

Projective Imagery, Relationship Profile and Narcissism among Incarcerated Individuals: A Comparative Psychosocial Exploration

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Abstract

The present research endeavor aims to have a clear picture of the psychosocial profiles of incarcerated individuals by comparing with a comparative group of non-convicts. Assessment of the perception of personal, social and ideal selves was done by means of artistic expression (through drawings), as a therapeutic modality. Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin and Terry, 1988) to assess narcissism, as a precursor to commit crime, and Relationship Profile Test (Bornstein et al., 2003), to assess relationship bonding pattern in general, were also administered to a group of 96 inmates, undergoing long-term correctional services (52 males and 44 females) and 76 non-convicts (39 males and 37 females), based on purposive sampling. Results reflected significant group differences. Incarcerated individuals have comparatively higher scores in some traits when their art was interpreted, namely, they feel less socially-accepted in personal self; are manipulative, harmful with high need for social-acceptance as regards social self, and have higher need to escape from the burdens of life in ideal self, compared to their matched cohorts without having any criminal records. They also have significantly higher scores in destructive over-dependence dimension of relationship profile and authority dimension of narcissism compared to their matched controls. Non-convicts have comparatively higher scores in confidence and independence as regards ideal self in comparison to incarcerated partners. They also have significantly higher scores in dysfunctional detachment dimension of relationship profile & superiority, exhibitionism and vanity dimensions of narcissism compared to their incarcerated members. This study is of much significance in understanding the personality profiles and emotional void of incarcerated individuals. Its findings are likely to help in designing more effective therapeutic programmes, as a part of their correctional services.

Key words: Incarcerated individuals, projective imagery, relationship profile, narcissism

People all over the world, irrespective of gender, colour or ethnicity, under the influence of their deep-rooted propensity, under stress and strain, revert to their basic primitive impulses and commit crimes, i.e. offences against the public or the state, thus breaking the law of the land and turning into convicts. The total number of prisoners found in Indian jails was reported to be an alarming 4,78,600 in 2019, among which 4.2% are females. It comes to 35 people per 100,000 population. The World Prison Brief (2019) reported that a total of 51.5 lakh cognizable crimes were registered nationwide in 2019. It further indicated an annual increase of 1.6% in the registration of cases (50.7 lakh cases), with the crime rate having increased from 383.5 in 2018 to 385.5 in 2019 for every 100,000 population.

The question that normally arises here is: Are criminals born or made? This nature versus nurture debate delves into whether criminality is due to genetic factors and therefore is unavoidable or whether it is the product of social situations, environmental surroundings and other external factors. In the 1950s, it was thought that family life, upbringing, inconsistent affection, physical abuse, and inconsistent discipline could result in criminality (Nye, 1958; Teeters, and John, 1950). Further, psychopathy in an individual's personality is likely to cause criminal behavior (Eysenck and Gudjonsson, 1989).

DSM-V (2013) defines antisocial personality as being characterized by long-standing patterns of disregard for other people's right. It usually begins in childhood or in teens and continues into their adult life. Antisocial personality disorder is often referred to as psychopathy or sociopathy in popular culture (Krueger, Markon, Patrick and Iacono, 2005). Since this pattern of personality is a threat to the peaceful development of any society, it needs to be studied well to deal with the aspect as a whole. Here arises the importance of probing into projective imagery in terms of artistic expression through drawings, along with associated variables to unfurl its etiological determinants.

Artistic expression through drawings in relation to criminal behaviour:

Drawings provide clients with a tool to engage in self-expression (Oster and Gould, 2004). They may be used in the therapeutic modality to creatively portray their feelings, conflicts, wishes, etc. by allowing clients the freedom of graphic expression by means of venting out different aspects of their personality (Edwards, 2004). Drawings unfurl the inner road for the unconscious mind by bringing forth issues which are not often expressed verbally. The use of drawings is especially beneficial when working with non-verbal, withdrawn, rageful and/or resistant clients (Oster and Gould, 2004). They encourage spontaneity and fantasy in a non-judgmental ambience in the therapeutic set-up.

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Hence, an introduction of an alternate and less threatening symbolic method of communication provides a new road to the conscious, external focus for exploration of thoughts and feelings and another means of diagnostic assessment for the therapist (Pressman *et al.*, 2005). The underlying personality processes are reflected through projective drawings in graphic form, which can thereafter be interpreted by the therapist.

