

INFLUENCE OF PERSONALITY AND PEER GROUP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR

RESUMEN

Los comportamientos antinormativos en la adolescencia suponen una importante fuente de preocupación en nuestra sociedad. Es evidente que el origen de esta conducta es de carácter multicausal. No obstante, dos de los factores más importantes son la personalidad y el grupo de iguales.

Actualmente, el modelo de personalidad más aceptado es el Modelo de Cinco Factores (MCF; John, Naumann & Soto, 2008). La amabilidad y la responsabilidad son las dimensiones que juegan un papel más marcado en el desarrollo de las conductas antisociales (Jones et al., 2011).

Por otra parte, la variable social probablemente más importante es el grupo de iguales (Pratt et al., 2010). De acuerdo con el modelo de Influencia de Iguales (Vitaro et al., 2015), los comportamientos antinormativos se ven amplificados cuando una persona con disposiciones antisociales se encuentra en ambientes que favorecen estas conductas.

Se ha llevado a cabo un estudio con 465 participantes con edades comprendidas entre los 13 y 17 años a los que se les ha evaluado las distintas dimensiones de personalidad (JS-NEO), las conductas antisociales del grupo de iguales (DPS-UJI) y la propia conducta antisocial (Escala conducta antisocial de SENA).

En general, los resultados obtenidos son consistentes con la literatura revisada. Las dimensiones de personalidad extraversión, amabilidad y responsabilidad son las que juegan un papel más importante. También se encuentra que asociarse con un grupo de iguales con conductas antinormativas puede desencadenar en el surgimiento de estos comportamientos. Por último, se observan dos efectos sinérgicos: entre la responsabilidad y el grupo de iguales antinormativos y entre el sexo y el grupo de iguales.

Así, estos resultados pueden ser útiles para el desarrollo de nuevos programas de intervención para prevenir y disminuir las conductas antisociales en adolescentes.

Palabras Clave: conducta antisocial, personalidad, grupo de iguales, adolescencia, delincuencia.

ABSTRACT

Anti-normative behavior in adolescence is a major source of concern in our society. It is clear that the origin of this behavior has a multi-causal nature. However, two of the most important factors are personality and peer group.

Currently, the most accepted personality model is the Five-Factor Model (MCF; John, Naumann & Soto, 2008). Agreeableness and conscientiousness are the dimensions that play the most marked role in the development of antisocial behaviors (Jones et al, 2011).

On the other hand, probably the most important social variable is the peer group (Pratt et al., 2010). According to the Social Enhancement theory (Vitaro et al, 2015), anti-normative behaviors are amplified when a person with antisocial dispositions is in environments that favor this conduct.

A study has been carried out with 465 participants aged 13-17 years old who were assessed on the different personality dimensions (JS-NEO), the antisocial behavior of the peer group (DPS-UJI) and their own antisocial behavior (SENA antisocial behavior scale).

In general, the results obtained are consistent with the reviewed literature. The personality dimensions extraversion, agreeableness and conscientiousness play the most important role. It has also been found that associating with peers who engage in anti-normative behaviors can trigger the development of these behaviors. Finally, two synergistic effects are observed: between conscientiousness and the anti-normative peer group and between sex and the peer group.

Thus, these results may be useful for the development of new intervention programs to prevent and decrease antisocial behaviors in adolescents.

Keywords: antisocial behavior, personality, peer group, adolescence, delinquency.

INTRODUCTION

The origin of anti-normative behaviors is due to multiple causes (Rutter et al., 1997). Two of the most important factors are personality and the group of friends. Nowadays, the most accepted personality model is the Five Factor Model (FFM; John, Naumann & Soto, 2008). Low agreeableness and low conscientiousness are the dimensions that play a more important role in antisocial behaviors (Jones, Miller & Lynam, 2011). On the other hand, probably the most important social variable is the peer group (Pratt et al., 2010). Importantly, these two factors may act synergistically: having a greater number of friends who engage in anti-normative behaviors can affect one's own antisocial behavior mainly in people with anti-normative tendencies (Vitaro, Brendgen & Lacourse, 2015). Therefore, the aim of this work is to study the additive and interactive role played by the personality and the peer group in the development of antisocial behaviors.

