



## Perceived Effect of Moral Deficiency on Antisocial and Prosocial Behaviors Among Emerging Adults

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### ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study were to investigate the perceived effect of moral deficiency on antisocial and prosocial behaviors of emerging adults. Along with the demographic sheet (comprising of 3 items: age, gender, and education), three scales: moral deficiency scale (consisting of 15 items), anti-social scale (consisting of 20 items), and prosocial behavior scale (consisting of 16 items) were adopted to develop the research instrument (questionnaire) to collect the required data. Reliability of the items was assessed by Cronbach's Alpha. The reliability of the moral deficiency scale, anti-social scale, and prosocial scale were respectively, 0.9, 0.91, and 0.9. Targeted population for this research was consisted of 240 emerging adults enrolled in different educational institutes. Data were collected through applying multistage sampling technique. Descriptive analysis and tests of correlation, regression and t test was applied. Results highlighted that moral deficiency had negative weak impact on prosocial behavior. However, correlation coefficient between moral deficiency and anti-social behavior depicts showed strong positive relationship in emerging adults. There was not any noteworthy difference in moral deficiency between male and female. On the other hand, female adults possessed more prosocial behavior than male adults, while, male had more anti-social behaviors than female.



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## 1. Introduction

Individuals usually do not spend their lives in virtuous loneliness but surely nurture with specific ethical traditions (Reiss, 1999). The role of technology role in everyday life is also impacting society in pervasive manner while maintaining its upright position, both science and technology are being predisposed by culture. The hasty improvements in science and technology has added a paramount social difficulty and also fortify the importance of morals beliefs and integrity and its paybacks to people as well as the impact of immorality has its diverse effects on community. Abundance in gadget use has weekend the emotional bonding between families and peer intensely so, it is the need of the moment to understand the concept of moral deficiency and its role in anti-social and prosocial behaviors among emerging adults. To provide an insight among emerging adults to evaluate where they stand at the scale of moral deficiency and pro/anti-social behaviors so, they can rectify their behavior if needed or can enhance their prosocial behaviors with time and effort. Moral deficiency means lack of integrity, honesty, shame, guilt and lack of control. A falling short of an essential or desirable amount or number of moral values. The beliefs and concept about

what is wrong and what is right judging on certain parameters of morality is complicated due to cultural adversities among different societies (Hu, Horng, Teng, Chiou, & Yen, 2014).

In case of any moral instability or violence the individual is more likely to engage in compensatory behavior to reach a moral stability to relax his conscience. The better the proof of identity of the moral self, the greater the propensity towards moral preferences. The concepts 'morality' and 'ethics' have been used simultaneously in prior researches (Gregory-Smith, Smith, & Winklhofer, 2013; Haidt, Koller, & Dias, 1993; Karčić, 2015; Septiari, Helmayunita, Serly, & Sari, 2020; Sharma & Lal, 2020; Vitell & Muncy, 2005). According to Haidt et al. (1993), essentially 3 main ways to style morality have been discovered: principles of self-rule, ethics of communal, and ethics of spirituality. There are four suggestive wide-ranging concerns in moral deficiency associated events: Foremost is the ecological destruction, such as wastage of energy and water, non-environmental friendly goods and food wastage (Deumling, Poskanzer, & Meier, 2019; Ma, Bo, Li, Fang, & Cheng, 2019; van Geffen, van Herpen, Sijtsema, & van Trijp, 2020). Next is wildlife harmful ingestion, as intake of vanishing animals and hunting for leisure activities like sports (Hsiao, 2020). Another is physical and psychologically vicious, such as liquor and drug abuse and religious wrongdoing (Adhikari Baral & KC, 2019; Nobakht & Yngvar Dale, 2018; Waters, 2022).

