

Original Research Article

Relationship between Personality Traits and Dating Violence Attitude among Adolescents

Shefali Kanojiya^{1*}, Bhupinder Singh¹, Rachna Dave¹¹Department of Psychology, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, India**Article History**

Received: 22.11.2021

Accepted: 26.12.2021

Published: 30.12.2021

Journal homepage:<https://www.easpublisher.com>**Quick Response Code**

Abstract: Dating violence can be called a sub-category of domestic violence. It can take place between any partners who are dating (not married), engaged or not engaged. Violence can be physical, sexual as well as psychological. The main purpose of the present study was to examine the gender differences in attitude towards dating violence. The study also examined the relationship between personality traits and attitude towards dating violence. A sample of 200 participants comprising of 100 male and 100 female adolescents between the age group of 16 to 18 years was taken through Google form across the city of Bhopal. Data was collected using standardized psychological tests such as NEO Five-Factor Inventory and Attitude Towards Dating Violence Scale. Pearson correlation and t-test were used to analyze the data. The results revealed significant gender differences in four out of six dimensions of dating violence, namely- physical male dating violence, sexual male dating violence, psychological female dating violence and sexual female dating violence. In all these four dimensions, the males were found to be high on dating violence attitude in comparison to the females. Results also revealed as insignificant correlation between most of the domains of dating violence attitude and personality traits i.e., openness to experience, agreeableness, conscientiousness and extroversion. Since dating violence is common among adolescents, the school counsellors need to educate the adolescents to bring about positive changes in their attitudes towards dating.

Keywords: Personality, Dating Violence, Adolescence.

Copyright © 2021 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.

INTRODUCTION

Dating violence or “intimate partner violence” specifically involves dating partners (as opposed to spouses or common-law partners) and, like domestic violence, it may involve a range of abusive behaviors. Such abusive behavior may include physical violence (i.e. any intentional use of physical force with the intent to cause fear or injury to dating partner like hitting, shoving, biting, strangling, kicking, or using a weapon), sexual violence (any action that impacts a person’s ability to control their sexual activity or the circumstances in which sexual activity occurs, including rape, coercion or restricting access to birth control.) and psychological violence (non-physical behaviors such as threats, insults, constant monitoring, humiliation, intimidation, isolation or stalking).

People who date each other don't need to get married or engaged. It may be a short-term or long-term relationship. There are four predictable stages that couple experiences in a dating relationship - stage 1 is initial meeting and attraction, where they usually

introduce each other and look for superficial things and decide whether to date this person or not; stage 2 is curiosity, interest, and infatuation, where individuals look for common interest, try to figure out what makes another person different; stage 3 leads to an enlightenment stage, where they move one step forward to become a couple (dating partner); stage 4 is a declaration phase, where they make a commitment and accept that they are ready to date each other. At each stage, there is often a decision (sometimes more thoughtfully arrived at than others) to move forward or to end the relationship.

During the adolescent and late adolescent period, many crucial physical, as well as psychological changes take place in their life. This period of life demands attention, love, and support, not only from the family but also from someone outside the individual's family. They need someone who love them unconditionally and admire their personality. To fulfill this space of life, the adolescents step up in dating. It is not only about intimacy, it helps individuals to look for a bond where two people invest their time, love, and

attention. Young women between the ages of 15 and 24 years are the highest risk age group for experiencing dating violence in their relationships. Prevalence rates of physical violence are estimated to be between 10% and 20%, with emotional abuse and controlling behaviors significantly higher, ~30%–50% (Helm, Baker, Berlin, & Kimura, 2017). This abuse has been linked to numerous chronic and lasting physical and mental health effects, including increased rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, suicide ideations, eating disorders, early pregnancy, risky sexual behaviors, serious injuries, and revictimization in adolescents and adult relationships (Barter, McCarry, Berridge, & Evans, 2009; Exner-Cortens, Eckenrode, & Rothman, 2013). It is important to pay attention to adolescent dating relationship patterns as they may be at high risk of violence. Adolescents learn relationship dynamics and patterns from early romantic relationships that they had watched and learned from their experience, which they may likely to carry into their later stages of life (Wincentak, Connolly, & Card, 2017).

