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Parents' Role in Controlling Violent Behaviour of Youths - An Emerging Concern in Pakistan

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Abstract

Violence is by nature embedded in the human psyche. The youth of Pakistan do not form any exception to this fact. Domestic violence, politically motivated armed clashes among political parties, persistent intolerance to others in the society due to any reasons whatsoever, a dangerous manifestation of jealousy and ill-will, property-related brutality among the people concerned, love and romance induced killings, trigger-happy attitude in the name of honor, and riotous behavior in the name of religion are common phenomena in Pakistan. Violent behavior in Pakistani youth is not a sudden outburst. It is rather a decades-old phenomenon, which has gradually culminated in a scenario beyond control. The blame for this might cumulatively be placed on parents, elders, relatives, school teachers, and the society at large. This study is aimed at identifying and highlighting parents' role in controlling and abating the violent attitudes of youth in Pakistan. The methodology applied in the research is critical analysis. The conclusion arrived in the study is that Pakistani parents if consciously tasked can play a very constructive role in shaping and molding the new generation which could positively contribute to the nation-building.

Keywords: Violent Behavior, Parenting Role, Youth, Pakistan, Islamic Teachings

Introduction

Violence has been a widespread phenomenon since centuries. In today's world, its impact on human beings, especially the youth, is multidimensional, as its major targets in the society are peace and sustainability. Some causes of violence are apparent with their roots in social, cultural, religious, and economic realms of life. According to estimates, more than

half of children and adolescents living in cities usually experience some form of community violence in their lives. Violence can also take place under one roof, or in a given community or neighbourhood and can happen at the same time or at different stages of life (Darby, 2018). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017) “Youth violence has immediate and long term adverse impact whether the individual was the recipient of the violence or a witness to it.” Thornberry, Huizinga & Loeber have analyzed that (1995) “Violence is the reaction resulting from a variety of situations in young people’s lives and childhood experiences that bring about disasters consequence when they reach adulthood or adolescence, which is a period of quick progress, unpredictability, experimentation, and adventure.” Violent behavior of youth becomes a universal problem of developed and underdeveloped countries (Stone & Kelner, 2000). Although according to the literature crime and violent behavior are higher issues of the United States of America than many other countries of the world (Loeber & Hay, 1994; Nyholm (2016). But Pakistan is facing the scary rise of a violent act and violent behavior that are tented to be increasing among the youth of Pakistan because violent, aggressive, and intolerant behavior is frequently observed and experience on the streets, roads, markets, offices, and other similar places. (Mushtaq & Kayani, 2013). While Moving in commonplaces of the cities, youth can be seen with different aggressive behaviors like fighting, quarreling during travels in transports, scuffling and augmenting while driving or other traffic incidents on roads and particularly their association with political groups in educational institutions is alarming (Abro, Ameer Ali, Aazadi Fateh, and Naima Saeed, 2017). These terrible acts of violence are the routine phenomenon of our country which shake the public confidence. Mainly it’s the result of revenge, jealousy, absence of social justice, and increasing frustration. Pakistani culture is more inclined to violence than tolerance. Youth have greater exposure and experience of violence throughout their life rather than love, care, and guidance (Matthew K. Nock and Wendy Berry Mendes, 2008). Political and Religious affiliations are playing a role as basic motivations for changing behavior among youth. (Abro, Ameer Ali, Aazadi Fateh, and Naima Saeed, 2017). According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Government of Pakistan, 2020 there were 786339 crime cases were reported in 2019 included an attempt to murder, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, cattle, and other theft. As compared to 2018 the number of cases got increases by 703481 to 786339, which is an 8-9% increase. While 490313 were only recorder crime cases in Punjab, and many are remaining unrecorded in Pakistan. It would be pertinent to mention here that Widom (1989) stated, “Violence begets violence and that exposure to violence can contribute to a cycle of violence”.

