A Study on the Effects of Teenagers’ Social Environment Factors on Their Violent Behaviors

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to analyze the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors. For this study, a questionnaire survey was conducted for the teenagers living in Geoje City from Marcy 5 to May 31, 2014. For data analysis, an SPSS Win 18.0 program was used to perform statistical analysis. As a result, teenagers’ social environment factors were shown to have a significant effect on their violent behaviors. This study is greatly considered basic data to contribute to developing various programs to solve teenagers’ violent behaviors.

Keywords: Teenagers, social environment factors, violent behaviors

1 Introduction

As the family system in the modern era has shifted from a large family system to a nuclear system, there has been a tendency for the delinquent behaviors of teenagers to increase according to individualism due to permissive parents, materialism, achievement-oriented values, and increase of divorce rates. In particular, teenagers’ violence problem has emerged as one of the serious social issues. According to the data released by the National Statistics Office, main causes of teenagers’ suicidal urge were listed in the order of school records and careers (39.2%), family troubles (16.9%) in ages of 13 ~ 19, and it was found that the teenagers who considered committing suicide last year amounted to 11.2% [1]. Thus, this study was developed to determine the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors.

2 Theoretical Backgrounds

2.1 Necessity of Study

It was shown that teenagers’ negative human relationships affect their depression and suicidal urges, and that depression also affects their suicidal urges. Between teenagers’ human relationships and stress, depression and suicidal urge, it was shown that negative human relationships with their parents such as their parents’ violent words
and behaviors compared to those of other children, such getting angry with them frequently, severe punishment, etc. and negative human relationships with peer groups such as feeling a sense of alienation from not having enough friends, being rejected from friends, etc. affect teenagers’ suicidal urge [2]. There are few previous studies on the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors, even though many studies on the variables [3.4.5] which have affected their suicidal behaviors can be found easily. The previous studies that have been conducted until a recent date have concentrated on the analysis of teenagers’ suicide accidents, school violence, suicide behaviors, and psychological factors, and thus it is required that studies focus on the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors. Therefore, this study attempts to determine the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors.

2.2 Emerging Issues

First, what are the effects of teenagers’ socio-demographic characteristics on their violent behaviors?
Second, what are the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors?

3 Study Methods

3.1 Subjects

A questionnaire survey was conducted on the teenagers living in O City as subjects. Prior to the questionnaire survey, a detailed explanation was given to them with regards to the purpose and completion method of the questionnaire. Afterwards a total of 410 sheets of questionnaire other than those not returned or answered for some questions were used for statistical analysis.

3.2 Study Tool

The analysis was performed with a total of 54 questionnaires, such as 8 ones on socio-demographic characteristics, 26 ones on social environment factors, and 20 ones on crisis behavior factors. The results of the specific scales of each variable, factor analysis and reliability analysis are as follows. The socio-demographic characteristics were analyzed by correcting and supplementing the questionnaire by Hyun-Ok, Yoo [6]. Subjects were asked to answer after separating variables into sex, age, school record, family form, economic level, etc. Age was classified into “less than 13,” “between 13 and 15,” “between 16 and 18” and “more than 19.” The scale on the social environment was used by correcting and supplementing the questionnaire by Hyun-Ok, Yoo [6] into a five-point scale. Regarding the supports by adults around them and school atmosphere, 8 questionnaires were used for School Life Scale (SLS);
regarding the supports by friends, 5 were used for the supports by friends; and regarding the supports by teachers, 5 were used for the supports by teachers.

3.3 Study Methods

3.3.1 Data Analysis

The data was verified at the significance level of 5%, and statistical analysis was conducted using a SPSS Win 18.0 program. A reliability test was also conducted for each factor in order to secure reliability for testing hypothesis. The socio-demographic characteristics of the population were examined through frequency analysis, and an exploratory factor analysis was conducted in order to secure validity of the items measured by testing hypothesis. A consecutive analysis was conducted based on the factor scores deduced after performing the factor analysis to analyze a casual relationship between teenagers’ social environment factors and their violent behaviors.

4 Results of Analysis

4.1. Reliability analysis of the survey tools

In this study, Cronbach's $\alpha$ was used as a confidence coefficient to investigate the stability, consistency, and potential prediction on each item collected through the survey.

4.2. What are the socio-demographic characteristics of subjects?

Considering the socio-demographic characteristics of subjects, it was found that male subjects were greater in number than female subjects, and teenagers ‘between 16 and 18’ were the highest. Schools are listed in the order of ‘high school’ and then ‘middle school,’ and school records were shown to mainly distribute in middle and upper ranks. Furthermore, family forms were shown to have the highest position in the form of ‘living with parents.’

4.2. What are the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors?
The test results of independent variables’ significance on the effects of social environment factors on their violent behaviors show that the supports by friends are a significant independent variable. These results mean that violence has a significant effect depending on the degree of friend’s supports.

5 Discussion and Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to analyze the effects of teenagers’ social environment factors on their violent behaviors. The results of analysis show that teenagers’ social environment factors have an effect on their violent behaviors depending on the supports by friends. These results coincide with the study results by Yoon-Chae Noh, which argues that supports by friends emerge in the process of shaping peer groups in adolescence and they have a control effect of decreasing their depression and violent behaviors. The following recommendations can be made based on the above results. First, it was found that male subjects were greater in number than female subjects in sex, and teenagers ‘between 16 and 18’ were the highest. Schools are listed in the order of ‘high school’ and then ‘middle school,’ and school records were shown to mainly distribute in middle and upper ranks. Furthermore, family forms were shown to have the highest position in the form of ‘living with parents.’ These results show that the teenagers who live with their parents and have the school records in middle or upper ranks, are unlikely to be exposed to violence. Second, it was found that teenagers’ social environment has an effect on their violent behaviors and thus the teenagers who feel they have good friends who can support them are unlikely to be exposed to violence as a crisis behavior. Therefore, it is more required that various methods are sought for all teenagers to make close friends through the revitalization of clubs among classmates. It is also required that more consecutive studies on how differently crisis environment factors affect on teenagers’ violence and suicidal behaviors depending on personal factors should be presented in the future.

References

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