

Age and Gender Differences in Parent-Adolescent Conflict

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The current study was designed to investigate age and gender differences in parent adolescent conflict. It was hypothesized that there will be a significant effect of the parents' gender and adolescents' age on perceived conflict with parents. A sample comprised of 36 adolescents (males = 18, females = 18). Issues Checklist (Prinz et al., 1979) was used to assess adolescents' perceived conflict with their parent. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) revealed significant effect of adolescents' gender, age and parents' gender on adolescent perceived reported conflict. Results indicated that male adolescents reported more conflict with their parents as compared to female adolescents at early, middle and late adolescence. Further analysis indicated more prevalence of conflict at early adolescence among both genders. Female adolescents reported more conflict with fathers whereas male adolescents with their mothers. There seems to be a need to develop mutual understanding, enhancing relationships and collaborative problem solving for both parents and adolescents.

Keywords: parent-adolescent conflict, gender difference