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Relationship Between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem Among Active Online Dating Application Users and Non-Users of Indian Metropolitan Areas

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ABSTRACT

This study has been undertaken to study the relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem between Active online dating applications and nonusers of Indian metropolitan areas. It explores that active users have higher emotional intelligence and self-esteem levels than that of non-users. To find any significant differences in the two variables of active users and non-users, a comparative study is carried out. A sample of 70 participants was taken, with 36 participants in each group. The results reflected no significant difference in emotional intelligence and self-esteem of active dating application users and nonusers. The findings of the study may help in better comprehension of usage of dating applications, emotional and social well-being of individuals in Indian online dating culture.

Keywords: Online Dating Applications, Active Users, Non- Users

1. Introduction

With the increase in the usage of social media and applications due to the digitalization of everything around, there has been a surge in online dating. It came into being with the emergence of Dating Applications, which helped people connect and form romantic as well as platonic relationships. Due to the popularity of this concept, an area of research of psychological aspects impacting the use of online dating applications and their effects on the emotional and social well-being developed. Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem became the elements to draw most attention in this area. In Indian context, looking at historical concept of arranged marriages and dating being a topic of taboo, the western influence of online dating garnered the light of modern way to find love and form relationships. Changing societal norms and evolution of technology brought people of metropolitan areas closer to the platform.

1.1 Online Dating Applications usage, Emotional Intelligence and Self-esteem

Research on the correlation of emotional intelligence and self-esteem to measure its impact on academic achievement of university students pursuing masters concluded that there was no effect of emotional intelligence and self-esteem on the academic achievements. (Jenaabadi, 2014). An improvement in emotional functioning was observed over a 9-year follow-up time in a longitudinal study of women 65 and older, going from a baseline median of 0.65 to a median of 0.78 nine years later. The study was done to outline the longitudinal directions and relationships that are bidirectional that are of physical- Social and emotional functioning and positive aging dimensions. (Zaslavsky, Cochrane, LaCroix, et al, 2014). As emotional intelligence is an essential, and an ability which can see changes due to several factors, in adolescence as well due to changing internal systems, differences in the environment and interpersonal interactions the adolescents form a certain kind of self-concept and build self-esteem. A study to assess the relationship of the emotional intelligence and self-esteem of adolescents of different university students of Pakistan, with the sample being divided further in males and females resulted in the positive relationship between emotional intelligence and self-esteem, where females found out to be more emotionally intelligent. (Bibi, Saqlein, Mussawar, 2016). On professional front, a study conducted on librarians of different universities in Nigeria resulted in high levels of self-esteem and emotionally intelligent respondents supporting the positive correlation of the variables. (Onwubiko 2020). In Spanish physicians' association of emotional intelligence and self-esteem along with sociodemographic and employment variables was examined. The results reflected diminished interpersonal factor of emotional intelligence of physicians was high with stable contracts and least effect. Overall self-esteem was

positively related to stress-management and adaptability, the higher the self-esteem better the adaptability. (Jurado, Perez-Fuentes, Martinez, Linares, 2022)

