

Gender Difference in Self Concept among Homeless Individuals of Pakistan

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Abstract

The current research was focused to explore the gender difference in self-concept among homeless individuals. Total participants (N=50) among which men (n=25) and women (n=25) participants were elected from protection homes of diverse cities of Punjab, Pakistan. Urdu Adjective Check List (Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, & Yasmin, 1982) was used to evaluate the variable of Self-Concept. Independent sample t-test was used for the statistical investigation of data. Results indicated a noteworthy discrepancy in Self-Concept amongst homeless men and women as $p < 0.05$. Mean of homeless men was 1.99 and homeless women 1.89. Implications of these conclusions and suggestions for upcoming researches are in addition discussed.

Key words: Self concept; homeless;

Pakistan; t-test; Gender difference

Introduction

The present study was designed to find out the gender difference in self concept homeless individuals living in Pakistan. The current research recognized the homeless people as individuals in catastrophe rather than pigeonhole and like others they also be worthy of to be treated with decorum and admiration. Homelessness is one of the decisive issues not only in west but now in Pakistan in addition. The term “homeless individuals” cover individuals with speckled life curves. Various studies recommended that the principal cause of folk’s homelessness is family dysfunction in the shape of parental disregard, parental

connubial conflicts, corporeal or sexual abuse, family unit substance abuse and relations hostility (Tyler, 2006). Self Concept is an indispensable construct in psychology that plays a vital role in an individual's self perception and in turn reflects his behavior (Ossorio, 1978).

Self-Concept

A person's self-concept, by virtue of it being a summary formulation of his or her status, is in the bargain a summary formulation of his or her perceived behavioral potential, and of the limits on these (Ossorio, 1998). This conception differs by a long way from established ones inside which the self-concept is across the world measured to be a sort of prearranged informational précis of supposed information regarding oneself, as well as such things the same as one's traits, morals, social roles, well being, bodily characteristics and individual record (James, 1890; Combs & Snygg, 1949; Rogers, 1959; Wylie, 1968; Kihlstrom & Klein, 1994; Baumeister, 1995).

Self-concept refers to "the composite of ideas feelings, and attitudes people have about themselves". Self-concept can also be considered as our effort to explain oneself to

oneself, to build a scheme that organizes one's notions, sentiments and approach about one's self. But this scheme is not enduring, incorporated or static. In every phase of life individual's self-perceptions vary from situation to situation (Woolfolk, 1998).

"As I See Myself" is formed largely by one's own perception of what others think of him/her. One's actions are highly influenced by this. These actions are in return determined by how others see him/her and influence their reactions to him/her. These reactions modify one's concepts of looking at one's self. This cycle continues throughout the life (Skidmore, 2003).

Positive and negative self-concept:

A person's thinking about himself influence his behavior to a great degree. Positive self-concepts make him feel capable and proficient. His actions exhibit those feelings, and others react positively to his actions, which, in turn, authenticate those feelings. These situations are promoted in individuals' security and self-confidence which result in a well familiar social behavior. On the other side, low love of self, and lack of positive opinion about self, a lot of criticism and judgment,

blaming yourself and having self-doubt contribute to a negative self-concept. In this, the person experiences uncertainty and lack of self-confidence in his potentials which results in general anxiety in state of affairs. These negative feelings have an effect on his actions and others' reactions, validating negative feelings concerning self. In these situations, the adolescent's personal and social conduct loses its balance. A positive commerce leads to positive self-concept while a negative trade leads to negative self-concept (Jerajani, 2006).

Runaway and Homeless Individuals

Homeless individuals' are typically defined as unaccompanied youth ages 12 and older (up to age 17, 21, or 24) who are without family support and who are living in shelters, on the streets, in cars or vacant buildings, or who are "coach surfing" or living in other unstable circumstances. In the current research individuals living in shelters are selected to study.

Hypothesis

Following hypothesis was formulated for the present study:

- There is a significant difference among homeless men and women in Self-Concept.

Methodology

This chapter compact with the methods and procedures of the study that was take up to explore the research problem. The study was intended to inspect the difference in the midst of homeless men and women in self-concept.

Participants

The study sample was consist of ($N = 50$) homeless folks. It was further classify as ($n = 25$ women, $n=25$ men) stuck between the age range of 17 to 25 years. The sample was serene from shelter homes of Faisalabad and Lahore city.

Sampling Strategy

Purposive sampling method was used for sample assortment.

Research Design

The at hand study was stand on comparative group research design.

