

LEVEL OF AGGRESSION AFTER WATCHING PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING SHOWS ON TELEVISION AMONG THE HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN AT BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA

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Abstract

Wrestling involves physical competition between two competitors, where each participant attempts to achieve and uphold a higher position. India is the second-largest viewership of pro wrestling in the World. As per the recent statistics the aggressiveness among the school-going children is increasing day by day. And a remarkable percentage of aggression among children is due to watching wrestling shows on TV. There are very few studies conducted in India, which shows the relationship between the aggressiveness among high school students who are watching wrestling shows on TV. The main objectives were to assess and find an association between the level of aggression among the high school children after watching wrestling shows on TV. I adopted a survey research approach with descriptive design where 100 high school students (who are watching wrestling shows at least 1hr/ day & at least twice weekly frequency) were selected by using purposive sampling technique. Data were collected by a structured demographic Performa & Bush & Perry scale at DAV public school, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. The study resulted, around 6% of the students were having sever level of aggression, 3% were at low risk while the highest that is 46% were at high risk for aggression because of watching wrestling shows and aggression shows strong statistical significance with gender & family type. Thus the level of aggression among the high school students was directly proportional to the increased frequency of watching wrestling shows on TV and are mostly male.

Keywords:High School Children; Aggression; Wrestling Shows; Bush & Perry Scale.

Introduction

In India around 37% (444million) & 69.3% of children are under 18 years & 15 years respectively, among which 78.8% were male & that of 54.1% were female.¹ As per a study 8-

16% of the school failure occurs due to drug/ substance abuse, excessive use of the internet, television violence & psychological problems.² There is overwhelming evidence suggesting violent & aggressive behaviors shown on TV did directly affect children. The children often imitate stunts & actions shown on TV screens.³ One such example is watching wrestling shows on TV. An article ‘how viewing professional wrestling may affect children’ supported the fact says both verbal & behavioral aggression seen among the children who watch wrestling shows & it is pretty more among males.⁴ India is the second-largest viewership of pro wrestling in the World. India is running many live wrestling TV shows like IPW – International Pro Wrestling (Mumbai, India), Yodhaon ka Maha Sangram (Tau Devi Lal stadium, Haryana). Ring Ka King, Freak Fighters Wrestling (Delhi).⁵ Research conducted on ‘prevalence of aggression among school-going adolescents in India’, by taking data from search engines like pub med and Google scholar for the past 10 years resulted in a high prevalence of aggression (17.7-66.5%) among adolescents of India due to watching violent TV shows.⁶ And as a result of this children shows violent activities like heating their playmates, arguing, disobey class rules, leave the task unfinished and were less willing to wait for things than those who watched the nonviolent program says Aletha Huston.⁷ One case of worst consequences is seen as a preschool child was hospitalized after being injured by his classmate while displaying a wrestling move⁸ and in addition to that a 12 years old boy in Florida Brutally kills a 6-year-old girl by imitating professional wrestling moves.⁹ This shows the grave of the problem to be addressed in society.

Review of literature

Here are some reviews on the most sensitive concern of society says children are left with a bad impact, as they watch wrestling shows on TV.¹⁰ This sometimes raises some questions yet to answer like ‘can we allow our kids to watch wrestling.’¹¹ This is such a problem which spreads through the world as a literature says watching wrestling increases health risk among teens.¹²

In continuation to the above, a study in South Korean among 340 middle school students (both boys and girls) was undertaken by using 302 self-report questionnaires indicates factors for aggression were grade ($t = 4.39, p < .001$), academic stress ($t = 2.78, p = .006$), and depression ($t = 5.03, p < .001$).¹³

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the level of aggressiveness among the high school children after watching wrestling shows on television.

2. To identify additional factors enhancing the level of aggression
3. To find an association between the level of aggression with their selected demographic variable.

Hypothesis

H₀₁:- There is no significant association between the level of aggressiveness with their selected demographic variable.

