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THE INVESTIGATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NARCISSISM, EXTRAVERSION AND AGGRESSION IN YOUNG GIRLS OF KARAJ (IRAN)

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ABSTRACT

The present study seeks to investigate the relation between narcissism, extraversion and aggression of young girls of Karaj. The statistical population of this study included all young girls of Karaj city in 2013 of which 100 subjects were randomly selected as the statistical sample of this study. The instrument used in this study includes Buss and Perry aggression scale (1992), narcissism scale (2006) and Eysenck personality scale (1965). Testing of research hypothesis was done through Pearson correlation and regression methods in meaningful level of 0.05. The obtained results showed that there is positive significant relation between narcissism, extraversion and aggression.

Keywords: *Narcissism, Extraversion, Aggression*

INTRODUCTION

Considering the personality dimensions of individuals is one category that can help individuals in achieving efficiency and its ignorance leads to failure to achieve desired efficiency. Psychologists have defined personality in different ways. Some consider it just in relation with the observable behaviors and some others consider it as including introversion related communication. There are also psychologists who consider it as individual collection of thought, motivation and emotion patterns. Young believed that human beings show two different orientations in their communication which includes extraversion and introversion. These types are inherent attributes which are modifiable in life course (Russ 1994; translated by Jamalfar, 2013). The introvert individual is usually focused on internal and mental factors and is influenced by them. Undoubtedly, he observes the external situation; however, his inner and mental factors have priority and advantage and govern his behavior (Karimi, 2005). Introvert individual is doubtful, thinking and careful. He is inclined toward outside world and is socially engaged and active (Pervin and John, 2002; translated by Javadi and Kadivar, 2002).

When personality traits are inflexible and incompatible, they lead to significant disorder in function or mental disturbance of individuals and in this way, personality disorders happen. A personality disorder is a stable pattern of behavior and inner experience, which is in conflict with cultural exportation; it is pervasive, inflexible and stable in time and leads to disorder or distress (Sadok, 2007; translated by Rezaei, 2008).

Narcissism is one of the personality disorders and is usually considered as an important and complex trait which includes grandiose and brittle self, emotional engagement to success and incline toward receiving respect from others (Ames *et al.*, 2006). Narcissistic individuals like to increase their respect through dominance over others, distrust to others, stigmatization and devaluation of those who threat his sense of superiority (Ogrodniczuk *et al.*, 2009). Furthermore, to regulate his respect, he uses inner personal mechanism and interpersonal strategies (Zigler *et al.*, 2010). They use aggression as an instrument to achieve respect and compensate for others' contempt (Baumeister *et al.*, 2003). The researchers have reported that from different personality types, narcissism has strong relation with aggression (Slater, 2002). Some researchers have expressed the relation between incompatible narcissism and aggression through threatened vainglorious. Based on this theory, the function of aggressive responses, preserving unreal desired perception about self is done through rejecting negative received information from an external source (Washburn *et al.*, 2004). Barry *et al.*, (2009) believes that incompatible narcissism is different from compatible narcissism since incompatible narcissism is related to behavioral problems,

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aggression and inclemency. The studies have shown that incompatible narcissism has strong correlation with social incompatibility (Perry *et al.*, 2009), grandiose, power seeking and low self-valuation (Cramer and Jones, 2008). The results of Peyvaste *et al.*, (2011) indicated that there is positive meaningful correlation between compatible narcissism and self-esteem, incompatible narcissism and aggression. Furthermore, there is meaningful difference between narcissism, self-esteem and aggression of girls in three stages (first, mid and end of adolescence).

The results of Barthelme and Lounsbury (2009) showed that there is meaningful relation between five personality traits and aggression. There is meaningful negative relation between conscientiousness, openness, extraversion and agreeableness and the aggression, and meaningful positive relation between neurosis and aggression. Furthermore, Jensen-Campbell *et al.*, (2006) carried out a survey investigating the relation between personality features and aggression of athletes from various selected sport fields. The results showed that there is meaningful negative relation between consciousness and openness and aggression. Furthermore, low positive relation was observed between desirability, consciousness and aggression when the consciousness was low.