Final one is industrial harm, as piracy, illegitimate downloads/sharing of copyright materials, fake luxuries, and unidentified risk-taking activities for profits (Komarova Loureiro et al., 2016; Pinto & Allui, 2020; Purwono, French, Eisenberg, & Christ, 2019). Individual-linked harm, such as the manipulations of females, children, and the underprivileged in casual domains of life (Longondjo Etambakonga & Roloff, 2020; Steele & Hernandez-Salazar, 2020). The 'sinners' and offenders attempt to comfort and defend, their moral deficiency through some forms of alternative behaviors. According to moral stability concept Biasucci and Prentice (2020), comparisons of one's model (moral) self with what who they actually are and do. When spoilage through unlawful acts happen to the ideal moral-self, one passionately want to attain or recompense it through moral actions, just adequate to take the self to an act to of a psychological steadiness point (Lee, 2018). Antisocial behavior is defined as "behavior of an individual which sources, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person" (Antisocial Behavior Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011). A behavior that is strongly responsible for lodging the basic rights of other humans. Generally there are varied factors of antisocial behaviors that are investigated by investigators (e.g., (Henggeler, 1997; Lipsey, 1992). Lipsey (1992) gave evidence about a meta-analysis in which he went through more than five hundred control and comparison group delinquency treatment studies. Conclusion was that the old-fashioned counseling which is being used frequently to mitigate antisocial behaviors such as psychotherapy, or case work (individual, family, group, vocational, etc.), and that some deterrent programs (e.g., shock incarceration) not only are not that much productive in fact also originates increased felony. Therefore, endeavors to get hard on criminals have been botched to lower the crime rate.

In youngsters' antisocial behaviors are often calculated inside and outside of conservatory. In respect of educational context, it is one of the furthestmost habitually examined harmful behaviors. Harassment is an inexcusable hostile conduct, considered by reappearance and supremacy inequity (Olweus, 1994), which on purpose oppress the individuals who are not able to guard their selves (Humphreys, Hawker, & Smith, 2002), automated devices are a big source of support for the purpose of cyberbullying (Olweus, 1994). Cyberspace permits wrongdoers to spread out the scope of their antisocial behavior yonder school to victimize others (Patchin & Hinduja, 2015). A significant amount of efforts are made by researches to make sure a strong correspondence amongst bullying and cyberbullying (Baldry, Farrington, & Sorrentino, 2017).. One of the heavy-duty risk factors for cyberbullying is bullying as stated by (Zych, Ortega-Ruiz, & Del Rey, 2015a) in a systematic review. With a single problem there arise other significant problems and simultaneously, individuals with one behavioral deficit appears to have another confounding abrupt behavior. Still most of the former researches have their interest centered to explore the association of bullying and other related criminal behaviors usually with one extra variable like drug abuse or aggressive behaviors. Yet target-delinquent overlap is one of the known facts in criminological research, and the lack is that discrimination and its impacts were hardly researched with one another while explaining the antisocial behavior' arrays.

Prosocial behavior is defined as "voluntary behavior aimed to help another" (Eisenberg, Spinrad, & Morris, 2013). It is categorized by acts of gentleness, empathy, and aiding behaviors, which many ponder to be one of the supreme qualities of human nature. Prosocial behaviors, or actions hinting to help others, are prefatory markers of adolescents' communal wellbeing, ethical satisfaction and overall performance (Eisenberg et al., 2013). Being considerate, bountiful, and supportive to others are kind of qualities that most parents want their children to possess. Civilizations has always profoundly value and cherish Prosocial arrangements in all domains like honorable criterions, positive social relationships, public synchronization, and collaboration (Carlo, Crockett, Randall, & Roesch, 2007; Colby, 1994). Apparently prosocial and anti-social behaviors are not parallel to each other and has a weak or inverse relationship, such as academic outcomes, physical health, and mental amendment, nervousness, despair (Chen et al., 2019; Jung & Schröder-Abé, 2019). Consequently, academics, instructors, experts, and representatives attracted to personality growth, nurturing fitness, and social well-being are prime domains to considerate the antecedents, development, and consequences of prosocial behaviors.

