



Original Article

Benevolent and hostile sexism among adolescents: Role of parental and peer attachment

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Abstract

Attachment is a persistent and strong emotional bond between two people in which one wishes for intimacy and feels more secure when the attachment image is present. This study explored the relationship of parental and peer attachment with sexism among adolescent boys. 180 adolescent boys residing in the Delhi, NCR areas aged 15 to 20 years participated in the study. The Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment Revised (IPPA-R) and Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (ASI) measures were administered to the participants. The majority of the sample was found to have higher peer attachment than parental attachment. The results of the study found a negative relationship between parental attachment and endorsement of sexism, and a positive relationship was found between peer attachment and sexism among adolescent boys. It was also found that boys showed higher benevolent sexism as compared to hostile sexism. The study's findings may be relevant in the current scenario because women are victimized by many violent acts continuously world

Keywords:

Parental attachment, Peer attachment, Sexism, Benevolent sexism, Hostile sexism

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wide. The findings of this study may be useful for the health care professionals to develop intervention programs for adolescents at the school level and family level so that awareness and healthy habits may be developed for gender equality and respect for women among adolescents.

Introduction

The family system in society is the root of the personal development of an individual and the

individual becomes fully functional only in the society and environment in which she/he belong. A family is a social group made up of parents and their children. Parents always take care of their children by every means until maturation, and the concern they have towards their son or daughter might continue. Basically, the bond they share is somewhat special and beautiful, making both parent and child attached.

In social sciences, psychology is attesting the significance of family in children's lives and as a perspective for the development of children.^[1] People show a kind of attachment from their childhood towards their primary care givers, and usually, they are parents. Initially, the central figure for everyone is the attachment with the primary care giver (mother), but during the developmental period, the same age group (peers) and consequently the romantic partner becomes the main figure of attachment to the person and direct attachment behaviors.

Parental and peer attachment style

The Pattern of attachment developed between children and primary care givers in the early stage of life is affecting the behavioral and personality development of the adolescents, and peer attachment style is the pattern of attachment that an individual possesses towards peers, especially in the stage of childhood and adolescence. Peer attachment includes developing a trusting belief and exchange of ideas with each other.

Sexism

Sexism is a kind of prejudice towards a specific gender, especially common towards females, in which men see women as an inferior part of society and try to control them. Experience of attachment in the stage of adolescents that is the phase of prominent physiological and psychological changes and is essential for human emotional and cognitive development generally, family is the initial context of

patterns of attachment and emotional adjustment that decides the relationship with significant others (parents, siblings, & spouse).^[2,3]

According to the attachment theory proposed by John Bowlby (1958), "young children need to develop a relationship with at least one primary care giver for normal social and emotional development". Parents' responses lead to the development of attachment patterns; these, in turn, lead to internal working models that will assist the individual's feelings, thoughts, and expectations in later relationships.^[4]

Attachment style is the way a person interacts with others, which is normally formed in the very first beginning of life, once established, it determines an individual's behavior and personality, especially his/her intimate relationships. Attachment starts very early in life (first 9 months), stays to be shaped by different social connections and peer association during the stage of adolescence and childhood^[5], and efficiently performs as a representation of the person who feels and observes their associations through entire life.^[6] There are mainly three types of attachment styles, including avoidant attachment style, secure attachment style, and anxious ambivalent attachment style.^[7]

Children with avoidant attachment styles avoid interacting with their care givers and show no distress when separated. Children with an avoidant attachment style, whose parent tends to be unpleasant and insensitive or rejecting, avoid rather than proximity seeking.^[8] Secure attachment style is the ability to associate in a better and secure manner in relationships with significant others with having the capability for autonomous action as per circumstances.^[9] The secure infant may go out into the world and invest resources in their own development. The children with ambivalent attachment, whose parent inclines both to disregard dependency needs and to

hinder independence, develop security from neither attachment nor avoidance; they are unable to find a comfortable distance from the parent, the children's attachment needs are at the same time evoked and unsatisfied.^[10]

In a time of fast development, the research presents that the sensitivity of parents and support is important in 'scaffolding' children to the next level of functioning.^[11] The model of internal working linked to the individual's mental state during childhood and adolescence is helpful in the formation of attachment. The "safety regulating system", which promotes physical and psychological safety, is the system of attachment employed by youngsters. The attachment system is triggered by two events: the availability of possible stress (source may be internal or external); and risk of approachability or accessibility of an attachment image.

