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## Effect of the joint and nuclear family on aggression

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### Abstract

The present study is conducted to see the effect of the joint and nuclear family on aggression of college students which was conducted in rural and urban area constituent college of Darbhanga district (Bihar). For the present study 260 students of the joint and nuclear family, the aggression scale developed by Buss-Durkee Hostility scale (1961) [2, 3] has been used and personal Data sheet (PDS) has been developed by the former research scholar. Having collected the data through the questionnaire schedule, the data were tabulated according to the procedure of statistical treatment (t-test). The result revealed that the joint and nuclear family have to be found to be insignificantly of some correlates variable of aggression. The age of the sample regard between 18 to 22 year with range of mean 20.0 year.

**Keywords:** Assault, Indirect aggression, Irritability, Negativism, verbal aggression, Joint and nuclear family

### Introduction

The term of aggression is hard to pin down, and there is some disagreement about what should and should not be called aggression. Generally, aggression is a response to frustration by attacking either the sources of frustration or a substitute. A distinction is sometimes made between hostile aggression and instrumental aggression. Hostile aggression has as its goal harming another person, while in instrumental aggression the individual uses aggression as a way of satisfying some other motives. We human have a vast repertory of specific hostile aggressive behaviours. Aggression can be physical or verbal, active or passive, direct or indirect (Buss, 1961) [2, 3]. The physical verbal distinction is the distinction between bodily harm and attack with words; the active passive differences is the differences between overt action and failure to act; direct aggression mean face to face contact with the person being attacked, while indirect aggression occurs without such contact (Morgan *et al.*, 1986) [4].

In the case of social problems our families are facing several setbacks of aggression. The types of families determine the mode family relationship among its members. Progressing countries have always been evolving joint family system the nature of jointness among the family members. On the country, the developed countries had been admitting the importance of nuclear types of family which provides a different kinds of interaction between parents and child.

In our country, the traditional family system has been facing the phase of transition which divided it into two dimensions. The family existing in rural areas represents the characteristics of joint family, where as the family structure prevailing in urban setup is following the path of nuclear trend of family structure, based on western pattern. We shall see later that these dimensions of family structure are caused for different types of aggressive expression, (Bansal *et al.*, 2014) [1].

The India joint family is hierarchical in nature and the eldest male member. Unusually the grandfather, is the head of the family. Within him lies the locus of power and authority. He has command over the rest of the family and hold decision making power which he exercises in an authoritarian manner. The child who is at the lowest order in the hierarchy does not have any active participation in the family interactions. Children in large families are severely disciplined (Whitting, 1916) [7].

As the process of modernization and industrialization was started, people left their native villages in search of work and employment and settled in big towns and cities with their wife and children.

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This form is called nuclear family. In a nuclear family the child encounters only the immediate members his family. As compared to joint family he has a much smaller social universe which to grow up and there are not many adults and relatives with whom he many attach himself.

### Aims and objective of the present study

The effect of the joint and nuclear family on aggression has not been investigated well. Now aims and objectives of the study, as well as its methodological dimensions are as follows the study has been proposed to ascertain in the role of joint and nuclear family on aggression. In this context following hypothesis were formulated:-

In was hypothesized that the subjects of joint family will differ significantly in aggressive behaviours with the subjects of nuclear family in aggressive responses.

### Definition of the variable

**Assault:** Assault can be committed with or without a weapon and can range from physical violence to threats of violence.

**Indirect aggression:** Indirect aggression in a behaviour intended to harm other, particularly other's social position and self-esteem, through circulates means.

**Irritability:** Irritability is the excitatory ability that living organism have to respond to change in their environment.

**Negativism:** Negativism refers to the tendency to resist direction from other people, and a refusal to comply with request.

**Verbal Aggression:** Verbal aggression in defined as any threat or comment directed towards other that indicates any form of physical harm to another person.

### Joint family

Joint family consists of a number of married couples and their children living in the same household.

### Nuclear Family

Nuclear family consists of a married couple and their dependent children.

### Methodology

The sample comprised 260 young college students of heterosexuality. Study of the sample (students) drawn B.A. Part-I, constituent college located in Darbhanga district of Bihar. The age range of 18 to 22 years with mean 20.0 years.

