



WWJMRD 2021; 7(8): 32-36
www.wwjmr.com
International Journal
Peer Reviewed Journal
Refereed Journal
Indexed Journal
Impact Factor SJIF 2017:
5.182 2018: 5.51, (ISI) 2020-
2021: 1.361
E-ISSN: 2454-6615
DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/SC9YV

Lalduhsanga Sailo
Research Scholar in the
Department of Social Work,
Mizoram University, Tanhril,
Aizawl, Mizoram, India.

Grace Lalhlupuii Sailo
Assistant Professor,
Department of Social Work,
Mizoram University, Tanhril,
Aizawl, Mizoram, India.

Correspondence:
Grace Lalhlupuii Sailo
Assistant Professor,
Department of Social Work,
Mizoram University, Tanhril,
Aizawl, Mizoram, India.

Perception on family relationship and family conflict among secondary school students in Lunglei, Mizoram

Lalduhsanga Sailo, Grace Lalhlupuii Sailo

Abstract

Family relationships play a fundamental role in shaping an individual's well-being across the life course (Merz, Consedine, Schulze, & Schuengel, 2009). This study aims to assess family relationship and family conflict from the perceptions and experiences of secondary school students. The study is exploratory in nature adopts a multi stage sampling procedure for identification of study sample. The study found that more male students perceived their family as cohesive while more females report experiences of witnessing domestic violence in their family and feel insecure at home due to family conflict. Females are 4.31 times more likely to exhibit family violence than males. Family violence leads to feelings of insecurity at home, inability to concentrate in studies, and disturbs the overall growth and development of adolescents.

Keywords: family, relationship, conflict, secondary, school, students.

Introduction

Children's wellbeing depends on the quality of family relationships rather than the size, composition and type of family. Whether family with both parents or a single parent, or whether living with their relatives; step-parents, grandparents or other carers, positive family relationships relies on promoting family wellbeing and supporting children's mental health. Providing support for each family member, communication and relationship between family members is the key to developed quality of family relationship (Geggie et al, 2000).

Family is a primary institution and one of the most important social institutions for human beings. Healthy family relationship deeply influences emotional intelligence of the children and adolescents. Family is a place where the children learned to understand and cope with their problems and their physical world (Greenberg et. Al, 2012; Hong, 2013; Ryan, Claessens & Markowitz, 2013)

Family conflict involves active opposition and argument between family members (Marta & Alfieri, 2014). It depends on the nature of family relationships, including verbal, physical, sexual, financial, or psychological. Conflicts may involve different combinations of arguments within family members: it can be conflict within the couple or between parents and children or, between siblings.

Inter-parental conflict has also been found to affect children externalizing problems through disrupted mother-child and father-child relationships (Jekielek, 1998). Children who experience separation and/or divorce of parents are comparatively expected to have more problems on emotional, social, behavioral and academic levels, than children who are still living together with their parents. The risks involved are dropping out from school, teenage pregnancy, or early marriage, mental health issues, high levels of substance use; smoking and drinking, during their adolescence and through adulthood (Callan et.al, 2006; Pryor & Rodgers, 2001).

Students face family problems such as communication problems between family members, problems on emotional expression, lack of respect and trust in the relationship with the parents or family members (Al-Qudah, 2016).

Lack of social support from parents and peers were related to suicide ideation through inducing hopelessness and low self-worth (Harter et.al, 1992). More recently, Prinstein et.al

(2000) similarly validated that peer and family functioning were related to psychosocial risk factors on children, directly predicted suicide ideation and depressive symptoms in psychiatric patients. It is necessary to understand the significance of the family and peer relationships in the social life/world of children's and adolescents' and how interpersonal relationships can lead to youth at risk of psychopathology (Au, Lau & Lee, 2009). Family conflict partially mediated the relation between economic strain and adolescent adjustment, and coping further mediated the relation between family conflict and adjustment (Wadsworth & Compas, 2002)

Substantial literature suggests that supportive family and parenting behaviors may affect adolescents' behavior from engaging in early and risky sexual activities, and regular family activities and hostile parenting during mid-adolescence may lead to lower sexual risk behaviors during late adolescence (Coley, Medeiros & Schindler, 2008). Several studies have found family time to be significantly related to children's development on social/emotional, cognitive and language (Amato et. Al, 2013; Ellington, 2011; Laurent, Kim & Capaldi, 2008).

