

## TEEN DATING AND VIOLENCE : SUGGESTED SOLUTION UNDERSTOOD FROM THE NOVELS OF PAUL ZINDEL

**SHEELA V.**

Research Scholar (Ph. D.)  
Bharathiyar University Coimbatore  
Asst. Professor, Department of English,  
Arunai Engineering College,  
Tiruvannamalai. TN (INDIA)

**DR. MOHAMED RAFEE**

Associate Professor  
& Research Guide  
Mazharul Uloom College  
Ambur 635802.TN (INDIA)

### ABSTRACT

*Teenage is the age between the transition of childhood to young adolescence. This is the phase where the young adults needs identity and freedom from their parents and society in which they fought for their individuality. This may leads to negative aspects of tragic flaw in their life sometimes with negative peer pressure, alineated from peers and society. At this age they show interst with peers they follow them and listen to them, they give importance to their psychic. Abuse is another important thing they face. Paul zindel, an american playwright deals with the issues of teenagers especially teenage pergnancy, teen dating ,drinking, violence and so on. From the novels of Paul zindel young adults will get help to cope with the problems of their self identity, abuse and teen issues. Solutions for the problems are understood from the novels of Paul zindel are investigated in this paper.*

**Key Words** - Young adolescence, Teenage pegnancy, Teen violence, Teen.

### INTRODUCTION:

Young Adulthood (YA) is the period of transition between childhood and adult life. It is one of the dynamic stages of human life. It has been characterized as a period of physical, social and emotional changes. YA is a part of an every individual to face challenges in their life to struggle with families, healthy professionals and their communities. According to Kimmel and Weiner; Elden; 1975 YA is common to equate adolescence with teen years from 13-19, a concept also used in some scholarly work including democratic studies that easily identified that the begining of adolescence to be defined by biological milestone such as the begining of

puberty, to some extent adolescence is also being defined by pattern of middle schooling in U.S in which adolescence starts at middle school and perhaps ends upon the completion of high school. YA is a phase of changes in basic thinking structures and brain development. They also face biological and social changes along with environmental flexibility. YA undergo physical and emotional changes when they enter into puberty. Many teens are very self-conscious because they experience changes not only in shape and size but also in the growth of pubic and underarm hair. For girls changes include the development of breast and the start of menstruation. The rate of physical growth and development take place in YA life that at age of 11 year. A 11 year old girl reached puberty will have different interest than a girl who doesn't do so until she is 14. It is the period after puberty and fulfilling the cultural expectation around adult roles like financial independence and family formation. They will have more complex thinking, diverse views and decision making behaviour. Third Later adolescence is the age of 20's and older. It is a period of powerful changes which continues after YA. It is a phase which leads to communicate with sophisticated thoughts and behaviour that is more complex than that of YA. After the mid of 20's is somehow mature that gives representation on their ability to organize and to evaluate themselves by doing things independently by their will and wish.

#### **CAUSE AND IMPACT ON TEEN VIOLENCE:**

It is crucial to discuss with students the causes and impact of teen violence in order to examine whether literature portrays violence realistically. Just as there are numerous types of violence, many factors could potentially lead someone to commit a violent act. Different types of violence have different origins. For instance, a teen struggling with depression may be more likely to attempt suicide, while someone who is angry may act out against others. "family breakdown, sexuality, body imagery (anorexia, bulimia, obesity), and social, school, and peer pressures" as factors that complicate teenage life, possibly leading to teens wishing for a way out. Interestingly, she notes that experts warn that public fear of antidepressants may be causing teens not to get the medication they need, ultimately leading to higher suicide rates. causes of anger, the main one being stress caused by too many commitments (homework, home obligations, school activities). All of these expectations cause pressure to build up in teenagers. Another source of anger can be low self-esteem. If books show us the world, teen fiction can be like a hall of fun-house mirrors, constantly reflecting back hideously distorted portrayals of what life is. There are of course exceptions, but a careless young reader—or one who seeks out depravity—will find himself surrounded by images not of joy or beauty but of damage, brutality and losses of the most horrendous kinds. Now, whether we care if adolescents spend their time immersed in ugliness probably depends on your philosophical outlook. Reading about homicide doesn't turn a man into a murderer; reading about cheating on exams won't make a kid break the honor code. But the calculus that many parents make is less crude than that: It has to do with a child's happiness, moral development and tenderness of heart. Entertainment does not merely gratify taste, after all,

but creates it. Paul Zindel novels 'I never loved your mind', 'Pardon me you're stepping on my eye ball' helps teenagers to cope up with the issues like teen dating and teen violence.