### Tools used

1. Personal Data Sheet (PDS): Personal Data sheet (PDS) designed by research scholar, the personal data sheet comprised details of the sample such as age, education, income, occupation, family structure (joint and nuclear family) etc.
2. Buss-Durkee Hostility Scale (BDS): The Scale developed by Buss & Durkee (1961)<sup>[2, 3]</sup> measures the hostility but in this study, a Hindi version of this scale developed by sultania (1960)<sup>[5]</sup> had been used.

### Procedure

The samples were administered the study of two groups namely joint and nuclear family college student were compared on their scores on the study of aggression a different components.

### Result and Discussion

The response sheets of the respondent were score using the test manual and were statistically analysed using the test for significance of difference between two group namely joint and nuclear family.

**Table 1:** Comparative Statistics of the subject of joint and nuclear families at different components of Aggression Scale

Aggression Scale	Joint Family N = 208		Nuclear Family N=52		t-ratio	P Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
1. Assault	5.788	0.906	5.962	0.919	1.218	NS
2. Indirect Aggression	5.236	0.913	5.250	0.958	0.098	NS
3. Irritability	5.202	1.018	5.154	0.988	0.312	NS
4. Negativism	2.644	0.990	2.654	0.978	0.063	NS
5. Resentment	4.894	0.892	5.019	0.796	0.987	NS
6. Suspicious	5.207	0.946	5.192	1.020	0.093	NS
7. Verbal Aggression	5.370	1.066	5.192	1.387	0.863	NS
8. Guilt	5.024	1.085	5.288	1.044	1.621	NS
9. Total Aggression	39.365	3.238	39.712	3.284	0.682	NS

$$N = 260, DF = (N_1 - 1) + (N_2 - 1) = 258$$

At the variable of Assault, the two family system have no any significant difference. The mean score of the subjects of joint family is 5.788 while 5.962 is the mean score of the subjects of nuclear family. Their SD is 0.906 and 0.919 respectively. The mean difference between the two groups is t-value = 1.218 which is not significant at any level of confidence.

The second variable in indirect aggression. The mean score of the subjects of joint family stands as 5.236 whereas the subjects from nuclear family have a mean score of 5.250. The mean difference (T-Value = 0.098) is almost negligible

at this variable and it is not significant at any level of significant.

At the component of Irritability also, the two groups are not too much different 5.202 is the mean score of the subjects of nuclear family. The mean difference between the two groups in T-Value = 0.312, which is less than the values required for significance at both levels of confidence.

The difference between the two group is absolutely negligible at the variable of negativism as the subjects of joint family have a mean score of 2.644 and the subjects from nuclear family have a lightly less score at 2.654 on this

variable. The mean difference is  $t$ -value = 0.063, which is completely insignificantly.

The variable of Resentment has a mean score of 4.894 and 5.019 of the subjects of joint family and nuclear family, respectively. The mean difference ( $T$ -Value=0.987) is however insignificant.

At the variable of suspiciousness, again the two groups have no any significant difference because the mean score of the subjects of joint family is 5.207 and the subjects of nuclear family is 5.192. The mean difference ( $T$ -Value = 0.93) is quite insignificant at any level of confidence.

In the case of verbal aggression also, there is no any significant difference between the subjects of the two systems. The mean score of the subjects of joint family 5.370 does not differ significantly to the mean score of the nuclear family 5.194 as their mean difference is only  $T$ -Value = 0.863.

The variable of guilt is something different. At this variable the subjects of joint family has 5.024 as their mean score and the subjects of nuclear family has 5.288 which is to some extent more than joint family. The difference of mean ( $T$ -Value = 1.621) is insignificant at 0.05 level because the value of  $t$ -ratio should be 1.97 for being significant at 0.05 level of confidence.

At the variable of total aggression, the subjects of the two systems are almost all similar to each other. Having the table we find that the subjects of joint family had scored 39.365 as mean scores and the subjects of the nuclear family has obtained 39.712. The mean difference was ( $T$ -Value=0.682) and thus it was not significant at 0.05 or 0.01 level of the confidence.

### Conclusion

On the basis of the obtained data, we can say that there is no any significant differences between the aggressive responses of the subjects of joint and nuclear families. Although, it was hypothesised that difference will be found between the two categories of the subjects, but it seems that family setup does not have any significant impact on aggressive responses of the children. So, it can be said that there various other factors which influence the interactional pattern of the family. Therefore, it is difficult to say confidently that family set up is a predictor of aggression acts.

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