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ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

## Parenting style as a predictor of cyber aggression

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The present study is titled, 'Parenting style as a predictor of cyber aggression'. Cyber aggression has received massive attention especially during and after Covid-19 due to the increased use of social media platforms. The term 'Cyber-aggression' entails bullying an individual mainly using online platforms such as social media sites. The present study investigates the connection of parenting styles with generating such acts of bullying other people using the electronic medium. Three types of parenting styles have been considered: authoritarian, permissive, and, authoritative parenting styles. Four hypotheses have been formed based on the research question, 'What parenting style contributes mostly to causing cyber-aggression amongst people who engage themselves in such acts?' and 'What other factors can predict cyber-aggression?' The hypotheses are- the more authoritarian, and permissive the parenting styles are, the more cyber-aggressive a person becomes; whereas, the more authoritative the parenting style is, the less cyber-aggression is noticed in an individual, and also the demographic variables in the study (gender, ethnicity, education, and employment) can predict cyber-aggression among individuals. Two questionnaires were administered to the participants using

online surveys: the Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) and the Cyber-Aggression Questionnaire for Adults (CYBA). A Personal Information Form (PIF) was also administered. Thirty respondents took part in the online survey. The responses were analyzed using the SPSS and the result did not comply with any of the hypotheses formed regarding parenting styles; none of the parenting styles were found to be correlated with the dependent variable-cyber-aggression except the permissive parenting style having a slight correlation with some of the items of CYBA. However, the permissive style of parenting styles was not found to predict cyber-aggression directly. Permissive parenting style could indicate only a 1.6% variance in cyber-aggression when linear regression analysis was performed. Moreover, when other demographic variables, for instance, gender, ethnicity, employment, and, education were considered while performing a linear regression other than the permissive parenting style, a 40% variance in cyber-aggression was explained by all these factors together (excluding sexual orientation). The findings can help generate more detailed relevant research in the field of aggression based on the variables considered in the study

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