The extent to which researchers comprehend for the enlargement of prosocial behavior trunks from thought-evolving, moral socialization, and social cognitive theories (Eisenberg et al., 2013; Hoffman, 2008). An increase in trend to explore interactive qualities accompanying pubescent's prosocial behavior, personality abilities linked with dispositional propensities to become prosocial, and age associated preferences across adolescence. In accordance with conclusions obtained the compassionate and compassionate parenting is linked positively with prosocial behaviors, whereas controlling and uninvolved parenting weakens helping behavior (Carlo & Padilla-Walker, 2020). A high rate of helping behaviors have been observed among emerging adults who have good peer company (Stotsky, Bowker, & Etkin, 2020), while exposure to refusal in trust worthy friendships is associated with least preferred prosocial behaviors (Di Giunta et al., 2018). Furthermore, the exposure of social media among the new generation has its pros and cons. It is both good and bad in terms depending in which ways a person is using it (Coyne, Warburton, Essig, & Stockdale, 2018). Lastly, positively associated with prosocial behaviors are compassion, perception taking, moral reasoning, and moral values (Cassels, Chan, & Chung, 2010; Ongley & Malti, 2014).

The trends of prosocial behaviors to some extent are not that much presented from initial stages of age but when a person reaches to an age of maturity (Malti, McDonald, Rubin, Rose-Krasnor, & Booth-LaForce, 2015), and frequently remains to drop from early to middle adolescence, and recoil in late adolescence and during the transition to adulthood (Carlo et al., 2007). Thus, adolescence is a time where age-related fluctuations are so significant in prosocial actions and important relations to social engagement during this important period in the development of moral self (Hart & Carlo, 2005). Studies indicates that not all prosocial behaviors cannot be tested or lie on equal level as it might involve individual differences and a series of variant expertise like socio cognitive vs. socio emotive and precise associates might be associated with it. These issues are significantly affect while making an allowance for the amount of procedures used today (El Mallah, 2020) and the different ways in which prosocial behavior is abstracted (Silke, Brady, Boylan, & Dolan, 2018). Broad sort of acts are highlighted and determined by some vital sector of society and/or one's social group as largely expedient to other people by Prosocial behavior.

Moral deficiency in LS Penrose - Journal of Mental Science positions that a clear enlargement in the responsiveness of social psychologists in "morality" as a topic for experimental research throughout previous years have been detected. Far-off, indications that are stagnant over and over again quoted outmoded with respect of the experiments sheltered tending to focus on research subjects that are specific in nature (Bauman, McGraw, Bartels, & Warren, 2014). Moreover, a lot of scholars fathomed the judgments we make about the moral behaviors of other individuals and groups in our surroundings. Without any doubt these are dynamic research themes in their own perspective. But, role of the alertness of social psychological investigators in the topic of moral self, twigs that moral thinking and moral rulings of others are clasped to advise the agreements society make in their own moral behaviors. As an upshot, contemporary insights on moral reasoning and deficiencies abundantly connect to relatively abstract principles "fairness" that culture can assure to, as well as individual variances in which moral guidelines are authenticated by the societies. The real repercussions of these general doctrines for explicit circumstances remain less reflected.

A Logical Examination of Intrusions to Dull Moral Distress in Health Care Authorities has been well studied in Nursing populations (Morley, Bradbury-Jones, & Ives, 2020).

Most of the data instructs that it is allied with objective to leave high perspicacity areas and the employment deficiency. The aims of this systematic review were to: (a) distinguish and aspect at interventions customary to address moral distress experienced by health care professionals (b) inspection of the quality of the research methods and (c) report on the value of these interventions. Even though the aggregate amounts of research to discover the foundations and special effects of moral distress, there is constrained research on intermediations that diminish the negative effects of moral distress and prevent from achieving moral. Another study of the significance of moral deficiency role with relation to Moral Consumption Behavior of individuals or consumers has been calculated. The findings exhibit that the GPC of suppliers in extraordinarily tall moral deficiency group is greatly equated providers in low moral deficiency group and the mean difference between the two groups is statistically momentous. Also, the RPC of partakers in great moral deficiency group is advanced paralleled to participants in low moral deficiency group and the mean difference is statistically significant (Chairy & Syahrivar, 2020).

A study of global level on Pro/Antisocial Behavior among young adults has been piloted that ambitions to investigate aspects interconnected to psychosocial modification and prosocial and antisocial behavior during early adulthood. According to proven systematic evidence about emerging adults (Moffitt, 2017), early adulthood is a phase of life in which interpersonal roles revise, and a main period where beginning of desistance from crime and offending activities cases for the augmentation of criminal activity for changes in levels of criminal activity, are high. This period of time, therefore, is particularly important for behavioral changes and, in the case of divergent behaviors as these have a marvelous power which costs the society. As it has been evident in many studies that there are very inadequate studies that show an affiliation of antisocial behaviors with female samples as this study will comprise both male and female applicants, with a minimum gender ratio of 35% to 65%. A sequence of effective conclusions will be interpreted by giving productive information about relationship of antisocial behaviors in women.

