

**Table 1: Child become aggressive due to lack of proper parenting**

Theme	Target group						
	Parent			Child		Total	
Child become aggressive due to lack of proper parenting	Response	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Strongly Agree	60	30.00	80	40.00	140	70.00
	Agree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Undecided	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	40	20.00	20	10.00	60	30.00
	Strongly Disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Based on field study carried out in district Srinagar in the year, 2015*

The above table 1 clearly indicates that out of 100 parent respondents; 60 respondents i.e., (30.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive due to lack of proper parenting and followed by 40 respondents (20.00 percent) disagreement. And, out of 100 children respondents; (40.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive due to lack of proper parenting and followed by (10.00 percent) disagreement. It follows that majority of the respondents reveals that child become aggressive due to lack of proper parenting. Lack of proper parenting is the primary cause of violent and aggressive behaviour in children because it is the responsibility of parents to provide every basic need to child.

It has been found from the field study that most of the children show aggression towards their parents due to lack of proper parenting. The other reasons which make a child aggressive toward parents is poverty of parents, mental health problems of parents, financial problems of parents because parents cannot provide proper parenting to children which led aggression in children. But unfortunately, it has been observed that in today’s world it seems parents act like victims because parents are mostly living outside the home they don’t know the needs of a children and remain busy with their daily routine work and just earning huge amount of money which affects child care.

### 3.2. Parental negligence and aggression of child

Children always demand love, affection and care from their parents because a child expect lot of things from their parents and he fulfils his basic needs from their parents but when parents neglect or ignore their child he becomes deviant or aggressive. In this context, the respondents were asked to reveals their views regarding parental negligence which as shows below:

**Table 2: Child become aggressive due to parental negligence**

Theme	Target Group						
	Parent			Child		Total	
	Response	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Child become aggressive due to parental negligence	Strongly agree	50	25.00	60	30.00	110	55.00
	Agree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Undecided	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	50	25.00	0	0.00	50	25.00
	Strongly Disagree	0	0.00	40	20.00	40	20.00
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

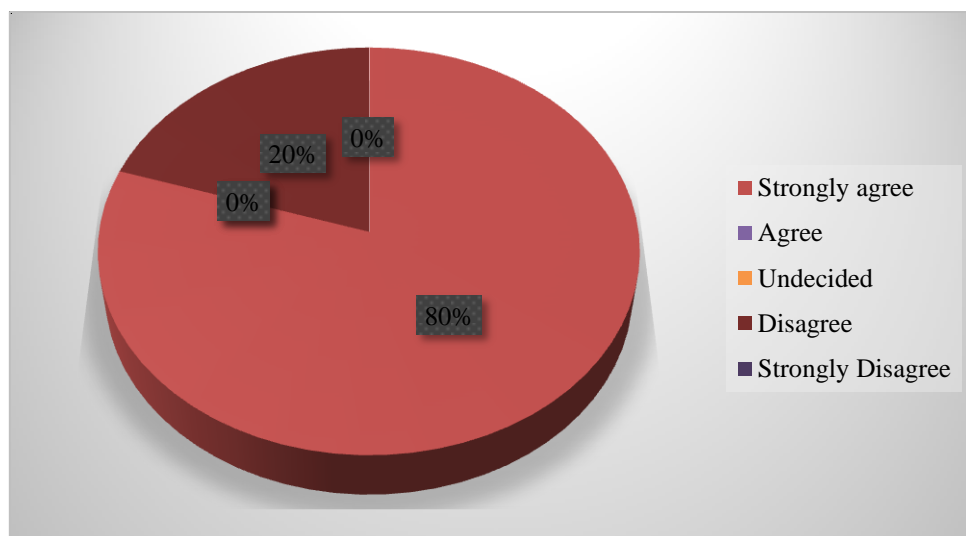
*Source: Based on field study carried out in Srinagar district in the year, 2015*

From the above table 2, it becomes evident that out of 100 parent respondents; 50 respondents i.e., (25.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive due to parental negligence and followed by 50 respondents i.e., (25.00 percent) agreement. And, out of 100 children respondents; (30.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive due to parental negligence and followed by (20.00 percent) strongly disagreement. Child neglect is a form of maltreatment, a deficit in meeting a child's basic social needs including the failure to provide basic physical, health care, supervision, nutrition, emotional, education and/or safe housing needs. Society generally believes there are necessary behaviours caregivers must provide a child in order for the child to develop physically, socially and emotionally.