According to the South Asia terrorist portal, the rate of violence is increasing at a dangerous rate than the previous year. Pakistan is defined as a failure state by some scholars, economists, international communities, or even also according to the national institutions (Masud et al., 2013). This situation is alarming and pushes the youth towards violence, extremism, aggression, and particularly intolerant behavior, rather than they should be

concerned about positive mobilization, global competition, constructive thinking, and their national ideology. Abro (2017) has stated that “aggression increases among youth in their attempt to change the system, and failure of expected results converts in intolerance”.

It is evident that from over the decades Pakistan has been facing extreme violence but it has observed that very least had documented about its causes and consequences, particularly the negative impact of this occurrence of violence in the country on its youth and the dilemma about the street-youth violence is entirely ignored (Zaman & Sabir, 2013). So, it is a dire need to examine the extent of violent behavior among youth, its specific causes and push factors, and the expected role of parents in controlling the violent behavior of their children.

Objectives

The study aims to explore the following objectives.

- 1) To understand, identify, and explain the behavioural pattern based on violence among Pakistani youths
- 2) To investigate the known and unknown reasons considered original factors for the increase of violence among the youth
- 3) To study and suggest comprehensively how the parents can be the frontline role player in controlling violent behaviour among youth.

Literature Review

In a previous couple of decades’ youth violent behavioral problems like alienation, internalizing, truancy, misbehavior, narcissism, bullying, violence, offensive, destructive, boredom of everyday life, depression, use of guns and vandalism earned considerable attention from researchers (Verduyn, 2005). Researchers have a greater concern with behavioral and emotional problems among youth, which are established from the early years of children’s life (Achenbach, Dumenci & Rescorla, 2002; Lau & Kan, 2010). Therefore, the most researched topic among all over the world was narcissism, aggression, misbehavior, bullying, aggressive behavior, daily life frustration, loneliness, use of a weapon, and vandalism (Cartwright-Hatton et al., 2005), lack of basic human needs (Onwuka, et al., 2015), in Pakistan, radicalism among youth is a greater source of extremism (Moeed Yousuf & Arsalan Jawaid, 2014). It was postulated by some researchers that poor academic performance, the least interest in studies, dropping out of school, poor standard of education, lead to violent behavior (Hawkins et al., 1998). Furthermore, it was also concluded that socio-economic status including gender, father’s occupation, mother’s qualification, father’s qualification, and ownership of house were significant predictors of violent behavior among youth (Ashraf et al., 2019). Researchers have indicated that children’s repeated exposure to inter-parental violence also influence the children’s emotional reactions, cognitions, and behaviors (Margolin, Gordis, & Oliver, 2004; Gordis, Margolin, & John, 1997) lack of parent’s supervision during childhood is considered as one of the main cause of violent

behavior (Bricker et al., 2007). The history of violent victimization (Herrenkohl et al., 2006), history of early aggressive behavior (Pynoos, 1988), involvement with drugs, alcohol, or tobacco (Moss & Tarter, 1993), poor behavioral control (Muhammad Zaman & Imran Sabir, 2013), deficits in social cognitive or information-processing abilities (Mushtaq & Kayani, 2013), high emotional distress (Osofsky, 1993) have considered among the individual risk factors. Furthermore, according to the few kinds of literature, the history of treatment for emotional problems (Schwab-Stone et al., 1995; Freeman, 1993), antisocial beliefs and attitudes (Grietens, Onghena, & Michiels, 2009), exposure to violence and conflict in the family (Singh, 2015) are also the major cause of violent behavior. Exposure to violence has been presented to be associated with youth's violent behaviors (Cauffman et al., 1998; Dodge et al., 1990; Schwab-Stone et al., 1995; Moses, 1999; Flannery et al., 2001; Singer et al., 1999; Sternberg et al., 1993; Song et al., 1998).