Another research on longitudinal designs of antisocial behaviors in emerging youth: an underlying class and latent transition examination has been done and the statistics represents that different antisocial behaviors and persecution by both boys and girls are rooted who registered in primary and compulsory secondary education (Nasaescu, Zych, Ortega-Ruiz, Farrington, & Llorent, 2020). With very little rate of criminal behaviors of learners in school life predicts a tiny act of antisocial behaviors among them even after a year from school dismissal. This result is understandable with the integrated cognitive antisocial potential theory, which explains why these students do so and that is because their minimum exposure to anti-social behaviors and so, do not recurrently engage in unlawful acts irrespective of the background. But in some cases, students with low rate of criminal behaviors tend to engage in unlawful acts after school due to whatever reason.

The concern is that low levels of antisocial behaviors participation results robbery, ferocity, rank offences, drug addiction are frequent in population known as age restricted lawbreakers as these relates to context of age-crime curve are coherent with previous findings (Moffitt, 2017). On contrary, former researches have indicated that (Zych, Ortega-Ruiz, & Del Rey, 2015b) there is an evident possibility that affirmative regulation of schools can shield students from getting involved in different criminal activities and victimization. The matter of concern is that students who actively participate and kind of enjoy criminal acts like bullying or cyberbullying tend not to restrain these antisocial acts even after school or outside the educational institutes. These verdicts are comprehensible with both the ICAP theory and the classification of antisocial behaviors anticipated by (Moffitt, 2017). A very recent research on Increasing Prosocial Behavior Through Carrying Scout Activities also was conducted.

This research suggests that there is an escalation in prosocial behavior through booming boy scout events. The upshots of this study were protected by previous researchers viz. Lusiria and Yusra (2017), who quantified that caring boy scout exercise was very effective in enlightening adolescent prosocial behavior. A research based on the concept of Devouring minimum, providing maximum? Two Preregistered Duplications of the Relationship amid

Social Tutorial and Prosocial Behavior (Stamos, Lange, Huang, & Dewitte, 2020) was produced and the results show that in two extraordinary-powered and preregistered replication studies, we did not find resistant in support of the correlation between social class and prosocial behavior reported by Salim, Mohiya, and Sulphey (2020). Organizational Performance research discovered a significant positive relationship between the variables of Transformational Leadership, Prosocial Behavioral Intentions. Thus, all three null hypotheses set for the study were rejected. This is alike to the conclusions of (Mutahar, Rasli, & Al-Ghazali, 2015). The psychological aspects assist all business people to blossom (Salim et al., 2020) especially the alliance is positively correlated towards prosocial behavior, collectivism, and organizational performance and success (Salim et al., 2020).

### **1.1. Objectives for the study**

- To explore the perceived effect of moral deficiency among emerging adults.
- To find out the relationship between moral deficiency and antisocial behaviors of emerging adults.
- To find out the role of moral deficiency in developing prosocial behaviors among emerging adults.
- To find out the effect of gender on moral deficiency, anti-social behaviors, and prosocial behaviors among emerging adults.

### **1.2. Research Hypotheses**

- H1: There will be a positive relation between moral deficiency and antisocial behaviors among emerging adults.
- H2: There will be an inverse relationship between moral deficiency and prosocial behaviors among emerging adults.
- H3: There will be inverse relation between prosocial and antisocial behavior among emerging adults.
- H4: Moral deficiency will have negative predictive effect on prosocial behaviors among emerging adults.
- H5: Moral deficiency will have predictive effect on antisocial behaviors among emerging adults.
- H6: There will be a significant difference on moral deficiency, anti-social behavior and prosocial behavior across gender among emerging adults.

