EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT SELF-ESTEEM OF NARCISSIST

Oshin Dixit Research Scholar, Galgotias University
Ambrien Ahmed (PhD) Associate Professor, Galgotias University

Abstract :
A sense of power and a desire for respect and admiration from others are the characteristics of narcissism. A common belief, about narcissism is that it represents a form of excessive self-esteem. Some investigations suggest that narcissism reflects high explicit self-esteem that masks low implicit self-esteem, The aim of the study is to understand the relation between narcissism and self esteem : explicit and implicit. The sample of the study comprises of 90 males of age group 20-23 from Delhi. The Narcissistic Personality Inventory, Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, Initials-preferences :Based on the procedure developed by Nuttin. The results of the study reflected that there is a significant difference between the explicit self-esteem of narcissists and non narcissists there is no difference between narcissists and non narcissists, in terms of implicit self-esteem.
Keywords: *Narcissist, explicit, implicit , self esteem.*

INTRODUCTION

Narcissism is identified as an excessive obsession with oneself, having a positive and an inflated self-image. Internal and interpersonal strategies are used to maintain this image. They tend to fantasies about power & fame. (Raskin & Novacek, 1991), counter critical feedback with aggression and self-reinforcing effects (Campbell, Reeder, Sedikides, & Elliot, 2000; Farwell & Wohlwend-Lloyd, 1998; Rhodewalt & Morf;, 1996). Moreover, the relationships developed by them lack commitment and care (Campbell, 1999; Campbell and Foster, 2001). According to the Five Factor Model (FFM) of personality, narcissism is reliably associated with extraversion. Kernis (2003) studies that positive self esteem was akin to the narcissistic tendencies and it may be because of instability in the self-image or social comparisons amid their self-esteem. Several studies have reflected that there is no significant corelation among the implicit and explicit self-esteem (Hofmann et al. 2005; Bosson et al. 2008; Krizan and Suls 2008). Morf and Rhodewalt briefly summarize the role of parental interactions, especially the mother, and the effect of parenting has a vital role in developing the self-esteem of the child. Harsh social experiences like rejection, disallowance, high parental demands, denial often lead one to observe self involving strategies as only rewarding ones. The Feeling of being left out, teased, lack of security enhances the narcissistic behaviour as they then tend to seek more recognition and admiration and try to get the societal acceptance, affection, and shared intimacy. Doubtlessly, making ann awe than fade away anonymously in an isolated comer is a better mechanism. A

5552

strong inclination towards power and achievement can be an effort to compensate for the unattended feelings of isolation, helplessness, vulnerability, and dishonor, which may be rooted in early rejection by family and the society . As Lowen (1983) noted, "Narcissists need power to inflate their self-image, which would collapse like an empty balloon without it." Another aspect basic temperamental tendencies that has a motivational orientation towards narcissism. It is not solely out of the bad social experience or mere social rejections, in the dearth of aggressive, approachable, and prone to intense anxiety and irritability. A more viable path to social acceptance and appreciation appears to exist for people with this personality structure as they appear unlikely to be successful in establishing close and intimate social bonds. Despite all the studies there is a difference in the   clinical and social perspectives of understanding the underlying issues, but they agree on the functions. According to the Clinicals they count it as a defense against unconscious sense of insufficiency and social-personality researchers emphasizing its role in self-esteem enhancement.

IMPLICIT & EXPLICIT SELF ESTEEM

Narcissism reflects self-esteem regulation: "The narcissists' self-system is in a chronically vigilant state to detect opportunities for self-enhancement or potential departures from self-affirmation, in response to which the system automatically mobilizes its strategies". The study focuses on two aspects the self-enhancement process and the thoughts and feelings. However, it is emphasized that narcissism's central feature is a detachment / split amongst unconscious sense of insufficiency and the conscious feelings of superiority, so explicit is not merely a mechanism to reinforce high self-esteem; it is also an attempt to control an unconscious, sense of inadequacy and vulnerability by countering it with strong feelings of superiority. This "splitting" among the dissociation and the associate of positive and negative evaluations of the self (Kemberg, 1975), explains many of the hypothetical paradoxes of narcissism. Interpersonally, the dissociation can be seen in the tendencies of narcissists to fluctuate among idealizing and undervaluing their partners. From the Psychodynamic perspective, the narcissistic idealization involves the projection of conscious aspects of the self, whereas the devaluation of others involves a projection of unconscious aspects of the self. The roots of narcissists are dysfunctional relationships in their "willingness to self-enhance at the cost of others," this view places the root in tendency to devalue others, specially if the others apprise them or remind them of their own shortfalls. This probably occurs primarily in intimate relationships, where partners' identities become intertwined (A. Aron, E. N. Aron, & Smollan, 1992).

HYPOTHESES
1. The narcissists will show high explicit self-esteem, as compared to the explicit self-esteem of the non narcissist individuals.
2. There is no difference between narcissists and non narcissists, in terms of implicit self-esteem.