Authoritarian parenting has been linked with aggression among children (Sandstrom, 2007; Ladd & Pettit, 2002). Specifically, characteristics such as corporal punishment (Nelson & Crick, 2002) have been associated with aggression (Nelson, Hart, Yang, Olsen, & Jin, 2006) emotional rejection (Dryfoos, 1991), peer rejection (Hawkins, Catalano, & Miller, 1992), antisocial behavior (Palmer & Hollin, 2001) low parental acceptance (Baumrind, 1968; Gray & Steinberg, 1999) and according to few empirical studies the low parental involvement (Sandstrom, 2007), low emotional attachment to parents or caregivers (Cicchetti & Lynch, 1993), poor family functioning (Gorman-Smith et al., 2004), poor supervision of children (Alves, Barboza, & Souto, 2010), particularly the combination of stressful family socioeconomic factors (Ashraf et al., 2019), unemployment, (Cramer, 2011), and low support of family (Brown, Arnold, Dobbs, & Doctoroff, 2007). Although poor monitoring and supervision of children have been related more generally with violent behavior and aggression, Unfortunately, there has been least focused on the relation between parenting practices and youth risk for violent behavior (Imbusch et al., 2001; Zdun, 2012).

In this study, we will evaluate the role of parental practices in protecting youth from violent and aggressive emotions, attitudes, and behavior. Specifically regarding the likelihood of later violence perpetration in family, community, and society. Therefore, the study has discussed the significant positive impact of parenting practices for the attenuating of violent behavior in Pakistani youth and how parental practices could play a positive role. Particularly, the study would examine how Islamic teachings guide the parents in nurturing their children which would be helpful in controlling the violent behavior in their letter adolescents and further in youth age. Because violent behavior is not a sudden outburst. It is rather a decades-old phenomenon, which has gradually culminated in a scenario beyond control. Islam lays special emphasis on the communication and attitude of the parents towards their children particularly in early childhood which leaves a significant impact on

developing healthy, positive, and nonviolent attitudes in their early, middle, and late stages of adolescence life.

What is violence?

The World Health Organization defines violence as “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group or community that either result in or have a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.” Violence is defined “as acts that are intended to cause fear, distress, or physical harm to another individual. It is recognized that sexually harmful behavior may also fit within this definition of violence” (Seto and Lalumiere 2010). Any behavior “intended to harm another person who does not want to be harmed, violence is usually defined as aggression with the goal of extreme physical harm, such as injury or death” (Bushman & Huesmann, 2010).

Violence has two children, “**active violence**”, and the second one is “**passive violence**.” An act of active violence harms another through physical force. Hitting, kicking, shooting, or stabbing are clear examples of active violence. Whereas raising your voice in frustration or anger at someone is an act of passive violence. Making a rude gesture toward someone is also an act of passive violence. According to the Glen Anderson Rose (1986) “Passive violence is the conscious ignoring of the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of a person; the conscious failure to ensure the safety of someone under one’s care; or the failure to ensure the development of the well-being of someone under one’s care.”

Thus, all violent acts are aggressive, but not all aggressive acts are violent (Anderson & Bushman, 2001). Only those designed to cause extreme physical harm are violent (Bushman et.al, 2016). Violence, according to Walters & Parke (2013), “is culturally determined. Some people mean to harm others but, based on their cultural backgrounds and beliefs, do not perceive their acts as violent.”

Gerdes (2011) defines that “Violent behavior is any behavior by an individual that threatens or harms or injures the individual or others or destroys property. Violent behavior often begins with verbal threats or relatively minor incidents, but over time it can involve physical harm. Violent behavior is very damaging, both physically and emotionally.” Intolerance among youth is a dynamic and complex phenomenon in Pakistani society which is expressed in different ways on different occasions (Abro, Fateh, & Saeed, 2017). For example, the common observation of or even experience of social injustice, the manifestation of jealousy, racism, revenge, aggressiveness, or any intolerant behavior in streets, road, and at any common places (Mushtaq, & Kiyani, 2013). Violent behavior is not a result of one night it was started from decades in society, as well as that kind of behavior found high during early and middle and late stages of adolescence life (Addington et al., 2002; Snyder & Sickmund, 1999).

