

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

Volume 6 | Issue 3

2023

© 2023 *International Journal of Law Management & Humanities*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://www.ijlmh.com/>

Under the aegis of VidhiAagaz – Inking Your Brain (<https://www.vidhiaagaz.com/>)

This article is brought to you for “free” and “open access” by the International Journal of Law Management & Humanities at VidhiAagaz. It has been accepted for inclusion in the International Journal of Law Management & Humanities after due review.

In case of **any suggestions or complaints**, kindly contact Gyan@vidhiaagaz.com.

To submit your Manuscript for Publication in the **International Journal of Law Management & Humanities**, kindly email your Manuscript to submission@ijlmh.com.

Study of Across Generation Aggression and Moral Disengagement

SUNITA CHAUHAN¹

ABSTRACT

In the present investigation a comparison was made across three generations of male respondents of the same families to determine whether aggression and moral values had undergone any change. Further the sample was spread across the rural and urban regions of Haryana, as apparently violence and moral disintegration appear to be a product of the modern societal changes and should therefore be higher among the Urban population. For this purpose a purposive sample of 100 male students of IX/ X classes, who were residing with their father as well as grandfather was selected from rural and urban areas of Haryana state. Aggression and moral disengagement skills were administered individually to each student, his father and grandfather. Two way ANOVA was used to analyse the differences in aggression and moral values. Further the correlational analysis was also done to study the relationship between the variables. Results indicate that contrary to general belief, aggression and moral disengagement was more in the rural respondents. Further maximum moral disengagement was observed among the adolescencents. Technical advancement and modernization which contribute to rapid economic growth are universally desired. However violent conflict has been found to be greatest in developing nations, least in modern nations and intermediate in the least developed nations. This surge in violence can be attributed to the rapid social change which occurs due to advancements and generates instability.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indian culture which was traditionally characterized by humanistic, familial and benevolent value is undergoing a metamorphic change. Cultural barriers have broken down as a result of global flow of communication and individualistic and materialistic values are taking place of the traditional values. Breakdown of the family system has augmented the situation as family plays a fundamental revolutionary action (Perrot and Martin Fungier, 1987) in helping its members to internalize social and moral values and develop responsible roles. Media has further contributed to this situation by glamorizing violence corrupt practices attainment of materialistic goals and breakdown of the family ties(Yadav, Kumar and Sharma, 2000) thereby projecting these as socially acceptable responses to stress and frustration. This in turn through

¹ Author is a Associate Professor at Department of Psychology, M.N.S Government College, Bhiwani, India.

its influence on anticipatory guilt reactions which are in to the violation of internalized norms (moral disengagement) is conducive to aggression (Bandura, Barbaranelli, Caprara and Pastorelli, 1996). Although cultural and subcultural differences in values two exist some universal moral values have been expounded however each cultural subcultural group tends to maximize a model value pattern in the present study comparison was made across three generations of respondents to determine whether aggression and moral values head undergo change cross generation further the sample was spread across the rural and urban regions of Haryana to study some cultural differences the study was restricted to male respondents as clear differences in aggression have been reported.

II. SAMPLE

A purposive sample of 300 male respondents spread across three generations i.e adolescent (son) adult (father) and old (grandfather) was selected from rural and urban areas of Haryana state. Male respondents studying in IX/ X classes in government schools who were residing with their father and grandfather were initially identified. Their father and grandfather were contacted personally and only those cases where the three generations agree to participate in the study were taken. The distribution of sample of subjects is a shown in table 1

Table 1

Distribution of subjects in relation to generation (age) and sub- cultural area

	Rural	Urban
Adolescents (Son)	N= 50	N=50
Adult (Father)	N=50	N=50
Old(Grand father)	N=50	N=50

