

Research Paper

Examining the Association between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking

M. Santhossini^{1*}, Dr. N. Balakrishnan²

ABSTRACT

The present study aims to examine the association between displaced aggression and sensation seeking among adults and to identify whether there is a significant gender difference in these variables. Displaced aggression refers to the redirection of aggressive feelings toward targets other than the original source of frustration, while sensation seeking involves the tendency to seek novel, intense, and stimulating experiences. A quantitative correlational research design will be used for the study. Data will be collected from adults using standardized psychological scales. The collected data will be analysed using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and independent samples t-test. The findings are expected to identify the relationship between displaced aggression and sensation seeking and determine whether significant gender differences exist among adults.

Keywords: *Displaced Aggression, Sensation Seeking, Adults, Gender Differences, Correlation, Personality Traits*

Human behavior is shaped by emotional responses, personality traits, and social experiences. Among these, aggression and sensation seeking are important psychological factors because they are associated with emotional regulation, impulsive tendencies, and risk-related behavior.

Displaced aggression refers to aggressive behavior directed toward a person or object that is not the original source of provocation. This may occur when an individual is unable or unwilling to express anger toward the actual source of frustration. Denson, Pedersen, and Miller (2006) described displaced aggression as an individual tendency to respond aggressively toward innocent targets after being provoked.

Sensation seeking is a personality trait involving the desire for varied, novel, complex, and intense experiences, along with a willingness to take risks for such experiences. According to Zuckerman (1994), sensation seeking is related to stimulation, excitement, and risk-taking tendencies.

¹Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Psychology, Annamalai University, Tamilnadu

²Assistant Professor Department of Psychology, Annamalai University, Tamilnadu

*[Corresponding Author](#)

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Examining the Association between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking

Displaced aggression and sensation seeking may be related because both involve emotional intensity, impulse expression, and behavioral regulation. Individuals with higher sensation-seeking tendencies may respond more strongly to frustration or emotional arousal, which may influence aggressive reactions. Previous research has also shown that sensation seeking may vary by gender, with males generally showing higher sensation-seeking tendencies than females (Cross et al., 2013).

Similarly, sensation seeking has been associated with various behavioral and emotional outcomes. High sensation seekers are often more likely to engage in adventurous activities, impulsive behavior, and risk-taking actions. Research suggests that sensation seeking is linked with emotional excitement, novelty preference, and behavioral stimulation (Roberti, 2004). Although sensation seeking can contribute to positive experiences such as exploration and creativity, excessive sensation-seeking behavior may also increase the likelihood of risky or impulsive actions.

Psychological theories suggest that personality traits and emotional responses are interconnected. Individuals who exhibit high emotional reactivity may also display impulsive or aggressive tendencies under stressful situations. In this context, sensation seeking may influence how individuals react to frustration or provocation, thereby contributing to displaced aggressive behavior. Understanding this relationship may help explain certain emotional and behavioral patterns among adults.

Despite the growing literature on aggression and sensation seeking, limited studies have specifically examined the association between displaced aggression and sensation seeking among adults. Furthermore, examining gender differences in these variables may provide additional insight into emotional and behavioral functioning among males and females. Therefore, the present study aims to examine the association between displaced aggression and sensation seeking and to identify whether significant gender differences exist among adults.

Objectives

1. To examine the relationship between displaced aggression and sensation seeking among adults.
2. To determine whether there is a significant gender difference in displaced aggression among adults.
3. To determine whether there is a significant gender difference in sensation seeking among adults.

Hypotheses

- **H1:** There will be a significant relationship between displaced aggression and sensation seeking among adults.
- **H2:** There will be a significant gender difference in displaced aggression among adults.
- **H3:** There will be a significant gender difference in sensation seeking among adults.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The present study will adopt a **quantitative correlational research design** to examine the relationship between displaced aggression and sensation seeking among adults. It will also

Examining the Association between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking

use a **comparative approach** to find gender differences in displaced aggression and sensation seeking.

Sample

The sample will consist of adults aged **18 years and above**. Participants will be selected using a **convenience sampling method**.