### **1.3. Significance of Study**

To the best of our knowledge the topic titled as "Perceived effect of Moral Deficiency on Pro and Anti-social behaviors among emerging adults" has not been researched together that's why it's a new topic we are curious to know about. The population chosen is in accordance with the nature of the topic as these variables can be understood by the emerging adults as they have the exposure in the society and mature enough to understand the meaning of the variables used in the study of future of any society. The conclusions of this study will redound to the improvement of society bearing in mind that moral deficiency plays an important role in developing and nurturing anti-social and prosocial behaviors among emerging adults will enable them to identify their deficiencies and will also get a chance to rectify their antisocial behaviors and alleviate prosocial behaviors among them. The greater demand for strengthening the moral character among youth and to examine the causes of increasing criminal behaviors now justifies the need for more research at the given variables. The study will help to unearth precarious areas in the psychological domain that many researchers were not able to explore for the investigator. Therefore, a new philosophy of awareness by proving the relationship of aforementioned research variables may be arrived at.

## **2. Data and Methodology**

This section includes the design of the study, population that has been used, instruments and procedure of collecting data, data analysis and ethical considerations. The data was gathered from different government and private educational institutes of Bahawalpur from both male and female students of age from 18 years till 29 years as per the age range of emerging adults defines by Arnett (2023). The information was gathered from male and female emerging adults of age 18 or above to the age limit of 29 years.

## 2.1. Operational Definitions of the Variables

Moral Deficiency: is defined as a series of cognitive processes used to disengage moral standards to achieve absolved guilt and permit immoral conduct.

Antisocial Behavior: can be defined as *a set of behaviors that infringe on the pre-established norms of co-existence* (Silva dos Santos, Carneiro Holanda, de Oliveira Meneses, Luengo, & Gomez-Fraguela, 2019).

Prosocial Behavior: pro-sociality is demarcated as a set of voluntary actions one may adopt to help, take care of assist or comfort others (Caprara & Steca, 2007).

## 2.2. Research Design

Cross sectional quantitative research design was used in the research. The present study is descriptive in nature. The data was gathered using a multistage sampling technique. Students of age 18 to 29 from various private and government educational institutes of Bahawalpur took part. Sample size was calculated taking into account the whole population. Instruments The instruments used were: Informed consent, Demographic sheet, Moral deficiency scale, Antisocial behavior scale, Prosocial behavior scale. It was consisted of the basic and important information required to facilitate the participant and to ensure them that the information they are providing will be kept confidential. The right of participation and withdraw was also ensured along with the provision of necessary guidelines to fill the questionnaire.

The demographic sheet consisted of three main variables like Age, Gender and educational Qualification of the participant. The reason behind the inclusion of these variable was that literature has markedly supported their tendency to affect the variables under study. The author of the scale is Syahrivar, Widyanto, and Wei (2021). The permission to use the scale was granted by the author through an Email. The Moral Deficiency Scale consists of 15 statements. The measure employs a 5-point Likert scale measuring the frequency that one committed an (im) moral act: 1 shows Never, 2 is objected to represent Rarely, 3 = Sometimes, 4 = Often, 5 = Always. The higher the score indicates high immorality. It consists of 15 items. The Scale reliability was as high as 0.9.

The scale was generated by Walberto S. Santos in 2019. The permission to use the scale was granted by the author through an Email. About interpretation norms, in our study we did not establish cutoff points, as the study aimed to test the proposed model. A version composed of 20 items was made by using a data reduction process of existing scale was used. The internal consistency of the scale was ( $\alpha = .91$ ). The scale is developed by Caprara and Steca (2007). The author accorded the permission to use the scale through email. The Cronbach's  $\alpha$  was .91. Participants evaluated following responses as (1 = never/almost never true 2 = occasionally true 3 = sometimes true 4 = often true, 5 = almost always/always true) their inclinations to ratify prosocial behaviors on the 16-item scale established by Caprara and Steca (2007).

## 2.3. Procedure

The selection of scales was done in accordance with the variables selected. With the author's consent, their developed scales were used. The population of emerging adults was chosen as they have the influence and exposure in the society and are easily able to give response by understanding the nature of the topic and the items provided. After obtaining participant's informed consent, a questionnaire was filled out by members of intended sample. The data acquired through the sampling was then entered into SPSS for statistical analysis. Required tests was performed on the data to achieve results of the study.