5553

Eur. Chem. Bull. 2023, 12(Special Issue 4), 5552–5557

3. The explicit self-esteem is negatively correlated with implicit self-esteem, in case of individuals with Narcissism scores.
4. The explicit self-esteem is positively correlated with implicit self-esteem, in case of individuals with non-narcissism scores.

METHOD

sample: The sample of the present study consists of 90 male students, 20-23years.

Tools used: In the present research three tools have been used. They were as follows:

Narcissism

The Narcissistic Personality Inventory was developed by Raskin, R.N., & Hall, C.S. This version of NPI consists of 40 pairs of statements and the subject had to choose the one out of the two statements, according to their preferences. The alternate form reliability of the test was .72

Explicit self-esteem : Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale

The test was developed by Morris Rosenberg. A 10-item scale that measures global self-worth by measuring both positive and negative feelings about the self. The scale is believed to be uni-dimensional. All items are answered using a 4-point Likert scale format ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. the internal consistency was 0.7. Test-retest reliability was 0.85.

Implicit self-esteem

Initials-preferences :Based on the procedure developed by Nuttin (1985, 1987), participants evaluated each letter of the alphabet using response scales ranging from 1 (very unattractive) to 5 (very attractive).

DESIGN:

In this study, the dependent variable is the explicit and implicit self-esteem and the independent variables is the narcissist. T-test and correlation was used to compute the results.

PROCEDURE:

The consent of the participants was taken before conducting the test. The sample included 90 male students belonging to an age range of 20-23 years. The participants were given a set of three questionnaires. There was no time limit for the completion of the questionnaire. The participants were given proper instructions to complete the questionnaire. The individual had to choose the most appropriate option which suited them, no answers are right or wrong. The data was analysed using SPSS version 21.

RESULTS

After the data collection, the scores were compiled. Mean and standard deviation was applied on the NPI scores. The mean and standard deviation scores of NPI are M=(18.76,SD=5.52). To bifurcate the NPI scores into narcissist and non narcissist, SD=5.52 was divided by 2, i.e. 2.76.

5554

The new SD=2.76 was used in the formula Mean + 1.SD (18.76+2.76=21.52) and Mean + 1. SD (18.76-2.76=16) to obtain the narcissist score and non narcissist scores, respectively. Therefore, the scores above 21.52 fell in the category of narcissist, whereas the scores below 16 were the non narcissist scores. With respect to the NPI bifurcation, the explicit and implicit scores were also divided and t-test was used to obtain the results.

TABLE 1: Showing the explicit and implicit scores of narcissists and non narcissists.

The present research aims to study the explicit and implicit self-esteem of narcissists and non narcissists. Three different measures were used to measure the narcissism, explicit and implicit self-esteem. After the scores were obtained, t-test and correlation was used to compute the results.

The above table shows the self-esteem scores of narcissists and non narcissists, i.e. the mean and t-test scores. It has been found that the t value of implicit self-esteem is insignificant, in both first name (t(39)=0.7) as well as the last name (t(47)=0.4). This means that there is no difference between the implicit self-esteem of narcissists and non narcissists. On the other hand, in the case of explicit self-esteem, the t value of narcissists and non narcissists is found to be significant with t (36)= 2.48,p<0.01. Therefore, there is a significant difference between the explicit self-esteem of narcissists M=(20.48,SD=5.73) and non narcissists M=(17.28,SD=3.10). Also, it is evident that the narcissists have high explicit self-esteem as compared to the non narcissists'.

Correlation was used to find the relation between the explicit and implicit self-esteem of narcissists and non narcissists, respectively. After the results were computed, it was found that, there is no correlation between the explicit self-esteem and implicit self-esteem (with first name r = 0.02 and last name r = 0.03) of narcissists. Similarly, no correlation was found between the explicit self-esteem and implicit self-esteem (with first name r = -0.14 and last name r = -0.24) of non narcissist individuals.

DISCUSSION

The present study investigates the explicit and implicit self-esteem of narcissists and non narcissists, which was conducted on 90 male . After the analysis of data, it has been found that there is a significant difference between the explicit self-esteem of narcissists and non narcissists. Also, the first hypothesis has been proved to be true, i.e. the narcissists have high explicit self esteem as compared to the non narcissists'. Explicit self-esteem is often defined as conscious feelings of self-liking, self-worth, and acceptance (e.g., Brown, 1993; Kernis, 2003;Rosenberg, 1965). It may largely be a product of the cognitive system, which is based to some extent on logical analyses of self-relevant feedback and information. Individuals with high explicit self-esteem are believed to possess positive attitudes toward the self that are fragile and vulnerable to threats because of the underlying insecurities and self-doubts associated with low implicit self-

5555

esteem. This pattern of overt grandiosity concealing unacknowledged negative attitudes toward the self is consistent with classic views concerning narcissism (Kernberg,1970; Kohut, 1971; Morf & Rhodewalt, 2001; Raskin, Novacek, & Hogan, 1991; Wink & Gough, 1990). Individuals with high explicit self-esteem tend to display increased self-enhancement tendencies (Bosson et al., 2003) and defensive behavior (Jordan et al., 2003, Studies 2 & 3), which are hallmarks of narcissism.