Methodology

A descriptive research design with a survey research approach was used for this study. A total of 100 high school students (8th, 9th, 10th) were selected by using purposive sampling technique from DAV Public school, unit 5, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. First the demographic Performa was given to 200 students & out of that 100, no of students who were watching wrestling shows on TV were selected to see the level of aggression by the use of modified Bush & Perry aggression scale. Permission from the institutional ethical committee & informed consent from the participants was taken in writing.

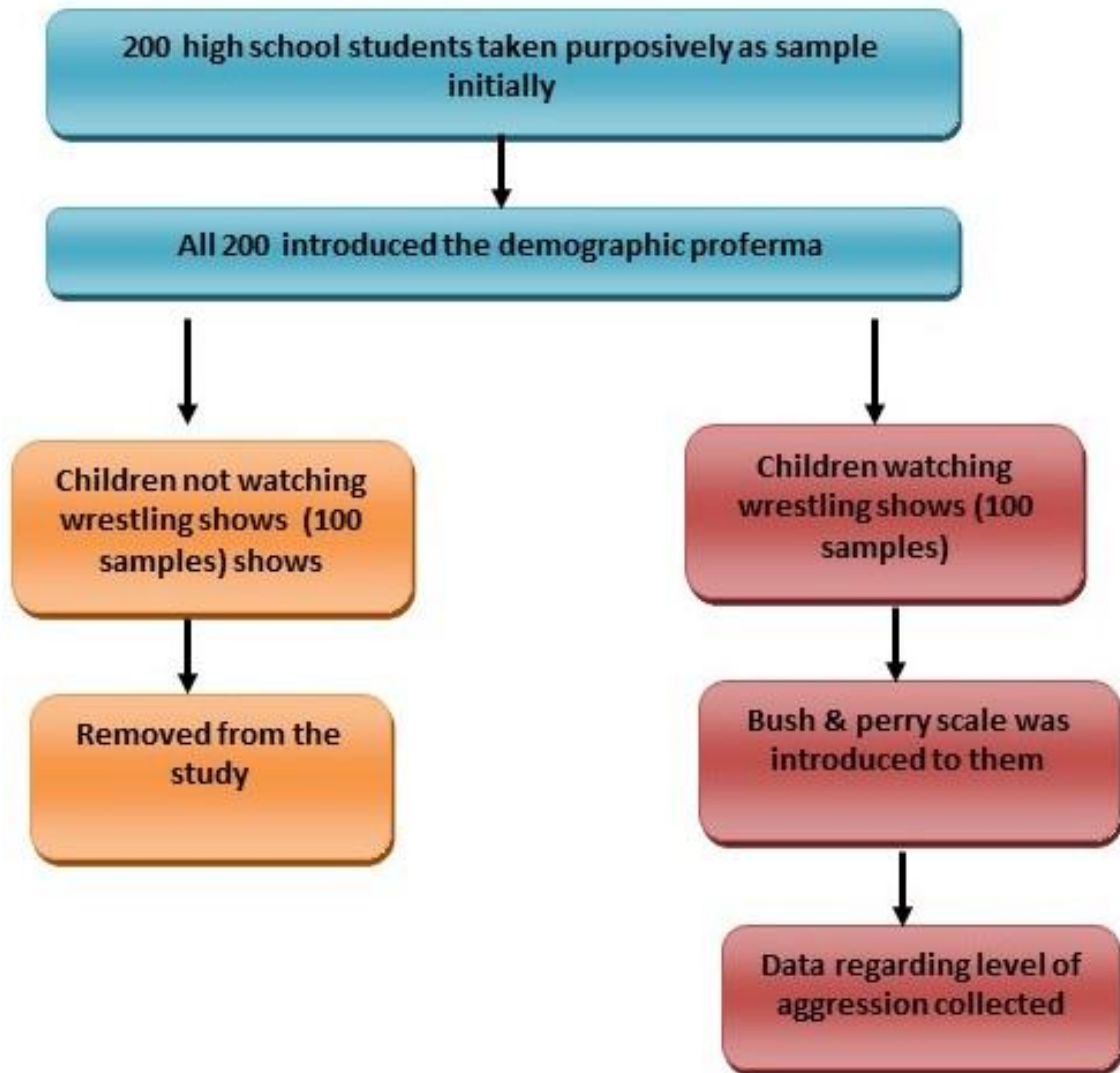


Figure 1: Methodology of the study

Analysis & interpretation

Section I: Description of demographic characteristics of the sample subjects in frequency and percentage.