Tools Used

- **Displaced Aggression Questionnaire (DAQ):** Displaced aggression will be measured using the *Displaced Aggression Questionnaire* developed by Denson and Pedersen. The scale consists of 31 items rated on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = *Extremely uncharacteristic of me* to 7 = *Extremely characteristic of me*. Higher scores indicate higher levels of displaced aggression (Denson & Pedersen, n.d.).
- **Sensation Seeking Scale Form V (SSS-V):** Sensation seeking will be measured using the *Sensation Seeking Scale Form V* developed by Zuckerman. The scale consists of 36 forced-choice items, where participants select either option A or B based on what best describes their preferences, likes, or feelings. Higher scores indicate higher levels of sensation seeking (Zuckerman, 1994).

Procedure

Data will be collected from adult participants after obtaining their consent. Participants will be asked to complete the questionnaires measuring displaced aggression, sensation seeking, and demographic details such as age and gender.

Statistical Analysis

The collected data will be analysed using **Pearson correlation** and **independent samples t-test**. Pearson correlation will be used to examine the relationship between displaced aggression and sensation seeking. The independent samples t-test will be used to determine whether there is a significant gender difference in displaced aggression and sensation seeking.

RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

Table I Mean, Standard Deviation, and t Value for Displaced Aggression by Gender

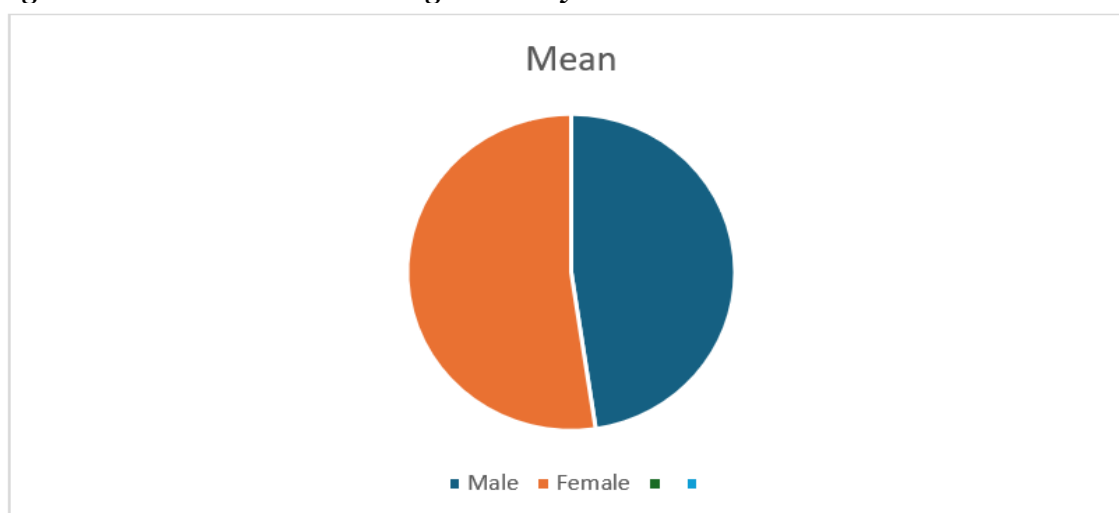
Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t value
Displaced Aggression	Male	67	112.66	56.70	-1.10
Displaced Aggression	Female	53	123.98	54.89	

NS- Not Significant

The independent samples t-test was conducted to examine whether there is a significant difference in Displaced Aggression between males and females. The results showed that males obtained a mean score of 112.66 with a standard deviation of 56.70, while females obtained a mean score of 123.98 with a standard deviation of 54.89. Although females scored slightly higher than males in displaced aggression, the difference was not statistically significant. The obtained t value was -1.10, and the p-value was .273. Since the p-value is greater than .05, the result is not significant.

Therefore, it can be interpreted that there is no significant difference in Displaced Aggression between males and females. Hence, the alternative hypothesis is rejected, and the null hypothesis is retained.

Figure 1 Mean Sensation Seeking Scores by Gender



Note. The figure presents the mean sensation seeking scores of males and females.