(A) Tools

- 1. Aggression scale (Pal and Naqvi, 1983)** – This scale consisted of 30 multiple choice items graded on a 5 point scale on the positive dimension and a zero point the negative dimension. All the items were matter of behaviour of daily life. The test has a test retest reliability of 0.78 and split half reliability of 0.82. The criterion validity of the test in relation to Chauhan and Tiwari's (1972) frustration scale (only aggression score calculated) was found to be 0.74.
- 2. Moral disengagement scale (Bandura, Barbaranelli, Caprara and Pastorelli, 1996)** – This consisted of 32 statements which were to be rated on a 3 point scale indicating

the degree of acceptance of moral exonerations on an agree disagree continuum. This is a multifacet scale which assesses proneness to moral disengagement of different forms of detrimental conduct in diverse contexts and interpersonal relations. The entire set of 32 items is considered to be a composite measure of moral disengagement. The alpha reliability coefficient for this measured is 0.82. Since the subjects of the present study were proficient in Hindi, a Hindi translation of the test was prepared by authors the statements were translated into Hindi and these were assessed by 6 experts (from Hindi and English departments of MD University). After modifying the Hindi translation as per the views of the experts, the two versions Hindi in English were comparatively evaluated by five subject experts, the two versions (Hindi and English) were comparatively evaluated by 5 subject experts. The final version was administered to 50 bilingual subjects, after a gap of one month the test was re-administered to these subject. The English version was administered to these subjects after 15 days. The test retest reliability was found to be .83 while the criterion validity was 0.79.

(B) Procedure

Respondents were contacted at their residence and the two tests were administered to the three respondents of a family (son, father, grandfather) in a single setting. In certain cases where the father/ grandfather were illiterate, so the questions were read out and responses were recorded by the investigator.

(C) Result and Discussion

The mean aggression and moral disengagement scores of the respondents were computed

Table -2

Mean aggression and moral disengagement scores and statistical significance (ANOVA) of the independent (age and area) variables and their interactional effects

Variable	Aggression Mean	Aggression F- Value	Moral Disengagement Mean	Moral Disengagement F- Value
Rural	76.42	14.94**	31.83	24.27**
Urban	68.81		26.77	
Adolescent(son)	74.88		32.41	

Adult (Father)	72.22	1.50	26.90	10.06**
Old(Grand father)			28.60	
Interaction		6.96**		67.3**

** P<.01

The mean aggression and moral disengagement scores of the rural subjects were higher than those of the urban subjects. Further, the mean aggression scores of the respondents of different age groups decreased with increase in age group. However, the mean moral disengagement scores of the adolescents was highest, the adults the lowest and the old intermediate.

The aggression and moral disengagement scores were analyzed by using two way analysis of variance to study the independent and interactional effects of area and age group. Analysis revealed that area had a significant effect on both the scores (F= Aggression : 14.94, p<0.01; Moral Disengagement : 24.27,p<0.01) while age groups differed significantly only on the moral disengagement scores(F= aggression : 1.50, p<0.05; moral disengagement : 10.06,p< 0.01). However, interaction between the independent variables was found to be significant for both the scores(F= Aggression: 6.96, p<0.01; moral Disengagement : 6.73, p< 0.01).

These results support the findings of Chakrabarti and Kumar (1983) Gawali and Kamble (1999) and Yadav, Sharma and Sunita (2000) who also reported subcultural and cross generation differences in values. Further they support the results of a study by the present investigators (Yadav, Sharma, Gandhi,2001) where aggression and moral disengagement were found to be more in rural adolescents as compared to their urban counterparts.

Table 3

Mean aggression and moral disengagement scores of the rural and urban respondents of different

Age Group / Area	Rural	Rural	Urban	Urban
	Aggression	Moral disengagement	Aggression	Moral disengagement
Adolescent	75.92	35.32	73.84	29.5

Adult	73.6	29.24	70.84	24.56
Old	79.76	30.94	61.76	26.26

Analysis of variance of the simple effects of area and age group revealed that comparisons of the mean aggression scores of the rural/ urban adolescent and rural/urban adult were not significantly different (F =Rural vs Urban adolescents : 0.37, $p > 0.05$; Rural vs Urban adults 0.65, $p > 0.05$) but in case of the old respondents, aggression was significantly lower in the older urban respondents ($F = 27.84$).