The attachment style differences during adolescence include secure, insecure, dismissing, and preoccupied teenagers. Secure teenagers are more likely than other support figures, such as fathers, significant others, and best friends, to esteem their mothers in high regard; as key attachment figures, insecure teenagers identify more strongly with their friends than their parents. Friends are considered a significant source of attachment support for them; dismissing teenagers believe themselves to be their main affection figure and rate their significant others as a less important basis of affection support. Lastly, preoccupied teenagers regard their parents as their main basis of affection sustenance and themselves as a minor source of attachment support.

Sexism

Sexism refers to prejudice or discrimination based on a person's gender or sex. Any action, speech, gestures, writing, laws, policies, practice, traditions, or representation of media that places a higher significance on one gender or sex over another is sexist. Sexism mostly

affects girls and women because many cultures value masculinity over femininity. Prejudice is the bias of a person or a group of people and is the most common source of sexism. Preferences based on gender and sex can be both apparent and implicit. One of the most widespread gender preconceptions is gender determinism. It is believed that men and women have fundamental differences that cannot be changed and that these differences shape their personalities, behaviors, and skills. Regardless of rising world wide support for the equality of gender in recent years and extensive opinion that sexism is not a social issue, gender inequality and interpretations of sexism toward women remain, even among this modern group of adults.^[12,13,14]

Different forms of sexism are there, some of which are easy to identify and some are subtle. This includes hostile sexism, benevolent sexism, ambivalent sexism, institutional sexism, interpersonal sexism, and internalized sexism. Hostile sexism refers to attitudes and behaviors that discriminate overtly against a specific group based on their sex or gender. Hostile sexism is epitomized by misogyny or hatred towards women. Benevolent sexism is a subtle type of sexism that appears to be beneficial for women. Traditional and paternal attitudes that observe women as beautiful and pure, but sensitive and respected, and so in need of male safeguard promote this type of sexism.^[15-19]

Ambivalent sexism is the result of a mix of hostile and benevolent sexism. In this type of sexism, people may consider females as good, beautiful, pure, or as calculating or deceiving individuals, depending on the circumstances. Institutional sexism is rooted in organizations and different institutions, such as public organizations, the legitimate system, the system related to education, the system of healthcare, institutions related to finance, the media, or other working environment. When people interact with one another, interpersonal sexism shows up. It may be seen at work,

within families, and in meetings with visitors. Sexist thoughts that a person ponders about themselves are denoted as assumed sexism.

Review of literature

One of the psychologist explored the degree to which youngsters and adults observed themselves to be attached to peers and parents as well as the intensity of observed peer and parent attachment on the approaches of students toward academic fraudulence on college students. The findings concluded that most students stated equal affection levels for parents and peers.^[20]

In earlier research, psychologists examined attachment to significant others and its relationship with resentment, fulfillment with life, and friendliness. The findings of the study revealed a negative association between attachment insecurity and sociability. It was also found in the same study that attachment insecurity was certainly associated with rage and negatively related to the amiability of children.^[21]

another study explored the effects of exposure to internet pornography on university students' attitudes toward women. Findings reported that factors of individual difference were found to be associated with self-regulated exposure to internet pornography, as well as to the dependent measures, the amount of coverage to internet pornography did not correlate with misogynist attitudes.^[22]

Some researchers conducted a study on ambivalent sexism toward females, expecting the power-related, gender-role beliefs about the selection of mates and marriage norms. Findings show that U.S. and Chinese men validated hostile sexism most; on the other hand, Chinese women accepted benevolent sexism more than U.S. women. Both genders of Chinese choose home-oriented mates. Both U.S. genders favored understanding mates (men especially seeking an attractive one).^[23]

Another study aimed to study the dissimilarities in the sociability style of mother and father based on their infant's sex; the objective was to understand; if disparities exist between neo sexism, and hostile, benevolent, and ambivalent sexism? As a function, both the mother and father's level of education affect their sexism level and their children's sexism. There were no discernable variations in how the father socialized his children regarding sexism, whereas the mother employed a more authoritarian approach when dealing with her offspring. Both parents' indulgent styles exhibited the strongest association with a lower level of sexism.^[24]

