

Research Paper

Socio-Economic Status as a Function of Altruism and Aggression of Adolescents

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ABSTRACT

The present study attempted an empirical investigation to explore the effect of socio-economic status on altruism and aggression of adolescents. A total 60 respondents constituted the sample of the study. Among them 30 adolescents were male and 30 were female. The respondents came from different socio-economic status. Socioeconomic status Scale, Altruism and Aggression Scale was used for the present study. Data were analyzed by using mean, standard deviation and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The findings of the present study show that socio-economic status has not significant effect on altruism and aggression.

Keywords: *Socio-economic Status, Altruism, Aggression*

Socio-economic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of an individual or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education and occupation. Socio-economic status is typically broken into three categories, high SES, middle SES, and low. Socioeconomic class means group of people within a society who possess the same socio-economic status. Belonging to a social class is not merely an objective fact, but is generally accompanied by a perception of class identity. In this sense, social class is not merely a personal attribute, but also a contextual variable that characterizes a group of people. The shared culture of a particular class influences, and is influenced by, people's attitudes and lifestyle (Krieger et al. 1997). Education also plays a role in income. Median earnings increase with each level of education. Higher levels of education are associated with better economic and psychological outcomes (i.e.: more income, more control, and greater social support and networking). Education plays a major role in skill sets for acquiring jobs, as well as specific qualities that stratify people with higher SES from lower SES.

Christiansen & Blake (1975) examine that socioeconomic status is related to altruistic behavior, 466 respondents derived from 4,799 households in rural Western Colorado. Results

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indicated that occupation, educational attainment, and age were all significantly associated with altruistic behavior.

Studies involving adolescents indicated no differences between boys and girls on the experience of anger (Fabes and Eisenberg, 1992; Cole et al.1994). However, others have reported significant gender differences in the expression of anger (Maccoby and Jacklin, 1980; Crick, 1997). In both these studies boys were more likely than girls to use physical expression of their anger.

Sharma D. and Nanda P. (1997) the present study was conducted to see the effect of parent child relationship, socio- economic status and ordinal position on aggression of rural and urban adolescent boys, in Ludhiana. The present study was carried out in randomly selected 3 rural and 3 urban Govt. Sr.Sec School of Ludhiana. A sample of 120 adolescent boys further distributed evenly on the basis of socio-economic status. Say that adolescents who had very good relationship with their parents showed least aggression whereas adolescents having overage relations showed highest aggression. Adolescent belonging to middle socio-economic status suffer grater frustrations leading to higher aggression as compared to low socio-economic status adolescent.

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Swaffer and Epps (1999), in their study of male and female adolescents, found no significant differences in either the experience or expression of anger. However, in a study of elementary, middle, and high school students, Cox et al. (2000) found boys were significantly more likely to express their anger outwardly than girls.

Demosthenous H. T. et al (2002) determine whether socioeconomic status influences youth aggression. We surveyed 443 students, their parents and teachers from 22 socioeconomically diverse schools in Brisbane. The use of multiple measures of aggression enabled us to ascertain that socioeconomic disadvantage is directly related to student's general aggressiveness. Our results show that socioeconomic disadvantage plays a major role in youth aggression. The implications of these results are discussed.

Kathleen M. Roche, Margaret E. Ensminger, (2003) examines the association between independent roles occurring within different contexts and aggressive behavior among 516

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low-income, urban middle school students. Overall, adolescent employment is related to increases in aggressive behavior. However, associations that familial and peer independent roles have with aggression differed by the extent of youth involvement in paid work. Greater engagement in familial independent roles is associated with decreased aggression among employed adolescents, but with increased aggression among unemployed youth.

Boman (2003) studied gender differences in the affective, behavioral, and cognitive components of anger in 102 students. He found that girls and boys do not differ in their experience (affective) of anger and girls are more likely to express positively (behavioral) their anger than boys. Additionally, his results supported the expectation that boys are more hostile (cognitive) towards school than girls.

Rahman and Huq (2005) studied to explore aggression in adolescent boys and girls as related to socioeconomic status (SES) and residential background in Bangladesh. They investigated 240 respondents and found that respondents with high SES expressed more aggression than the middle and low SES. Respondents with middle SES expressed more aggression than the low SES and girls expressed more aggression than the boys.

Taylor (2006) found that Lower and middle class respondents report feeling more anger than their upper class counterparts. Gallo and Matthews (2003) studied socio-economic class-based patterns in emotion and found lower-class individuals experience more negative emotions, such as anxiety, sadness, and anger, than upper class individuals.

Chen et al. (2013) examine how family income and social distance influence young rural Chinese children's altruistic behavior in the dictator game. A total of 469 four year old children from eight rural areas in China, the results of this study show that children's altruism decreased with increasing family income. The results are consistent with studies with adults that show that adversities increase people's prosocial behaviors. However, the results differ from Benenson's study conducted in England, which showed that SES not affect children's altruism in DG until they reach 9 years old, when children's mean DG offer increases with increasing SES levels.

Chang C.M et al (2014) examines the association between aggressiveness of EOL care and differences in SES among working-age terminal cancer patients from Taiwan between 2009 and 2011. A total of 32,800 cancer deaths were identified from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database. The indicators of aggressive EOL care in the last month of life were examined. The association between SES and the indicators were explored. Results indicate that patients of low SES experienced more aggressive EOL care than high-SES patients.

Feng & Guo (2016) conducted a study to establish the relationship between altruism and well-being in Chinese college students at the undergraduate level. The results showed that family socioeconomic status moderated the effects of self-reported altruism on well-being via

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self-esteem; college students with low family socioeconomic status were more likely to reap benefits from altruism. the insight of the above mentioned literature review and rationale the objectives of the present study were.

Objective

1. To study the effect of socioeconomic status on Altruism of adolescents.
2. To study the effect of socioeconomic status on Aggression of adolescents.

Hypotheses

1. Socioeconomic status will significantly affect on altruism of adolescents.
2. Socioeconomic status will significantly and strongly contribute to the Aggression of the adolescents.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The sample of present study was constituted of 60 respondents equally divided into boys and girls. Each category was again dividing into high, middle and low socioeconomic status. Data was collected from students of Kolhapur city. Age range was 16 to 18 years old. Data collected by socioeconomic status Scale by Dr, D. S. Janbandhu, Altruism Scale developed by Dr. S. N. Rai and Sanwat Singh and Aggression Scale was developed by Ram Ashish Singh. The present study used factorial design.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Table1. Mean and SD values of altruism across the two levels student's on socioeconomic status.

Socioeconomic Status	Mean	SD	N
High	48.9	4.88	30
Low	46.33	6.19	30
Total	47.61	5.53	60

Table 1. Summary of the One Way Analysis of Variance for altruism regarding student's on socioeconomic status

Source	SS	Df	MS	F	P
Between Group	99.074	1	99.074	3.189	0.079
Within Group	1801.784	58	31.065		
Total	1900.858	59			

The p -value is .079. The result is *not* significant at $p < .01$.

Table No. 2. Mean and SD values of aggression across the two levels student's on socioeconomic status.

Socioeconomic Status	Mean	SD	N
High	61.4	5.54	30
Low	63.53	5.62	30
Total	62.46	5.58	60

Table 2. Summary of the One Way Analysis of Variance for aggression regarding student's on socioeconomic status

Source	SS	df	MS	F	P
Between Group	68.054	1	68.054	2.186	0.145
Within Group	1806.004	58	31.138		
Total	1874.058	59			

The p -value is 0.145. The result is *not* significant at $p < .01$.

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