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Influence of Parenting on Adolescents’ Aggression

2 forms of aggression displayed by adolescents were researched. Reactive aggression is consistently associated with a tendency to misinterpret ambiguous or neutral stimuli as hostile provocation or threat, and thus evoking an angry response. On the contrary, proactive aggression has been linked to a tendency to use aggression as an instrumental means to reach goals, and is usually unprovoked.

Hypothesis
Females are more likely than males to display reactive aggression, while vice-versa for proactive aggression. Parenting styles may have interactive effects on the type of aggression displayed. This study explores the interaction between gender and parenting styles on reactive and proactive aggression separately.

Permissive
The parent is responsive but not demanding – very involved with their children but place few demands or controls on them, thus spoiling the child.

Authoritarian
The parent is demanding but not responsive – exhibits restrictive, punitive style in which parents exhort the child to follow their directions and to respect their work and effort.

Authoritative
The parent is demanding and responsive – encourages children to be independent but still places limits and controls on their actions.

Scales
- Parenting Authority Questionnaire (PAQ)
- Reactive-Proactive Aggression Questionnaire (RPQ)

Participants
N = 1193: 559 Girls, 634 Boys, students of secondary school aged between 12-17 (M = 13.26, SD = 0.93).

At medium and high level of permissive parenting, females display significantly higher RA than males.

At high low and medium level of permissive parenting, males display significantly higher PA than females.

As level of authoritarian parenting increases, RA displayed by adolescents significantly increases. At low and medium level of authoritarian parenting, females display significantly higher RA than males.

Adolescents display significantly higher PA at medium than low level of authoritarian parenting. At low and medium level of authoritative parenting, males display significantly higher PA than females.

At low level of authoritative parenting, males display higher RA than females, though not significant. At medium and high level of authoritative parenting, males display significantly lower RA than females.

At low and medium level of authoritative parenting, males display significantly higher PA than females.