

## Aggression in Boys and Girls in Relation to Their Residential Background

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to explore aggression in boys and girls in relation to their residential background. Purposive sampling technique was used and total 100 respondents (undergraduate student) constituted the sample of the study. They were selected from Rajshahi city and Shampur, Katakali. They were equally divided into boys and girls. Each group was again equally divided into urban and rural residential background. The Bengali version of the Measure of Aggressive Behavior (Rahman, 2003) which was originally developed by Buss and Perry (1992) was used for the collection of data. The two-way ANOVA was used to analyze the results (as the study resembled with a 2×2 factorial design consisting of two levels of gender and two levels of residential background). The result revealed the significant effect of gender and residential background on aggression. Boys were found significantly more aggressive than girls. Similarly, respondents of rural areas were found significantly more aggressive than the respondents of urban areas.

**Keywords:** Aggression, Residence, Gender

The term aggression refers to a range of behaviors that can result in both physical and psychological harm to oneself, others, or objects in the environment. This type of social interaction centers on harming another person either physically or mentally. Human aggression is unique in its nature. It is a form of inter-personal as well as social behavior. Aggression is an extremely general term used for a wide variety of acts that involve attack, hostility etc. Berkowitz (1993) defined aggression as an act, either physical or symbolic, which is carried out with the intention to harm an organism or organism surrogate. Geen et al. (1976) has defined aggression as “the delivery of a noxious stimulus by one organism to another with intent thereby to harm and with some expectation that the stimulus will reach its target and have its intended effect.” Typically, it is used for such acts as can be assumed to be motivated by fear or frustration, or a desire to produce fear of flight in others or a tendency to push forward one’s own ideas or interests. It is directed towards a target person or a group with intention of causing harm or injury either directly or indirectly. The target person or group may infer this alleged act of aggression from the behavior of the aggression. Thus, aggression is a threat to the violation of social norm. According to the

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theories of aggression by Parke and Slaby (1983) differential socialization practices appear to foster anger to a greater extent in males than in females. Rahman et. al., (2014) showed that male respondents expressed more anger than female respondents. Akhtar & Kushwaha (2015) found that boys scored higher than girls in respect to aggression. Talukdar & Deka (2014) also found that the male adolescents are significantly aggressive than female. Abdur et al., (2014) investigated the effect of socio economic status and gender on adolescent anger. Results revealed that gender and socio economic status have significant effect on adolescent's anger. Male participants expressed more anger than females. Patil, M (2016) conducted a study to find out the rates of aggression on rural and urban students and concluded that rural students (mean=52.10) reported more aggression than urban students (mean=47.89) of secondary school. In another study by Rahman and Nahar (2013) found that boys expressed more aggression than girls. They also added that students of urban areas would not show significantly more aggressive behavior than rural areas students. Moreover, some environmental factors associated with the cause of aggression like crowding (Kaya & Erkip, 2001), noise (Geen & O'Neal, 1969) and density. Thus, home environment may have any effect on aggression. Bangladesh is an over populated and small country. The largest part of the population mainly depends on agriculture, small and cottage industries and manual labor. This leads them to low income and high illiteracy. Thus, the unemployment problem in Bangladesh is rising day by day. Again, climate change and natural calamity is another threat for Bangladesh. Every year Bangladesh faces devastating natural calamity. As a result, people show intolerance and the unemployed youths are involved in terrorism. Thus, aggressive behavior has become the most prevalent social issue in Bangladesh. People become the violators of social norms and laws of the land leading to impulsive and aggressive. The present study would reflect on the social system and consequent aggression in the people as related to gender differences and residential background.

### *Objectives:*

- To find out the effect of gender on aggression.
- To find out the effect of residential background on aggression.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### *Sample*

A total 100 respondents (undergraduate student) between 16-25 years of age constituted the sample of the present study. They were equally divided into boys and girls. Each group was divided into urban and rural taking equal number of respondents from each residential background. Urban respondents were selected from Rajshahi city and rural respondents were selected from Shampur, Katakali. Purposive sampling procedure was used for the collection of data.

### *Measure of Aggression Behavior*

Buss and Perry (1992) constructed the Measure of Aggression Behavior (MAB) containing 29 statements. Bengali adaptation of MAB was done by Rahman (2005). He adapted 25 items from the original 29 items for use in Bangladeshi culture. According to the ratings 5 items were identified as Physical Aggression (PA), 9 items as Verbal Aggression (VA), 5 items as Hostile Aggression (HA), 3 items as Anger Aggression (AA) and 3 items as Indirect Aggression (IA). Hypothetical situations were constructed on each item. Each item was followed by 5 alternatives ranging from totally true to totally false. Totally true was given 5 points, true was given 4 points, neutral was given 3 points, false was given 2 points and totally false was given 1 point. Thus, the final form of MAB contained 25 items.