There is currently an emphasis on the use of drawings as aid in the assessment process. Clinicians firmly believe that drawings can be considered a unique, personal expression of inner experiences which, when used appropriately, can offer clues that are of value, both for diagnostic as well as therapeutic purposes. The rationale behind using drawings to determine personality correlates pertains to the development of a sense of self as well as how others view him/her as an interpersonal being. When drawings are used in such a manner, the examiner is confronting the person with situations that are more unstructured. The examinee must provide meaning for the task via personal experiences. The ambiguity in this use of drawing lies primarily in the minimal direction provided by the examiner. Buck (1948), Machover (1953), and Hammer (1958) are considered the main proponents of the use of figure drawing as projective instruments. The emphasis of drawings then becomes a reflection of the individual's emotional conflicts and attitudes, instead of merely a developmental milestone.

Hence, it is considered in psychological projective theory that subconscious self-relevant information can be reflected well by non-verbal symbolic methods, and that the lowered mental defense level while drawing brought about by relaxation is relatively beneficial for expressing internal feelings, such as emotion, anxiety, motive, and conflict (Yuan & Chen, 2013). Drawing, as a projective-therapeutic technique, is said to shed light on prisoners' inner world, being a value-free, expressive and symbolic technique. It also provides platform for prisoners' re-introspection and self-creation, helping them regain their sense of self-control (Yu *et al.*, 2016). In fact, it was revealed that incarcerated beings who engaged in creative endeavours had improved mental health, attitudes and behaviours (Gibbons, 1997). Life experiences throughout history have been processed against the canvas of creativity. Nugent and Loucks (2011) suggests that art can clearly generate significant rehabilitative benefits in offenders. Art and art therapies are associated with significant improvements in arousal levels, emotional literacy and quality of life of inmates in correctional homes (Meekums and Daniel, 2011) as this provides them a scope to express unconscious motives and fears. Relationship profile and narcissism appear to be yet other important variables influencing projective imagery of the self, which is highlighted in the following section.

Relationship profile and narcissism as other determinants of criminal behavior:

Relationship profile relates to the extent of interpersonal relationships that an individual has which serves as social support buffer against stressors of any kind. Sharma, Prakash, Sengar, Chaudhury and Singh (2013) found that incarcerated convicts have lower inter-personal as well as intrapersonal emotional awareness and management skills and hence may end up with disturbed and unhealthy interpersonal bonding. The different dimensions of relationship profile, which were studied in the present research-context, are as follows (Bornstein, 1998):

- a.** Dysfunctional Detachment (DD)
- b.** Destructive Overdependence (DO)
- c.** Healthy Dependency (HD)

Further, narcissism refers to a pervasive sense of grandiosity which gets manifested by feelings of entitlement and superiority, arrogant behaviours, and lack of concern about others (A.P.A., 1994). Extremely high levels of narcissism are considered pathological, but narcissism is a normally distributed personality trait (Raskin and Hall, 1979) that has been characterized as a system of intrapersonal and interpersonal strategies devoted to maximizing and protecting self-esteem (Morf and Rhodewalt, 2001). Blinkhorn, Lyons and Almond (2018) found that narcissism is significantly related to offending behaviours and in this regard, women show similar trends as that of men.

Keeping these views in mind, the investigation purports to examine whether incarcerated individuals differ from normal controls with respect to projective imagery to reflect their overall self-concept, relationship profile and narcissism along with their different dimensions. This may provide some lead to specific psychotherapeutic measures for mending their personality in the end.

Method

Sample: The sample consisted of 96 adult incarcerated individuals (52 male convicts, 44 female convicts) and 76 non-convicts (39 male control and 37 female controls) after matching them with respect to their age, sex, nationality. The duration of stay in correctional home for convicts was at least for the past 2 years continuously. Participants in each group were free from any past history of chronic physical illness and any organic involvement. Individuals who did not have any past history of conviction and are free of criminal charges of any kind were only included in the normal cohort group.

Tools used:

- Specially designed information schedule
- Narcissistic Personality Inventory (Raskin and Terry, 1988)
- Relationship Profile Test (Bornstein *et al.*, 2003)
- Artistic expression (through drawings)

Procedure: Once permission was granted from the Inspector General of Correctional Services, Government of West Bengal, the individuals were

approached in Alipore Central Correctional Home and Alipore Women's Correctional Home. Tests were administered on a one-to-one basis, which were further scored and analyzed according to standard procedure.