Self-esteem looked to be strongly influenced by emotional intelligence, which helps to account for the beneficial impact of social competence on selfesteem. The findings suggest that improving emotional intelligence is important for strengthening the foundation of young adults' self-esteem. (Cheung, Hue, 2014). Social media and constant exposure to different lives of people has an impact on thinking, mental health, and wellbeing, like young women and many other groups, who frequently take selfies showed higher levels of self-objectification and lower self-esteem. (Veldhuis, Alleva, Bij de Vaate, Keijer, &Konijn, 2018). The research expands our understanding of the mediating function of self-promotion and self-deprecation. Selfesteem correlated positively with style of self-promotion and negatively with style of self-deprecation. When young people are conscious of their strengths and talents, it can help them feel more overall satisfied with their lives, which can boost their self-esteem. Similarly, lower existence when individuals have a tendency to underestimate their abilities, satisfaction can produce less favorable self-esteem. (Szezesniak, Mazur, Rodzen, Szpunar, 2021). A study on adolescents explores the relationship of self-esteem and academic engagement, the impact mediated on academic self-efficacy, and the effect moderated on perceived social support. The findings suggest it is important to take into account teenage self-esteem, academic self-efficacy, and perceived social support in order to increase adolescent academic involvement. (Zhao, Zheng, Pan, Zhou, 2021). The interaction between sexualityspecific and more general processes that sexual minority young adults believe have adversely affected their self-esteem is highlighted by a qualitative interview study and thematic analysis. The results emphasize the significance of general life stressors and their effect, in addition to processes unique to sexual minorities, on the self-esteem of young sexual minorities. (Bridge, Rimes, Smith, 2022). Indian women have seen changes in the society several times and gone through them. A study shows educated working women had better self-esteem than educated housewives. It concluded that women's employment status has a significant effect on the Indian educated women's self-esteem and quality of life. (Shekhawat, Paliwal, Prashant, Sisodia, Singh, Chandel, 2022).

A study looked at the connections between sensation-seeking, online trust, smartphone Internet connectivity, and the intention for using dating apps for casual sex and romance. The findings revealed that heterosexual men and women use such apps with the intent of finding romance and relationships. Also, intent had a direct relationship with sensation-seeking and smartphone use, smartphone use was indirectly associated with intent. (Chan, 2017). In order to determine whether or not college students who use dating applications have lower perceptions of their bodies and their own worth than nonusers, a research finding was that the apps were used to boost self-esteem and self-confidence. Gratification is temporary with no permanence of feelings of self-esteem. (Shimokobe, Miranda, 2018). Research was done to determine whether there is a relationship between an individual's emotional intelligence quotient and their dating apps usage like tinder or bumble. The age range of the 77 participants who finished the research was between 18 and 55. Although more data could be gathered, no statistically significant results emerged from the statistical study. (Mansdoerfer, Aleksander, 2019). Findings of a cross-sectional study on higher anxiety, depression and psychological distress levels with lower self-esteem in people who use dating apps based on swiping with those of who do not use them, the users' distress, depression and anxiety levels were higher. (Holtzhausen, Fitzgerald, Thakur, Ashley, Rolfe, Pit, 2020). Research to determine why people use online dating apps and what effect they have on young adults' dating anxiety and loneliness, Females and males were equally active participants on such platforms, The research involved 66 adolescents and young adults. (33 males and 33 females). People with higher self-esteem are involved in finding romantic relationships. (Gupta, 2021). Another research was to locate trustworthy sexual self-configurations using a cluster analysis approach and to assess the usefulness of these profiles in predicting app use intentions and sexual outcomes. The clusters discovered varied in terms of gender, attachment styles, app usage habits, and sexual characteristics, offering insight into how the relationship between an individual's sexual self-concept and their interactions with the online dating and sex scene. (Mateizer, Avram, 2022).

1.2 Theoretical Framework

As per the Social Cognitive Theory, a person can learn a particular behavior through observation with them getting reinforced by positive outcomes. It further suggests that factors like emotional intelligence and self-esteem can be influential for an individual's behavior, including their use of dating apps. Thus, individuals with higher levels of emotional intelligence and self-esteem may be more likely to engage in online dating application usage, due to developed social skills and self-confidence to put themselves out there and interact with people. Another basis could be Attachment theory, as it focuses on childhood experiences and relationship with the primary caregiver. An individual's certain attachment style may impact the online platform usage. Those with healthy and secure attachment style might not rely just on online dating applications for social interaction whereas insecure individuals might use the applications for compensating unfulfilled social needs.

2. Research Methodology

Aim: To assess Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem of Active Online Dating Application Users and Non-Users of Indian Metropolitan Areas.

Objectives:

I. To find the correlation between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem of Active Online Dating Application Users and Non-Users.