## 2.4. Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations have been made at different levels throughout the study. The permission to carry out the research was taken from the educational institute. The permission to use the respective scales needed for the study was taken from the authors. All participants

were given sizing information before they started taking part in the study. They were ensured of their right of withdrawal at any moment if they do not feel comfortable or for any other specific reason. The measure to ensure their privacy participants were made sure that their responses and any other personal information will be confidential through the informed consent. No manipulation was being carried out and the true depiction of results was shown. The study used quantitative procedures for statistics collection and data analysis. The data was examined using SPSS 20 version.

### 3. Results

This section is about analysis and interpretation of data. A questionnaire of five-point rating scale was developed to collect quantitative data. "Descriptive and inferential statistics" were used for analysis of the collected data from respondents. Mean, standard deviation, regression, correlation and independent t-test was calculated and presented in tabular form. The results are given below in following tables.

**Table 1: Demographic Information**

Demographic Information		f	Percentage
Gender	Male	109	45.4
	Female	130	54.5
Age	18	13	5.4
	19	23	9.6
	20	38	15.8
	21	47	19.6
	22	61	25.4
	23	29	12.1
	24	12	5.0
	25	4	1.7
	26	1	4
	27	3	1.3
	28	3	1.3
Qualifications	29	6	2.5
	Below graduation	29	12.1
	Graduation	67	27.9
	masters/BS Hons	135	56.3
	M.Phil.	4	1.7
	Doctoral degree	5	2.1

Table 1 illuminated demographic information about the respondents. The group statistics displays that 45.4% of the respondents were male and 54.5 were female. 5.4% of the respondents were 18, 9.6% were 19, 15.8% were 20, 19.6 were 21, 25.4% were 22, 12.1% were 23, 5 % were 24, 1.7% were 25 y, 4% were 26, 1.3% were 27, 1.3% were 28, 2.5% were 29 years old. However, 12.1% of the respondents were below graduation,27.9% were in graduation, 56.3% were studying in Master program,4% were in M.Phil and 5% of respondents were PhD scholars.

**Table 2: Relationship among Moral Deficiency, Prosocial and Anti-Social Behavior in Emerging Adults**

Variables	Moral Deficiency	Prosocial Behavior	Antisocial Behavior
Moral Deficiency	1	-.338**	.624**
Prosocial Behavior	-.338**	1	-.330**
Antisocial Behavior	.624**	-.330**	1
M	2.10	3.77	1.71
SD	.6845	.725	.783

Note: \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 2 articulates the matrix of Pearson’s correlation which reveals that there is weak relationship  $r = -.338$  at  $p < .000$  significance level between moral deficiency and prosocial behavior. This concludes that moral deficiency has negative weak impact on prosocial behavior. However, correlation coefficient between moral deficiency and antisocial behavior  $r = .624$  at  $p < .000$  depicts there is strong positive relationship among moral deficiency and

anti-social behavior in emerging adults. This provide empirical support that moral deficiency has strong impact on anti-social behaviors. Moreover, correlation statistics of prosocial behavior antisocial behavior. The final results  $r = -.330$  at  $p < .000$  concludes that there is negative weak relationship between prosocial and anti-social behaviors in emerging adults. This highlights that prosocial did not affect antisocial behaviors of adults.

**Table 3: Effect of Moral Deficiency on Prosocial Behaviors among Emerging adults**

Regression Weights	B	R <sup>2</sup>	F	t	p
MDS → PBS	-.338	.114	30.756	5.546	.000

Note:  $p < 0.05$ ; MDS= moral Deficiency, PBS= Prosocial behavior

The hypothesis tested if there will negative effect of moral deficiency on prosocial behaviors among emerging adults. The dependent variable prosocial behavior was regressed on predicting variable moral deficiency to test the hypothesis. The final results of MDS on PSB depicted Beta coefficient  $-.338$  indicates that there is a negative effect of MDS on PBS on  $F=30.756$ ,  $t$  value  $5.546$  at  $p < .000$ . This depicted that there is a negative impact of moral deficiency on prosocial behaviors among emerging adults. So, the H4 was accepted. Moreover, the  $R^2 = .114$  depicts that the model explains 11.4% variance on prosocial behavior.