For the session involving artistic expression through drawings, the following instructions were provided:

“A large sheet of art paper and colour pencils are provided to you. Please draw three animals in the sheet - first, the animal which represents you; second, what you feel others think about you in the form of an animal and last, the animal you would wish to be like

in the future.”

After drawing the three animals, the subjects were asked to describe each of the animals, their traits and the possible reasons of drawing, the verbatim of which, were written by the test administrator. The responses along with the drawings were analyzed for their content and rated by two psychoanalysts in the field to rule out any subjective bias.

Results

Section A

It deals with the frequencies (obtained from tallying) the personality traits prominently found through

Table 1: Tally frequencies of traits prominently found out through qualitative analysis of personal self, social self and ideal self in projective imagery through art

Traits	Personal self				Traits	Social self				Traits	Ideal self			
	INC . F. (N=44)	INC . M. (N=52)	NC . F. (N=37)	NC . M. (N=39)		INC . F. (N=44)	INC . M. (N=52)	NC . F. (N=37)	NC . M. (N=39)		INC . F. (N=44)	INC . M. (N=52)	NC . F. (N=37)	NC . M. (N=39)
Self centered, manipulative	2	3	3	2	Manipulative, harmful	10	5	1	2	Confident, Independent	6	6	10	11
Craving for love	2	0	2	0	Impulsive, Non-adjusted	5	1	3	2	Powerful	4	9	5	8
Balanced, Adaptive	4	3	3	4	Submissive, Loyal to authority	3	1	1	1	Responsible, Self sufficient Matured	4	10	3	11
Immature, Regressive, Emotional	8	3	3	3	High social desirability	5	4	1	1	Loyal	1	5	1	1
Soft, Sweet	0	5	2	0	Confident	0	4	0	1	Freedom	13	9	3	4
Narcissistic	1	4	2	1	Powerful	0	3	0	0	Inadequate self	2	6	2	7
Aggressive, Powerful	2	8	1	3	Low self esteem, Compromising	5	9	0	7	Peaceful	8	2	6	1
Loyal, Submissive to Authority	2	8	0	3	Irresponsible	1	8	0	0	Caring	2	0	0	0
Lazy, Dependent	4	1	1	7	Socially non accepted	9	0	0	1	Domesticated	1	8	0	0
Non-accepted	11	5	1	1	Helpful	0	4	1	0	Escape from burdens of life	21	11	0	0

[INC. F.: Incarcerated females; INC. M.: Incarcerated males; NC. F.: normal control females; NC. M.: normal control males]

qualitative analysis of Personal, Social and Ideal selves in projective imagery through art.

Section B

The next section deals with the means (M), standard

Table 2: Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD) and t-values indicating the significance of the difference between means of incarcerated convicts and normal counter parts for the selected variables and their respective dimensions

Variables	Incarcerated Convicts (N=96)		Normal Controls (N=76)		t-values
	M	SD	M	SD	
1. Relationship Profile					
a. Destructive overdependence (DO)	29.78	8.65	25.62	5.24	3.69**
b. Dysfunctional Detachment (DD)	31.89	7.53	38.43	5.13	6.48**
c. Healthy Dependence (HD)	33.69	7.07	34.29	5.51	0.61
2. Narcissism					
a. Authority	3.42	1.61	3.2	1.57	0.89
b. Self Sufficiency	2.44	1.49	2.39	1.1	0.26
c. Superiority	1.98	1.2	2.45	1.46	2.32*
d. Exhibitionism	2.13	1.48	2.66	1.84	2.10*
e. Exploitativeness	1.83	1.15	1.89	1.43	3.12
f. Vanity	0.94	0.86	1.46	1.06	3.57**
g. Entitlement	2.2	1.38	3.39	1.5	0.89

*p<0.05 level of significance; **p< 0.01 level of significance

Table 3: Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD) and t-values indicating significance of the difference between means for incarcerated males and females as well as normal control males and females for the selected variables and their respective dimensions