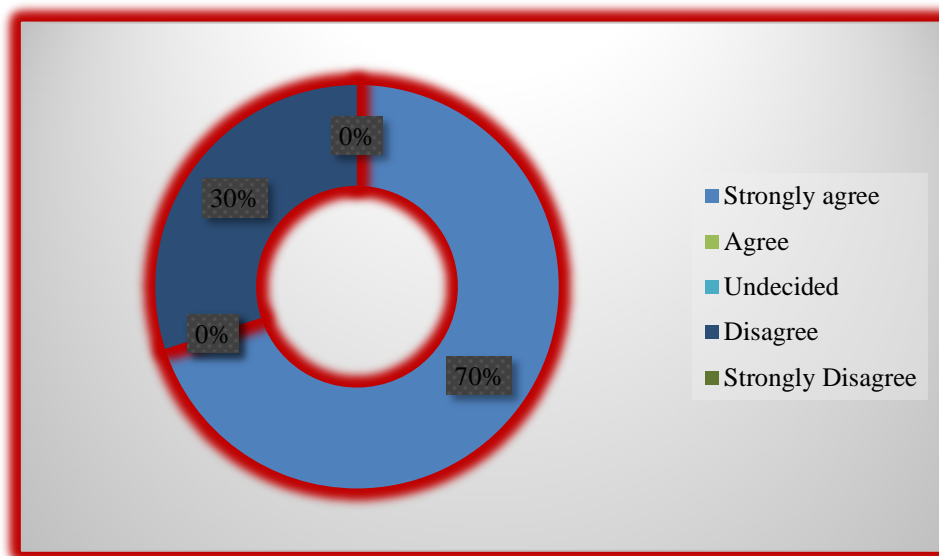
It has been observed in the field study that cause of neglect may be from any of several parenting problem including mental health, domestic violence, unemployment and poverty. A similar trend has been shown by Bovarnick (2007)<sup>10</sup> in his work "Child Neglect and Psychological Abuse" reveals that child neglect is the most frequent type of abuse of children, with children that are born to young mothers at a substantial risk for neglect. In 2008, the U.S. state local child protective services received 3.3. Million reports of children being abused or neglected seventy-one percent of the children were classified as victim of child neglect or abuse.

### 3.3. Enforcement of parents will and it's results

In this world everyone has the right to make their own decision but in some societies still children are exploited parents enforce their own will on their children they cannot take independent decision. In this context, the respondents were asked to reveals their ideas which as shows in the below figure:



**Fig.1: Child become aggressive when parents enforce their own will on their children (Parent Response)**



**Fig.2: Child become aggressive when parents enforce their own will (Child response)**

*Source: Based on field study carried out in Srinagar district in the year, 2015*

The above fig. 1 and 2 clearly indicates that out of 100 parent respondents; 80 respondents i.e., (40.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive when parents enforce their own will and followed by 20 respondents (20.00 percent) disagreement. And, out of 100 children respondents; (35.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive when parents enforce their own will and followed by (15.00 percent) disagreement. It follows that majority of the respondents reveals that children become aggressive when parents enforce their own will. It has been found from the field study that children are not willing from parents' ideology because they have traditional and conservative ideology and children oppose their ideology and stress on modern way of life. But when parent force to work on their own style children do but become aggressive towards parents sometime children become disobedient.

### 3.4. Restriction of children and their aggression:

Freedom is the basic fundamental right of an individual we cannot curbs anyone's freedom similarly, when parents curbs child's freedom he becomes aggressive and prefer to remain isolate from peer groups, relatives and so on. In this context, the respondents were asked to reveals their ideas as shows in the below table:

**Table 3: Child become aggressive when parent curbs their freedom**

Theme	Target group						
	Parent			Child		Total	
Child become aggressive when parent curbs their freedom	Response	No.	%	No.	No.	No.	%
	Strongly agree	50	25.00	70	35.00	120	60.00
	Agree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Undecided	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Disagree	50	25.00	30	15.00	80	40.00
Strongly Disagree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source: Based on field study carried out in Srinagar district in the year, 2015*

The above figure 3 becomes evident that out of 100 parent respondents;50 respondents i.e., (25.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive when parents curbs their freedom and followed by 50 respondents (25.00 percent) disagreement. And, out of 100 children respondents; (35.00 percent) strongly agreed that children become aggressive when parents curbs their freedom and followed by (15.00 percent) disagreement. It has been clear from the field study that majority of the respondents depict that children become aggressive when parent curbs their freedom. Sometimes children cry, bite and hit themselves and show aggression towards parents and they just want live free life, children don't want to stay under the parent's supervision for longer time children want to take their decisions independently.



#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

For child development physical care, love and concern are very important for children's healthy growth. Parents use control to socialize children, in other words, through control children take on the behaviour patterns, personal priorities and attitudes desired by a society. The quality of the child-parent relationship is affected by the parent's age, experience, and self-confidence, the stability of the parents, marriage; and the unique characteristic of the child compared with those of the parents. The influence of unfavourable parental attitudes upon personality development of a child in a way that as children grows older anti-social behaviour in the form of aggression, lying, stealing, swearing becomes common. Parental negligence, improper parenting and enforcement of parents leads to aggressiveness in a child. Neglectful parenting means dismissing the children's emotions and opinions. Child-parent relationship has undergone very significant changes in the recent past mainly due to the processes of globalization, modernization, industrialization, migration, social media and education. Earlier the child-parent relationship was harmonious and peaceful but now it has been seen as non-harmonious and conflicting and children show the signs of anger, confusion, frustration and aggression. Lack of proper parenting is the primary cause of violent and aggressive behaviour in children because it is the responsibility of parents to provide every basic need to child. The other reasons which make a child aggressive toward parents is poverty of parents, mental health problems of parents, financial problems of parents because parents cannot provide proper parenting to children which led aggression in children. The children become aggressive when parents enforce their own will. The children are not willing from parents' ideology because they have traditional and conservative ideology and children oppose their ideology and stress on modern way of life. But when parent force to work on their own style children do but become aggressive towards parents sometime children become disobedient. Children become aggressive when parent curbs their freedom. Sometimes children cry, bite and hit themselves and show aggression towards parents and they just want live free life, children don't want to stay under the parent's supervision for longer time children want to take their decisions independently.

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