Some studies have investigated the connection between the personality dimensions (or traits) and the IPA (intimate partner violence). The study of intimate partner violence by Rubio-Garay *et al.* (2017) revealed that there is a higher prevalence in the perpetration of psychological aggression by women and sexual violence by men, and greater incidents of psychological and sexual victimization in women. Boladale, *et al.*, (2017) studied the association between dating violence, certain personality traits, and psychopathology, they found that the significant predictors of dating violence were psychoticism and neuroticism. Karla L. Cortés-Treviño *et al.* (2020) in across-sectional study found that students with an extroverted personality were 2.45% more likely to suffer dating violence. Weidmann *et al.*, (2016) found that neuroticism, agreeableness, and conscientiousness are more consistently linked to both partners' life and relationship satisfaction whereas extraversion and openness to experience showed inconsistent patterns. The present research aims to study personality traits and dating violence dimension in an Indian context.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To explore the gender differences in attitude towards dating violence between male and female adolescents.
- To examine the relationship between personality traits and attitude towards dating violence among adolescents.

METHOD

Sample

The sample of study consisted of 200 (100 male and 100 female) adolescents. The age group varied between 16 to 18 years. The sample was drawn through Google form across the city of Bhopal.

Tools used

(1) Neo Five-Factor Inventory

In the present study, Costa and McCrae's (1989, 1992) NEO Five-Factor Inventory (NEO - FFI) has been used to assess the five domains of the FFM (Five-Factor Model). These five factors or traits of personality are- 1. Neuroticism (N) - the tendency to experience negative emotions and psychological distress in response to stressors; 2. Extraversion (E) - the degree of sociability, positive emotionality, and general activity; 3. Openness to experience (O) - levels of curiosity, independent judgment, and conservativeness; 4. Agreeableness (A) - altruistic, sympathetic, and cooperative tendencies; and 5. Conscientiousness (C) - one's level of self-control in planning and organization. The five domains are hypothesized to be relatively orthogonal to one another. The NEO inventory is composed of descriptive statements e.g., "I am not a worrier," "I enjoy talking to people". The items are rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree). The NEO FFI contains 60 items and may be used to derive only the five domain scores (12 items per domain). NEO FFI items were selected from the NEO PI (NEO – personality inventory) items that demonstrated the strongest correlations with their respective domain factor score, regardless of the item's intended facet (i.e., the 30 NEO PI facets are not equally represented by NEO FFI items). Each of the five domains of the NEO FFI has been found to possess adequate internal consistency and temporal stability ($\alpha = .68$ to $.86$, Costa & McCrae, 1992; $r = .86$ to $.90$, Robins, Fraley, Roberts, & Trzesniewski, 2001).

(2) Attitudes Toward Dating Violence Scale

The Attitudes Toward Dating Violence Scale developed by Price, Byers, & the Dating Violence Research Team (1999), has been used in the study. The scale measures three kinds of dating violence (psychological, physical, and sexual) by both genders (males and females). Thus, there are six different sub-scales namely- i) Attitudes Towards Male Psychological Dating Violence Scale (AMDV-Psychological; 15 items) ii) Attitudes Towards Male Physical Dating Violence Scale (AMDV-Physical; 12 items) iii) Attitudes Towards Male Sexual Dating Violence Scale (AMDV-Sexual; 12 items), iv) Attitudes Towards Female Psychological Dating Violence Scale (AFDV-Psychological; 13 items) v) Attitudes Towards Female Physical Dating Violence Scale (AFDV-Physical; 12 items), and vi) Attitudes Towards Female Sexual Dating Violence Scale (AFDV-Sexual; 12 items).