Nature of Violence Among Youth

Youth violence is a global public health problem and has defined “as homicide and non-fatal attacks committed by or against a person aged 10-29 years of age” (UN, & World Bank Report, 2007). Mostly, it includes a range of acts from bullying and physical fighting, to more severe sexual and physical assault to homicide (van Geel et al., 2015). Worldwide some 200 000 homicides occur among youth 10–29 years of age each year, which is 42% of the total number of homicides globally each year (WHO, 2020). Youth violence and crimes in the developing countries have been increased in general but in Pakistan, these have grown too rapidly (Zaman & Sabir, 2013). Pakistan has the largest number of youth (15-29) years and according to the report, the number of its youth would be increased to then 80 million by 2025 (UNDP, 2011). It is evident that youth make a significant portion of the population of Pakistan, so it is important to analyze the causes or factors that clearly explain youth violence in Pakistan (Akram et al., 2013).

According to a few studies, the analysis of criminal cases has indicated that 59.2% of criminals were between the ages of 15-29 years and this percentage was significantly higher among youth aged (25-29). They had committed crimes like robbery, murder, theft, the use of firearms with criminal intent, and offenses relating to Intoxicants (Tahir et al., 2011). One of the research on violent behavior among youth in Pakistan concluded that youth involvement in etiology of violent behavior for instance; group disturbance, truancy, breaking rule and regulations, vandalism, disruptive behavior, bullying or fighting, threaten or hurt someone and stealing as well (Shagufta et al, 2015). While Moving in commonplaces of the cities, youth can be seen with different aggressive behaviors like fighting, quarreling during travels in transports, scuffling and augmenting while driving or other traffic incidents on roads and particularly their association with political groups in educational institutions is alarming (Abro, Ameer Ali, Aazadi Fateh, and Naima Saeed, 2017). These terrible acts of violence are the routine phenomenon of our country which shake the public confidence. Mainly it's the result of revenge, jealousy, absence of social justice, and increasing frustration. According to the perception of the present generation, some of the present generations believe that the behavior of young people is worse if compared the young people are more violent and aggressive in present comparatively from the past and this situation is getting worse rapidly (Shaw, 2001).

The male youths amid ages 20-39 committed 62% violent acts in Peshawar (Marri et al. 2006). Some studies have indicated that In Karachi 74% of violent acts have been committed by male youths amid years 20-40 years (Zaman & Sabir, 2013). In Rawalpindi, 41% of male youths involved in violent acts were amid 16–20 years of age (Farooq et al 2010). Pakistan is also experiencing the adverse effects of war against terrorists (Yusuf 2008). The terrorist groups have trapped the marginalized youth, manipulated their minds, and trained them about the use of firearms according to their goals and using them as terrorists. After receiving the training by the extremist elements which used them against the

security forces a large number of adolescents and youth performed deadly blast or became suicide bomber (Sajid, 2012) because they are becoming puppets in the hands of extremist (Zaman & Sabir, 2013). Approximately 70,000 children are ‘on the streets’, more than above-shared number of children are ‘off the streets’, and most probably soon are vulnerable and they would join the violent youth due to deteriorating political and socio-economic situations in Pakistan (Iqbal, 2008). Moreover, the manifestation of violent behavior and use of firearms is common on the bases of sectarian intolerance and segregation in the form of group violence in Pakistan (Ahmar, 2007). Due to the significant portion of our population, so it is needed to be integrated to effectively assess the push factors of violent behavior among Pakistani youth and to adopt effective strategies to curtail this situation and to reduce violent behavior.

Increasing Risk Factors of Violent Behavior in Youth

How can one specify the factors for young people becoming involved in violence? Many researchers have tried to answer this question through extensive studies. According to Thornberry (1998), “risk factors for youth violence by tracking the development of children and adolescents over the first two decades of life and measuring how frequently particular personal characteristics and social conditions at a given age are linked to violence at later stages of the life course.”