Comparison of the moral disengagement scores revealed a different picture. The differences between the rural and urban adolescent respondents was highly significant ($F = 10.70$, $p < 0.01$), the mean score of the rural adolescents being higher. The other comparisons i.e. between rural and urban adults ($F = 6.92$, $p < 0.05$) old ($F = 6.92$, $p < 0.05$) and across the age groups for rural ($F = 6.22$, $p < 0.05$) and urban ($F = 3.98$, $p < 0.05$) respondents were also significant, but at a lower level. Post hoc analysis of the data (Newman – Kuel's) revealed that the mean aggression scores of the old urban respondents were significantly lower than those of the urban adult and adults and respondents. None of the other differences were found to be significant. On the moral disengagement scores significant differences were found between the rural adults and respondents when compared with their adult and old counterparts. However the differences between the adult and old respondents were insignificant. However for the urban respondents only the adolescents were found to have significantly higher scores as compared to their adult and old counterparts while difference between the adult and old adolescent respondents were even insignificant.

Further in order to study the relationship between aggression and moral disengagement correlation was computed between the two scores. A low but significant correlation relation was computed between the two scores of the entire group ($r = .13$, $p < .01$) since analysis of various had indicated significant differences in the moral disengagement scores of the various groups (i.e. area and age groups) correlations were computed between the aggression and moral disengagement scores for the various groups. The correlation for the urban ($r = .22$, $p < .01$) and rural ($r = .2398$, $p < .01$) subjects was found to be significant. However comparisons for the age groups revealed a significant core religion only in case of the adult subjects ($r = .4302$, $p < .01$). These results are in line with those of Cermak and Blantny (1995), Bandura et al (1996) and Yadav et.al (2001) who reported a direct association between the two variables. Considered together the results of the present study revealed that the popular belief that aggression is a byproduct of herbal society and is increasing in the youth is incorrect. However there is

integration in the moral values of the adolescent but surprisingly here again, this integration was more in rural subjects. The reason for these results could be that the exposure to the rapid social change which has occurred due to global flow of communication and technical advancements and thereby the instability generated due to this change has been more in the urban areas. Further the exposure of the urban youth to western culture has been less drastic and far longer period thereby inoculating them against impact of these values. Also the urban youth has more extensive and richer experiences which result in the development of more analytical thinking leading to self understanding (Damon and Hart, 1992) which mediate between values and conduct to social life.

Further moral disengagement did not differ across the adult and old subjects indicating that values once in great are not susceptible to the impact of social changes or insecurities. However the correlational analysis indicates that moral disengagement might be mediator of aggression, at least in adults subjects, since a multitude of other factors such as irritability, emotional susceptibility guilt etc. also influence aggression, the contribution of these variables should also be investigated to determine which factors contribute significantly to aggression.

Thus it appears that increase in aggression in today's society cannot be attributed to the cultural changes due to globalization and has its genesis somewhere else. However these cultural changes are having a major impact on the value system of the youth, the worst affected being the rural adolescents, for whom the present social change has been drastic.

III. REFERENCES

- Bandura, A., Barbaranelli, C., Caprara, G V. and Pastorelli, C. (1996) Mechanisms of moral disengagement in the exercise of moral agency *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. 71,364-374.
- Chakraborty, P. K. and Kundu, R, (1983), Cross community variations in the value pattern. *Indian Psychologist*, 2, 108-118.
- Chauhan, N. S. and Tiwari, S. P. (1972), Guide to using Nairshya Maapa Agra Agra Psychological Research Cell.
- Damon, W. and Hart, D. (1992), Self-understanding and its role n social and moral development. In M. H. Bornstein, M. E. Lamb (ed.) *Developmental Psychology An advanced text book*. Hilldate: Lawrence Earlbaun
- Eagly, A. H. and Steffen, V. J. (1986). Gender and aggressive behaviour. A meta-analytic review of the socio psychological literature. *Psychological Bulletin*, 100, 309-330.
- Gawali,G. and Kamble, G. N. (1999). Generation gap, masculinity faminity sex and personal values *Prachi journal of psycho- Cultural dimensions*, 15, 1721.
- Kinnier, R. T., Kernes, J. L. and Dautheribes - Therese M. (2000). A short list of universal moral values. *Counselling and Values*, 45, 4-16.