All the six sub-scales are to be conducted on both male and female dating partners. The response is obtained on a six-point rating scale ranging from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5). Some items in the scale are negative items and those are scored reverse. For each scale, higher scores indicate a

greater acceptance of abusive behavior. There liability (internal consistency) of the scale is found to be very high (between .88 to .72). The alfa values for different scales are-AMDV Psychological Scale = .85 for the boys and .76 for the girls; AMDV Physical Scale = .84 for the boys and .81 for the girls; AMDV-Sexual Scale = .88 for the boys and .79 for the girls; AFDV-Psychological Scale = .72 for the boys and .78 for the girls; AFDV-Physical Scale=.81 for the boys and .86 for the girls; and for AFDV-Sexual Scale = .87 for the boys and .78 for the girls.

Procedure

The data for present research was was collected from the city of Bhopal through Google form which was circulated through social media sites. A total

number of 215 individuals responded to the questionnaires, and out of which 15 responses were discarded as they were incomplete. The subjects were informed that there were no right or wrong answer and they had to choose the most appropriate option which explains their viewpoint. Participants were also asked to share their openions regarding dating and dating violence. They were informed that their identity will be kept confidential and the data obtained will be used for research purpose only.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results regarding the gender differences in attitudes toward different dimensions of dating violence are shown in the following table –

Table-1: Mean, SD and t value scores of male vs female adolescents on attitudes against dating violence

Dimensions of Dating Violence	Mean & SD	Females (N=100)	Males (N=100)	Males (N=100)	t-value
Psychological male datingviolence	Mean SD	33.46 7.98	33.34 6.80	33.34 6.80	0.11
Physical male dating violence	Mean SD	25.91 8.69	31.32 8.22	31.32 8.22	4.53**
Sexual male dating violence	Mean SD	25.22 8.44	28.85 8.78	28.85 8.78	2.98**
Psychological female dating violence	Mean SD	27.4 10.16	30.83 8.18	30.83 8.18	2.63**
Physical female dating violence	Mean SD	19.5 9.25	19.69 6.29	19.69 6.29	0.17
Sexual female dating violence	Mean SD	17.93 7.88	23.72 7.99	23.72 7.99	5.16**

**<.01

As seen in table 1, gender difference is significant at .01 alfa level in the physical male (t=4.53), sexual male (t=2.98), psychological female (t=2.63) and sexual female (t=5.16) dimensions of dating violence. Thus the findings suggest that

perception of dating violence among male and female adolescents differ. Rubio-Garay *et al.* (2017) study also revealed gender differences in physical, psychological and sexual violence by adolescents.

Table-II: Coefficient of Correlation between Personality Traits and Dimensions of Attitudes Towards Dating Violence.

Personality traits	Dimensions of attitude towards dating violence					
	Psychological male dating violence	Physical male dating violence	Sexual male dating violence	Psychological female dating violence	Physical female dating violence	Sexual female dating violence
Neuroticism	0.06	0.06	-0.05	-0.04	0.03	-0.03
Extroversion	-0.12	0.05	0.20**	-0.11	-0.12	0.01
Openness to experience	-0.27**	-0.04	-0.19**	-0.23**	-0.15*	-0.18*
Agreeableness	-0.17*	-0.05	-0.04	-0.18**	-0.05	-0.17*
Conscientiousness	0.01	-0.17*	-0.08	-0.11	-0.07	-0.06

*<.05 **<.01

Table 2 shows the correlation coefficient between personality trait and dimensions of attitude towards dating violence .There is a significant positive correlation between extroversion trait and sexual male dating violence dimension(r = 0.20), this indicates that

if extroversion trait is high in the personality then sexual male dating violence dimension would also be high, and vice versa . Openness to experience trait is significantly negatively associated with five out of six dimensions of dating violence, namely-psychological

male($r = -0.27$), sexual male ($r = -0.19$) psychological female ($r = -0.23$), physical female ($r = -0.15$) and sexual female ($r = -0.18$) dating violence. This indicates that the more the adolescents high on openness to experience trait, the lesser would be their scores on attitudes towards dating violence. Agreeableness is also found to be negatively associated with psychological male, psychological female and sexual female dating violence ($r = -0.17, -0.18$ & -0.17 respectively). This significant negative correlation indicates that adolescents high on this trait would be low on previously mentioned dimensions of dating violence. Conscientiousness trait is found to be significantly related to only one dimension of dating violence namely physical dating violence ($r = -0.17$), this negative significant correlation reveals that if Conscientiousness trait is high then physical male dating violence will be low and vice versa.