Variables	Incarcerated Females (N=44)		Incarcerated Males (N=52)		t-values	Normal Control Females (N=37)		Normal Control Males (N=39)		t-values
	M	SD	M	SD		M	SD	M	SD	
1. Relationship Profile										
a. destructive overdependence (DO)	29.68	8.5	29.87	8.86	0.1	27.05	4.57	25.26	5.52	2.39**
b. Dysfunctional Detachment (DD)	31.25	8.24	32.42	6.92	0.76	41.35	3.89	35.67	4.62	5.78**
c. Healthy Dependence (HD)	33.61	7.49	33.79	6.76	0.09	35.59	5.47	33.05	5.32	2.05*
2. Narcissism										
a. Authority	3.32	1.57	3.5	1.66	0.55	2.32	1.33	4.03	1.31	5.61**
b. Self Sufficiency	2.41	1.54	2.48	1.45	0.23	2.81	1.08	2	1	3.41**
c. Superiority	1.93	1.21	2.02	1.2	0.36	2.57	1.5	2.33	1.42	0.7
d. Exhibitionism	2.11	1.51	2.13	1.47	0.07	2.89	2.05	2.44	1.62	1.08
e. Exploitativeness	1.84	1.18	1.83	1.13	0.06	1.78	1.46	2	1.41	0.66
f. Vanity	0.91	0.86	0.96	0.86	0.29	1.16	0.93	1.74	1.12	2.46**
g. Entitlement	2.11	1.37	2.27	1.4	0.55	2.32	1.56	2.46	1.45	0.4

*p<0.05 level of significance; **p< 0.01 level of significance

deviations (S.D.) and t-values for two different study groups (namely, Incarcerated Convicts and their normal counterparts) and the subgroups (formed by the combination of group and gender).

that it is by dint of specific personality traits that criminals differ from the general population.

Table 4: Means (M), Standard Deviations (S.D.) and t-values indicating significance of the difference between means of incarcerated and normal control males as well as incarcerated and normal control females for the selected variables and their respective dimensions

Variables	Incarcerated males (N=52)		Normal control males (N=39)		t values	Incarcerated females (N=44)		Normal control females (N=37)		t values
1. Relationship profile										
a. Destructive overdependence (DO)	29.87	8.86	25.26	5.52	3.48**	29.68	8.5	27.05	4.57	1.69
b. Dysfunctional detachment (DD)	32.42	6.92	35.67	4.62	5.53**	31.25	8.24	41.35	3.89	6.84**
c. Healthy dependence (HD)	33.79	6.76	33.05	5.32	0.53	33.61	7.49	35.59	5.47	1.34
2. Narcissism										
a. Authority	3.5	1.66	4.03	1.31	1.63	3.32	1.57	2.32	1.33	3.04**
b. Self-sufficiency	2.48	1.45	2	1	1.78	2.41	1.54	2.81	1.08	1.33
c. Superiority	2.02	1.2	2.33	1.42	1.14	1.93	1.21	2.57	1.5	2.11*
d. Exhibitionism	2.13	1.47	2.44	1.62	0.93	2.11	1.51	2.89	2.05	1.96*
e. Exploitativeness	1.83	1.13	2	1.41	0.65	1.84	1.18	1.78	1.46	0.19
f. Vanity	0.96	0.86	1.74	1.12	3.77**	0.91	0.86	1.16	0.93	1.27
g. Entitlement	2.27	1.4	2.46	1.45	0.64**	2.11	1.37	2.32	1.56	0.65
3. Impulsivity										
a. Attention	19.15	3.71	19.82	3.61	0.9	20	3.16	18.7	3.94	1.65
b. Motor	23.02	3.51	24.08	2.79	1.55	23.45	3.88	20.3	3.46	3.83**
c. Non-planning	28.65	3.61	28.69	2.36	0.06	29	2.09	28.05	2.46	1.87
Total non-planning	70.75	6.53	72.21	5.08	1.15	72.27	5.88	67.05	7.66	3.47**

*p<0.05 level of significance; **p< 0.01 level of significance

normal counterparts) and the subgroups (formed by the combination of group and gender).

