

Examining Sibling Dynamics: Influence on Aggression and Self-Control in Juvenile Delinquents

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Abstract: One's social circle and positive psychological well-being are greatly influenced by their siblings' relationships with their offspring. The current study looked at how aggressive adolescent offenders in Pakistan were related to their siblings. Easily chosen from four different Pakistani cities—Multan (n = 80), Faisalabad (n = 130), Rawalpindi (n = 140), and Bahawalpur (n = 150)—the sample of 500 juvenile offenders (age range: 13–18 years) had varying educational backgrounds. The primary goal of the study was to investigate how sibling relationships affect young offenders. Further goals included examining the influence of siblings' relationship on juvenile violence in addition to the juveniles' educational attainment. The study variables were measured using the Index of Siblings Relations (ISR), Aggression Questionnaires (AQ), and Self-control. The relationship between siblings has a significant impact on aggression and its subscales among juvenile offenders, according to the results of a co-relational analysis. The study also discovered that the sample's aggression and sibling relationships are significantly impacted by poor educational attainment.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Siblings' Relation, Aggression, Self-Control



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Introduction

One of the most extensively researched criminology subjects in recent decades has been the connection between the Siblings system and criminal conduct, which feeds into and reinforces delinquent and criminal behavior. Remarkably many of this research discovered that children raised by unique parenting styles or by single Siblings are more likely to experience delinquent conduct later on in life due to substance abuse. Juvenile delinquency is defined as the offenses done by young people in the community who are under the age of eighteen. School failure, substance abuse, personal or environmental issues, and psychological disorders are some of the contributing elements that lead youth to engage in such illegal behavior. In particular, we evaluate the relative effects of delinquent sibling's connection on self-control (Thornberry et al., 2003b).

Additionally, research has shown a high correlation between aggressive conduct and criminal activity (Tremblay & Craig, 1997). Aggression has been proven to be mostly preventable or significantly decreased. Physical punishment is a major contributing element to teenagers' elevated levels of rage, which may ultimately cause them to engage in antisocial and delinquent behavior. Similarly, if their siblings treat them badly, younger kids could also start to exhibit tendencies toward criminality, rage, antisocial behavior, and delinquent behavior. Siblings physically punishing their children is one of the factors that leads to the development of rage, criminal activity, antisocial behavior, and delinquent behavior in young children. Teens who get physical abuse from their siblings may grow up to be angry and engage in criminal activity, including delinquency.

Theoretical perspective on delinquency: Numerous psychological theories aim to investigate the potential reasons behind adolescent misbehavior. Although there isn't a single theory that explains how violence and parenting practices contribute to juvenile delinquency, there are a few viewpoints that do provide some insight into the subject. According to this idea, a person may turn to criminal activity if he is unable to fulfill his objectives in society in a manner that is acceptable to others (Eadie & Morley, 2003). According to published research, individuals with low levels of education may face higher unemployment rates due to their inability to secure good occupations, which may push them into delinquency. Those who are given labels like "criminals" are more likely to act in an antisocial and criminal manner. According to the notion, youngsters who are classified as antisocial or criminals at a developmental stage when they lack direction in life might readily assume these roles. They watch and pick up knowledge from other teenagers who share their label at the same time.

According to Walklate (2003) teenagers from lower socioeconomic households with their siblings are more likely to get involved in criminal activity since they are tagged more often. Furthermore, parental abuse and neglect, the degree of strictness, communication between siblings and the child, and parenting styles are further factors that lead to juvenile delinquency (Graham & Bowling, 2005). Research has also revealed a considerable correlation between the degree of supervision provided by siblings and adolescent criminal conduct (Farrington & Welsh, 2003). The degree of communication between the kids and their siblings is similarly correlated with the supervision level. Children who are under distorted supervision may not be allowed to talk to their siblings about the wrong doings they have committed, which leads to them engaging in delinquent activities.