Research Instrument

Following instruments were used in the current research.

Demographic Sheet

Demographic Sheet was developed to consider the demographic information which comprised chiefly age, gender, education, and profession, number of siblings, matrimonial status, period and grounds to be there in this institution.

Self-Concept Scale (Urdu Adjective Check List)

Self-concept is one's awareness and estimation about his/her own uniqueness, attributes, and capability, which put up with a contrast with others. In the current study the upper scores on self-concept scale would denote higher and positive self-concept of persons. The scale Urdu Adjective Check List (UACL), also called self-concept scale developed by Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, and Yasmin (1982) consist of 54 items. The upper limit total score on this scale was 270 and least amount score was 54. The scale has an internal consistency of 0.81, and test retest reliability of 0.70. The current scale is valid for the population 15 years and above. It

contains negative and positive adjectives with five point rating very much = 5, much = 4, Moderate=3, Less=2, Very less=1 for positive adjectives and reverse for negative adjectives. The scale was in Urdu language.

Procedure

In order to assess the gender difference on self-concept in homeless individuals Urdu Adjective Check List (UACL) developed by Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, and Yasmin (1982) was used to measure self-concept. The study sample was selected from different shelter homes of Faisalabad and Lahore. For the purpose of data collection permission was obtained from the concerned authorities'. Institutional approval was considered first According to the APA ethics. Further the researcher approached respondents in rooms of the respective institutions. After the informed consent participants were instructed orally about how to respond on research instrument and demographic sheet. Urdu Adjective Check List (UACL) was administered in the form of group administration.

Statistics

Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)

(Version 16.0). An independent sample t-test was run to find out the gender difference in Self-concept among homeless individuals.

Results and Discussion

The current research was focused to find out the gender difference in Self-concept amid homeless men and women. Sample of

individuals ($N=50$) homeless ($n=25$) men and ($n=25$) women were chosen from various refuge homes of Faisalabad and Lahore city. Urdu Adjective Check List (Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, & Yasmin, 1982) was used to determine self-concept. An independent sample t-test was used for statistical scrutiny. The results attain from data are portrayed in Table 1.

Table 1

Mean, Standard deviations, t and p values of homeless men ($n=25$) and women ($n=25$) participator in Self-concept.

Variable	Gender	N	M	SD	Df	T	p
Self-concept	Men	25	1.99	12.97	48	-2.45	.018
	Women	25	1.89	14.02			

* $P < 0.05$, SD: Standard Deviation, M: Mean

The hypothesis was veteran by comparing the means of homeless men and women from side to side independent sample t -test. The results are specified in Table 1.

The exceeding table shows that there was a momentous diversity between homeless men and women in Self-Concept as $p < 0.05$. Mean of homeless men was 1.99

and homeless women 1.89. Homeless men had SD of 12.97 and homeless women 14.02.

Table 1 shows a vital discrepancy among homeless men and women in Self-Concept as $p < 0.05$. Further Table 1 declared the Mean of homeless men 1.99 and homeless women 1.89, along with SD of Homeless men was 12.97 and homeless women 14.02.

Young people seeking services through homeless youth programs across the country most likely have experienced many different types of trauma. Trauma can result in impairment in development and functioning in the areas of Self concept (Hopper, Bassuk, & Olivey, 2010). A recent study concluded that men score high on self concept as compared to women in several domains of self concept, indicating overall positive self concept (Rudasill, 2009) that support the current study results. Further Rudasill stated that the girls' scores revealed statistically significant decline in almost every domain of self-concept. The level of self concept among the girls was significantly lower than the boys in general (Hussain, 2006). Researches about the differences in self-concept diagonally cultures, recommended that men have a propensity to be supplementary self-governing, while women tend to be more mutually dependent (Cross & Madson, 1997). The boys reported higher means in self-concept than the girls (Watkins, 1996).

Conclusion

This research was conducted to explore the gender difference in self concept among homeless individuals in different cities of Punjab, Pakistan. General causes of

homelessness in Punjab region include financial problems at home, a large number of siblings, domestic violence, separation after love marriage, and lack of mutual understanding in blood relations. Results indicate a significant gender difference in self-concept among homeless individuals that men have high self concept than women. This population needs therapeutic interventions for their psychological and emotional problems. Parents should give qualitative time to their children to develop a sense of right and wrong. Family relations should be strong to develop positive self concept. Lack of confidence is basically originated from family, it should be avoided. Environment of family should be flexible. Moral development would help to decrease the number of homeless cases.

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