Concerning related literature on this subject that indicates the presence of relation between narcissism and personality dimensions and aggression in various statistical communities and the significance of the effect of aggression on personality, social relation and youth success, the present study has been designed to investigate these variables in young girl's statistical community. It seeks to answer the question that is there any relation between narcissism and extraversion and aggression in young girls of Karaj?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is a correlation study. The population includes all young girls of Karaj city in 2013 from which 100 individuals were selected as statistical sample through simple random sampling. The sample size was determined through estimated method; i.e. the researcher determined a certain percent of statistical sample to obtain the sample size concerning time and limitations of this study including gender limitation. The instruments used in this study are:

Buss & Perry Aggression Scale: To measure aggression, Buss & Perry aggression scale was used with 29 items which measures four components of aggressive behavior such as physical and verbal aggression, wrath and hostility. In investigating reliability through retest method on 37 individuals, after nine weeks, the correlation coefficients of 0.80, 0.76, 0.72 and 0.72 were respectively obtained for physical and verbal aggression, wrath and hostility (Buss and Perry, 1992). In Iran, Cronbach's Alpha for aggression questionnaire was obtained about 0.89 and its retest validity was obtained 0.80 (Pour, 2009). The questionnaire is scored in form of 5-point Likert scale.

Narcissistic Personality Questionnaire: To measure narcissism, narcissistic personality scale was used. This is the summarized version of Raskin and Teri (1998; quoted from Mohammad, 2009) with 40 items and has been constructed in non-clinical group by Ams *et al.*, (2006) to measure related traits to narcissistic personality. This questionnaire includes 16 items, lacks subscale and evaluates narcissism based on one-dimensional approach. Each item of this questionnaire includes two opposite options which the individuals should select one. Responding to first option has score of 1 and response to second option has the score 0. The total score of this questionnaire is from 0 to 16. Higher score in this questionnaire indicates higher narcissism. The retest reliability coefficient reported by test constructors is 0.85 and this questionnaire has high validity with main version. In Iran, the retest reliability coefficient, correlation coefficient for determining bisection reliability and Cronbach Alpha coefficient for measuring internal congruency of this questionnaire have been obtained as 0.84, 0.74 and 0.79 (Mohammad, 2009).

Eysenck Personality Scale: One of the personality scales is Eysenck personality questionnaire. Eysenck started performing activity in testing from 1974 and considered two main components of extraversion and Neuroticism personality evaluation. In 1952, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973, he made some changes in his tests and entered discrete psychotherapy and lying in his questionnaire. There are various forms of Eysenck questionnaire including kids and teens form and revised adults form (Fathi, 2013). The questions are *yes/no* questions. The test includes 57 items which require 10-15 minutes. The

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reliability coefficients of retest reported by main constructors of the test are numbers between minimum 0.76 for neurosis and maximum 0.90 for extraversion (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1991). Its validity has been reported as 48% to 86% through retest.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

In this study, the education level of young girls has been 8% diploma, 2% AA, 68% MA and 22% BA. Furthermore, 63% of girls are single and 37% are married. Moreover, the sample includes 31% of 17-20 years old, 42% of 20-23 years old, 17% of 23-26 years old, 9% of 26-29 years old and 1% of 29-32 years old.

Table 1: Pearson correlation between narcissism and aggression

		Narcissism	Aggression
Narcissism	Pearson correlation	1	0.820
	Meaningfulness	-	0.01
	Number	100	100
Aggression	Pearson correlation	0.820	1
	Meaningfulness	0.01	-
	Number	100	100

The results of Pearson correlation coefficient in table1 show that the correlation of narcissism and aggression is 0.82, which is statistically meaningful in below 0.01 and this relation is direct and positive.