Youth has decreased ability to tolerate distress and persist, with physiological hyperarousal behavior during stressful event among youth (Nock & Prinstein, 2004). According to meta-analysis television not only influence the small younger children’s but also to youngster too. We know that for the most part, children learn from both experience and social learning or role modeling (Bandure, 1982). Moreover, children seeing too much violence on TV are more likely to be violent and aggressive (Gross, 2013).

Poverty, poor academic performance, criminal family background, poor living conditions, and high impulsivity are major factors that prophesy violence (W.H.O. 2005). Socio-economic status including gender, father’s occupation, mother’s qualification, father’s qualification, and ownership of house were significant predictors of violent behavior among youth (Ashraf et al., 2019). Ease of access to firearms has been widely reported in the KPK region, with young people often possessing firearms without an appropriate license. (Abdullah et al., 2018).

Lack of Law enforcement, poverty, Pakistan involvement in War on terror, foreign involvement, unemployment, corruption, ethnic strife, illiteracy, and separation are the major causes of violence in Pakistan (Haider et al., 2016). One research reveals that the Ego is one of the major factors which prevail in violence among youth. Society defines ego as having the matched standards of respect and social status where people are known and respected for their money, power, relationship, vehicles they have, bungalows they have, and even their

aggressive behavior with others. The ego which has an inverse relation with tolerance is the major factor that youth having a low tolerance level (Abro, Fateh, & Saeed, 2017).

Research conducting in Sindh which highlights some major reasons for Intolerance among youth in urban Sindh. That factor includes religious affiliations and sentimental behaviors that were on the top list of causes of violence. Political activities and issues were at the second level as causes of intolerance among youth. Economic status was also mentioned as a major cause of intolerance among youth. One of the alarming facts revealed by the study was that young boys of upper-class urban families committed suicides, murders, and fights and kidnapped peoples only because of their increased Intolerance level (Abro, Fateh, & Saeed, 2017).

Minor violent behavior among youth leads toward serious violent crime which is considered harmful for society and social institutions especially family as well (Ashraf, Asif, Iqbal, & Warraich, 2019). Consumption of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or some combination of substances is not an uncommon activity in youth by age 18. The use of these substances by children under the age of 12 is not only harmful to health but also they are illegal. Thus, the use of these substances promotes antisocial attitudes and early involvement in a delinquent lifestyle that often comes to include violent behavior in adolescence (Fagan, 1993). Violent behaviors are also the result of social fear like anxiety, loneliness, attention deficit disorder, frustration, and academic failure which is emerging in the early years of childhood (Rubin et al., 2002). Moreover, lack of observance of social norms, poor supervision and lack of discipline also became a greater source of violent behavior among youth (Akram et al., 2013)

In Pakistan, all kinds of intolerance and extremism seem to have taken hold over the society, for example, by the increasing number of target killings (Syeda Rakhsanda & Dr. Ahmed Saeed (2014) corruption, conflicts among ethnic groups and divided among sects, sub-sects, and casts (Masud, Ahmed, Choudhury, & Mostafa, 2013; Yusuf, 2011). No doubt that youths are the core of any nation but unfortunately our youth is experiencing the exposure of violence. Pakistan's proxy war on terror, foreign involvement, and unemployment is a major cause of violence in Pakistan. Militant extremism is a serious issue of Pakistani society (Majeed & Hashmi, 2014; Winthrop & Graff, 2010). Media is an easy way for the entertainment of youth they are captured in negative aspects of social media. Print, electronic and social media are playing their part as pull factors towards increasing intolerance level among youth in urban areas of Sindh as well as Pakistan (Abro, Fateh, & Saeed, 2017).

The example could be the suicide of three youngsters in Pakistan due to a well know game, one of case on June 24th 2020, reported as the police high-ups confirmed that Mohammad Zakarya took the extreme step for not completing his task while playing the online game. Saddar Division SP Operations Ghazanfar Syed narrated as: “we found his mobile phone on the bed with the PUBG game on at that time near his body. We immediately called the Punjab Forensic Science Agency for further investigation into the incident,” (Asif Chaudry, 2020). Television news violence and video games are a greater source of the prevalence of violence in young viewers particularly the imitative suicides and acts of aggression (Huesmann, & Taylor, 2006).