The quality of the relationship between parent and adolescent as well as parenting style greatly affects adolescent behaviors related to communication and disciplinary, academic achievement and psychosocial

adjustment. Parenting style has affected the behavior of adolescents, authoritative households' leads to fewer risk behavior than adolescents who are from non-authoritative families (Newman, Harrison, Dashiff & Davies, 2008).

Methodology

The study is exploratory in nature and follows a multi stage sampling procedure. In the first stage, Lunglei town was identified as sample area. In the second stage, all High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools of Lunglei town were identified. In the third stage, selection of two government and two private schools was made based on location (core and periphery). In the fourth stage, 211 secondary school students (classes IX-XII) in the selected schools were further identified through snowball sampling. Findings were processed and analyzed using SPSS software; and Statistical analysis was made using chi-square test, spearman correlation and binary logistic analysis.

Results

More than half of the respondents (55.5%) were female while more than two fifth of the respondents were (44.5%) male in the study. Majority (76.3%) of the respondents were in the age group of 16-19 (late adolescence) while a fourth (23.7%) were aged between 13-15 years of age.

Table 1: Perceptions across gender on family relationship.

Values	Gender	No (%)	Yes (%)	X ²	P
Very Cohesive	Male	5 (5.3)	89 (94.7)	4.73	.04*
	Female	17 (14.5)	100 (85.5)		
Help each other in household chores	Male	13 (13.8)	81 (86.2)	1.25	.27
	Female	23 (19.7)	94 (80.3)		
Family support my interests	Male	7 (7.4)	87 (92.6)	2.08	.18
	Female	16 (13.7)	101 (86.3)		
Family prayer	Male	10 (10.6)	84 (89.4)	1.02	.41
	Female	18 (15.4)	99 (84.6)		
Proud of my family	Male	3 (3.2)	91 (96.8)	.47	.73
	Female	6 (5.1)	111 (94.9)		

P<0.05*

Table 1 shows the gender comparison on family relationship among secondary school students. There is significant gender variation on very cohesive family relationship. More males perceived their families as cohesive as compared to females (yes=94.7%; P<.05). More males opted 'yes' in the statements like helping each

other in household chores (86.2%), family prayer (89.4%), proud of my family (96.8%) than female respondents. This indicates that male secondary school students perceived their families as being close and maintaining good family relationship.

Table 2: Respondents' Experience of Abuse.

Sl. No	Abuse Experience	Male (n=94)	Female (n=117)	Total (N=211)
1	Experienced Abuse from parents	20(9.5)	47(22.3)	67(31.8)
2	Physical Abuse	1(0.5)	2(0.9)	3(1.4)
3	Verbal/Emotional Abuse	17(8.1)	42(19.9)	59(28)
4	Neglect	2(0.9)	8(3.8)	10(4.7)

Figures in parenthesis are percentages **Source:** Computed.

Several types of Child maltreatment are Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, Verbal abuse and Neglect (World Health Organisation). Physical Abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. Neglect is

the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development (Ward, H. 2011).

Table 2 shows abuse experience of respondents. Only a few (1.4%) conveyed having been physically abused by their parents while more than a fourth (28%) have experienced verbal abuse. More female respondents (19.9%) reported

verbal abuse than male respondents (8.1%). While some respondents (4.7%) have experienced parental neglect,

more than two-thirds (68.2%) have never experienced any form of abuse from their parents.

Table 3: Perceptions across gender on violence in family.

Values	Gender	No (%)	Yes (%)	X ²	P
I have witnessed Domestic violence in my family	Male	74 (78.7)	20 (21.3)	7.89	.007**
	Female	71 (60.7)	46 (39.3)		
Fights and violent arguments take place in our family	Male	67 (71.3)	27 (28.7)	3.00	.11
	Female	70 (59.8)	47 (40.2)		
Verbal abuse and use of offensive language	Male	58 (61.7)	36 (38.3)	3.09	.09
	Female	58 (49.6)	59 (50.4)		
Feel insecure at home due to family conflict	Male	49 (52.1)	45 (47.9)	10.73	.001**
	Female	35 (29.9)	82 (70.1)		
Unable to concentrate in my studies due to conflict	Male	53 (56.4)	41 (43.6)	2.97	.09
	Female	52 (44.4)	65 (55.6)		

P<0.01**

Comparison across gender on violence in family is depicted in table 3. There is high statistical significance found in witness of domestic violence in the family and feeling insecure at home due to family conflict. More female

respondents opted 'yes' in all statements regarding violence in family as compared to their male counterparts. This indicates that females are more vulnerable and insecure towards violence in the family.

