

A Study of Narcissism in B.Ed. Female Trainee Teachers

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Abstract : *The present research study was conducted to find the narcissism in college students with special reference to teacher trainees i.e. the B.Ed. students. A sample of 100 female trainee teachers were selected through random sampling technique from 03 colleges of education. Descriptive survey method was adopted for the study and Narcissism Personality Inventory – 40 (NPI-40) was used for the data collection of the research. The findings revealed that the obtained mean scores of the B.Ed. students was in the average range of NPI-40 which showed that the female trainee teachers possess Normal personality.*

Keywords: *Narcissism, Authority, Self-sufficiency, Superiority, Exhibitionism, Exploitativeness, Vanity and Entitlement.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The term narcissism was originally introduced into the psychiatric discussion at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries as a neologism to describe an autoerotic disorder. The concept of narcissism was then appropriated in psychoanalysis and was further developed in Kohut's self-psychology. In Kernberg's object relations theory. According to Kohut this leads to development-related narcissism, in which an ideal self-image associated with fantasies of greatness and the need for admiration and idealization of the parents develops. Narcissism as a normal stage of development disappears as the child develops.

Seven Component Traits of Narcissist Personality (Robert Raskin & Howard Terry)

1. Leadership/Authority, i.e., the ability to control and influence others,
2. Exhibitionism, i.e., the tendency to be the center of attention,
3. Superiority, i.e., the belief (and consequently behavior) of being better than others,
4. Entitlement, i.e., the feeling of having more rights than others and deserving special treatment,
5. Exploitativeness, i.e., the tendency to exploit others without empathizing with their emotions, needs or interests,
6. Self-sufficiency, i.e., the belief that one achieves everything on one's own, and
7. Vanity, i.e., excessive pride in or admiration of one's own appearance or accomplishments.

Narcissistic personality disorder

Narcissistic personality disorder is a mental health condition in which people have an unreasonably high sense of their own importance. They need and seek too much attention and want people to admire them. People with this disorder may lack the ability to understand or care about the feelings of others.

Symptoms (Fred K. Berger, MD, 2022)

A person with this disorder may:

- React to criticism with rage, shame, or humiliation
- Take advantage of other people to achieve his or her own goals
- Have excessive feelings of self-importance
- Exaggerate achievements and talents
- Be preoccupied with fantasies of success, power, beauty, intelligence, or ideal love
- Have unreasonable expectations of favorable treatment

- Need constant attention and admiration
- Disregard the feelings of others, and have little ability to feel empathy
- Have obsessive self-interest
- Pursue mainly selfish goals

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Narcissism is often considered as a basic human tendency starting from normal to abnormal poles. This disorder is diagnosed more often in males than in females (Widiger & Sanferson, 1997). Freud (1914/1991) stated in his essay 'On Narcissism' that narcissism was a standard maturational phase of healthy development in altogether children as a "complement to the egoism of the instinct for self-preservation" (P. 74). In DSM IV it is stated that narcissistic personality possesses sense of self-importance, individual desire to gain attention and admiration from others. It describes that narcissistic personality include: inflated self-image, inter-personal exploitative, cognitive expressiveness, insouciant temperament and deficient social conscience (Corsini and Auerback, 1998).

3. MATERIALS:

A standardized inventory Narcissist Personality Inventory NPI-40 designed and standardized by Robert Raskin & Howard Terry was used for the research study. The test consist of seven component traits if Personality i.e. Authority, Self-sufficiency, Superiority, Exhibitionism, Exploitativeness, Vanity and Entitlement. In Raskin & Terry (1988), alpha composite reliability scores of .83, .74, .80, and .90 were calculated for the Narcissistic Personality Inventory. The three groups were classified as follows: High NPI score, who had scores greater than 21, Middle NPI scores who had scores between 11–17, and Low NPI scores, who had scores between 3–9.

4. METHOD:

Descriptive survey method was adopted for the research work.

Objective:

To study the narcissism in B.Ed. female trainee teachers.

Hypothesis:

The narcissism in B.Ed. female trainee teachers is high.

Sample and sampling technique:

A sample of 100 B.Ed. female trainee teachers from 03 colleges of education were selected for the study through random stratified sampling technique.

Statistical techniques used:

Mean and Percentage were used as the statistical techniques.

5. ANALYSIS:

Table no. 1 Showing the Standard Interpretation Norm table for Narcissist personality (Raskin & Terry (1988) :

Sr.no	Range of scores	Levels of NPI	Interpretation
1.	Greater than 21,	Greater NPI	Higher levels of Narcissism
2.	Middle Scores between 11–17	Middle NPI	Normal.
3.	Low scores between 3–9.	Low NPI	Very Normal

Table no. 2 showing the obtained mean scores of B.ED female trainee teachers on Narcissism:

Aspect	Obtained Mean score	Range of score	Levels of NPI	Interpretation
Narcissism in female trainee teachers	16.69	Middle Scores between 11–17	Middle NPI	Normal

Table no. 3 showing the obtained percentage (%) of B.ED female trainee teachers on different levels of Narcissism:

Sr.no	Range of scores	Levels of NPI	Interpretation	Percentage of students
1.	Greater than 21,	Greater NPI	Higher levels of Narcissism	41%
2.	Middle Scores between 11–17	Middle NPI	Normal.	46%
3.	Low scores between 3–9.	Low NPI	Very Normal	13%

6. FINDINGS:

The Table no.1, shows us the Standard Interpretation Norm table for Narcissist personality given by Raskin & Terry (1988) which will be helpful to us for interpreting the obtained scores of students. Table no. 2, shows the obtained mean score of the B.ED students which is 16.69 and which lies in the range of Middle Scores between 11–17 of the Standard Interpretation Norm table and which is interpreted as Normal range.

Hence we can infer that B.ED students have a Normal Personality but the score is very close to the standard cut-off score between normal and greater levels of narcissism which is a matter of concern. We can also interpret that the students fall on the border of the normal and narcissist personality. Hence the hypothesis that the narcissism in B.Ed. female trainee teachers is high is rejected.

From the Table no.3, we can also observe that the obtained percentage of students falling in different range of scores on the NPI inventory. It was found that 46% of students were found with Normal personality, 13% of students were found to have a Very Normal personality and 41% of students were found with higher levels of Narcissism. Out of a sample of 100 students 41% with higher levels of narcissism is a matter of immediate concern. The parents, teachers and peer members should

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Suggestions for colleges to reduce Narcissism in students (Shawn.M.Bergman, 2012):

- Improve the ability for faculty identification, Interaction and involvement with narcissist students.
- Enhance empathy with students.
- Enhance awareness of narcissism in students.
- Provide the education for the effects of narcissism on students.
- Increase opportunities for real world internships.
- Provide intervention opportunities for students.
- Reduce hypersensitivity to evaluation.
- Increased use of guest speaker.
- Enhanced use of Case method and Socratic Method.
- Reduce grandiosity and self-orientation and improve teamwork skills.

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