Table 2: Pearson correlation between extraversion and aggression

		Narcissism	Aggression
Extraversion	Pearson correlation	1	0.795
	Meaningfulness	-	0.01
	Number	100	100
Aggression	Pearson correlation	0.795	1
	Meaningfulness	0.01	-
	Number	100	100

The results of Pearson correlation coefficient in table2 show that the correlation of extraversion and aggression is 0.795, which is statistically meaningful in below 0.01 and this relation is direct and positive.

Table 3: Regression analysis

Model	R	R ²	Revised R ²	Estimation standard error	Sig
1	0.820	0.673	0.670	18.924	P<0.01
2	0.875	0.766	0.761	16.092	P<0.01

The results of step-by-step multivariate regression analysis show that obtained R= 0.820 is meaningful with F= 201.716 and P<0.01 in reliability level of 99%. It means that by 99% reliability, it can be concluded that extraversion and narcissism are good predictive for aggression.

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Table 4: Regression analysis

Index	Unstandardized coefficients B	Standardized coefficient Estimation β standard	t	Sig	
Narcissism	6.630	0.467	0.820	14.203	P<0.01
Narcissism	4.173	0.561	0.516	7.442	P<0.01
Extraversion	0.966	0.156	0.431	6.207	

The data of the above table shows that narcissism (Beta= 0.820, t= 14.203 and P< 0.01) has higher meaningfulness share on aggression in comparison with extraversion (Beta= 0.431, t= 6.207 and P<0.01). Moreover, narcissism and extraversion have higher meaningfulness and significance for aggression.

Discussion

The present study has been done with the aim of investigating narcissism and extraversion and aggression in young girls of Karaj. The results of data analysis showed that there is meaningful positive relation between narcissism and aggression.

It means that the narcissistic individuals show higher aggression. Sullivan and Geaslin (2001) showed that those individuals who obtain higher scores in narcissistic personality test are dominating, selfish, self-oriented and extremist and these attributes can probably make high narcissistic individuals commit aggressive behavior as a good act. Aggression happens when the selfish and unreal attitudes about self and unstable believes about individual superiority are threatened.

For explaining this conclusion, it can be argued that since narcissistic individuals are grandiose and have very positive attitude toward self, they are sensitive against criticism and like to be focused and confirmed by others; thus, when others contradict these attributes, the aggression will be motivated in these individuals.

Furthermore, Baumeister *et al.*, (2003) indicated that narcissistic individuals are susceptible to aggression since they believe that they have better human attributes than others and the more they perceive themselves by their desired attributes, the probability of aggression is higher in them. This finding confirms those theories which consider narcissism related to aggression (Morf and Rhodewalt, 2001). Moreover, they are in line with the results obtained from similar studies in this area (Barry, 2009; Ang and Yusof, 2005; Basak *et al.*, 2009; Sha'bani *et al.*, 2006). Presenting narcissism in youth is multivariate. In one aspect, it can be incompatible and hidden, manifest itself in form of high sensitivity to others and increase of anxiety in social situations. On the other hand, it can be compatible when in it leads to competency in individuals (Hill and Lapsley, 2010).

On the other hand, the results of this study showed meaningful positive relation between extraversion and aggression of young girls and it shows that the probability of showing aggressive behavior is more in extrovert individuals. Extrovert individuals might prefer to use aggressive behavior and reactions which don't lead to preserving and continuance of social relations due to their inclines toward collectivism concerning their mental schemas.

In Soga, Shimai and Otake (2002) study, the results indicated that there is meaningful positive relation between narcissism and extraversion and aggression and negative relation between consciousness, agreeability and openness to experience and aggression in teens.

The results are in line with the results of Shabani (2006), Nasri and Damavandi (2006), Sogav *et al.*, (2002) and contradict with the results obtained from Barselmi *et al.*, (2009). The reason for contradiction might be difference between the specification of population and statistical sample of the study. The findings of this study have main applications for prevention and intervention activities with aggressive individuals.

In sum, the results of this study can be theoretically and clinically beneficial in better understanding of the relation between narcissism, extroversion and aggression in teens.

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