Table 4: Correlation between age group and violence in family.

Violence in family	Gender
Witness Domestic violence	.112
Fights and violent arguments take place	.129
Verbal abuse and use of offensive language	.168*
Feel insecure at home due to family conflict	.230**
Unable to concentrate in my studies due to conflict	.181**

P<0.05*, P<0.01**

The spearman correlation between age group and violence in family is illustrated in table 4. Statistical significance is found in the statements like verbal abuse and use of offensive language (r=.168), feel insecure at home due to family conflict (r=.230) and unable to concentrate in

studies due to family conflict (r=.181). This indicates that family conflict affects adolescents in secondary school stage mentally and academically. Family violence disturbed their overall growth and development.

Table 5: Predictors of violence in family of secondary school students.

Independent Variables	P-value	Exp(B)	95.0% CI	Model Summary
Age (13 – 15 years)	.17	.606	(.29, 1.24)	$\chi^2=6.57$ $df=7$ $P=.47$ Cox & Snell $R^2=.061$ Nagelkerke $R^2=.082$ Overall cases=57.3%
Gender (male)	.005**	.431	(.24, .77)	
Type of family (joint)	.33	.732	(.38, 1.37)	
Socio-economic (APL)	.24	.745	(.23, 2.41)	
Constant	.31	1.78	-	

CI: Confidential Interval

P<0.05*, P<0.01**

Binary logistic regression analysis was performed to ascertain the effects of age, gender, type of family and socio-economic status on the risk of family violence (Table 5). The binary logistic regression model was not statistically significant, $\chi^2(5)=6.57$, $P=.47$. The model explained 8.2% (Nagelkerke R^2) of the variances in family

violence and correctly classified 57.3% of cases. Females were 4.31 times more likely to exhibit family violence than males. The results also show that the rest of the independent variables were not associated with family violence.

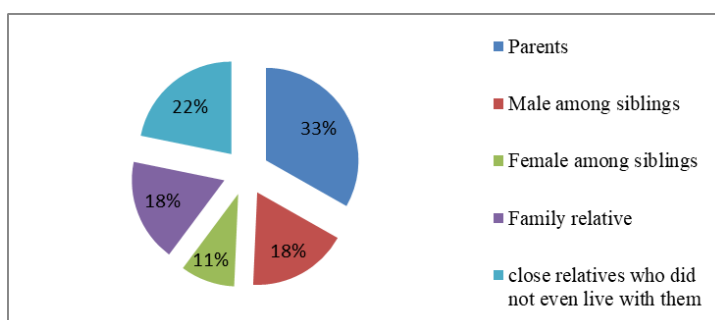


Fig 1: Instigator of violence in Family.

Every family has conflict and arguments; they are a normal part of family life. The cause of conflict and arguments can be unaccepted different opinion or ideas, lack of respect, lack of trust, poor communication, financial problems and/or substance abuse. The most conflicts in families are between husband and wife, than between children and parents, and finally, between a daughter-in-law and a mother-in-law. The initiators of conflicts are basically husband and wife and mother-in law (Shelia 2015; Apter, 2009).

Fig. 1 shows the main person(s) creating or instigating conflict within the family. Respondents perceived that majority of family conflict arose out of marital or parental conflict (33.20%) followed by close relatives who did not even live with them (21.8%), relatives or others co-habiting in the same household (18%), a male sibling (17.5%) among siblings and a female sibling (9.5%).

Discussion

Male secondary school students were closer with their family and they are able to maintain their relationship with family members more than their female counterparts (*see table 1*). More female students have experienced and witnessed domestic violence and feel insecure at home due to family conflict than males, which may reflect on their vulnerability and insecurity in the family. A study made by Spear (2000) also found that adolescent girls experience feelings of stress and emotional troubles more strongly than those of adolescent boys.