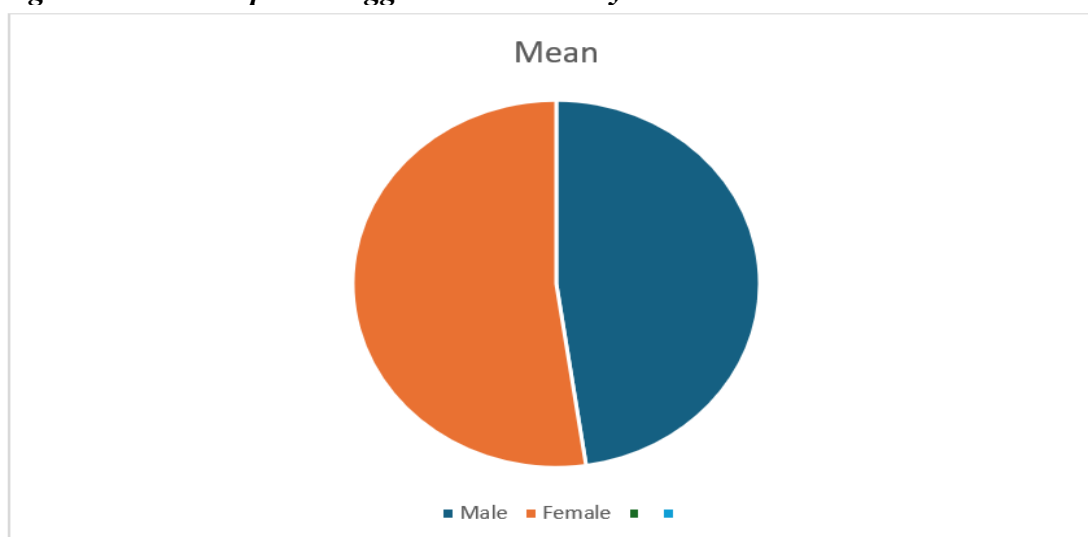
Table II Mean, Standard Deviation, and *t* Value for Sensation Seeking by Gender

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	<i>t</i> value
Sensation Seeking	Male	67	21.45	9.98	-0.08
Sensation Seeking	Female	53	21.58	8.56	

NS- Not Significant

The independent samples *t*-test was conducted to examine whether there is a significant difference in Sensation Seeking between males and females. The results showed that males obtained a mean score of 21.45 with a standard deviation of 9.98, while females obtained a mean score of 21.58 with a standard deviation of 8.56. Although females scored slightly higher than males, the difference was very small. The obtained *t* value was -0.08, and the *p* value was .937. Since the *p* value is greater than .05, the result is not statistically significant. Therefore, there is no significant difference in Sensation Seeking between males and females. Hence, the alternative hypothesis is rejected, and the null hypothesis is retained.

Figure 2 Mean Displaced Aggression Scores by Gender



Note. The figure presents the mean displaced aggression scores of males and females.

Table III Correlation between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking

Variables	N	Sensation Seeking	p value
Displaced Aggression	120	-0.833**	< .001

Note: Significant Level 0.01 (2- tailed)

Pearson's correlation was conducted to examine the relationship between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking. The results showed a strong negative correlation between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking, $r(118) = -.833$, $p < .001$. Since the p value is less than .01, the relationship is statistically significant. This indicates that as Displaced Aggression increases, Sensation Seeking tends to decrease, and vice versa.

Therefore, there is a significant relationship between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

CONCLUSION

The present study examined the association between displaced aggression and sensation seeking among adults and explored gender differences in these variables. The findings revealed a strong negative and statistically significant relationship between displaced aggression and sensation seeking. This indicates that individuals with higher levels of displaced aggression tend to show lower levels of sensation seeking, whereas individuals with higher sensation-seeking tendencies tend to report lower levels of displaced aggression. Therefore, the first hypothesis was accepted. This finding suggests that emotional regulation, frustration response, and personality traits may be closely connected in adult behaviour. Understanding this relationship is important because both displaced aggression and sensation seeking are linked with impulse control, emotional expression, and behavioural adjustment.

The findings also showed that there was no significant gender difference in displaced aggression or sensation seeking among adults. Although females obtained slightly higher mean scores than males in both variables, the differences were not statistically significant. Therefore, the second and third hypotheses were rejected. Overall, the study concludes that displaced aggression and sensation seeking are significantly related, but gender does not significantly influence these variables in the present sample. Future studies can be conducted with a larger and more diverse sample to improve the generalizability of the findings. Further research may also examine other factors such as age, stress, emotional regulation, personality traits, family environment, and social background to better understand how displaced aggression and sensation seeking develop and interact among adults.

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Examining the Association between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking

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Examining the Association between Displaced Aggression and Sensation Seeking

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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