A study was carried out by using measures to identify misogynistic beliefs, acculturation, and ethnic identity in order to study the ethnic differences in the encouraging attitude toward rape. As per the earlier research findings, Asian and American men were more in rape-supportive judgments than Whites.^[25] Similarly, a study explored the relationship between sexism and homophobia among adolescents in a public educational institution in Chimbote. The findings of the study exhibited an important, direct, and significant association, indicating that the higher the sexism in adolescents, the more homophobic attitudes they show.^[26]

Another study has been done that explored the relationships between ambivalent sexism (specifically, hostile and benevolent sexism) and the relationship adjustment among young adult duos using an actor-partner inter dependence model. The findings revealed that ambivalent sexism significantly influenced young adults' perceptions of the quality of their romantic relationships; however, gender disparities were observed.^[27]

Attachment styles and sexism

Researchers conducted a study to examine the relationship between male gender role conflict (GRC) with the attitude of feminism and matters of attachment and separation.

Findings show that gender role conflict, attitudes for women, attachment to parents, and issues of separation/individuation were found to be associated with each other. Canonical findings shows that less conventional opinions of men about women and less restrictive in emotion exhibited less relationship and differentiation difficulties.^[28]

Likewise, another study examined the influence of early misogynistic care of women on subsequent security of attachment and the later care giving of their child. Findings revealed that females who have gone through a higher level of early misogyny and sexism behavior exhibited increased feelings of attachment insecurity between their main care givers and themselves, on the other hand, females who have perceived attachment insecurity with misogyny in their early care givers experience revealed an insignificant inclination toward advanced disregard with their own children.^[29] A study was carried out on a sample of more than 2,000 college students to determine how exposure to strict parenting practices and sexually explicit materials adds to enactment and victimization. Findings show that regular physical punishment in the family of origin, joined with the consumption of pornographic materials, enhanced the likelihood that males reported engaging in forced sexual practices.^[30]

Another study shows an integrative account of how attachment anxieties relate to sexism. The findings of the study indicated that attachment avoidance stimulates men to approve hostile but discard benevolent sexism (BS); on the other hand, anxiety of attachment impacts men toward ambivalent (both hostile and benevolent) sexism.^[31] Similarly, Psychologists examined familial, individual, and sociocultural risk factors for sexual assault. Findings showed that an attachment style with an avoidance nature and involvement in the culture of hook-up contributed to the relationship between experience of inter-parental aggression and sexual attack

performed by men and persecution among women. Further, among women, an anxious attachment style accounted for the association between stringent parenting and persecution.^[32]

A study was conducted to know the cognitive, emotional, attitudinal, and behavioral variables involved in the relationships to sexist attitudes by adolescents and adults and how they were found related. The findings showed that adolescents who showed attitudes that were sexist had a more positive attitude toward close partner violence, higher sexual risk behaviors, greater fascination to sexist partners, greater support for the myth of unrealistic love and myth of love-abuse link, higher emotional dependence on the partner, and poorer quality in relationships, showing gender-based differences in some of the mentioned variables.^[33]

Rationale of the study

In the current scenario, women face a lot of problems in their life due to gender discrimination. They have been victimized with numerous physical and mental harassments, including rape attempts, abuses, hate speech, etc., and all these mal practices are taking place in every section of society including schools, colleges, workplaces, or other public places and even in the home itself. In a male dominant society, women are considered inferior to men. This should be taken into consideration and awareness must be provided among people. There is a need to educate our sons to respect women of all ages. In the field of Psychology, very few studies on sexism and misogyny have been conducted and this may be the reason why such behaviors in the male populations remain unidentified^[34] and that need to be identified by conducting more studies in this area.

Literature reveals that childhood experiences were considered the main root of the development of behaviors in later life. Bad parenting, poor parental attachment style,

physical and mental abuses, having miss-beliefs or miss-concepts, peer pressure, cultural and religious influence, etc., might result in such maladaptive behaviors, which are unacceptable in society. So, to overcome such gaps in knowledge and to prevent the development of such unacceptable and abnormal behaviors in young people, more studies in this specific area are required. On the basis of the literature gaps following objectives and hypotheses have been formulated in the present study.