II. To compare Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem of Active Online Dating Application Users and Non-Users.

Hypotheses:

H1: There will be positive correlation between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem.

H2: There will be significant difference in Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem among active online dating applications users and non-users.

Research Design: Ex-Post Facto Research with Correlational orientation.

Sample:

The sample comprised of 70 participants from different metropolitan areas ranging from 18 to 30 years old, of distinct fields of education and occupation. Convenience sampling was done to acquire participants for the research. Inclusivity of all genders was considered. They were divided into two groups of 35 people in each-

i. Active online dating applications users.

ii. Non-users

Variables:

Independent Variable: Active online dating applications users, non-users

Dependent Variable: Emotional Intelligence, Self-Esteem

Tools Used:

1. The Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire- Short Form (TEIQue-SF)

The Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire, often known as the TEIQue-SF, is a condensed version of this self-report questionnaire that measures emotional intelligence. The TEIQue-SF, a 30-item test that measures emotional intelligence across four domains (well-being, self-control, emotionality, and sociability), evaluates a person's emotional quotient. It is intended to be a brief and simple test of emotional intelligence that may be finished in a few minutes. Each item of TEIQue-SF is scored on a 7-point likert scale, in which 7 = Strongly Agree and 1= Strongly Disagree. There are some items that are supposed to be scored in reverse, where Strongly Disagree is scored as 7 and Strongly Agree as 1. The total score of TEIQue-SF ranges from 30 to 210. Low trait emotional intelligence is shown by scores from 30 to 84, average trait emotional intelligence from scores 85-129 and high trait emotional intelligence from scores 130 to 210.

Reliability and Validity: High Internal Consistency, with Cronbach's alpha coefficients ranging from .83 to .91 and good Test-Retest reliability over a period of 4 weeks, with correlation coefficients ranging from .82 to .87.

Showing expected correlations with other measures of emotional intelligence, personality traits, and mental health outcomes TEIQue-SF reflected good Construct validity. Proved to be positively correlated with other measures of emotional intelligence like TEIQue and Mayer-Salovey-Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test, TEIQue-SF has Convergent validity as well. The distinction of TEIQue-SF from constructs like cognitive ability and personality traits, indicates good discriminant validity.

2. Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale

To measure global self-worth, comprising both positive and negative feelings about self, Rosenberg Self-Esteem Questionnaire is a 10-item scale, that is uni-dimensional with positive and negative items. The responses of the questionnaire are scored on a 4-point likert scale, where 4= Strongly Agree and 1= Strongly Disagree. The items 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 are scored in reverse. A score of 40 is the highest possible. High self-esteem is indicated by scores ranging from 30 to 40, moderate self-esteem is reflected by 21 to 29, and 10 to 20 scores are considered to be of low self-esteem.

Reliability and Validity: The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale has high internal consistency, as indicated by its Guttman scale coefficient of reproducibility of .92. The test-retest reliability of the scale, measured over a period of 2 weeks, is also high, with correlation coefficients of .85 and .88, demonstrating excellent stability over time.

The Scale has an excellent construct, concurrent, and predictive validity. When compared with other measures of self-esteem, such as the Coopersmith Self-Esteem Inventory, there is a significant correlation, indicating that the scale is accurately measuring the construct of self-esteem. Additionally, the scale has been found to correlate with measures of depression and anxiety in the predicted direction, suggesting that individuals with lower self-esteem may be more susceptible to these conditions.

Sample Selection:

The sampling technique used is Purposive Sampling, as the population should be of metropolitan areas, whether or not using online dating applications.

Procedure:

With the selection of variables to be studied, well-suited questionnaires were selected to achieve the objectives of the current study. The Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire-Short Form for the assessment of Emotional Intelligence and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale for measuring Self-Esteem were chosen. Instructions for responding to the items of the questionnaires were provided distinctly. After the responses were recorded, scoring was done for calculating correlation and independent t-test.