In the present study although all personality traits were not found to be positively correlated to different dimensions of attitudes towards dating violence, one trait i.e. the openness to experiences has emerged as a strong significant factor of personality traits associated with attitude towards violence among adolescents. The next strong determinant of dating violence as emerged in the present study is agreeableness. The other two traits i.e. the extroversion and conscientiousness are found to be partially associated with dating violence attitudes. However, neuroticism is not found to be a significant correlate of dating violence in the present study. Some other studies also reveal similar findings e.g. Karla L. Cortés-Treviño *et al.* (2020) in a Cross-sectional study found that students with an extroverted personality were 2.45% more likely to suffer dating violence. Weidmann *et al.*, (2016) found that neuroticism, agreeableness, and conscientiousness are more consistently linked to both partners' life and relationship satisfaction whereas extraversion and openness to experience show inconsistent patterns. Denise A Hines *et al.* (2008) found that neuroticism and agreeableness were the strongest predictors of IPA (intimate partner violence), particularly for women.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the study that personality traits are partially significantly related to dating violence. Results of the study showed that Extroversion and if Conscientiousness traits of personality are directly proportional to dating violence attitudes, i.e. increase in the trait will lead to an increase in some dimensions/ aspects of dating violence. Openness to experience and agreeableness traits are inversely proportional to some aspects of

dating violence i.e. increase in these traits will lead to decrease in dimensions of attitudes towards dating violence. Results also showed a significant gender difference in dating violence attitudes among male and female adolescents. Further studies in this area will spread awareness regarding dating and dating violence and help adolescent group to understand patterns and signals that are important to keep in mind while dating someone.

REFERENCES

- Barter, C.A., McCarry, M., Berridge, D., & Evans, K.M. (2009). Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships. NSPCC/University of Bristol. <https://library.nspcc.org.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/filetransfer/2009PartnerExploitationViolenceTeenageIntimateRelationshipsReport.pdf?>
- Cortés-Treviño, K.L., Garduño-Alanis, A., & Monroy, G.V. (2020). Association between dating violence and personality type in Mexican university students. *Curr Psycho* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-020-01159-4>
- Exner-Cortens, Deiner & Eckenrode, John., & Rothman, Emily. (2013). Longitudinal Associations Between Teen Dating Violence Victimization and Adverse Health Outcomes. *Pediatrics*. 131. 10.1542/peds.2012-1029.
- Garay. (2017). The prevalence of dating violence: a systematic review. *Papeles del Psicólogo / Psychologist Papers*, 38(2), 135-147 <https://doi.org/10.23923/pap.psicol2017.2831>
- Helm, S., Baker, C. K., Berlin, J., & Kimura, S. (2017). Getting In, Being In, Staying In, and Getting Out: Adolescents' Descriptions of Dating and Dating Violence. *Youth & Society*, 49(3), 318–340. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X15575290>
- Taylor, B. G., & Mumford, E. A. (2016). A National Descriptive Portrait of Adolescent Relationship Abuse: Results From the National Survey on Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 31(6), 963–988. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514564070>
- Weidmann, R., Ledermann, T., & Grob, A. (2017). Big Five traits and relationship satisfaction: The mediating role of self-esteem. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 69, 102-109.
- Wincentak, K., Connolly, J., & Card, N. (2017). Teen dating violence: A meta-analytic review of prevalence rates. *Psychology of Violence*, 7(2), 224–241. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0040194>

Cite This Article: Shefali Kanojiya *et al* (2021). Relationship between Personality Traits and Dating Violence Attitude among Adolescents. *EAS J PsycholBehavSci*, 3(6), 123-126.