The violent act or violent behavior is tented to be increasing among the youth of Pakistan. Violence may include Domestic violence, politically motivated armed clashes among political parties, persistent intolerance to others in the society due to any reasons whatsoever, a dangerous manifestation of jealousy and ill-will, property-related brutality among the people concerned, love and romance induced killings, trigger-happy attitude in the name of honor, and riotous behavior in the name of religion are common phenomena in Pakistan.

Intense anger, becoming easily frustrated, frequent loss of temper or blow-ups, extreme irritability, extreme impulsiveness, are the “warning signs” for violent behavior in children. No doubt that Violence leads to violence.

Significance of Parenting Role in Controlling Anger among Children

Youth violence affects all communities and their members. It is one of the leading causes of unnatural death of young adults. The impacts of youth violence can be devastating and last a lifetime, but preventing youth violence is possible through effective positive parenting practices. The parents have an undeniable effect on the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health of the child’s current and future life. The home environment is the most important factor that has a profound effect on a child's life. From the earliest moments of a child's life, a child depends on his parents to meet his every need. Parents are the first teachers of the children and play the role of role model for them (Batool, 2013). Most children are fortunate to have the desired home environment full of love and affection from their parents (Ibn-Shobe-Harrani, 2003). In this reference a hadith recorded by Bukhari that **a woman is married for four considerations, her family, her beauty, her wealth, and her religiosity and noble character. So you should opt for the last one.** This hadith does not talk directly about parenting, but the emphasis on the nobility of spouse plays a crucial role in developing desirable character in children.

Gottman (1999) claimed that “the best gift a parent can give to a child is a stable and happy marriage and the babies of unhappy couples may show a lower capacity for joy as well as less ability to concentrate and to self-comfort”. Due to the strong physical and psychological impact mother on children, the men are advised: “to choose a wife that can

handle motherhood responsibilities properly and transfer good personality characteristics to the child” (Shaykh Al-Saduq, 1988). Literature has identified the family as a significant factor for controlling violent behavior (Dmitrieva et al., 2004, Tolan, 2001). Parental control helps to shape responsible conformity and self-control in children. Parenting practices including authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive had a significant association with the violent behavior of youth. (Ashraf et al., 2019).

Particularly during the early childhood Islam does special focus on parenting role and style and advice the parents to adopt less demanding and more responsive parenting during the early years of children and accept from parents for the manifestation of love and passion which provides the freedom of choice in a carefree environment to their children, and made them **disciplined and** socially and emotionally strong.

Ibn 'Umar reported that the Prophet (s.a.w.) said **“All of you are shepherds and each of you is responsible for his flock. A man is the shepherd of the people of his house and he is responsible. A woman is the shepherd of the house of her husband and she is responsible. Each of you is a shepherd and each is responsible for his flock”** (Al-Adab Al-Mufrad, Hadith 212). Further indicated that beware of some negative qualities of the guardian by stating that “The worst kind of manner in bringing up the children is violent attitude (*al-hutamah*). I warn you that you become among those with a violent attitude.” (Sahih Muslim, Hadith 1830). *Al-hutamah* means brutal; harsh; aggressive; extreme and wild (Ibn Manzur, 2001). Children imitate their parents more than anyone. If someone finds any undesired behavior in their child, they should realize that they have acted similarly in front of their child. Preaching that violent and aggressive behavior is bad and then shouting and hitting in front of them will doubtlessly not help. Therefore, an increasing number of studies have indicated the devastating effects on children who witness domestic or interparental violence (Hughes, 1988; Hughes and Graham-Bermann, 1998; Sternberg et al., 1993). It would be instructive to mention here that if Widom (1989) stated that “violence begets violence” then conversely the love and compassion would cultivate love and forbearance among the children, which doubtlessly in return a greater source of controlling violent behavior during their adolescence and youth age.