There were statistical significance found in the statements like verbal abuse and use of offensive language ($r=.168$), feel insecure at home due to family conflict ($r=.230$) and unable to concentrate in my studies due to conflict ($r=.181$). This indicates that the secondary school students between 13 to 15 years were greatly affected by conflict in family. English et al., (2003) also found that domestic violence has definite impact of family; relationship between caregivers and children associated with children's behaviour. Children who witness domestic violence or who have been abused in the home and children who are abused may exhibit many psychological effects, and they are at greater risk for internalized behaviors such as anxiety and depression. It has been found that they are also more disobedient at home and at school, and are more likely to have poor school performance and difficulty in social relationship. (Pingley, 2017; UNICEF et al., 2009; Stiles, 2002). Females were 4.31 times more likely to exhibit family violence than male. According to DC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) (2020) "about 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime".

Conclusion: Every family has conflict and argument; they are a normal part of family life, Family conflict is detrimental to adolescent mental health (Wadsworth & Santiago 2008), but it has an impact on adolescent's behavior including feelings of unease and insecurity at home, avoiding social situations and inability to concentrate in their studies. Findings reflect on the need of Psycho-Social intervention among adolescents through introducing School Social Worker or Counsellor. Pre-marital Counselling, Marital Counselling and Parenting Skills education is imperative to strengthen family system and reduce family conflict. Adolescents' behavior is

influenced by many social factors but parenting plays a major role in their behavior because family is still the primary and most important unit of socialization.

References

1. Amato, P. R. (n.d.). *The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation*.
2. Arulmoly, C. (2017). *A Study of the Relationship between Family Status and Academic Achievement Motivation among Senior Secondary Grades in Batticaloa District, Sri Lanka. June 2015*.
3. AU, C.Y., Sing Lau, Margaret T.Y.Lee (2009). Suicidal Ideation and Depression: The moderation Effects of Family Cohesion and Social Self-Concept. *Adolescence, Winter*
4. Aufseeser, D., Jekielek, S., & Brown, B. (2006). The Family Environment and Adolescent Well-being: Exposure to Positive and Negative Family Influences. *Child Trends and the National Adolescent Health Information Center, June*, 1–12.
5. Azcona, M. C. (2008). Resolution of family conflicts through literature. *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems, II*.
6. Baron, R. A. (1991). Positive effects of conflict: A cognitive perspective. *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal*, 4(1), 25–36. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01390436>
7. Barthassat, J. (2014). Positive and Negative Effects of Parental Conflicts on Children's Condition and Behavior. *Journal of European Psychology Students*, 5(1), 10–18.
8. Buddy, T. (2014). The Effects of Parental Alcoholism on Children. *About.Com*, 8–11. <http://alcoholism.about.com/od/effect/a/The-Effects-Of-Parental-Alcoholism-On-Children.htm>
9. Buntin, J. T. (2015). Intimate Partner Violence. *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences: Second Edition*, 685–688. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-08-097086-8.35026-7>
10. Burke, T. J., Wosidlo, A., Segrin, C., Burke, T. J., Wosidlo, A., & Segrin, C. (2012). *Social Skills, Family Conflict, and Loneliness in Families Social Skills, Family Conflict, and Loneliness in Families*. 4215. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08934215.2012.719461>
11. Butler, I., Scanlan, L., Robinson, M., & Douglas, G. (2002). *Children's Involvement in their Parents' Divorce: Implications for Practice*. 16, 89–102.
12. Children, S., Vandewater, E. A., Lee, J. H., Shim, M., Vandewater, E. A., Lee, J. H., & Shim, M. (2009). *Family Conflict and Violent Electronic Media Use in School-Aged Children*. 3269. <https://doi.org/10.1207/S1532785XMEP0701>
13. Coogan, D., & Coogan, D. (2011). *Child-to-parent Violence: Challenging Perspectives on Family Violence Child-to-parent Violence: Challenging Perspectives on Family Violence*. 5279. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13575279.2011.596815>
14. English, D.J., Marshall, D.B. & Stewart, A.J. Effects of Family Violence on Child Behavior and Health During Early Childhood. *Journal of Family Violence* 18, 43–57 (2003). <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1021453431252>