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ABS= Aggressive Behavior Score.

HPS= Highest Possible Score.

LPS= Lowest Possible Score.

The Highest Possible Score was  $25 \times 5 = 125$  and the Lowest Possible Score was  $25 \times 1 = 25$ . Aggressive Behavior Score was worked out using the following formula.

$$ABS = \frac{HPS - LPS}{2} + LPS = \frac{125 - 25}{2} + 25 = 75$$

Hence, a score following on 75 or above was regarded as Aggressive Behavior Score.

### Procedure

The standard procedure was followed to collect data from the respondents. The MAB was administered on 100 respondents. The investigator contacted each respondent individually. Before administering the Questionnaires, proper rapport was established. The booklet of scale was given to each respondent separately. The respondent was required to read the instructions given on the front page of the booklet. In first phase, 25 boys from urban residential background were selected for data collection. In the second phase, 25 girls from urban residential background were selected. In the third phase, 25 boys from rural residential background were considered. Similar procedure was maintained for girls. It was a five-point scale ranging from totally true (5) to totally false (1). Each statement was followed by five alternatives. The respondents were required to give a tick mark on any one alternative. As soon as the data collection was completed coding was done properly for statistical analysis of the data.

## RESULTS

Obtained data were analyzed by applying a two-way ANOVA through IBM SPSS program (Version-20). The results have been presented in the tables below.

*Table-1: Showing overall mean scores and SD of the respondents*

Respondent Groups	N	Mean	SD
Boys	50	77.68	8.73
Girls	50	67.72	8.73
Rural	50	75.94	9.46
Urban	50	69.46	9.60

The above table shows that, the mean of boys and girls is 77.68 and 67.72 respectively. The mean of rural and urban respondents is 75.94 and 69.46 respectively.

*Table-2: Showing summary of ANOVA involving gender and residential background on the total score of the Measure of Aggressive Behavior*

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F
Gender (A)	2480.04	1	2480.04	37.09*
Residential Background (B)	1049.76	1	1049.76	15.70**
A×B	0.160	1	0.160	0.002***
Error	6419.04	96	66.87	
Corrected Total	9949.00	99		

\* $p < .01$ ; \*\* $p < .01$ ; \*\*\* $p = NS$

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The above table shows that, the sum of square for Gender (A) is 2480.04;  $df=1$ , Mean square=2480.04, and  $F=37.09$ . The sum of square for Residential Background (B) is 1049.76,  $df = 1$ , Mean square=1049.76, and  $F=15.70$ . The sum of square for interaction effect (A×B) is 0.160,  $df=1$ , Mean square=0.160 and  $F=0.002$ . Total sum of square is 9949.00 and the total  $df$  is 99.

### DISCUSSION

Main objective of the study was to determine aggression in boys and girls in relation to their residential background. Toward this end 100 respondents (undergraduate students) were selected purposively. The respondents were equally divided into male and female. Each group was divided into urban and rural residential background. Urban and rural respondents were selected from Rajshahi city and Shampur, Katakhalī respectively. The age range of the respondents was 16-25 years. To draw inferences a two-way ANOVA was applied through statistical computing software IBM SPSS (version-20). The obtained results revealed that, there is significant effect of gender on aggression (Table 2:  $F=37.09$ ;  $df=1$ ; and  $p<0.01$ ). The finding indicates that boys are significantly more aggressive than girls. This finding is supported by several previous studies of Abdur et. al, 2014; Parke and Slaby, 1983; Rahman et. al, 2014; Akhtar & Kushwaha, 2015; Talukdar & Deka, 2014; and Rahman & Nahar, 2013. It was also found that aggression differed significantly according residential background of the respondents (Table 2:  $F=15.70$ ;  $df=1$ ; and  $p<0.01$ ). This finding also indicates that respondents of rural areas are significantly more aggressive than that of the urban areas. This finding resembles with some previous studies of Patil M, 2016 and Rahman & Nahar, 2013.

The present study has several limitations that restrict the generalizability of the findings. First of all, sample was relatively small and it may not be representative sample for generalization. Second, the data are based only on subjective questionnaire. Future research should employ larger sample to improve the ability to generalize the findings of the present study.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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