**Table 4: Effect of Moral Deficiency on Anti-Social Behaviors among Emerging Adults**

Regression Weights	B	R <sup>2</sup>	F	T	P
MDS → ANSBS	.624	.390	151.993	12.329	.000

Note:  $p < 0.05$ ; MDS= moral Deficiency, ANSBS= Anti-social behavior

The hypothesis tested if, there will an effect of moral deficiency on anti-social behaviors among emerging adults. The dependent variable antisocial behavior was regressed on predicting variable moral deficiency to test the hypothesis. The final results of MDS on ANSBS depicted Beta coefficient  $.624$  indicates that there is a positive effect of MDS on ANSBS at  $F=151.993$ ,  $t$  value  $12.329$  at  $p < .000$ . This depicted that there is a significant impact of moral deficiency on antisocial behaviors among emerging adults. So, the H5 was accepted. Moreover, the  $R^2 = .392$  depicts that the model explains 39% variance on antisocial behavior of youth.

**Table 5: Difference among MDS, PBS and ASBS in Emerging youth.**

Variables	Gender	M	SD	T	P
MDS	Male	2.314	.7367	4.673	0.07
	Female	1.916	.5792		
PBS	Male	3.587	.7879	-3.792	0.01
	Female	3.933	.6233		
ASBS	Male	2.120	.8733	8.519	0.00
	Female	1.362	.4728		

Note:  $p < 0.05$  MDS= Moral deficiency, PBS= Prosocial development, ASBS=Anti-Social development

Table 5 shows empirical results of MDS, PBS and ASBS in emerging adults. The final results showed  $t$  value  $4.673$  was not significance at  $0.07 p > 0.05$ . for the MDS factor. This indicates that there was no significant difference between the groups. Both the groups did not have moral deficiency. The group statistics about PBS factor displayed  $t$  value  $3.792$  was significant at  $0.01 p < 0.05$ . This illuminated that there was a significant difference between the groups. It was concluded that female possessed more prosocial behaviors ( $M = 3.933$ ) than male ( $M = 3.587$ ). However, the final statistics of ASBS factors presented  $t$  value  $8.519$  was significant at  $0.00 p < 0.05$ . This concluded that there was a significant difference between the groups. Male have more anti-social behaviors ( $M = 2.120$ ) than female ( $M = 1.362$ ).

#### 4. Discussion

The major motivation behind the current research was to assess the perceived effect of moral deficiency on prosocial and anti-social behaviors among emerging adults. The foremost objective of the study was to examine the perceived effect of moral deficiency among emerging adults. It was observed that there is low moral deficiency and antisocial behaviors among emerging adults. Both male and female adults try their best not to do any illegal immoral activity. This study is lined up with the study conducted by a primary research



on longitudinal Forms of antisocial behaviors in early age has been done in which experimenters discovered that both genders registered in early years of education are actively involved in diverse rebellious behaviors and discrimination (Nasaescu et al., 2020). Conclusion advocated that those pupils who scored low on antisocial scales and had less moral instability were reported to retain this identity and didn't engage in criminal activities even a year later from school completion. his result is understandable with the integrated cognitive antisocial potential theory (DP, 2005) which explains why these students do so and that is because their minimum exposure to anti-social behaviors and so, do not recurrently engage in unlawful acts irrespective of the background. But in some cases students with low rate of criminal behaviors tend to engage in unlawful acts after school due to whatever reason.

The concern is that low levels of antisocial behaviors participation results robbery, ferocity, rank offences, drug addiction are frequent in population known as age restricted lawbreakers as these relates to context of age-crime curve are coherent with previous findings (Moffitt, 2017). On contrary, former researches have indicated that (Casas, Del Rey, & Ortega-Ruiz, 2013) there is an evident possibility that affirmative regulation of schools can shield students from getting involved in different criminal activities and victimization. The matter of concern is that students who actively participate and kind of enjoy criminal acts like bullying or cyberbullying tend not to restrain these antisocial acts even after school or outside the educational institutes. These verdicts are comprehensible with both the ICAP theory (DP, 2005) and the classification of antisocial behaviors anticipated by Moffitt (2017). The second goal of the investigation was to find out the association between moral deficiency and antisocial behaviors of emerging adults. The study concluded there is a strong positive relationship among Moral deficiency and Anti-social behavior in emerging adults as the moral deficiency has strong impact on anti-social behavior. A research also concluded that Global study on Prosocial and Antisocial Behavior among Young Adults has been executed that purposes to investigate reasons correlated to psychosocial modification and prosocial and antisocial behavior during initial adulthood. According to upheld and verified methodical evidence (DP, 2005; Moffitt, 2017), early adulthood is a phase of life where public roles alter, and is proven to be a main period for changes in levels of criminal activity, usually for the beginning of desistance from crime but in some cases for the augmentation of criminal activity. This period of time, hence, is particularly important for behavioral changes and, in the case of divergent conduct, has a marvelous power and bad outcomes for society.