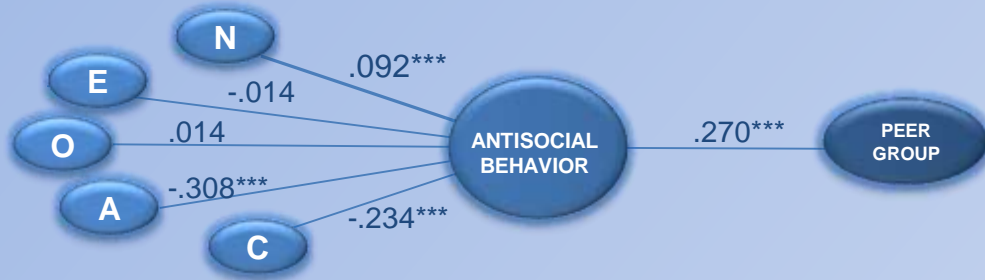
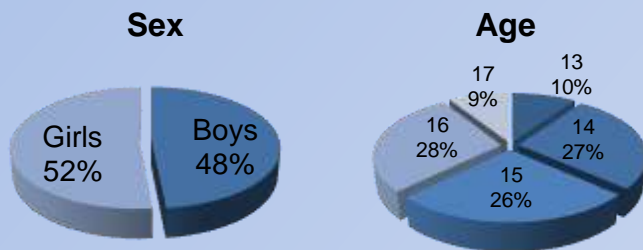


Figure 1. The association of personality and deviant peers in antisocial behavior, based on the meta-analysis of Jones et al., 2011 and Pratt et al., 2010.

HYPOTHESIS

- The most important personality dimensions will be agreeableness and conscientiousness.
- The group of friends with anti-normative behavior will also play a relevant role.
- Based on the “Social enhancement” theory (Vitaro, Brendgen & Lacourse, 2015), there will be an interaction effect between the personality and group of friends variables.

PARTICIPANTS



QUESTIONNAIRES

- DPS-UJI (Gallego et al., 2011): Evaluates anti-normative behavior of the participant's peer group.
- JS-NEO (Ortet et al., 2007): Assesses the five personality dimensions of the Five Factor Model (Costa & McCrae).
- SENA Antisocial behavior scale (Fernández-Pinto et al., 2015): Evaluates the participant's antisocial behavior.

RESULTS

		β	ΔR^2
1	Age	,126**	,030**
	Sex	-,117*	
2	N	,033	,157***
	E	,132**	
	O	,042	
	A	-,264***	
	C	-,173***	
3	DP	,506***	,376***
4	N x DP	,028	,401*
	E x DP	,022	
	O x DP	,023	
	A x DP	-,046	
	C x DP	-,086*	
	Age x DP	,051	
	Sex x DP	-,084*	

Table 1. Multiple Regression analysis for predicting antisocial behavior.

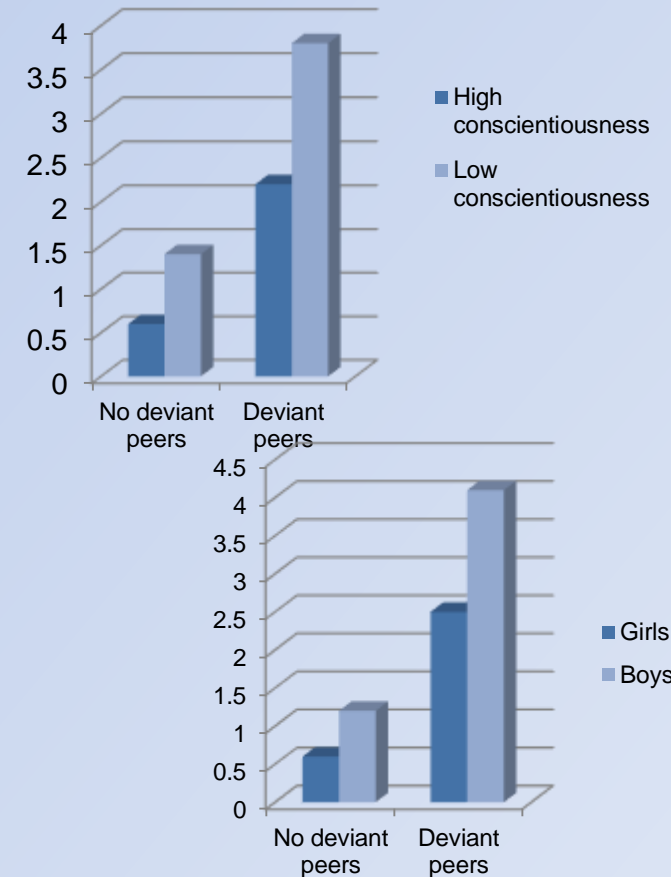


Figure 2. Interaction effects on antisocial behavior between peers and low conscientiousness (above) and peers and sex (below).

DISCUSSION

The results show the importance of both personal and social variables in the development of antisocial behavior. High extraversion, low agreeableness and low conscientiousness are the personal factors that are more associated with this conduct. On the other hand, having deviant peers is also a variable that predicts deviant behavior. Moreover, when combined low conscientiousness and deviant peers, a synergistic effect in these conducts is observed. We also found a similar moderation effect of sex in antisocial behavior: boys with deviant peers showed a greater impact on antisocial behavior than girls. These results may help in the development of personalized interventions and treatments for the prevention and reduction of antisocial behaviors in adolescents, especially when taking into account a gender perspective.

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