



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Nursing**

**AGGRESSION AMONG CHILDREN OF SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AND NON-SUBSTANCE ABUSERS**

**KEY WORDS:** Aggression, children of substance abusers and non-substance abusers

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**ABSTRACT**

Children of substance abusers may be the victim of physical and emotional abuse and neglect. **AIM:** The aim is to compare the aggression among children of substance abusers and non-substance abusers. **METHODS:** Quantitative descriptive research design was used to compare the aggression among children of substance abusers and non-substance abusers by socio-demographic sheet and Buss and Perry aggression questionnaire tool among children of substance abusers and non-substance abusers. **RESULTS:** In children of substance abusers: Mean value of anger was 22.13, physical aggression was 28.57, hostility was 27.68 and verbal aggression was 17.68. In children of non-substance abusers: Mean value of anger was 16.8, physical aggression was 18.2, hostility was 19.4 and verbal aggression was 11.95. **CONCLUSION:** Study concluded that children of substance abusers were having more aggression as compared to children of non-substance abusers.

**INTRODUCTION**

Substance abuse causes various problems like Physical, Mental and Social problems. Substance abuse disorder may also involve social and relationship problem.<sup>1</sup>

Parental Substance misuse can have a negative impact on children at each stage of their development. Women misuse substance during pregnancy may put their babies at risks of impaired brain development, congenital malformations and withdrawal symptoms after birth.<sup>2</sup> In later stages, impacts to children are: Physical and emotional abuse and neglect as a result of inadequate supervision, poor role model, relationship difficulties, Preoccupation with, or blaming themselves, their parent's substance misuse and Infrequent attendance at school and poor educational attainment, exposure to toxic substance and criminal activities.<sup>2,3</sup>

Sidhu E et al. conducted a cross sectional study at a tertiary care teaching hospital on 25 children (6-18years) by using a general health questionnaires 28, child behavior checklist and family evaluation scale(FES). It was concluded that children of substance abusers face various affective, anxiety, hyperactivity problems.<sup>4,6</sup> Bellis M A et al. Conducted a national survey in England among 18-69 years old. Study survey found that of the 3885 respondents, 3.9% had witnessed parenteral drug misuse and from these witnessed respondents it is evaluated that they have several health harming behaviour like early sexual initiation, binge drinking, violence and aggression.<sup>5</sup>

As substance abuse is a burden for family, It leads to various family problems such as financial problem, physical problems and conflicts. One of the biggest conflicts arises between substance abusers and their children. Children or youth who reside in homes of substance use parents who suffer from substance use are at considerable risk for exhibiting high levels of aggressive behavior as compare to children of non-substance abusers. Behaviour problems related to substance abusers children like theft, crimes, violent behavior, physical and psychological problems, domestic violence, angry, antisocial, hyperactive, physical aggressive, whereas these all the behavioural problems are seen in higher level of children of substance abusers as compare to children of non substance abusers. Therefore, researcher selected this to compare aggression among children of substance abusers and non-substance abusers.

**METHODS AND MATERIALS**

Quantitative, descriptive Comparative survey was used to assess aggression among 60 children of Substance abusers and 60 Children of Non-Substance abuser in Goindwal Sahib, district Tarn Taran Punjab by convenient sampling technique. Followings are the three tools was used in the study which is as follows:

**Socio demographic profile:**

It includes demographic variables Age, Birth order, Gender, Residence, Religion, Type of Family, Educational status of children, Educational status of father, Educational status of mother, Occupational status of father, Occupational status of mother, Type of substance abuse by father, Duration of substance abuse, Did you have history of physical abuse.

**Buss and Perry Aggression scale:**

This tool was used to assess aggression among children of substance abusers and non substance abusers. This tool includes four components that are Physical Aggression (PA), Verbal Aggression (VA), Anger (A) and Hostility (H).

**RESULTS**

**Sociodemographic distribution of children of substance abusers**

Mean age of subjects were 14.7 years. As per their birth order, one third of study subjects were 1st child of their parents followed by 28.3% having 2nd birth order, 23.3% having 3rd birth order and only 16.7% were having birth order more than 3.

More than half of study subjects were males followed by 43.3% females. All the study subjects were belonged to rural area. Majority of subjects were Sikhs followed by 11.7% Hindu and only 8.3% were belong to Muslim and Christian religion. Two third of study subjects were from nuclear family followed by one fourth of subjects from joint family.

As per their father's educational status less than half of fathers were educated upto primary level followed by 31.7% of fathers were educated upto secondary level only 1.7% of fathers were graduated. 36.7% of their mothers were illiterate, 36.7% of mothers were educated upto primary level, 25% of mothers were educated upto secondary level and only 1.7% of mothers were graduate. 1/4th of subjects are studying in 7th standard, and 1/4th of subjects are studying in 8th standard,

only 13.3% are in 9th standard, 21.7% are in 10th standard and 15% are in 11th standard.