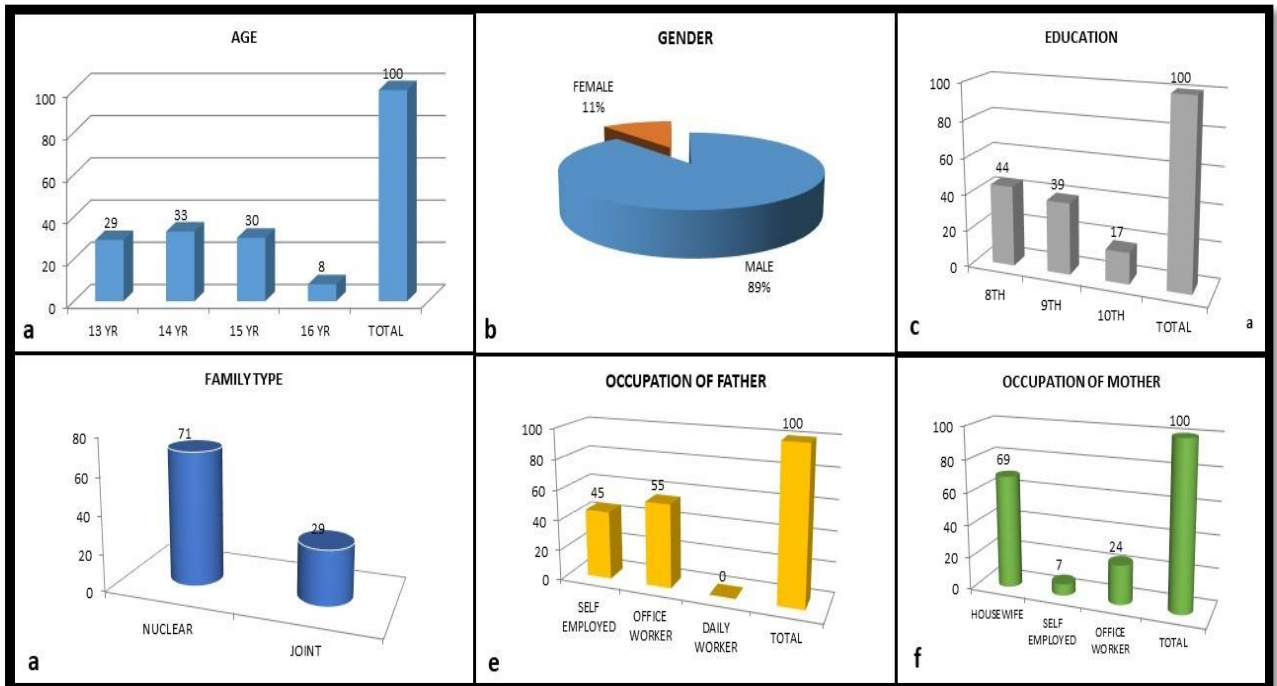


Figure 2a. Column bar diagram showing the percentage distribution of the high school children according to their age; **2b.** Pie diagram showing the percentage distribution of the high school children according to their gender. **2c.** column bar diagram showing the percentage distribution of the high school children according to their educational qualification; **2d.** Column bar showing the percentage distribution of the high school children according to their types of family; **2e.** column bar diagram showing the percentage distribution of the high school children according to the occupation of their father; **2f.** Column bar diagram showing the percentage distribution of the high school children according to the occupation of their mother.

