



A STUDY OF SEXUAL CONFLICT IN RELATION TO AGE, GENDER, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND PERSONALITY

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Conflicts of sex and sexuality provide the roots for most societal problems. Irresponsible and unwise responses to sexual feelings result in conflicting values and behavior, repressed desire and low self-esteem. The wide variety of society's attitude towards sex provides a natural breeding ground for the root of all illness. Until we learn to honor all males and females equally and understand the sexual frustrations, repressions and behaviors of the people, the individual and the society as a whole will suffer.

In order to study the extent of sexual conflict among young males and females and see its effects on personality i.e.: extroversion, introversion, achievement, morality and mental health, the following study was conducted.

METHODOLOGY

GENERAL PLAN OF THE STUDY

The present research was planned to investigate the extent of sexual conflict in young males and females of different age groups. It was divided into III parts.

Part I

Individuals high on sexual anxiety and low on sexual satisfaction suffered from sexual conflict. Incorrect sources of sexual knowledge were also said to produce sexual conflict. Sexual Anxiety Scale (SAS) by P Kumar and the Sexual Satisfaction Scale (SSS) by P Kumar were used to determine Sexual Conflict.

Part II

The objective of the research was also to find out the relation between personality and sexual conflict and to see whether it has any effect on the mental health of the individual. The areas of personality, which were studied, were: Introversion, Extroversion, Need for Achievement and Morality. The relation between sexual conflict and mental health was also determined. In order to study the personality of the individuals The Multidimensional Assessment of Personality (MAP) by Psychom was used.

Part III

To study the sexual behavior of individuals a questionnaire was created and adapted from H.C. Ganguli's Schedule for Sexual Behavior (SSB). It was an in depth questionnaire which focused on:

- 1 Sources of Sexual Knowledge
- 2 First Experience of Coitus
- 3 Sexual History Premarital
- 4 Sexual History Marital
- 5 Sexual History Extra Marital

DESIGN

As the information sought was highly emotive, sensitive and private, the sample size was small. The study was divided into three parts. First Sexual Conflict was determined i.e. Individuals high on sexual anxiety and low on sexual satisfaction were said to have sexual conflict. Comparison of sexual conflict among different subjects according to gender, age and occupation was studied. The relationship between sexual conflict and level of education, marital status, and masturbation was also investigated.

Co-relations were sought between sexual conflict and different personality variables like introversion, extroversion, need for achievement, morality and mental health. Sexual behavior of individuals was studied in detail in four parts i.e. 1) The first experience of coitus 2) sexual history premarital 3) sexual history marital 4) sexual history extra marital.

SAMPLE

The present study was conducted on 84 subjects. The sample consisted of 48 females and 36 males in the age group of 16 to 40 years. The minimum educational level of the subjects was Graduation and they were from the middle or higher socio-economic strata.

- Size 84 48 Females 36 Males

- Educational level Graduation Post Graduation
- Age group 16–23 years 23–40years
- Socioeconomic status Middle class Upper middle class

VARIABLES

Sexual conflict was studied for the following variables:-
Age, Gender, Socio Economic Status, and Personality.

TOOLS USED

The sample was administered

Dr. H C Ganguli's, Schedule for Sexual Behavior (SSB),

Sexual Anxiety Scale (SAS),

Sexual Satisfaction Scale (SSS)

Multidimensional Assessment of Personality (MAP).

PROCEDURE

As the interview schedules were long and took time to fill up and also because the information sought was private and delicate, data was collected individually and in-groups. The following selection criterion was followed:

- students of various colleges from Delhi University
- people working in different Corporate Houses and
- From individuals willing to participate in this study.

Proper rapport was established with all the subjects. They were reassured of the confidentiality of their responses and were explained that the results would be used only for research purposes. Instructions were given to facilitate them to fill up the questionnaires properly.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data was obtained as per directions given in the manuals. The scores were analyzed

with the help of t- tests and coefficient of correlation was obtained as per the need of the study. Frequency and percentages were also calculated wherever needed. The correlation was used to show the relationship between sexual anxiety and sexual satisfaction with respect to age, gender, occupation and marital status. To study the sexual behavior, frequency and percentages were used, as the sample size was small. Results were interpreted and are given in the following chapter.

CONCLUSION

- Females have more sexual anxiety than males.
- The younger age group and students experience more sexual anxiety as compared to working people.
- Gender has a negative correlation to sexual anxiety.
- Age, education, occupation and marital status does not have any significance on sexual anxiety.
- Individuals who masturbate do not experience any sexual anxiety rather it removes tension.
- Marriage does not guarantee sexual satisfaction but there is more sexual satisfaction in the older age group.
- Individuals who are sexually satisfied have a very high need for achievement.
- People who are sexually satisfied are much higher on morality and mental health than individuals with sexual anxiety.