The second hypothesis has also been confirmed, i.e. there is no difference between narcissists and non narcissists, in terms of implicit self-esteem. As it has been found that the t value of implicit self-esteem is insignificant, in both first name t (39)=0.7) as well as the last name (t(47)=0.4). Therefore, there is no difference between the implicit self-esteem of narcissists and non narcissists scores. implicit self-esteem is typically believed to consist of nonconscious, automatic, and overlearned self-evaluations (Greenwald & Banaji, 1995; Pelham & Hetts, 1999). Spalding and Hardin (1999) found that implicit self-esteem, unlike explicit self-esteem, predicted uncontrolled behavior (e.g., nonverbal anxiety) during a threatening interview. One of the more important functions of implicit self-esteem may be to protect individuals from events that may be threatening to the self-concept (Dijksterhuis, 2004; Greenwald & Farnham, 2000; Jones, Pelham, Mirenberg, & Hetts, 2002; Shimizu & Pelham, 2004; Spalding & Hardin, 1999). As suggested by Dijksterhuis (2004), the buffering effect of high implicit self-esteem may make it unnecessary for these individuals to engage in undesirable strategies to maintain their self-esteem (e.g., aggression, out-group derogation, self-deception) following threatening events (e.g., social rejection or failure).

As it has been evident, there is no correlation between the explicit self-esteem and implicit self-esteem of narcissists. Similarly, no correlation has been found between the explicit self-esteem and implicit self-esteem of non narcissist individuals. Therefore, the third hypothesis which predicted that the explicit self-esteem is negatively correlated with implicit self-esteem, in case of individuals with Narcissism scores; the fourth hypothesis predicted that the explicit self-esteem is positively correlated with implicit self-esteem, in case of individuals with non narcissism scores, both have not been confirmed as there is no correlation found in both the cases, as per the obtained results.

REFERENCES

- Bosson, J. K., Brown, R. P., Zeigler-Hill, V., & Swann, W. B. , Jr. (2003). Selfenhancement tendencies among people with high explicit self-esteem: The moderating role of implicit self-esteem. Self and Identity, 2, 169–187.
- Bosson, J. K., Lakey, C. E., Campbell, W. K., Zeigler-Hill, V., Jordan, C. H., and Kernis, M. H. (2008). Untangling the links between narcissism and self-esteem: a theoretical and empirical review. Soc. Personal. Psychol. Compass 2, 1415–1439. doi: 10.1111/j.1751-9004.2008.00089.x

- Bosson, J. K., Swann, W. B., Jr., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2000). Stalking the perfect measure of implicit self-esteem: The blind men and the elephant revisited? Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 79, 631–643.
- Campbell, W.K.(2001). Is narcissism really so bad? psychological inquiry.12,214-216
- Hofmann, W., Gawronski, B., Gschwendner, T., Le, H., and Schmitt, M. (2005). A meta-analysis on the correlation between the implicit association test and explicit self-report measures. Pers. Soc. Psychol. Bull. 31, 1369–1385. doi: 10.1177/0146167205275613
- Kernis, M. H. (2003). Toward a conceptualization of optimal self-esteem. Psychol. Inq. 14, 1–26. doi: 10.1207/S15327965PLI1401_01
- Krizan, Z., and Suls, J. (2008). Are implicit and explicit measures of self-esteem related? A meta-analysis for the Name-Letter Test. Pers. Individ. Dif. 44, 521–531. doi: 10.1016/j.paid.2007.09.017
- Morf, C. C., & Rhodewalt, F. (2001). Unraveling the paradoxes of narcissism: A dynamic self-regulatory processing model. Psychological Inquiry, 12, 177–196
- Nuttin, J. M. (1985). Narcissism beyond Gestalt awareness: The name letter effect. European Journal of Social Psychology, 15, 353–361.
- Raskin, R. N., & Hall, C. S. (1979). A narcissistic personality inventory. Psychological Reports, 45, 590.
- Raskin, R., & Terry, H. (1988). A principal-components analysis of the Narcissistic Personality Inventory and further evidence of its construct validity. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 54, 890–902.
- Raskin, R., Novacek, J., & Hogan, R. (1991). Narcissism, self-esteem, and defensive self-enhancement. Journal of Personality, 59, 19–38.
- Rosenberg, M. (1965). Society and the adolescent self-image. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

5557

Eur. Chem. Bull. 2023, 12(Special Issue 4), 5552–5557