Data presented in figure 2a depicted that the highest (33) percentage of children were 14 years old & that of the lowest (8) percentage of children were 16 years old. Data represents in figure 2b depicted that the highest 44% of children were from 8th standard & lowest 17% of children were from the 10th standard. Data represents in figure 2c depicted that 71% & 29% of children belong to nuclear family & joint family resp. Data presented in figure 2d represents that the father of 45% of children were self-employed & 55% of children’s father were Office workers. Data presented in figure 2e depicts that mothers of 69% of children were housewives, 7% of children’s mothers were self-employed & 24% of children’s mothers were office workers

Section-II Assessment of the level of aggression in high school children

Table 1. Frequency & percentage distribution of the high school children according to the risk assessment for level of aggression.

Level of aggression	Frequency(f)	Percentage(%)
No risk	0	0
Low risk	3	3%
Moderate risk	45	45%
High risk	46	46%
Sever risk	6	6%

Table 1 depicted that the highest percentage (46%) of samples are at high risk for developing aggression whereas the lowest percentage (3%) of samples belong to the low-risk category. Only 6% of them possess severe risk, while 45% & none of the samples show moderate & no risk respectively for developing aggression.

Section-III Chi-square analysis to find out the association between the level of aggression with these selected socio-demographic variables.

Table 2. Chi-square analysis to find out the association between the level of aggression with their selected socio-demographic variables.

Sl No.	Demographic Variables	Chi-square value	Degree of freedom	Tabulated at p-value ($p < 0.05$)
1	Age	0.180937	2	0.9135
2	Gender	0.00148	1	0.9693
3	Educational status	2.176792	2	0.3368
4	Types of Family	0.0226	1	0.8805
5	Occupation of father	0.492331	1	0.4829
6	Occupation of mother	0.382098	2	0.8261

Table 2 depicted a strong significant association of aggression with gender & family type that means the male students & children from high economic background shows high aggression as they watch wrestling shows on TV.

Discussion

In the present study male (89%) are watching wrestling channel more than girls & are showing violent behavior more than females which is supported by Bernthal MJ, 2018 which clearly shows an increase in both verbal & behavioral aggression among the children who are watching wrestling shows & it is pretty much more among the male.⁴ There is also a counter study showing girls are also making up to 25% audience in watching wrestling shows on TV.² Also sex difference in form of aggression among adolescents shows males are more aggressive than females.²⁰

The percentage-wise distribution of the samples according to their level of aggression shows highest (46%) percentage of the children have a high risk for aggression which is supported by a study done on aggression among school children & is found out to be 33.5%.¹⁴ Another study supports the fact of aggression by establishing a significant correlation between the frequency of watching wrestling shows with increase level of aggression among school students.¹⁵ One more study supports the same but with a new angle that is verbal aggression (competence attacks, character attacks and swearing) development after only 36 hours of watching wrestling shows.¹⁶

Relationship between Spiritual Intelligence and Aggression Among Elite Wrestlers was described in a study that clearly shows a negative co-relation among them.¹⁷ In another dimension of consequences pro wrestling videos were associated with rape acceptance mostly by male middle school students.¹⁸ There is also increased spectator hostility among wrestling watchers.¹⁹

Recommendation

The study can be replicated on large samples in a different setting to have a wider applicability by generalization. And a descriptive study can be carried out to ascertain the knowledge regarding the detection of aggression among the teachers & the parents so that the society can be benefited.

Conclusion

Professional wrestling is a sports entertainment that combines athletics with theatrical performance. It has many viewers in India & out of which mostly are school-going children. And it has a direct effect on the child's psychology as a result of which the children imitate the various moves of the wrestlers without knowing its consequences. Because of its violent actions the children are more attracted & show more and more aggression of both physical & verbal which is shown in the present study. So the societal contribution of the study is to create awareness among the parents & the teachers & of course the involved students to avoid watching wrestling shows until they are adults so that they will have self-control.

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Ethical Permission: Approved

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