Pearce and Axinn (1998) stated that mothers who place a high value on religion will have more positive relationships with their children. Religion plays a central role in shaping the core values and beliefs regarding family life, and aspects of religion affect the parenting styles (Bornstein, 2016). The parents who use positive religious coping strategies seem to perform better when facing challenging parenting situations (Montgomery, 2013). Particularly, religious commitment has a significant negative relationship between aggressive and violent behavior (Ashraf et al., 2020). The Messenger of Allah, (s.a.w.) and his family has said, **“Whoever has or is around children should play with them as a child!”** The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him and his family has said, **“Acquaint your children with religious teachings (of Islam)”**

The warm, nurturing, and sensitive parenting considers the child's age and maturity when forming behavioral expectations ([OBA working group](#)). [Rothrauff et al, \(2009\)](#) stated that “Positive nurturing and caring home environment, where there is love, respect, trust, communication, cooperation, common vision and values, and a sense of purpose.” Interestingly, it has been considered a highly effective and authentic tool to curtail the violent behavior of youth.

The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.) has guided the parents to adopt warm, loving, caring and responsible behavior with their children and advised to his followers by stating: “**Have a love for your children and show compassion towards them and when you promise them something, then live up to your promise since indeed they do not recognize you except as the one who sustains them**” (Tabrasi, 2002). In another report, the Prophet stated: “**Respect your children and cultivate in them the best of manners**” (Ibn Majah, Hadith: 3671). The Prophet is reported to have warned his followers: “**A person who is not kind to children and not respectful to elders is not from amongst us**” (Tirmizi, Hadith:1919).

The provision of love and care is a greater source of positive thinking and well-being among children and encourage them to be good human beings. Numerous studies have proved it psychologically than those who have good relationships with their parents and get more parental love, care and affection during their initial age have stronger physical and cognitive strength and control compared to those who deprived ([Calvete et al., 2014](#)). Children who were deprived of proper parental love and affection are more inclined to be the victim of depression, inferiority complex, violent behavior, and short temper ([Cowan & Cowan, 2000](#)). Additionally, the children imagine the moment in their minds so it has been suggested in Islam that avoids making such kind of promises to your children that which are hard for you to fulfill because these fake promises would negatively affect the emotional and psychological development of a child and would cause their isolation from their surroundings and also would trigger among them the aggressive and the violent behavior.

Doyle et al. ([2004](#)) state that “the quality of the parent-child relationship became an important predictor in the adjustment of the child in mid and late childhood.” However, if the parent-child relationship is strained for any reason, it is their child who suffers the most. Usually, when a child is born, parents put all their activities aside and their priority is their children. The mutual love and affection, care, and protection of the parents is the guarantee of the child's prosperity.

The Prophet (s.a.w.) emphasized to maintain equality and justice among the children and to treat them fairly because the classification among children and emotional imbalance of parents trigger violent, anger and revenge like emotions in children which increase gradually by their age and in result creates violence among siblings and often been practiced in society. The Prophet (s.a.w.) said: (1) “**Act equally between your children; Act equally between your sons**” ([Abu Dawud, Hadith: 3537](#)), and “**Fear God and treat your children fairly**” ([Muslim bin Hajjaj, Hadith: 1623](#)).

It has also been observed that an inadequate emotional development often leads to irritable and impulsive children with little control, prone to externalizing behavioral problems in childhood or later in adolescence or adulthood, who can exhibit dysfunctional behavior and even break the law ([Bandura, 1999](#); [Simone et al., 2012](#); [Llorca-Mestre et al., 2017a](#)).