Pakistan is not an exception to the problem of juvenile delinquency. Numerous elements, such as the single parent, the jail atmosphere, and the degree of hostility, all play a part in these issues. The purpose of the current study is to evaluate the impact of single parenthood on adolescent criminality. Additionally, this study looks into the variables that could lead to behavioral and personality issues as a result of having a single parent raise you. As a result, there is an urgent need to do advanced research on these issues in Pakistan. Furthermore, it is critical to examine the connection between juvenile offenders' levels of violence and the stress experienced by single Siblings. It is anticipated that adolescent offenders will exhibit a high degree of hostility. Therefore, in addition to analyzing deviant/antisocial behaviors, the current study intends to conduct empirical research about the impact of being raised by a single parent and the degree of hostility exhibited by the participants. Policymakers will find this study useful in addressing issues that juvenile offenders in Pakistan's various jails experience. Moreover, a variety of factors contribute to the emergence of delinquency among Pakistani youth and there is a strong need to explore those factors in relation with Siblings issues (Altaf, 1988; Khurshid, 2003).

Objectives of the Research

The following goals make up the current study:

1. The impact of sibling relationships on aggression and self-control in young offenders.
2. To investigate how siblings relations affect juvenile offenders' hostility and self-control.

Sample

Five hundred male juvenile offenders with convictions made up the sample. The data was collected from prisons in several four different Pakistani cities—Multan (n = 80), Faisalabad (n = 130), Rawalpindi (n = 140), and Bahawalpur (n = 150)—the sample of 500 juvenile offenders (age range: 13–18 (16.63 ± 1.33), and they came from various socioeconomic backgrounds.

Instruments

The Index of Sibling Relationship: The Index of sibling Relations, or ISR, is a tool used to assess the degree or severity of issues that Siblings members (children and siblings) display. Standardization is done by Hudson (1982). There are twenty-five items in the ISR, and the cut-off point is thirty. A minimum of 25 is required, while a maximum of 125 is possible.

Aggression Questionnaire: Buss and Perry's aggressiveness questionnaire is used to rate aggression in the sample (1992). This questionnaire is based on four subscales of aggressiveness: item nos. 1–9 assess physical aggression, item nos. 10–14 assess verbal aggression, item nos. 15–21 assess anger, and item nos. 22–29 assess hostility. A five-point Likert scale is used. The scores on items 7 and 18 are inverted.



Self-control: A 10-item scale derived from Grasmick et al. (1993) that assesses risk-taking, impulsivity, self-centeredness, and preference for physical activity is used to measure self-control. Prior to being included in the analysis, the scale scores were reverse coded, which means that greater scores correspond to higher levels of self-control, for ease of understanding.

Procedure: The two measures that comprised the exam booklet were the Aggression Questionnaire, self-control and the Index of Siblings Relations. The necessary demographic information, such as degree of education and severity of crime, was recorded. The scale's item responses were printed in instructions. Assistance in this problem was requested from the correctional staff. Juveniles were approached in the jails with permission from the superintendent of jails. Subjects also got guarantees about the confidentiality of their information. The researcher recited the delinquents' instructions that were typed on the brochure.

Results

Data was analyzed using SPSS version 20 bivariate correlations and ANOVA were carried out to check different hypothesis.

Table 1

Correlation Matrix of Scores of ISR (Index of Siblings Relations), Self-Control and AQ (Aggression Questionnaire) and its Sub-Scale of juveniles (N=500)

Scales	Physical	Verbal	Anger	Hostility	Total Aggression	Self-Control	I ISR
Physical	-	.67**	.93**	.89**	.98**	.78**	.87 **
Verbal		--	.47**	.57**	.62**	.67**	.57**
Anger			--	1.42**	.88**	.88**	.89**
Hostility				--	.90**	.68**	.79**
Self-control					--	--	.72**
ISR							--

** p> 0.01

The study's measurements show highly significant associations, according to the results. This supports our premise that there is a considerable correlation between aggressive behavior and troublesome Siblings dynamics.

