Relationship between anti-social behavior and stress perception of undergraduates: a case of government universities in the western province of Sri Lanka

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Anti-social behavior among students is a major national concern because students are strong enough to make noise against the government of the country. Though rates of malefaction are dropping overall, reports show that adolescent children are increasingly involved in deadlier malefaction, such as murder, rape, larceny and aggravated assault. It is reported by different kinds of media – radio, television and newspapers that bellicosity and aggression are perhaps the most prevalent forms of interaction between people in today's society. Anti-social behavior that learners exhibit in university because of stressful situations is a concern for everyone. Most learners are involved directly or indirectly in these situations. Stress perception is the feelings or noetic conceptions that an individual has about how much stress they are under at a given point in time or over a given duration. Objectives of the present research were to find out whether there is any significant relationship between different dimensions of anti-social behavior and stress perception of undergraduates in government universities in the Western Province of Sri Lanka and to find out whether there is any significant contribution of stress perception to the anti-social behavior of undergraduates in government universities in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The sample of the present research consisted of 836 first year undergraduates studying in public universities in the Western province of Sri Lanka. Random sampling method was used to decide the sample. The normative survey method was adopted to find out the relationship between stress perception and different dimensions of anti-social behavior of undergraduates. Findings revealed that there is a positive relationship between stress perception and different dimensions of anti-social behavior such as troublesome behavior, aggressive behavior, misbehavior, threatening behavior and total anti-social behavior. There is a significant contribution of stress perception to the anti-social behavior of undergraduates and it significantly related to the dependent variable anti-social behavior of undergraduates.

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