



Attitude Towards Homosexuality and Dark Triad Personality Traits among Emerging Adults

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ABSTRACT

Homosexuality is an enduring pattern of emotional or sexual attraction to people of same-sex. There may be numerous individual differences have been linked to attitude towards homosexuality. The main objective of this study was to examine the association between the attitude of emerging adults towards homosexuality and dark triad personality traits which may help us to predict how individuals see homosexuals and what's their thought about homosexuals. A sample of 201 people was selected using the convenience sampling technique. The data collected using Google Forms was analysed based on a correlational research design. The finding of our study indicated a substantial negative correlation between attitude towards homosexuality and psychopathy. More studies have to be conducted including large sample size covering a larger population.

Keywords: Dark triad, Emerging adults, Homosexuality, Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy

1. Introduction

Over the past 14 years, attitude towards homosexuality have improved in tolerance and acceptance. Increased interaction with people who are known to be homosexuals is the primary drive of this transformation. According to numerous experimental findings, the presence of biological evidence for sexual orientation and the boomerang impact on homophobia among other things, also seem to have been important (Altemeyer, 2002). Previous research has shown that attitude toward homosexuality can be both positive and negative (Donald et al, 1976). There may be numerous individual differences have been linked to attitude towards homosexuality³ (Kite & Deaux, 1986). Since the legal and social standing of non-heterosexual people depends on public perception and views, the public's sentiments about gay activity are of particular relevance (Nyberg & Alston, 1977). Abuse of homosexuals is fairly common, and its psychological effects are significant. Nearly half of men and more than a third of women have experienced physical abuse, which can lead to psychosocial problems in lesbian and gay youth such as substance abuse, chronic depression, and other issues. It was discovered that homosexuals were more likely than heterosexuals to abuse drugs with women being likelier to do so than men (Weishut, 2000). Homophobia is a word that is frequently used to characterize negative responses to lesbians and homosexual men. Homophobia, homoerophobia, heterosexism and homonegativism are all terms used to describe prejudice against lesbians and gay men (Herek, 1984).

Social and personality psychologists are amassing empirical evidence that shows how some variances in human behaviour can be correctly predicted by personality factors. The environment can predict personality and recently there has been an increased interest in comprehending the negative aspects of personality (Moor & Anderion, 2019). The dark triad is the most widely used representation of malicious personality qualities (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). A trio of personality traits is referred to as a dark triad i.e., narcissism, psychopathy, and machiavellianism which are often regarded as socially and negatively undesirable (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). The HEXACO model and the Five Factor Model of Personality (FFM), two other popular personality models, live alongside the dark triad. In contrast to these traits, they are more commonly understood. It parses the pro and anti-social characteristics

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domain differently (Ashton & Lee, 2007). It should be noted that although the characteristics are viewed as socially undesirable, they nevertheless fall within the normal subclinical range and as a result, they manifest in society through commerce based on the spectrum (Vernon et. al, 2008). The clinical terminology for narcissistic and antisocial personality disorders is used to conceptualise trait narcissism and psychopathy respectively. Manipulation, cynicism and poor morals are distinctive characteristics of machiavellianism (Kajonius et.al, 2016). Psychopathy is characterised by antisocial behaviour, antipathy and impulsive destruction (Hare, 1985). People with a high level of psychopathy are frequently perceived as being self-centred (Miller et.al, 2016). On the other hand, narcissism is the sense of haughtiness, social extroversion and arrogance (Persson et. al, 2017). Generally speaking, the dark triad is linked to a lack of regard for social conventions and uncaring behaviour (Murriss et. al, 2017). High levels of grandiose narcissism, in contrast to the other dark triads, could suggest adaptive and effective social interactions (Kanjonius & Bjorkman, 2018). Emotional intelligence is frequently said to have a good relationship with narcissists and a negative relationship with psychopathy and machiavellianism (Petrides et. al, 2011).

The present study investigated the connection between dark traits and views against homosexuality. There are hardly any studies on the perceptions of homosexuality. Studies looked into how people felt toward gay and lesbians. This study tries to examine how people react to homosexuals and what are their attitudes toward homosexuals.

1.1. Hypotheses

- There will be no significant relationship between machiavellianism and attitude towards homosexuality among emerging adults.
- There will be no significant relationship between narcissism and attitude towards homosexuality among emerging adults.
- There will be no significant relationship between psychopathy and attitude towards homosexuality among emerging adults.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants

Using the convenience sampling method, 201 people from the population of emerging adults were chosen as a sample. Participants ranged in aged from 18 to 25. The Dark Triad and Attitude Towards Homosexuality questionnaire was administered online using Google forms. Before distributing the questionnaire, the subjects' agreement was obtained. They received instructions on how to reply to each claim. SPSS - 28.0.1.1 was used to analyse the data that was gathered. The statistical analytic technique employed to ascertain the relationship between the two variables was Pearson bivariate correlation.

2.2. Attitude Towards Homosexuality Scale for Indians (AHSI)

Kanika K. Ahuja (2017) developed and validated a five-point Likert scale to measure heterosexual opinions regarding homosexuality. A reliability of 0.91 was obtained through analysis.

