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PERSONALITY AS A MAJOR CASUSE OF RAPE: A COMPARATVIE STUDY OF FOUR CRIMINAL GROUP



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Abstract:-Criminal behaviour is a complex problem caused by a range of biological, developmental, social, psychological factors. In the present study four criminal groups such as violent, sex, addict and other were studied employing Eysenckian personality model. These groups were compaired using one way ANOVA that revealed rapists scored lower on Extroversion and Lie factor. Based on these findings social skill deficit hypothesis is developed that can be applicable for predication and treatment of rapists.

Keywords:crime, rape, rapist, personality, social skill deficits.

INTRODUCTION

Sex offences are one of the most serious concerns because of enormous harm to the victims as well as of their loved ones. Sex is basic need of human beings but it has to be satisfied in socially acceptable manner that is without harming others rights. Hence rape is a forbidden act that intentionally harming another person or society. It is crime as per Indian Penal Code 375. Barlow (1987) has given four criteria of sex crimes such as nature of the act, nature of sex object, social setting in which sex occurs and the existence of consent. Rape is considered major sex offence that is defined as sexual intercourse against will, without consent, consent obtained by fear of hurt or with minor age partner. Day by day sex crimes are increasing in number, types, and intensity. Various studies tried to find out why people rape? Personality theories tried to answer this question in terms of personality differences. Carlson and Buskit (1997, P. 449) defined personality as particular pattern of behaviour and thinking that prevails across time and situation. Several trait theories of personality have been proposed over the years. However, the best-known and most widely used trait theories of personality derived through factor analysis are Cattell's 16 Factor theory, H.J. Eysenck's three factor theory and McCrae and Costa's Five-Factor Model. H.J. Eysenck identified Extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N), and Psychoticism (P) as major dimensions of personality. He has proposed systematic theory of criminality. The theory assumes that personality traits are important predisposition to criminality. He hypothesised that criminal would score high on P, E and N. Eysenck (1976) studied personality of sex offenders and found that they score higher on Psychoticism (P) than normal. High P scorers is described as being solitary, non caring for others, cruel, troublesome, inhuman, lacking feelings and empathy, aggressive and insensitive. They have liking for odd and unusual things.

Psychologists tried to explore that whether personality of rapists differ from others? Previous literature review shows that rapists are significantly different on the

following personality factors.

a) Impulse Control: Arousal to fulfil our need is natural proposed by Sigmund Freud by Id factor of personality but ego factor govern by reality principle. Superego tells us right and wrong. Need has to be fulfil by considering arousal and socially right-wrong. Rape is wrong against human body. Rapists are found low in impulse control (Goode, 1990; Bumby & Hansen, 1997). Howes (1998) also found that sexual offenders had weak ability to inhibit deviant arousal. McConalghy (1993) argued that rapists are driven by irresistible sexual impulses. Thus normal as well as rapists may have antisocial impulses, the difference between two is that rapists give in to their impulses and normal individual repress their antisocial drives or seek an outlet in socially harmless activities.

b)Moral Development: Morality is about do and don'ts. Low moral development indicates that person is unable to judge right and wrong behaviour. Davis and Leitenber (1987) reported that sex offenders had lack of moral development. If superego is not sufficiently developed the released repressed instincts may lead to anti-social behaviour (Ahuja, 2000). Piaget (1932) proposed moral development stages. First stage is characterized by egocentricity in which morally right behaviour is regarded as the one, which avoids breaking rules and punishment. Inability to attain higher level of moral maturity may lead to criminal act like rape.

c)Hostility: Agarwal, Satija, Nathawat and Gupta (1987) examined the psychological profile of the 30 convicted rapists and 30 controls with the help of Fould's five punitive scales and found that rapists obtained significantly higher scores on acting out hostility, delusional hostility and criticism. Abbey and McAuslan (2004) found that men who committed sexual assaults at multiple times had the most extreme scores on measures of hostility towards women.

d)Social Skills: Human being is social animal he has to depend on others for various needs. For this he needs to establish and maintain proper relationship with others where social skills are required. Rapists have deficits in social skills (McConalghy,1993). Deficit in social skills may lead to loneliness. Garlick, Marshall and Thomson (1996) studied the role of experience of loneliness in sexual offending. Analysis revealed the greater loneliness and more deficiencies in intimacy among sexual offenders than non-sexual offenders. Sex offenders are more socially isolated (Valliant & Bergerl, 1997). Fearful or insecure attachment style distinguishes sexual offenders from non-sexual offenders (Lyn & Burton, 2004).

e)Empathy: For appropriate attribution empathetic understanding is essential. Marshall and Moulden (2001) examined victim empathy among 32 rapists, 28 non-sex offenders. Findings revealed that rapists were significantly less empathetic toward women than comparison group. Thus sexual offenders suffer from deficits in their ability to experience empathy and this is considered to be important in the development and maintenance of deviant sexual behaviour like rape (Marshall, Liudso & Fernandez, 1995). The above researches show that there are significant personality differences between rapists and others. In the present study personality of rapists was studied employing Eysenck Model of personality.