Table 2

One way ANOVA for Crime-Wise Differences on Total of ISR, Self-control, and AQ

Scales		n	M	SD	95% Confidence Interval for		F	p	η^2
Crime	Mean								
	Lower Bound				Upper Bound				
ISR	murder	153	25.27	26.82	20.13	30.41	.592	.669	.003
	drug smuggling	271	28.12	30.41	24.48	31.76			
	terrorism	22	20.59	18.35	12.45	28.73			
	kidnapping	10	27.00	23.91	9.89	44.11			
	Theft	44	30.11	27.87	21.64	38.59			
Self-control	murder	153	60.30	28.28	54.88	65.72	.747	.560	.005
	drug smuggling	271	63.94	28.04	60.58	67.29			
	terrorism	22	57.23	28.07	44.78	69.67			
	kidnapping	10	54.60	23.46	37.81	71.39			
	Theft	44	62.89	26.30	54.89	70.88			
AQ	murder	153	17.93	3.44	17.27	18.59	1.194	.313	.002
	drug smuggling	271	17.29	3.46	16.88	17.71			
	terrorism	22	18.55	2.77	17.32	19.77			
	kidnapping	10	17.60	3.77	14.90	20.30			
	Theft	44	17.80	3.81	16.64	18.95			



The table 2 indicates mean, standard deviation and F values of crime wise (murder, drug smuggling, terrorism, kidnapping and theft) on the scores of juvenile delinquents total of ISR, Self-control, and AQ ($p > .01$). The results in table also indicate the η values to check the eta square effect size among different parents status of juveniles.

Table 3

Wald Chi-Square Tests of Differences in Cross-Lagged and Autoregressive Effects During Adolescence

			χ^2	Wald	test	P
			(1)			
Autoregressive effects						
	Delinquency	0.431*	0	.514*	1	2.287
	Aggression	0.335*	0	.390*		0.674
	Siblings relation	0.588*	0	.642*		0.193
	Self-control	0.460*	0	.543*		7.835
Cross-lagged effects						
Predictor	Outcome					
Delinquency	Aggression	0.182*	0	.142*	0	.444
	Sibling relations	0.003	–	0.072*	5	.891
Aggression	Delinquency	0.069*		0.041	1	.947
	Self-control	0.032	–	0.067*	0	.526
Sibling relations	Delinquency	0.032	–	0.067*	0	.497
	Self-control	.056*		0.070*	0	.057
Self-control	Delinquency	0.128*	–	0.036		3.89
	Aggression	0.071*		0.071*	0	.001
	Siblings relations	0.029	–	0.035	2	.805

According to Table 3, the impact of aggression did not decrease substantially between the ages of 15 and 17, indicating that the magnitude of the effect remains constant from early to mid-adolescence. Additionally, although this varies over time, we discover a reciprocal relationship between social influences and delinquency. The link between delinquent aggressions at age 15 increased when self-reported delinquency is present from age 13. When a child is 15 years old, delinquency has no discernible impact on sibling participation; nevertheless, between the ages of 15 and 17, involvement decreases ($\beta = 0.072$, $p < .001$). The study found no statistically significant difference in the impact of siblings on self-control between the ages of 13 and 15 and 15 and 17 (χ^2 Wald test (1) = 0.057, $p = .728$).

Discussion

The goal of the current study was to investigate how juvenile offenders' relationships with their Siblings affect their violence. More precisely, the information was gathered from young offenders who had been found guilty by the courts and were incarcerated. The findings show that juvenile violence is significantly impacted by issues in Siblings relationships.

The results, which are shown in Table 1, support our theory that, in comparison to educated juvenile offenders, uneducated juvenile offenders perceived more issues with their families and exhibited higher levels of aggressiveness. The notion that people with high levels of anger and a perception of Siblings difficulties are more susceptible to serious crimes is further supported by the results of the ANOVA analysis. As was previously said in this study, illiteracy and dysfunctional Siblings dynamics are the main factors contributing to the higher crime rate among individuals from lower socioeconomic classes. The current results provide empirical support for the study's assumptions, which are presented in Tables 2a and b and show that the sample's illiterate group displayed a high level of violence among juvenile offenders.