Objectives

1. To explore the relationship of parental attachment (mother and father) with sexism in adolescent boys.
2. To explore the relationship of peer attachment with sexism in adolescent boys.

Hypotheses

1. There would be significant negative relationship between mother attachment and sexism among adolescent boys
2. There would be significant negative relationship between father attachment and sexism among adolescent boys
3. There would be significant positive relationship between peer attachment and sexism among adolescent boys.

Method

Research design

A correlation research design was used to examine the relationship between parental and peer attachment styles in the development of sexism in adolescent boys.

Sample and procedure

The study was conducted on 180 adolescent boys ranging from 15-20 years of age and currently residing in different areas of Delhi, NCR India. Convenient sampling was applied to select the participants for this study. All the participants were from middle and high socio-

economic status. As the participants were contacted in online mode during the Covid-19 pandemic and obtaining informed consent was not possible for each participant. Although informed consent was obtained from the parents and school authorities by telephone for which assessment measure was examined by the authority, and all the ethical standards (enforceable and aspirational) proposed by the American Psychological Association (APA) were followed. As the study was done using a questionnaire on human participants without intending any harm and the items of the questionnaire were examined by the school authorities and researchers in the same field, ethical approval was not required for the present study.

Data was collected using an internet survey to measure the relationship between variables. Two sets of questionnaires were transformed into an online form using Google Forms and were shared among targeted samples by creating a link via social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook. Google form was only shared with those people who consented to participate in this study on phone calls. The form consisted of four sections which were: Section A, which seek for informed consent; Section B seek the demographic details of the respondents, including name and age; Section C was for Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA) (75-items) and Section D was for Ambivalent Sexism Scale (22-items). First and foremost, informed consent was acquired prior to the instruments to ask for their permission to get involved in the study voluntarily. If the participants agree to take part in the study, then they were allowed to answer the questionnaire in the subsequent section. The data accumulated was then analyzed using appropriate statistical methods (mean, SD, correlation & regression).

Measures

Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA)- The IPPA is a self-report measure

developed to measure positive and negative aspects of the parent-child and the adolescent peer relationship. The revised IPPA consisted of three self-report questionnaires which assesses mother, father, and peer attachment using a five-point scale. Every questionnaire consisted of 25 items. The IPPA is supposed to measure three dimensions: 1) Degree of mutual trust: refers to the potential to get to know and respect the adolescents (felt security), and the perception of the degree to which the attachment figure is responding to the requirements of the adolescent. 2) Quality of communication: it is the extent of communication 3). The degree of anger and alienation: it is a response to the distraction of insecure attachment. Three-week test-retest reliabilities for a sample of 18 to 20 year old individual were 0.93 for parent attachment and .86 for peer attachment. For the revised version, internal reliability (Cronbach’s alpha) was found to be 0.87 and 0.89, and 0.92 for mother attachment, father attachment, and peer attachment, respectively.^[35]

Ambivalent Sexism Scale (ASI) - The ASI is a 22-item self-report measure of sexism in which participants indicated their agreement level using different statements, which were retained on a 6-point Likert scale. The instrument was designed with two sub- scales that can be calculated independently to obtain sub-scale scores or averaged to derive an overall composite sexism score. The initial sub-scale, known as the hostile sexism scale, comprises 11 items formulated to evaluate an

individual’s stance on dominative paternalism, competitive gender differentiation, and heterosexual hostility. The second sub-scale, the benevolent sexism scale, also consists of 11 items and aims to assess an individual’s position on the dimensions of defensive paternalism, complementary gender differentiation, and heterosexual intimacy. The Cronbach’s alpha and test-retest reliability coefficient for this scale are 0.85 and 0.87, respectively.^[36]

Analysis

Based on the objective of the study, descriptive data including, mean, standard deviation (SD), Pearson’s product moment correlation, and multiple regression analysis, were carried out to find the relationship between parental and peer attachment with sexism among adolescent boys. Correlational coefficients were computed to examine the extent of the relationship among selected variables. Multiple regression analysis was performed to examine the contribution of parental and peer attachment (predictor variables) in the sexism behavior among the participants.