Discussion

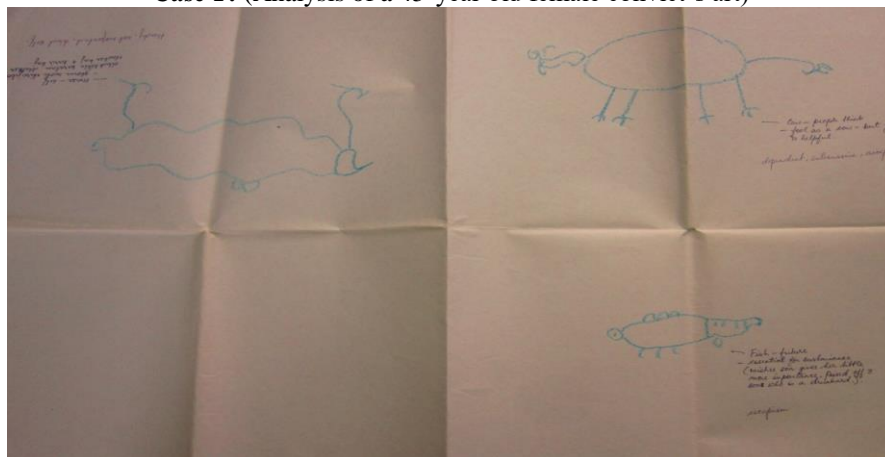
The results obtained may be discussed as follows: From the result tables 1, 2, 3 and 4, it is observed that the incarcerated convicts have a distinct personality

Responses to drawings through projective art imagery corresponding to personal, social and ideal self:

Personal Self:

It was found that there is a prominent tendency among participants in all four groups (namely, male

Case I: (Analysis of a 45-year old female convict's art)



profile of their own which demarcates them from normal counterparts. Personality seems to be a major factor in criminal behavior. Sinha (2016) suggests

and female incarcerated convicts and their normal counterparts) to be self-centered and manipulative, balanced and adaptive which may be related to the

primary demand for all individuals to sustain in this world (Hogenboom, 2013).

authority much more than others owing to social desirability. They also have prominently higher level

Table 5: Verbatim responses of Case 1 indicating the reason of choosing the animals

PERSONAL SELF	SOCIAL SELF	IDEAL SELF
HORSE: running and working throughout life- farming and household work.	COW: people think I am a fool as a cow, but good and helpful	FISH: essential for sustenance (rice and fish), I wish my son gives me a little more importance - he is a drunkard and hates me.

Case 2: (Analysis of a 25-year old male convict's art)



Female participants, irrespective of the group, have higher craving for love than their male counterparts

of projected aggression and need to seek power than other groups. Men, in general, are more aggressive

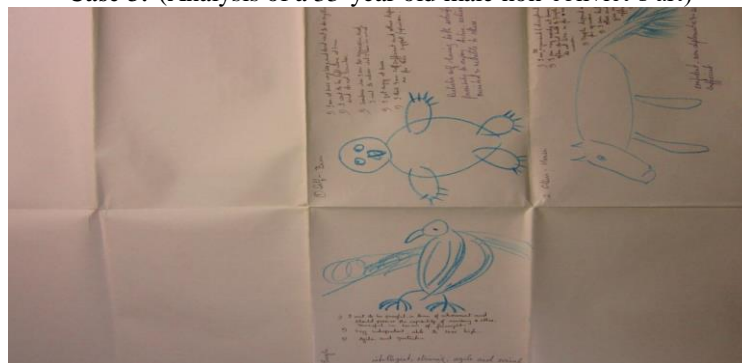
Table 6: Verbatim responses of Case 2 indicating the reason of choosing the animals

Personal Self	Social Self	Ideal Self
DEER: peaceful, doesn't harm others.	COW: quiet, peaceful and good, who is mostly oppressed by others.	BIRD: Can fly wherever my wish demands.

which has been supported by Barry, Seager and Brown (2015). It is evident that their need to be loved and to love both psychologically as well as sexually

and power-seeking in nature (Batinos, 2012). Incarcerated females and non-convict males are found to be more lazy and dependent than incarcerated

Case 3: (Analysis of a 33-year old male non-convict's art)



is more than men (Law, 2011). Incarcerated females are also found to be more immature, regressive and emotional than the others. Incarcerated males have more urge to project themselves as soft & sweet and perceive themselves as submissive and loyal to

males and non-convict females due to non-channelized repressed aggression. Incarcerated convicts perceive themselves as prominently less socially-accepted than their non-convict counterparts, it being supported by Gostin et al. (2007).