According to Archer (2004), poverty and illiteracy are the main causes of education gaps in many developing nations. These kids and teenagers typically have to drop out of school because they have to help their siblings out with household issues brought on by financial hardships. The bulk of the time, finding a decent paying job is difficult.



Consequently, people can choose to participate in voluntarily illegal acts in an effort to make ends meet. Financial crises also have a significant impact on these young people because of their lack of schooling. According to research by Barton et al. (2011), illiteracy and poverty may each function as separate causative variables for criminality and delinquency.

Higher self-control, as predicted, dramatically reduced the chance of being involved in delinquency; however, effects were substantial only between the ages of 13 and 15. Self-control remains constant throughout childhood, our findings point to a more flexible concept that is changed during adolescence by relationships with troublesome peers and parental participation. Furthermore, discover some evidence in favor of the theory that self-control and aggression are correlated. Self-control is further weakened in later adolescence when individuals with low self-control associate with delinquent friends (Chapple et al., 2004). The present study sustains three theoretical propositions: (1) the impact of socializing institutions, apart from siblings, on the development of self-control; (2) the lasting influence of these social influences on self-control beyond childhood; and (3) the possibility of a reciprocal, cumulative effect of these influences over an extended period of time.

The magnitude of the effect is consistent with earlier longitudinal models that take autoregressive effects into account, despite the seeming tiny cross-lagged effects. Furthermore, it is crucial to remember that little cross-lagged effects still have significance since they show the cumulative effects of time on the results. Furthermore, as self-control is unable to fully account for the correlation between aggression delinquency and delinquent behavior in the early stages of adolescence, our findings implies that self-control is insufficient to explain heterogeneity in adolescents' delinquency. This is consistent with current on the relationship between delinquent behavior and self-control.

It is important to note that most psychologists consider "adolescence" to be one of the most important stages of a person's life. Youth is particularly prone at this sensitive stage to unfavorable effects. At this point, Siblings' roles are crucial in regulating their teenagers' behavior. Singh and Agrawal (2025) emphasized the value of a positive sibling's interaction. This kind of interaction does lessen the likelihood that teenagers will engage in bad behavior. According to Sobolewski (2001), there was a notable decline in parental control among siblings who were less supportive. This, in turn, led to a high frequency of delinquent behaviors being seen, highlighting the strong correlation between dysfunctional Siblings connections and delinquent acts among teenagers.

The study's findings also demonstrate that young people exhibit high levels of anger and perceive more issues in their Siblings relationships. Maybe as a result, individuals have trouble adjusting to their new surroundings at home. They deal with more issues within their own families.

It is a known truth that high levels of aggression amplify a modest sense of powerlessness or incapacity to respond constructively to external pressures. The group's feelings regarding their behavior and attitude are very combative, which implies that they struggle to keep up stronger relationships with their Siblings.

The results of our study are consistent with other research in this area, which claims that teenagers are more vulnerable to engaging in deviant behavior due to experiences of abuse and victimization throughout their formative years. Additionally, poor relationships, harsh treatment from Siblings, and maltreatment may cause them to acquire an aggressive disposition. According to Therese (2025), there was a significant degree of consistency in the group's hostility and aggression, indicating that violence was a consistent trait of their personalities.

Limitations

The study has few limitations:

- ▶ Juvenile delinquency is a significant societal problem in Pakistani society; yet, because the sample was limited to a small number of Punjabi jails, the researchers were unable to draw broad conclusions about the country's juvenile population as a whole. Furthermore, the study lacks a comparison group; it is proposed that similar studies be undertaken in the future to obtain a clearer view of the phenomenon as a whole.
- ▶ Semi-structured questionnaires should also be used to supplement this data in order to obtain more precise information on Siblings issues and the reasons behind violence.



Suggestions

Following are the suggestion:

- ▶ A sizable representative sample that includes both boys and girls detained in Pakistani jails across all provinces is required.
- ▶ To get a clear image, a comparison sample of non-delinquents may be provided.
- ▶ In order to gather information from young people who lack literacy, semi-structured interviews are also advised.



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