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S U M M A R Y

Blindness is among the most severe of all forms of disability. Sensory deprivation can definitely lead to deleterious effects on the psychological functioning of the individual. Vision plays a very important role in the individual's entire action system. The blind are a minority in the world. They differ in their characteristics, needs, accomplishments and behaviour from those of the sighted. It is hardly possible to study the development of the blind, independent of the influences which are brought to bear upon them from the sighted environment. Blindness does not come alone. It brings in its entourage, various other problems which are manifold, viz., personal, psychological, social and economical. They interlock and over-lap with one another. Thus the blind face a wide range of adjustment problems and usually live in a world of scarce resources. Survival means aggression in pursuit of their goals. Hence, there is a pressing need for a careful scientific study in this unexplored area.

There is ample evidence to indicate that certain personality traits are closely associated with aggressive behaviour. Also, the intensity and the pattern of instigation are related to aggressive behaviour, that is the situation also appears to have an important role to play.

The main objective of the present investigation was to compare the levels of aggression of congenitally totally blind and sighted adult males with personality traits. Two experiments were conducted to study the relationship between aggression, personality and the situation, (using blind and sighted subjects in the sample).

In the first experiment, the two groups (blind vs. sighted) were chosen on the basis of their personality trait i.e. violent and non-violent trait. A 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 factorial design with groups (blind vs. sighted), trait (violent vs. non-violent), situation (instigation vs. noninstigation) and activity (shock-wait) was planned. The dependent measure (number of shocks) was assessed on Buss's modified aggression machine. Ninetysix subjects (48 blind, 48 sighted) participated in this experiment.

The experimental procedures of the second experiment were similar to those adopted in the first. However, the subjects were chosen on the basis of the scores they obtained on Rotter's Locus of control scale. A 2 x 2 x 2 x 2 factorial design with groups (blind vs. sighted), trait (internal vs. external), situation (instigation vs. noninstigation), activity (shock vs. maths i.e. capable of solving difficult arithmetical problems) was undertaken. The same equipment used in the first experiment measured aggression. The sample consisted of eighty subjects comprising of 40 blind and 40 sighted adults.

Results obtained in the first experiment clearly indicate that the blind are more aggressive than the sighted group. The statistical analysis revealed that the main effects for groups, traits and instigation (situation) are significant in the analysis. Main effects for the shock-wait condition are not significant. The subjects with violent trait have delivered more number of shocks as compared to the subjects with non-violent trait. This is in accordance with the assumption that personality and degree of aggressive behaviour are closely related. The impact of situation i.e. instigation is evident in the analysis. The instigated group has been more aggressive i.e. delivering more number of shocks than the uninstigated groups. Catharsis effects were enhanced under instigation for both the groups. The instigated violent subjects, in wait condition, delivered greater number of shocks than their counterparts who had previously experienced catharsis in shock condition.

In the second experiment, the main effects of group and trait are not significant, while the situation (instigation) and shock-maths are significant in the analysis. However, the interaction of groups with traits, and traits with instigation are significant. Thus, these results denote that the blind group, with internal locus of control, is more aggressive than their sighted counterparts. The catharsis effects are enhanced under instigation, for both the blind and the sighted groups.

The impact of situational force i.e., instigation is quite apparent in both the experiments. The importance of external factors as the crucial ones, for both elicitation and maintenance of aggression along with personality traits is evident. The efforts of personality traits seem to be masked by several factors involving social, environmental and situational conditions.

The inconsistency of results obtained in the two experiments emphasize the high impact of social relations on psychological well being. Supportive social relations of various rehabilitation centres, workshops and schools etc., appear to have reduced the adverse consequences of a wide variety of adjustment problems. Since the blind sample taken up in the present study, was institutionalized, this discrepancy might have arisen. It may be inferred that the institutionalized blind have taken advantage of rehabilitation centres and have fairly well integrated themselves into the sighted world. It also appears that the blind subjects studied have almost reached a stage of psychological normalcy with long standing blindness. It may further be stated that the blind tend to suppress their aggressive tendencies. They fear, such maladaptive behaviour might not be conducive for their integration into the sighted world.

COURSE WORK

<u>Course No.</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Course Credit</u>
HSS 800	Research Methods in Social Sciences	6
HSS 801	Statistical Methods	6
	Self Study	4
	Seminar I	4
HSS 803	Advanced Psychological Theory	6
HSS 631	Minor Course	6
	Seminar II	4
	Seminar III	4