

Abstract

The purpose of this research was to study the effect of a group counseling program based on a just and caring community approach to moral development on adolescents' aggression. The study was a quasi-experimental research with pre-test / post-test control group design.

The subjects were students aged 13-14 at secondary school level 1 – M.1 at Pakkred school in Nonthaburi. There were 40 participants, 25 female students and 15 male students. The subjects were divided into two groups, 20 in the treatment group and another 20 in the control group. Participants in both groups volunteered to be subjects. The treatment group was divided into two groups. Each participated in a four-week group program on a just and caring community approach to moral development which consisted of eight sessions of 60-90 minutes each with the researcher acting as group leader. The control group did not participate in the program. Instruments used in this study were:

1. The group counseling program in just and caring community approach to moral development was constructed by the researcher using Kohlberg's Just Community and Gilligan's caring moral development.

2. The aggression questionnaire was adapted from Arnold H. Buss and Mark Perry's Aggression Questionnaire. This questionnaire was divided into 4 parts: physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, and hostility. Another part of aggression, relational aggression, was adapted from C.D. McDonald et al.'s Assessment of Aggression.

A statistical *t* test analysis was conducted to determine significant differences in mean scores between the two groups at pre-test and post-test. A statistical Chi Square analysis was conducted to determine the effects of several variables on aggression. The results of this study were:

1. Comparing the two groups at post-test: The treatment group that participated in the just and caring community approach to moral development program showed statistically significantly lower mean score on the aggression questionnaire than the control group by a level of .01. Analysis by types of aggression: for physical aggression the treatment group had a statistically significantly lower mean score than the control group by a level of .01, and for verbal aggression the treatment group had a statistically significantly lower mean score than the control group by a level of .05.

Even though the analysis of the post-test of the treatment group did not show a statistically significantly lower mean score on the whole aggression questionnaire, in the hostility part the treatment group showed a statistically significantly lower mean score by a level of .05.

2. Analysis of the treatment group as reported by a close parent at post-test: From the parents, the treatment group had a statistically significantly lower mean score on the aggression questionnaire by a level of .05. Also in the part of physical aggression, the parents reported that the treatment group had a statistically significantly lower mean score by a level of .01.

3. Analysis of variables effected on aggression: Variables which had an effect on the aggression of all the participants were joining school activities, and the education of mothers, both variables had a statistically significant level of .05. The other studied variables: sex, birth order, helping to do chores in the house,

education of fathers, career of fathers, and career of mother did not have a statistically significant effect on the aggression of the subjects.

In conclusion, students participating in the group counseling program based on a just and caring community approach to moral development showed changes in aggression in the hostility part. They also showed differences in aggression from these students who did not attend the program, especially in physical aggression and verbal aggression. From reports of parents, those students who attended the program showed changes in aggression, especially in physical aggression.

The variables which had an effect on the aggression of all participants were joining school activities, and the education of mothers.