Islam has emphasized to develop an emotional attachment with the children. It has been reported that once **“A Bedouin came to the Prophet (s.a.w.) and said, “You (people) kiss the boys! We don’t kiss them.” The Prophet (s.a.w.) replied, “I cannot put mercy in your heart after Allah the Almighty has taken it away from it”** ([al-Bukhari, Hadith: 5997](#)). It is also reported that **“Prophet (s.a.w.) was once praying when his grandson Al-Hasan mounted his back, prompting the Prophet to prolong his prostration. When the prayer was over, his companions asked him: Why did you prolong the prostration? The Messenger of Allah said: My son mounted me, and I feared toppling him”** ([Abu Y’ala, Hadith: 3428](#)). It shows the importance of emotional attachment with our children to make them feel safe, satisfy, and happy. Physical affection should not be stopped when the child grows up because it’s a greater source of attachment and a practical manifestation of parents’ love with their children. Of course, it can be limited as the child gets older, but never put an end to it.

It is instructive to mention here that before parenting a child the parents must educate them about necessary knowledge and training regarding effective and positive parenting. Because it leaves a significant impact on the behavior of children. We found the famous dialogue between a young man and the Prophet (s.a.w.) which revolves around permission for promiscuity. The Prophet's manner of dealing with the young man's illicit desire could be applied by parents to train their children psychologically. Research has identified that low levels of parental knowledge and low levels of parental support, were, directly and indirectly, related to antisocial behavior by increasing violent and aggressive attitude ([Sitnick, Shaw, & Hyde, 2014](#)).

Parents’ criticisms can affect the psychological development of a child and make him violent and aggressive. It is very important to engage children while discussing something about family matters. It would create harmony and motivate the children to discuss their issues and share their feeling with their parents and conversely, the parents can tackle the situation wisely and could control their feelings of revenge, sadness, anger, or other growing negative emotions in an appropriate manner. In this way, the children will feel their importance and it would motivate them to think more logically and positively.

Many children today are seen playing with toy guns or weapons. Children should not be given such toys as they promote aggressive mentality and war frenzy in children. It is also said that children who play with toy guns are more likely to lack tolerance. Likewise, they should refrain from watching pornographic films or videos that contain scenes of violence and bloodshed. Children should be allowed to use parental supervised social media with a few precautions. Furthermore, parents can encourage their children to help with

household chores and to pray regularly. Parents need to know what kind of peer their child is sitting in and keep an eye on their child's daily activities. Because of the increasing incidence of violence against children in our society, children must be made aware of this danger with great care. The consistent presence of parents is also a highly important factor to control the violent behavior particularly during when awakening, when arriving home from school, at evening mealtime, or when going to bed. In sum, regular communication, daily orientation, inspiring stories sharing, intellectual debate over ethical principles at the familial level, and friendly attitude of parents to their children will help in minimizing the anger of youth.

Conclusion

Violence may include domestic violence, politically motivated armed clashes among political parties, persistent intolerance to others in the society due to any reasons whatsoever, a dangerous manifestation of jealousy and ill-will, property-related brutality among the people concerned, love and romance induced killings, trigger-happy attitude in the name of honor, and riotous behavior in the name of religion are common phenomena in Pakistan and a greater source of generating the violent behavioral problems among youth. Therefore, the study has highlighted those specific push factors which are triggering violent behavior among youth and provided a detailed discussion in the light of Islamic parenting methodology that how can parents play an effectively positive role in controlling the anger of youth? Particularly, during the early childhood, Islam does special focus on parenting role and style and advice the parents to adopt less demanding and more responsive parenting and accept from parents for the manifestation of love and passion which provides the freedom of choice in a carefree environment to their children, and made them disciplined and socially and emotionally strong, which leaves a significant impact on developing healthy, positive, and nonviolent attitudes in their early, middle, and late stages of adolescence life. Because violent behavior is not a result of one night it has started from decades and gradually increases with age. Furthermore, it has also suggested that regular communication, daily orientation, inspiring stories sharing, intellectual debate over ethical principles at the familial level, and friendly attitude of parents to their children will help minimize the anger of youth. It would also be effective that existing youth-serving organizations should arrange parental training workshops about how to reduce violent behavior among children? And they should advertise it properly through electronic media for creating awareness and should also visit homes and try to convince the parents to join parental training workshops to reduce the violent behavior among their children in the home.

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