The third objective of the study was to find out the role of moral deficiency in developing prosocial behaviors among emerging adults. It was observed that both male and female adults who did not have moral deficiency and anti-social behaviors possessed more prosocial behaviors. They feel pleasure to help others who are in trouble, willingly share their knowledge and strive hard to serve their society. The research also conducted a study on Growing Prosocial Behavior with the help of Carrying Scout Activities also was directed. An increase in prosocial behavior through carrying boy scout events was marked in the study. The results of this study were covered by previous researchers viz. Lusiria and Yusra (2017) who stated that caring boy scout training was very operative in refining adolescent prosocial behavior. The fourth and final aim of the study was to find out the effect of gender on moral deficiency, anti-social behaviors, and prosocial behaviors among emerging adults. It was analyzed that there is no effect of gender on moral deficiency, both male and female adults have low moral deficiency. While male are more antisocial than female as they are more short tempered. However, on the other side of the picture female adults possessed more prosocial behaviors and find pleasure to help others. These findings are supported by the findings of Responsiveness, sex, and prosocial behaviors which narrates that numerous economic studies that show that after shoving to induce situational responsiveness, women make more prosocial decisions than men (Czap, Czap, Burbach, & Lynne, 2014; van Geffen et al., 2020).

## **5. Conclusion**

A contemporary research was piloted to analyze the perceived effect of Moral Deficiency on Anti-social and Prosocial Behaviors among Emerging Adults. The objectives of the study were "To investigate the perceived effect of moral deficiency among emerging adults", "To find out the relationship between moral deficiency and antisocial behaviors of emerging adults", "To find out the role of moral deficiency in developing prosocial behaviors among emerging adults", "To find out the effect of gender on moral deficiency, anti-social behaviors, and prosocial behaviors among emerging adults". To collect required data 3 scales

by the scale authors; Moral Deficiency by Jhanghiz Syahrivar, Anti-Social scale by Walberto S. Santos, and Prosocial Behavior scale by Gianvittorio caprara were adopted. The questionnaire was consisted of 2 sections. The first section was consisted of Demographic sheet of 3 items age, gender and qualification, 2<sup>nd</sup> was of Moral deficiency scale consisting of 15 items, prosocial scale consisting of 16 items and antisocial scale consisting of 20 items. Tool reliability was assessed by Cronbach's Alpha. The reliability of Moral deficiency scale was as high as 0.9. The reliability of Anti-social scale was .91. The reliability of prosocial scale was also .9. Total population was consisted of 240 emerging adults enrolled in different educational institutes through multistage sampling technique. Questionnaire was distributed personally by the research. After data collection data was analyzed by using SPSS 20. Descriptive analysis and tests of correlation, regression and t test was applied. Findings and results were presented in tabular forms.

### 5.1. Policy Suggestions

Several policy ideas can be made to address the concerns linked to moral deficit, prosocial behavior, and antisocial behavior among emerging adults.

- Comprehensive programs of moral education should be implemented in educational institutions such as schools and colleges.
- Community workshops and seminars that are centered on moral education and practices that are beneficial to others should be organized.
- It is important to have mechanisms in educational institutions and communities that can recognize and reward individuals who exhibit prosocial actions.
- The development and implementation of behavioral intervention programs with the goal of reducing antisocial behaviors is the focus of this project.
- Instead of focusing on punishing individuals for antisocial behaviours, restorative justice programs should be implemented.
- Because males demonstrate higher levels of antisocial conduct, it is important to develop targeted support programs that cater to the particular requirements and difficulties that young men confront.

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