ABSTRACT

An ex post facto study was designed to understand the various factors in the family environment like parenting styles, supervision, marital conflict, TV and gaming that have an association with aggressive behaviours displayed by children in schools. To explore these associations, a sample of 366 children were identified across 38 schools in Bangalore as displaying aggressive behaviours from a teacher’s checklist and Direct Indirect Aggression Scale (DIAS, Bjorkvists et al., 1992). A sample of 150 parents (fathers and mothers), out of the 366 contacted gave consent for the study. The questionnaires administered were PSDQ (Robinson et al., 1995), CTS Original (Straus, 1990a), The survey questionnaires developed by the researcher for the study were Demographic questionnaire, Supervision survey questionnaire, and TV and Gaming survey Questionnaire. The results showed that there was no significant relationship between parenting styles or marital conflict among parents on the levels or types of aggression displayed by children in schools. However, it was seen that parental supervision had a significant inverse relationship with displayed aggressive behaviours in schools. The results also showed that more than gaming on the gadgets which did not have a significant relationship with aggression in the middle class population, the content watched on the television had a significant difference in the display of aggressive behaviours in children. It was therefore concluded that in the Indian middle class population, mere disciplining strategies and home environment did not have as much as an influence on children’s behaviour, compared to the TV, media and external influences on them and hence adequate supervision was an effective tool which can be inculcated by parents.

Key words: Aggressive behaviours, Elementary school, children, parenting styles, marital conflict, supervision, TV watching, gaming.