Data Collection: Data was collected for two groups which were active online dating application users and non-users of metropolitan areas.

Analytic Strategy: To seek correlation Pearson r correlation was the one used, and independent t-test was used to check the significance between the two groups.

3. Results and Discussion

This chapter includes presentation, analyses and discussion of the results calculated to verify the hypothesis which are presented in the previous chapter.

	Ν	Mean	Group	SD
SELF- ESTEEM	35	27.8	Active Users	6.31
	35	28.7	Non- Users	5.93
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE	35	136	Active Users	21.4
	35	137	Non- Users	23.8
WELLBEING	35	29.5	Active Users	5.84
	35	29.5	Non- Users	5.84
SELF- CONTROL	35	29.6	Active Users	32.2
	35	29.6	Non- Users	32.2
EMOTIONALITY	35	36.9	Active Users	6.80
	35	36.9	Non-Users	6.80
SOCIABILITY	35	25.7	Active Users	5.25
	35	25.7	Non- Users	5.25
GLOBAL EI	35	18.7	Active Users	4.64
	35	18.7	Non- Users	4.64

The table shows the Mean and Standard Deviation of the 35 participants in each group. The Mean for Self-Esteem of Active Users is 27.8 along with the Standard Deviation of 6.31, whereas Mean of Non-Users is 28.7 with the Standard Deviation of 5.93. The mean of Emotional Intelligence of Active Users is 136 with the Standard Deviation of 21.4, on the other hand, the mean of Non- Users is 137 with the Standard Deviation 23.8. The Mean and Standard Deviation of Active Users and Non- Users for Well- Being is the same, that is, 29.5 and 5.84, respectively. Self- Control also reflected the same Mean and Standard Deviation for both the groups which is 29.6 and 32.2. The sub-factor of Emotionality has the mean of 36.9 for both the groups with the Standard Deviation of 5.25. The last sub-factor of the Emotional Intelligence variable is Global EI with the Mean of 18.7 shared by both the groups with the Standard Deviation of 4.64.

Table 2. Correlation between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem of Active Online Dating Application Users.

	Emotional Intelligence	Well- Being	Self- Control	Emotionality	Sociability	Global EI	Self- Esteem
Emotional Intelligence	_						
Well- Being	0.636***	_					
Self- Control	0.629***	0.079	_				
Emotionality	0.788***	0.473**	0.398*				
Sociability	0.737***	0.370*	0.415*	0.607***	_		
Global EI	0.770***	0.577***	0.413*	0.501**	0.461**	_	
Self- Esteem	0.677***	0.687***	0.270	0.371*	0.431**	0.692***	_

The table shows the positive correlation between Emotional Intelligence, its sub- facets, and Self- Esteem, with the coefficients ranging from 0.636 to 0.770. This suggests that people having higher levels of Emotional Intelligence tend to have High levels of Well- Being, Self- Control, Emotionality, Sociability and Self- Esteem. The strongest correlation in the table is between Emotional Intelligence and Global EI, that is 0.770. The correlation between Well- Being and Self- Control is the weakest with the coefficient of 0.079.

Self- Esteem is also positively correlated with other variables with coefficients ranging from 0.270 to 0.692, which presents that people with high Self-Esteem have high Emotional Intelligence, Well- being, Sociability and Global Emotional Intelligence.

Table3. Correlation between Emotional Intelligence and Self Esteem of Non- Users.

	Emotional Intelligence	Well- Being	Self- Control	Emotionality	Sociability	Global EI	Self- Esteem
Emotional Intelligence	_						
Well- Being	0.862***						
Self- Control	0.813***	0.655***					
Emotionality	0.803***	0.631***	0.488**	_			
Sociability	0.775***	0.573***	0.485**	0.528**	_		
Global EI	0.857***	0.689***	0.738***	0.555***	0.628***	_	
Self- Esteem	0.681***	0.708***	0.434**	0.478**	0.662***	0.533***	

The same variables present positive correlation in Non- users as well, with the coefficients ranging from 0.434 to 0.857. The strongest correlation here is between Self- Control and Emotional Intelligence with the coefficient of 0.813, and the weakest positive correlation is presented by 0.655 that is between Self- Control and Well- Being. Therefore, H1 which states that there will be a positive relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem, is accepted.