15. Fisher, B. S. (2004). Measuring Rape Against Women: The Significance of Survey Questions. *Violence Against Women and Family Violence: Developments in Research, Practice, and Policy*, 1-4-3-I-4–16.
16. Fisher, Bonnie S. (1996). *Section II: Antecedents to and Consequences of Violence Overview*.
17. Green, B., & Drive, O. (2004). *Divorced Parents' Qualitative and Quantitative Reports of Children's Living Arrangements*. 66(May), 385–397.
18. Greenberg, J., Seltzer, M., Baker, J., Smith, L., Warren, S. F., Brady, N., & Hong, J. (2012). Family environment and behavior problems in children, adolescents, and adults with fragile x syndrome. *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 117(4), 331–346. <https://doi.org/10.1352/1944-7558-117.4.331>
19. Hall, E., Arbor, A., Studies, F., Policy, F., & Sciences, B. (2010). *The Interactive Effects of Marital Conflict and Divorce on Parent – Adult Children's Relationships*. 72(April), 282–292. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2010.00699.x>
20. Haverfield, M. C. (2016). “We just pretended as if everything was good”: Communication about alcohol in families of nonalcoholic and alcoholic parents. *Atlantic Journal of Communication*, 24(5), 276–288. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15456870.2016.1232260>
21. Huecker MR, King KC, Jordan GA, et al. Domestic Violence. [Updated 2021 Feb 17]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2021 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK499891/>
22. International, A., Journal, I., & Demir-dagdas, T. (2019). Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies Parental divorce or separation during childhood and adult smoking: a mediation effects of social engagement. *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 14(3), 248–258. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17450128.2019.1619890>
23. Kader, Z., Child, J. H., Centre, Y. C., & Roman, N. V. (2018). *The Effects of Family Conflict on the Psychological Needs and Externalising Behavior of Preadolescents Social Work / Maatskaplike Werk Vol 54 No 1 ; Issue 3. April*. <https://doi.org/10.15270/54-1-613>
24. Keller, P. S., Cummings, E. M., Davies, P. T., Lubke, G., Keller, P. S., Cummings, E. M., Davies, P. T., Lubke, G., Keller, P. S., Cummings, E. M., & Davies, P. T. (2007). *Children's behavioral reactions to marital conflict as a function of parents' conflict behaviors and alcohol problems alcohol problems*. 5629. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17405620600557631>
25. Kouros, C. D., Merrilees, C. E., & Cummings, E. M. (2008). Marital Conflict and Children's Emotional Security in the Context of Parental Depression. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70(3), 684–697.
26. Miles, C., & Condry, R. (2016). Adolescent to parent violence: the police response to parents reporting violence from their children. *Policing and Society*, 0(0), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2014.989158>
27. Peterson, G. W., & Bush, K. R. (2013). Handbook of marriage and the family: Third edition. *Handbook of Marriage and the Family: Third Edition, February 2019*, 1–914. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-3987-5>
28. Rakovec-Felser, Z. (2014). Domestic violence and abuse in intimate relationship from public health perspective. *Health Psychology Research*, 2(3). <https://doi.org/10.4081/hpr.2014.1821>
29. Ryan, R., Claessens, A., & Markowitz, A. J. (2013). *Family structure and children's behavior*. 30(2), 11–14.
30. Sainz-pardo, P. V. (2014). Women and children versus domestic violence. Legal reflections, needs and challenges in Spain today. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 18(6), 660–713. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2014.944812>
31. Shamir, H., Du, T., Schudlich, R., Cummings, E. M., Shamir, H., Du, T., & Schudlich, R. (2011). *Marital Conflict, Parenting Styles, and Children's Representations of Family Relationships Marital Conflict, Parenting Styles, and Children's Representations of Family Relationships*. 5192. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15295192.2001.9681214>
32. Stockman, J. K., Hayashi, H., & Campbell, J. C. (2015). Intimate partner violence and its health impact on disproportionately affected populations, including minorities and impoverished groups. *Journal of Women's Health*, 24(1), 62–79. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2014.4879>
33. Truman, J. L., & Morgan, R. E. (2015). Nonfatal domestic violence, 2003-2012. *Measures of Violent Crime: Select Reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, April*, 93–130.
34. Xia, Y., Li, S. D., & Liu, T. H. (2018). The interrelationship between family violence, adolescent violence, and adolescent violent victimization: An application and extension of the cultural spillover theory in China. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 15(2). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15020371>