

EXPLORING EMPATHY IN THE CONTEXT OF A PSYCHOBIOLOGICAL MODEL OF TEMPERAMENT AND CHARACTER: A STUDY ON COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Empathy refers to the reactions of one to the observed experiences of another. It is an essential skill for building human relationships and social interaction. The relationship of empathy with personality traits/ factors has been explored by researchers. However, the association that empathy might have with temperament and character remains unexplored. It is an important question since temperament is the biologically based component of personality which appears earlier and thus answer to this question may have important implications. To explore this question, the researchers conducted product moment correlations and hierarchical multiple regression on the data obtained from 200 undergraduate college students (age 19 to 22 years). Results suggest that self-directedness and cooperation along with reward dependence play a significant role in empathetic behavior.

KEYWORDS: Empathy, Temperament & Character.

BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS IN URBAN AND RURAL SCHOOL

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Objectives : To determine the magnitude of behavioural and emotional problems in school going children and to find out it's relation with socio-demographic factors.

Methods : Childhood Psychopathology Measurement Schedule (CPMS) of Malhotra.S. and socio-demographic schedule were administered to the parents of 1400 children of the age group 4-14 years in rural and urban school.

Results : The cut-off point of CPMS score was used for classification. Behavioral and Emotional problems were significantly higher in boys (21.5%) than girls (14%). Significantly higher prevalence of behavioural and emotional problems were observed in urban children, children reared in nuclear families and poor socio-economic status. Significant association was also found in children of alcohol abused father & children with family history of mental illness.

Conclusion : Findings suggest that improving socio-economic condition, controlling alcoholism, creating awareness among parents about mental illness of their children could help in reducing behavioural and emotional problems of children.

KEYWORDS: School going children , CPMS, Behavioral & Emotional Problem.

ADAPTING INSTRUMENTS FOR MEASURING EXPERIENCED STIGMA, SELF ESTEEM AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION-RESTRICTIONS OF BENGALI SPEAKING LEPROSY PATIENTS IN WEST BENGAL.

Mehnaaz Siddiqi, Paromita Ghosh & Purba Chattopadhyay

The aim of the present study is to translate and standardize instruments assessing experienced stigma, self esteem and social participation-restrictions of Leprosy patients. Initially, original English versions of Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue, Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness scale, Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale and Participation Scale were translated. Then draft Bengali translations were submitted to three experts for evaluation. The experts independently rated the translations on five-point scales. Experts' suggestions were noted. Accordingly, some alterations were made in the draft translated instruments. Kendall's tau-b Coefficients were computed and Binomial Test was conducted to assess the degree of agreement among experts' ratings. Translated versions of the instruments were administered on a random sample of 150 Leprosy patients (37 women; 113 men aged 18-75 years) of different areas of West Bengal who were native-speakers of Bengali language. Scoring was followed by data-

analysis. Analysis of experts' ratings showed feeble agreement / disagreement regarding adequacy of translated Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue, Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness scale and Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale. For translated Participation Scale, similar trend of ratings emerged across experts. High and significant internal consistency; and adequate construct validity of the translated / adapted instruments were manifest. Provisional norms were constructed.

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN COPING STRATEGIES OF PRIMARY CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH MENTALLY CHALLENGE-A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Indrabhushan Kumar

This study was carried out to find out gender differences in coping strategies of primary care givers of persons with mentally challenge. Thirty six primary caregivers of persons with mentally challenge were assessed using Ways of Coping Test Booklet (Folkman and Lazarus, 1984). The statistical analysis was done using t test. Result revealed that female primary caregivers of persons with mentally challenge scored significantly higher than male primary caregivers of persons with mentally challenge in planful problem solving. It is concluded that female caregivers cope with planful problem solving. Female primary caregivers are focussed on efforts to alter the situation, coupled with an analytic approach to solving the problem.

KEYWORDS : Mentally Challenge, Coping Strategies, Primary Caregivers.

Predicting Adult's Attitude Towards Family Planning Based on Attitude Towards Marriage and Religion : Does Gender Play A Part?

Manjistha Banerjee & Paromita Ghosh

The investigation aimed to find out whether the gender of adults casts any influence on their attitude towards family planning as predicted by their attitude towards marriage and religion. Three random samples of 100 participants (50 males, 50 females) each aged 25 to 30 years, 45 to 50 years, and 65 to 70 years respectively residing in Kolkata were selected. Family Planning and Birth Control Attitude Scale (Rajamanickam, 2005), Marriage Attitude Scale (Kumar, 1988), Rajamanickam's Religious Attitudes Scale (Rajamanickam, 2004) were used for attitudinal assessment. Socio Economic Status Scale (Singh et al., 2006) was utilized for selecting participants of middle socio-economic status. For participating females, scores on dimensions of attitude towards family planning viz. attitudes towards population problem and sterilization could be significantly predicted on the basis of respondents' attitude towards marriage and religion. For participant males, scores on dimensions of attitude towards family planning viz., attitude towards population problem, fertility control and sterilization could be significantly predicted by attitude towards marriage and religion. Extents of influence of attitude towards marriage as well as religion on attitude towards family planning for the sampled women and men were largely similar. However, much stronger influence of unfavourable attitude towards religion among the participant men than among the women was evident.