### **OBJECTIVE OF TEEN DATING AND VIOLENCE:**

Conserving measures of teen dating violence include

- Expression of physical aggression
- Expression of sexual aggression.

Most studies of teen dating violence measure it by prevalence by self-reporting. Females are likely to report dating violence more than males. Broader measures of teen dating violence include experience of both verbal and psychological and sexual aggressions. Social factors include sexism and violence in the media, gender stereotyping and inequity, peer pressure, pressure on teens to date, aspects of student "lifestyles".

### **SIGNS OF TEEN DATING:**

The patterns and signs of teen dating violence tend to mirror those exhibited in adult abusive relationships. In both cases, there is often a pattern of repeated violence that escalates over time, a pattern of abusive behavior followed by apologies and promises to change, and an increased risk of violence when the abused partner decides to leave the relationship.<sup>6</sup> Also, abusive boys, like men, tend to isolate their partner from friends and family, equate possessiveness and jealousy with love, and use their social status to establish control over their partner. Verbal or emotional abuse involves someone saying or doing something to their dating partner that causes the person to feel afraid and/or develop a reduced sense of self-esteem or self-worth. Verbal or emotional abuse involves one person trying to control their partner's feelings or behaviors. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Name-calling and put-downs
- Yelling and screaming
- Embarrassing the person in front of others
- Intimidation
- Spreading negative rumors about the person
- Preventing the person from seeing their friends or family
- Threatening violence or harm
- Telling the person what to do
- Making racial slurs about the person
- Making the person feel responsible for the abuse/violence

Sexual abuse involves any sexual behavior that is unwanted or interferes with the other person's right to say "no" to sexual advances. Example of sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to:

- Unwanted kissing or touching
- Forcing someone to go further sexually than they want to
- Unwanted rough or violent sexual activity
- Date rape
- Not letting someone use birth control
- Not letting someone use protection against sexually transmitted diseases .

The use of these technological devices to control and abuse dating partners intensifies the relentlessness of abuse as abusers can have access to their dating partner twenty-four hours a day, even when they are not physically together. A recent survey of over 5,500 teens found that only four percent of teens experience digital abuse and harassment alone. That is, digital abuse is rarely the only type of abuse in an abusive dating relationship, but rather provides abusers with an additional tool. It would seem, however, that this "new tool" is commonly used in abusive relationship as the survey found that victims of digital abuse and harassment are two times as likely to be physically abused, 2.5 times more likely to be psychologically abused, and five times as likely to be sexually coerced than those who reported not experiencing digital abuse. Nearly 25 percent of teens in same-sex relationships report some type of dating abuse.<sup>40</sup> This statistic is comparable to the percentage of teens that experience dating abuse in opposite-sex relationships. As in opposite-sex relationships, dating violence in same-sex relationships is a systematic pattern of behavior in which one teen tries, through verbal, physical and/or sexual means, to control the thoughts, beliefs and/or conduct of their dating partner.

### **CONCLUSION :**

Evidence suggests that patterns of teen dating violence and victimization that develop during early adolescence can already be difficult to reverse by late adolescence.<sup>78</sup> However, studies show that it is possible to change such attitudes and behaviors, especially if teen dating violence prevention and intervention programs are implemented in a social context, especially within school settings. School-based teen dating violence prevention programs are vitally important in that they have the ability to address the issue directly with teens, and to offer and promote positive alternatives to violence, as well as to the gender-based beliefs that can lead to violence against women.<sup>82</sup> Impact studies of school-based dating violence prevention programs increasingly provide evidence that programs deliberately addressing underlying gender norms and notions of masculinity are particularly effective in creating positive changes in the gender-based attitudes and behaviors of boys and young men—thus potentially reducing the chances of abusive teen dating relationship . In bringing boys and



men into the equation, advocates of this approach emphasize that it is not their intention to create an either/or argument of whether time and resources should be spend to engage males in redressing gender equalities, versus working directly with girls and women to empower them and make sure they have the support services they need.85 Advocates are adamant that both need to happen simultaneously; for efforts to change male attitudes and behaviors that condone, or engage in, violence against women and girls will not be fully successful without the active in boys and girls. From the novels of Paul Zindel the teenage problems are exposed and suggested measures are potryas in efficient ways.

## REFERENCES

Zindel Paul: I NEVER LOVED YOUR MIND , Harper and Row publisher.

\_\_ \_\_ : Pardon me youre stepping on my eye ball, Harper and Row publisher.

Soropist International Journal of America- May 2008 Issue.