Social Self:

It is found that incarcerated convicts perceive that society considers them as prominently more manipulative and harmful than their non-convict counterparts, which is most evidently because of the

Males, irrespective of their group, have higher power-seeking tendency (Batrinos, 2012) and want to be more responsible, self-sufficient and matured than their female counterparts. On the other hand, males also find themselves less adequate than their female

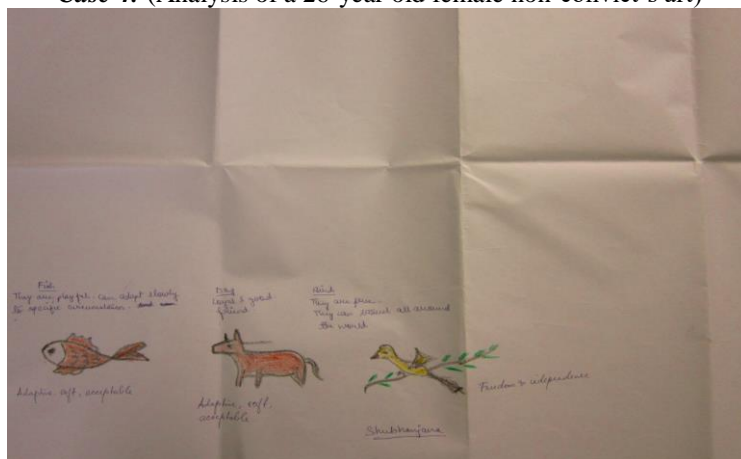
Table 7: Verbatim responses indicating the reason of choosing the animals

Personal Self	Social Self	Ideal Self
BEAR: 1. I am at times very lazy and do not want to do anything. 2. I want to be left alone at times and do not socialize. 3. Sometimes when I am too aggressive, I want to achieve what I have in mind. 4. I get angry at times. 5. I think I am self -sufficient and others depend on me for their support and opinion.	HORSE: 1. I am too organized and disciplined. 2. I am very moody at times and often do not talk to people whom I don't like or for no specific reason. 3. People depend on me for opinions. 4. I am helpful to others and at least give my honest effort. 5. I am straight-forward and not diplomatic.	EAGLE: 1. I want to be powerful in terms of achievement and should possess the capability of monitoring others - Powerful in terms of foresight. 2. Very independent, able to soar high. 3. Agile and protective.

specific personal history they possess. Incarcerated females are comparatively more impulsive and non-adjusted than the other groups. This is in line with the findings by Lage *et al.* (2013). Incarcerated people have prominently higher need to be socially-accepted

counterparts (Paludi and Steuernagel, 1990). Incarcerated males have higher tendency to project themselves as loyal in future, with higher need to be domesticated. Female participants, irrespective of their group, tend to seek more peace (Saunders,

Case 4: (Analysis of a 26-year old female non-convict's art)



because of their perception of being socially out-thrown. Incarcerated males project themselves to be more confident, powerful, and helpful along with having low responsibility-taking tendency than others. Non-convict females have significantly higher self-esteem (Oser, 2006) and are less compromising than the other groups.

2007). Incarcerated females tend to project their future selves as more caring than others, owing to greater extent of social desirability and to earn typical prominent image in society (Barry, Seager and Brown, 2015). Incarcerated participants have very high need to escape from the burdens of life, which their non-convict counterparts do not project at all,

Table 8: Verbatim responses indicating the reason of choosing the animals

Personal Self	Social Self	Ideal Self
FISH: They are playful, can adapt slowly to specific circumstances	DOG: loyal and a good friend.	BIRD: They are free. They can travel all around the world.

Ideal Self:

It is found that non-convict participants find their ideal selves to be more confident and independent than their incarcerated counterparts (Oser, 2006).

probably because of their current environmental situation.

Qualitative analyses of responses to projective art expression of some participants are as follows:

She perceives herself as a hardy individual. She is not respected socially and feels personally tired of her life. Socially, she finds herself dependent on others, submissive and accepted. Her aspiration is to escape from the burdens of her life.

He is graceful, beautiful and peaceful. He is socially submissive and not loved by others, tending to the point of feeling over-powered by others, which appears to contribute to his low self-esteem. He too seeks freedom and wants to escape from the burdens of life.

He is realistic, having both activity and passivity to enjoy. He is achievement-oriented and reliable to others. Socially, he is confident, non-diplomatic and self-sufficient. He aspires to be intelligent, striving, agile and more social in future.

She is adaptive, soft and acceptable. Socially, she appears to be loyal and obedient to authority-figures. She seeks freedom in life and aspires to explore the world far and near.