Method

Sample: Sample includes 30 rapists, 30 violent offenders, 30 addict offenders and 30 miscellaneous offenders. All participants were male of age ranging from 25 to 40 years and educational background 8th standard to graduation.

Tools: a. Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ-R) (Eysenck, Eysenck & Barrett, 1985)

b. Personal data sheet

Hypothesis: Rapists would score significantly different than other offenders on Eysenkian personality dimensions.

DATA ANLAYSIS AND RESULT

a)Descriptive statistics: Mean and standard deviations of four offenders group.

Variable	Rapists		Violent offenders		Addict offenders		Miscellaneousoffenders	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Psychoticism	11.37	3.94	10.53	5.08	10.30	2.95	11.40	4.35
Neuroticism	13.20	4.60	11.73	4.57	13.33	5.09	14.30	4.58
Extraversion	10.97	4.00	14.93	2.98	13.67	3.36	14.37	3.28
Lie	16.07	3.16	16.80	3.14	13.83	3.90	13.50	5.06

b)One-way Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA)

TABLE 2: UNIVARIATE F TEST SHOWING SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AMONG FOUR GROUPS OF OFFENDERS

Variable	Hypoth. SS*	Error SS*	Hypoth. MS	Error MS	F value*	Significance
Psychoticism	28.86667	2005.93333	9.62222	17.29253	5.5644	-
Neuroticism	100.95833	2579.63333	33.65278	22.23822	1.51329	-
Extraversion	277.50000	1360.46667	92.50000	11.72816	7.88700	P < .001
Lie	239.36667	1758.33333	79.78889	15.15805	5.26380	P < .005

Denotes insignificant levels *df for Hypoth SS = 3; Error df = 116

DISCUSSION

The result in Table 2 indicate that the four offender group i.e. rapists, violent, addict and miscellaneous offenders are homogenous with respect to Psychoticism and Neuroticism but significantly different on Extraversion and Lie scores. The result presented in Table 1 also indicated that rapists had lower mean score on extroversion and Lie. Eysenck described characteristics of person low scorer of Extroversion. The typical introvert is quite, retiring sort of person, introspective, found of books rather than people; he is reserved and distant except to intimated friends. He tends to plan ahead, "looks before he leaps"and distrusts the impulse of the moment. He does not like excitement, takes matter of everyday life with proper seriousness, and likes a well-ordered mode of life. He keeps his feelings under close control, seldom behaves in an aggressive manner, and does not lose his temper easily. He is reliable, somewhat pessimistic, and places great value on ethical standards.

These findings can be very well explained in terms of the views of McConalghy (1993) that the rapists are psychologically disordered individuals driven by irresistible sexual impulses, and deficient in social skills. The rapists appear to lack in the social and communication skills necessary for appropriate interaction with the females and proper expression of their feelings. A hypothesis, tentatively labelled as "social skills deficit hypothesis" is proposed in this context. Modern life is becoming increasingly complex. Certain social skills such as ability to mix well with others, ability to work in a group, building and maintaining relationship with significant others are necessary in modern life. Some introverts may be deficit in these social skills. As such, sometimes they may not be able to cope with the complexities of modern life, may find themselves helpless and at some moment may be drifted into offence like rape. Valliant & Bergerol (1997) found that sex offenders were more socially isolated, more assaultive and more resentful than the general offenders. Ward, Hudson and Marshall (1996) Lyn & Burton (2004) showed that the majority of the sex offenders were insecurely attached. Bumby & Hansen (1997) reported greater intimacy deficits.

The result presented in Table 2 indicated that there is significant difference among four groups of offenders on Lie score. Table 1 rapist and violent offenders scored higher on Lie compared to addict and miscellaneous offenders. Lie score can be considered as faking good. The incidence of rape or murder is more among intimate relationship. Rapists may deceive others and present themselves honest although they are not.

CONCLUSION

Rapists are introvert type of personality. They lacks social skills if they are trained for better social skills i.e. expressing their emotions and understanding others emotions properly these types of crime may decrease in numbers and types. The present study may help to develop preventive programmes of rape crime. If population are assessed on personality, past histories, attachment style the rape prone personality can be identified and proper counselling can be provided to control their impulses.

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