Table 4. t-test between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem of Active online dating applications users and Non-users of Indian metropolitan areas.

Variables	t	df	р	
Emotional intelligence	-0.259	68.0	0.797	
Self esteem	-0.605	68.0	0.547	

On the basis of the results of independent samples t-test, the t score -0.259 of Emotional Intelligence and t score -0.605 of Self-Esteem, there is no significant difference in both the variables in Active online dating applications users and Non-users. Therefore, it is evident that H2 that is, There will be significant difference in Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem among active online dating applications users and non-users, is rejected.

Table 5. Normality test (Shapiro-Wilk) between Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem among Active online dating applications users and Non-users of Indian metropolitan areas.

Variables	W	р
Emotional intelligence	0.989	0.780
Self esteem	0.979	0.273

As the value of p is more than 0.05, it can be deduced that on the Normal Probability Curve the data is normally distributed. **Table 6. Homogeneity of Variance (Levene's Test)**

Variables	F	df	df2	р	
Emotional intelligence	0.618	1	68	0.434	
Self esteem	0.418	1	68	0.520	

The value of p is more than or nearly equal to 0.05 implies that there are no statistically significant variance differences.

The findings of this study advocate that Emotional Intelligence and Self-esteem have a positive correlation ranging from to for Active online dating application users and for Non- users. Therefore, H1, which stated that there is a positive correlation between Emotional Intelligence and Self-esteem, was accepted. Other analysis, which compared the Emotional Intelligence and Self- Esteem of Active online dating application users with that of Non-users, resulted in no significant difference between Emotional Intelligence and Self- Esteem of the groups. Hence, H2 was rejected that there is significant difference between Emotional Intelligence of Active online dating application users.

The aspect of emotional intelligence is multi- dimensional and can be assessed on different levels for purposes like personal development, recruitment or selection, search for potential partners and clinical interventions. People of Metropolitan areas might have better self- esteem levels due to exposure to certain social settings. Despite its steady growth, online dating applications and such platforms have their own challenges in the Indian market, such as, traditional gender roles and stigma around its usage, the concept of arranged marriage and traditional matchmaking through community networks, which actually worked for several individuals.

The correlation coefficients between Emotional Intelligence, its sub- facets and Self- Esteem are higher in Active online dating application users of metropolitan areas. On the contrary, no significant difference between the variables of both the groups suggesting that there is no impact of Online Dating Applications usage as such. This discovery can be useful to those who are hesitant about using online Dating Applications with the concern of their emotional and mental well- being getting affected, while those with higher levels of Emotional Intelligence and Self- Esteem can navigate potential partners for fulfilling relationships easily.

4. Conclusion

The study featured the usage of online dating applications, their impact on psychological aspects like Emotional Intelligence and Self- Esteem of people. Through the findings outlined in this study, the role of sub- facets of emotional intelligence and self- esteem is underlined.

Future implications of the paper could be that it can help improve dating experiences of people by making the dating platform algorithms and features considerate of emotional intelligence and self- esteem of its users to make the experience positive. It can increase awareness of the influence of emotional intelligence and self-esteem on the success of romantic relationships and help to shape societal norms surrounding online dating and eradicate taboos around it. Mental health professionals can also work upon interventions for enhancing and helping improve emotional intelligence and self-esteem levels of people exposed to such applications and its usage leading to surge in negative emotions of the individuals.

It arrived at a conclusion that no difference in the emotional intelligence and self-esteem levels of Active online dating application users and Non- users belonging to the same cities or areas, here, metropolitan areas.

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