Relationship Profile and its different dimensions among incarcerated individuals: Incarcerated convicts have been found to score significantly higher than normal controls in terms of destructive overdependence (characterized by rigid, inflexible dependency) indicating their tendency of being fixated and rigid in orientation regarding choice of people in social life and having emotional hankering to cling to them for self-protection. This might often tend to suffocate the given relationship (Table 2). This may be primarily because of increased risk for illnesses and diseases because of overdependence in relational matrix, which may serve as a diathesis to compromise immune function, when coupled with high level of interpersonal stress (Bornstein, 1998; Blatt, Cornell, & Eshkol, 1993). Detachment leads to increased illness-risk as well because the alexithymic tendencies associated with detachment prevent the person from disclosing negative emotions (Pennebaker, 1990, 1995). On the other hand, the control group had scored significantly higher in the dimension of healthy dependence (HD) (characterized by flexible, situation-appropriate help and support-seeking tendency) (Bornstein, 1998; Pincus & Wilson, 2001) indicating that relationship bonds provide comfort zone to such individuals. Their relationships are supported by reciprocity, mutual understanding and trust.

Focusing on intra-group comparison, it is observed that non-convict females had scored significantly higher than non-convict males in the dimension of dysfunctional detachment as regards relationship profile (Table 2). Since significant difference has been found in inter-group as well as in intra-group interactions for this dimension of relationship profile, it is suggestive of the fact that both group and gender have influenced the difference in the intra-group condition to a significant extent (Table 3). Women give more relevance to share their feelings in a

relationship with their partners (Barry, Seager and Brown, 2015).

Emotional intelligence (EI) also appears to have its bearing on relationship profile in the science of relationship matrix of an individual. Studies have found out that persons who are more emotionally intelligent are less impulsive and are able to moderate their emotions to a better extent (Malterer, Glass and Newman, 2008, Hayes and O'Reilly, 2013). On the contrary, risky behaviours are often exhibited by individuals with low EI levels. They tend to be less empathic and have difficulty in understanding situations from the perspective of others (Henley and Long, 1999). Sharma, Prakash, Sengar, Chaudhury and Singh (2013) found that incarcerated convicts have lower inter-personal as well as intrapersonal emotional awareness and management skills and hence may end up having disturbed and unhealthy interpersonal bonding.

Narcissism and its dimensions among incarcerated individuals:

Incarcerated convicts have scored significantly higher than non-convicts with regard to authority dimension (Table 2), indicating a higher craving for power in them. Aggression is most likely manifested when people with a narcissistically-inflated view encounter someone who explicitly disputes that opinion, states Baumeister, Bushman and Campbell (2000), who are also of the opinion that threatened egotism is the most explosive recipe for violence.

It is also found that both incarcerated males and females have scored significantly higher than non-convict females in the dimension of authority (Tables 2 & 3). Further, non-convict females have scored significantly higher than non-convict males in the dimension of self-sufficiency (Table 3). Considering higher authority scores, gender appears to act as a mediating factor, bringing about significant intra-group difference. This significantly high score in the dimension of authority suggests that impulse-orientation is more among incarcerated individuals (Cuomo *et al.*, 2008). Absence of cover on primitive impulse pattern appears to have a significant impact. Impulse-manifestation gives them sense of power, even if it is momentary (Taylor, 2016). Hence, expression of primitivism, enables them to assert their authority in this context.

The significantly higher score of non-convict females in self-sufficiency dimension than non-convict males (table 2) is only observed in intra-group situation. These psychologically healthy women tend to be financially-competent along with accomplishing household responsibilities. This might contribute in their higher sense of self-sufficiency than their male counterparts with high entitlement (Paludi and Steuernagel, 1990). As incarcerated women lack this independent attitude because of their given situation, they do not perceive themselves as self-sufficient like their normal cohorts.

Conclusion

Significant profile differences have been found among incarcerated individuals that make them distinguishable from their non-convict counterparts. The study has also pointed out the presence of significant intra-group findings in the different subsample conditions. All of them hint at the need for specific therapeutic interventions to help alter their personality orientation through awareness of internal dynamics, for the betterment of the society as well for their rehabilitation in the end. Such an attempt is expected to improve their quality of life consequently.

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Received on 18-08-2021

Revised on 12-09-2021

Accepted on 22-09-2021