More than half of fathers of subjects were labourer followed by 23.3% were having self business , 10% were doing private services, 5% were doing government jobs, 5% were farmers and only 03.3% of subjects were unemployed .More than half of subjects were housewife followed by 23.3% were labourer , 10% were doing self business and only 3.3% were doing private services.

Less than half of fathers of subjects were using alcoholic beverages, one fourth of fathers were using tobacco products and other substances , only 3.33% were using opioids. Less than fathers of subjects were using substance from 10-20 years followed by 36.6% of fathers using substance from 1-10 years and only 15% were using substance from 20-30 years. Majority of subjects were having no history of physical abuse whereas only 16.6% were having history of physical abuse.

**Sociodemographic distribution of children of non substance abusers**

Mean age of subjects were 15.05 years. As per their birth order, one third of study subject were having 1st birth order followed by 26.7% having birth order more than 3 and 21.7% having 2nd birth order and only 15.0% were having 3rd birth order. More than half of study subjects were males followed by 48.3% females . All the study subjects were belonged to rural area. Majority of subjects were belonged to Sikh family followed by 5% Hindu and only 1.6% were belong to Muslim religion. Majority of study subjects belonged to nuclear family followed by one fourth of subjects in joint family.

more than half of their fathers were educated upto primary level followed by 26.7% of fathers were illiterate and only 16.7% of fathers were educated upto secondary level . 46.8% of mothers were educated upto primary level , 43.3% of mothers were illiterate, 8.3%% of their mothers were educated upto secondary level and only 1.6% of mothers were graduate. As per their educational status 1/4th of subjects are studying in 7th standard, and 20% of subjects are studying in 11th standard, 18.4% of subjects are studying in 7th standard, 18.3% of subjects are studying in 9th standard, 16.7% of subjects are studying in 10th standard and only 1.6% are in 12th standard.

As per their father's occupational status, 35% were doing self business, 30% were labourers, 18.3% are doing private service, 11.7% are farmers and only 5% are doing government service. As per their mothers occupational status, majority of mothers are housewife, 3.33% are doing government service, private services and only 5% are doing self business.

**Table 1 Distribution of subjects of substance abusers according to components of aggression scale**

N = 60

components	Mean ± SD
Anger	22.13± 4.76
Physical Aggression	28.57± 6.33
Hostility	27.68± 5.18
Verbal Aggression	17.68 ±3.38
Total	96.40± 14.76

The acquired mean value of anger was 22.13 and acquired mean value of physical aggression was 28.5 and the acquired mean value of hostility was 27.68 and the acquired mean value of verbal aggression was 17.68. As total mean value exceeds from 72.5, hence children of substance abusers are having aggression

**Table 2 :Distribution of subjects of non substance abusers according to components of aggression scale**

N=60

components	Mean ± SD
Anger	16.8 ± 4.29
Physical Aggression	18.2±7.01
Hostility	19.4 ±5.87
Verbal Aggression	11.95±4.90
Total	66.35± 22.07

The acquired mean value of anger was 16.8 and the acquired mean value of physical aggression was 18.2 and the acquired mean value of hostility was 19.4 and the acquired mean value of verbal aggression was 11.95. As the total mean value is less than 72.5, it means that children of non substance abusers are not having aggression.

**Table 3:- Comparison of components of aggression among children of substance abusers and non-substance abusers**

N=120

Components	Children of substance abusers		Children of non substance abusers		F Value	df	P Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Anger	22.13	4.76	16.8	4.29	45.940	01	.0001
Physical Aggression	28.57	6.33	18.2	6.58	80.464	01	.0001
Hostility	27.68	5.18	19.4	5.87	70.062	01	.0001
Verbal Aggression	17.68	3.38	11.95	4.90	55.212	01	.0001

There is statistically significant difference of aggression among children of substance abusers and non substance abusers. Hence it can be concluded that prevalence of aggression among children of abusers is more as compared to children of non substance abusers.

**DISCUSSION**

In present study found that children of substance abusers have more aggression than the children of non substance abusers. These findings were supported by Kelley ML et al were found that children with substance abusing parent are at greater risk for aggression and delinquent behaviour than their peers. Also these findings were supported by Fincham D etal that children of children with drug abusing father have more internalizing and externalizing symptoms (aggression and conduct disorder) as compared to the children with non abusing parent. These findings could be due to internal conflicts, as children of substance abusers, they get less chance to share their feelings with parents and suppress and repress their feelings.<sup>7,8</sup>

**CONCLUSION**

On the basis of finding on the present study , it can be concluded that children of substance abusers have more aggression than children of non- substance abusers. Similar studies can be conducted on large sample with multiple settings.

**Conflict of interest:**None

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