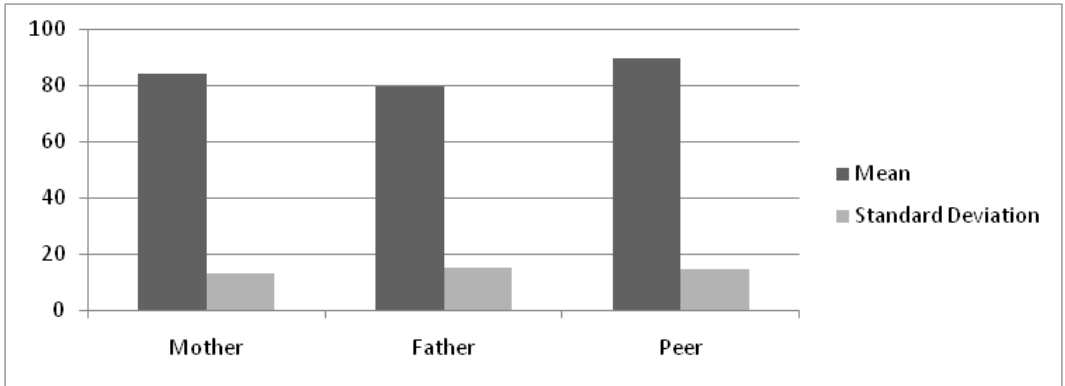
Results

The mean and standard deviation scores of parental attachment and peer attachment are given in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1. Peer attachment tends to be highest in adolescent boys followed by mother and father attachment respectively.

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation scores of parental attachment and peer attachment

Attachment	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
Mother	84.40	12.95	180
Father	79.82	14.83	180
Peer	89.93	14.60	180

Figure 1: Mean and standard deviation scores of parental attachment and peer attachment

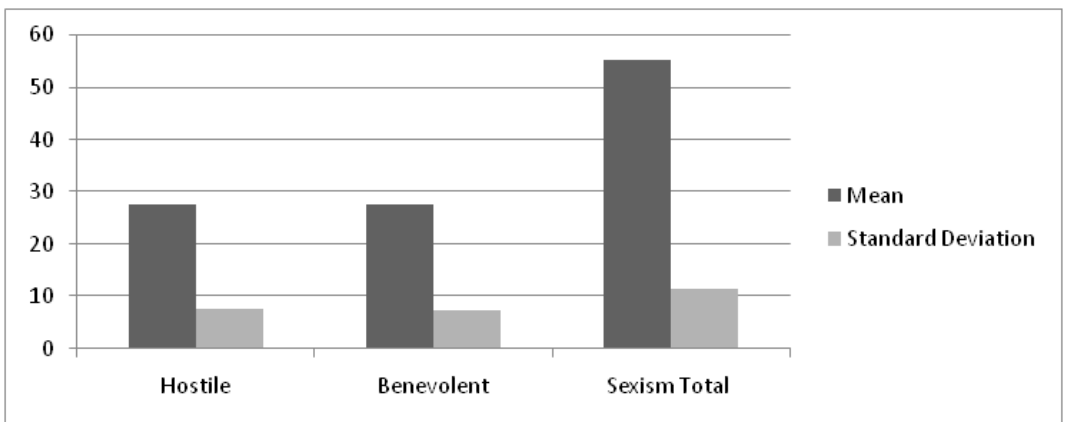


The mean and standard deviation scores of Sexism and its scales are given in Table 2 and shown in figure 2. Sexism attitude tends to be highest among adolescent boys followed by hostile and benevolent sexism respectively.

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation scores of sexism and its scales

Sexism	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
Hostile	27.74	7.69	180
Benevolent	27.58	7.33	180
Sexism Total	55.32	11.53	180

Figure 2: Mean and standard deviation scores of dexism and its scales



The results of the correlational analysis of parental (mother & father) and peer attachment with the sexism (hostile & benevolent) of adolescent boys are given in Table 3. Parental attachment was found to be negatively and significantly correlated with

sexism and its sub scales. Under parental attachment, both mother $r = -.37, p < .01$ and father attachment ($r = -.49, p < .01$) were found to have significant negative correlation with sexism. Further mother attachment was found have a significant negative correlation with hostile sexism ($r = -.27, p < .01$) and significantly positive correlation with benevolent sexism ($r = .29, p < .01$). Likewise,

father attachment was found have significant negative correlation with hostile sexism ($r = -.34, p < .01$) and significantly positive correlation with benevolent sexism ($r = .41, p < .01$). Peer attachment was found to have significant positive correlation with sexism ($r = .34, p < .01$), it was found to be positively correlated with hostile sexism ($r = .18$) and benevolent sexism ($r = .35, p < .01$).