2.3. Dark Triad Personality (D3-Short)

Paulhus and Williams (2002) were the first to identify the " Dark Triad," a set of three personality triads that are conceptually different but empirically overlap. The three traits are machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy. Cronbach's alpha ranged from .68 to .74 and validity was also established.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows that there is a negative significant relationship between psychopathy and attitude towards homosexuality ($r=-0.283^{**}$). Thus, the null hypothesis which states that "There is no significant relationship between psychopathy and attitude towards homosexuality" is rejected. Table 1 also shows that there is a negative relationship between the dark triad personality trait, machiavellianism and attitude towards homosexuality ($r=-0.129$). The null hypothesis, "There will be no significant relationship between machiavellianism and attitude towards homosexuality" is accepted. And there is also a negative relationship between the dark triad personality trait, narcissism and attitude towards homosexuals ($r=-0.071$). The null hypothesis which states that "There is no significant relationship between narcissism and attitude towards homosexuality" is accepted.

Table 1. Bivariate Correlation among Attitude Towards Homosexuality and dark Triad Personality Traits

	Attitude Towards Homosexuality
Machiavellianism	-0.129
Narcissism	-0.071
Psychopathy	-0.283**

The purpose of the current study was to determine how the attitude towards homosexuality and dark triad personality traits are related. There are three interconnected higher-order personality constructs: psychopathy, machiavellianism and narcissism which are referred to as the "Dark triad of personality." Our study had shown a negatively significant relationship between psychopathy and attitude towards homosexuality. Despite getting their way in work environments (Babiak & Hare, 2006) and performing well, they do well in short-term mating situations as well (Jonason et al., 2009).

On the other hand, sexual orientation is a multifaceted topic. It had been suggested that it refers to one's actions, feelings, desires, attitudes and sense of self about their choice of an intimate partner. Homosexuality is one among them a person with a homosexual orientation is one who exhibits a consistent pattern of emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people of the same sex. And the general public's perception of them varies. In India, discrimination toward gay and lesbian people has generally persisted and is still a significant problem. However, during the past decades, the attitude towards homosexuals has changed in terms of acceptance and tolerance. The attitude towards homosexuals among the rising adult population was influenced by increased engagement with persons who are known to be homosexuals, the effect of social media and other forms of mass media as well as the attitude of them to accept their sexual orientation.

The findings of our study indicated a substantial negative correlation between attitude towards homosexuality and the dark triad personality trait, psychopathy. Psychopathic individuals tend to be antisocial, impulsive, selfish, unemotional and remorseless. In conclusion, those who exhibit severely psychopathic tendencies have a homophobic attitude against homosexuals, which is shown in a variety of negative feelings, attitudes, and behaviours toward homosexuals.

The effect of psychopathy on antigay aggressive attitude was examined in a study by Parrott & Zeichner (2006). The analysis offers fresh information on the causes of anti-gay violence. Physical hostility toward a gay male, but not a heterosexual male, was found to be predicted by self-reported psychopathy. Particularly, both primary and secondary psychopathy strongly indicated that participants would choose to receive more intense shocks during the task. This data suggests that aggressiveness toward gay men may be a risk factor for psychopathy. That concurs with the results of our investigation.

The goal of the work by Moor et al. (2019) was to replicate the prior studies that claimed the Dual Process Model (DPM) to be a reliable model for predicting attitudes toward gay males. By examining the Dark Tetrad (D4) quality's ability to predict attitudes about gay men beyond what the DPM could account for, they added to the body of literature. According to dual process theorists, who assert that explicit measures alone cannot reflect the complexity of social ideas, they used both explicit (i.e., self-report) and implicit (i.e., non-conscious) measuring methodologies (Nosek & Smyth, 2007). The predictions were mostly true for explicit attitudes, but not true for implicit attitudes. The findings show that explicit attitudes were positively connected to gender and social and economic progressivism, and adversely related to narcissism, psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and religious affiliation. Unexpectedly, in the regression model, psychopathy predicted explicit positive attitudes while also having a bivariate negative correlation with explicit negative views. This is probably the result of a suppression effect, a statistical oddity where one variable influences another to impair its ability to forecast which partially fits the inquiry that is currently being conducted (Thompson & Levine, 1997).

Additionally, the study by Shackelford & Besser (2007) tested the idea that those with higher openness to experience personality scores will have a more positive attitude toward homosexuality. The outcome was consistent with the theory that a person's personality makes them more likely to have a particular attitude. Significant research, for instance, has connected the authoritarian personality trait to perceptions of several stigmatised groups, including homosexuality (Haslam & Levy, 2006). In general, the research indicates that extensive social surveys may help determine correlations between personality traits and significant social attitudes, such as attitudes about homosexuality. Thus, the research in turn supports our choice of the dark triad personality trait as a determinant factor of attitude towards homosexuals.

It is crucial to remember that this study has some limitations when interpreting the results. One of the major flaws in the current study is that the use of self-reports might not always be accurate. The second significant constraint is that we restricted our study to the emerging population only. It is uncertain whether the link between attitude towards homosexuals and the dark triad personality traits is the same in younger and older individuals. Thus, it is imperative to conduct further research that includes a varied population. More studies have to be conducted including a large sample size and covering a larger population needed. As most of the earlier studies placed relatively lesser emphasis on personality traits and attitudes toward homosexuals, additional research must be done specifically to determine the relationship between these dark triad traits and attitudes toward homosexuality. After this study of the relationship between attitude towards homosexuality and dark triad personality trait, it was found that a significant relationship exists between these variables in emerging adults.

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