

ABSTRACT

AGGRESSION IN ADOLESCENT GROUPS: MALE STUDENTS IN URBAN JAMAICA

The main aim of this study is to measure the levels of aggression in adolescent boys attending selected secondary schools in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) and to determine whether living arrangements, affiliative need or the peer group influenced the level of aggression.

A survey was conducted in three schools in the Kingston 6 area, namely: Campion College, Jamaica College and Papine Secondary School. The sample chosen consisted of adolescent boys from 4th, 5th, and 6th forms. A total of 210 students were selected: 70 from each school.

The main finding is that the majority of the boys scored in the mid range on the aggression scale. A high proportion were involved in meaningful activities and were members of worthwhile groups with which they were proud to identify. Nevertheless, 16.3 per cent of the sample admitted to being members of gangs and had the highest aggression scores.

Keywords: Arlene Tera Patricia Ononaiwu; aggression; adolescents; school boys; urban Jamaica.