Table 3: Correlations of parental (mother & father) and peer attachment with the sexism (hostile & benevolent) of adolescent boys

Predictors	Criterion Variables		
	Sexism		
	Hostile	Benevolent	Sexism Total
Mother Attachment	-.279**	.293**	-.372**
Father Attachment	-.348**	-.418**	-.498**
Peer Attachment	.182	.351**	.345**

**Correlation significant at .01 level

The results of the MRA are summarized in Table 4. The table reveals that father attachment contributed approximately 12 percent of the variance in the scores of hostile sexism measure ($F(2, 110, 15.17, p < .001)$). Father attachment reduced the hostile sexism attitude among adolescent boys as the beta value was found in negative direction ($b = -.34$) (less hostile sexism attitude). Father attachment contributed approximately 17

percent of variance in benevolent sexism measure ($F(2, 110, 23.29, p < .001)$). Benevolent sexism attitude and father attachment made negative prediction ($b = -.41$) (decreased benevolent sexism attitude). Father attachment predicted approximately 24 percent of variance in the scores of total Sexism ($F(2, 110, .49, p < .001)$). Sexism attitude and father attachment made negative prediction ($b = -.49$) (decreased sexism attitude).

Table 4: Stepwise multiple regression analysis predicting Sexism by Father Attachment

Parental Attachment	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	R ² , Change	Beta	F	F-change
Hostile Sexism							
Father Attachment	.348	.121	.113	.121	-.348**	15.17**	15.17
Benevolent Sexism							
Father Attachment	.418	.175	.167	.175	-.418**	23.29**	23.28
Sexism							
Father Attachment	.498	.248	.241	.248	-.498**	36.34**	36.33

**Significant at .01 level

Discussion

The present study aimed to explore the association of parent and peer attachment with Sexism among adolescent boys. The study sought to integrate attachment theory, ambivalent sexism theory, and relevant prior research to understand how and why poor attachment or attachment insecurity predicted Sexism towards women among adolescent boys.

The attachment of parent and peer in adolescent boys was measured using the Inventory of Parent and Peer Revised (IPPA-R) and endorsement of sexist attitude was measured using the Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (ASI). Three hypotheses were formulated in the study. The first hypothesis stated that there would be a significant negative association between mother attachment and sexism among adolescent boys. The second hypothesis stated that there would be a significant negative relationship between father attachment and sexism among adolescent boys and the third hypothesis stated that there would be a significant positive relationship between peer attachment and sexism. The findings of the study indicate a significant negative relationship between parent (both mother and father) attachment and sexism but a significant positive relationship between peer attachment and sexism among adolescent boys.

From descriptive statistics, it was found that peer attachment was higher in adolescent boys as compared to parental attachment which was followed by father attachment and mother attachment respectively. It was also clear that adolescent boys had more benevolent sexism than hostile sexism.

Parent (mother and father) attachment and sexism

The first and second hypotheses (H1 and H2) that “there would be a significant negative correlation between mother attachment and

sexism among adolescent boys” and “there would be a significant negative relationship between father attachment and sexism among adolescent boys were supported. A significant relationship was evident in the negative direction which indicates parental attachment (both mother and father attachment) was found to be negatively associated with sexism among adolescent boys. The findings appeared to be consistent with the results of the study conducted by Hart et al.^[31] which suggested that attachment insecurities had a close link with sexism.

