Title of Abstract: **The role of Self-Esteem and Gender on Aggression among Undergraduates in South Eastern Nigeria**

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Abstract

Statement of the Problem: Aggression takes a huge toll on individuals and society. It constitute sources of pain and psychological deficits to people and its consequences on both victims and perpetrators has been collateral. To minimize aggression, the search for its etiological factors is fundamental and the trajectory of this work is beamed on self-esteem and gender. Even though, a number of studies have struck a nexus between low self-esteem and aggression, research in this area in Nigeria is sparse. Again, while some researchers question the efficacy of self-esteem in predicting considerable outcomes for mental health and illness, others evince strong optimism on the value of self-esteem research. Also, gender appears to determine how undesirable behavior is expressed. The purpose of this study is to investigate the role of self-esteem and gender on aggression among Nigerian participants. Methodology and theoretical orientation: The general aggression model formed the theoretical fulcrum for the study since it factors in a number of person and situational variables implicated in aggression. The study involved questionnaire administration to 700 undergraduate students drawn from five universities in South- Eastern Nigeria using stratified random sampling method. Findings: Results showed that students with low self-esteem as well as females reported significantly higher levels of aggression than their counterparts. Also, self-esteem and gender had no significant interaction effect on aggression. Conclusion & Significance: This study has helpful significance for counselors and school psychologists for the control of aggression among students and youths. It is recommended that psychological methods of enhancing self-esteem be introduced into the school system for the reduction of aggression.



Biography

Leonard C Onwukwe completed his Ph.D in 2014 from the Department of Psychology, Imo State University, Owerri , Nigeria specializing in Clinical Psychology. He is a lecturer in the Department of Psychology of the above University and the coordinator of its postgraduate program. He has published articles in both local and International journals and has three books to his credit.

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