The theoretical and empirical investigation of attachment styles and men’s sexism against women explains that sexism stems from the operation of the “attachment system”, a behavioral system believed to influence the preservation of deep interpersonal ties throughout a person’s life.^[3,36,37] Likewise, in the present study, the significant negative relationship between parental attachment and sexism indicated that adolescent boys who had a strong attachment with their parents showed less sexist attitudes and those boys who poor attachments with their parents have showed more sexist attitudes. The results provided evidence for having hostile sexism i.e., overtly violent and aggressive attitudes towards women, and perceiving them as deceptive and manipulative by adolescent boys was less frequent than having benevolent sexism i.e., a subtler form of sexism which was expressed in a positive way. While comparing mother attachment and father attachment with sexism, boys showed more sexism because they were poorly attached to fathers than mothers.

Among the three predictor variables, father attachment emerged as the best predictor for sexism. A negative prediction reflects the endorsement of sexism by adolescent boys due to poor attachment to their fathers. If the sons were insecurely attached to their fathers, then the chance of developing sexist attitudes towards women was higher. These findings

were consistent with the outcome of previous studies which concluded that sexism intensifies inconsequent behaviors, which characterize the changeable attitude of a parent toward their child, especially in the case of boys.^[38] This attitude was considered unfavorable, or even one of the possible causes of antisocial behavior in children.^[39,40] It was evident from the study that the attachment shown by parents towards their son determine the development and endorsement of sexist attitude by them in the stage of adolescence.

Peer attachment and sexism

The hypothesis (H3) stated that there would be a significant positive relationship between peer attachment and sexism among adolescent boys was supported by the findings of the study. A significant positive relationship between the two variables was found. Boys who had a greater attachment with their peers showed higher sexist attitudes. This also represented peer influence among adolescent boys. Those who were attached to their peers to a greater extent showed higher benevolent sexism and lower hostile sexism. It was also found that peer attachment during adolescence got increased and a gradual fall in parental attachment was visible. Among the two types of sexism, benevolent sexism was shown by adolescent boys to a greater extend as compared to hostile sexism.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that parental attachment and sexism was negatively related and peer attachment and sexism was positively related in adolescent boys. Adolescent boys endorsed more sexist attitude because they were poorly attached with their parents. In addition, father attachment showed higher degree of relationship with sexism among boys as compared to mother and peer attachment. A positive relationship between peer attachment and sexism indicated higher the attachment, greater the sexism endorsed by adolescent

boys. Further, it can also be concluded that adolescent boys showed more benevolent sexism than hostile sexism. The findings of the study support the idea that attachment during the early stages of life influence the development of a person's attitude and related behavior in later life.

Limitations

The study was limited in some ways. The validation of results and findings of the current study is limited and may not be generalized because of small sample size and region specification.

Secondly, the scope of the current study was limited to boys only. Gender difference among the variables was not taken into account. This study was conducted during Covid-19 pandemic and contacting male participants was easy in the pandemic time as compared to female participants for some or other reason. The influence of other demographic variables like family type and background, socioeconomic status, education qualification of parents etc., were mentioned in the study but not analyzed.

Thirdly, the study was limited to a specific age range from 15 to 20 years. Choosing adolescents with age range of 15-20 years was decided on the basis of developmental stages.

Stage of adolescents is an important part in one's life because it is a shift phase of mental and physical development that is generally restricted to the period of sexual maturity to the maturity in legal aspect. Another reason of selecting participants of this age is time of different transitions including training, employment, education and unemployment and important part is growing from one state of life to another.

Changes and further variations in the research variables before and after of this age limit was not considered in the study. Fourthly, the scale that measure attachment in individual didn't give an idea about specific attachment style rather measure the extent of attachment in

sample. The findings and results would have been more accurate when the styles of attachment to find its relationship with attitude related to sexism or misogyny would be included in the future researches. Fifthly, cultural differences were not mentioned in the study which limits the generalizability of the findings across different cultures.

Implications

The study would be helpful to understand the relationship of different types of parental attachment and peer attachment with the development of sexism in teenage boys especially from the age of adolescence. It might help to give insight to those boys who believe in sexism and misogyny and help them to solve their problems with parental attachment. If necessary, psychological intervention programme might be developed for teenagers to unlearn the things which had been acquired from the past and they could attain a great future. This study would be relevant in the current scenario because women are victimized with many violent acts continuously. Awareness programs could be conducted to school level itself to convey the importance of gender equality and treating women as a respectful part of the society.

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Conflict of interest: None

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