

# Psychopathy and Guilt-Shame in Late Adolescents: Role of Gender

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**INTRODUCTION-**Psychopathy is a personality trait marked by deceit/manipulation lack of remorse, absence of empathy. According to Lynam and Miller (2019) the traits of antagonism such as callousness, lack of guilt, ruthlessness, exploitation, arrogance, manipulation are the primary features of Psychopathy. Guilt is a self-conscious emotion characterized by a painful appraisal of having done(or thought) something wrong. Shame involves emotions arising from the sense of there being something dishonourable, immodest in one's conduct. Guilt and Shame's many features are intertwined and hence have been studied as a single aspect.(Wolf et al, 2009)

**OBJECTIVE-** To examine the (a) Relationship between Psychopathy and Guilt-Shame in late adolescents and (b)Gender differences vis-a-vis Psychopathy and Guilt-Shame in late adolescents.

**MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY-** Analysis comprised of Pearson Product Moment correlation and t-test on the data collected using standardized tools,namely, Guilt and Shame Proneness Scale (Cohen et al., 2011) and Psychopathy Sub-dimension of SD3-27 (Paulhus,2013). Sample of 58 males and 110 females were taken in the age range of 18-21 years

## RESULTS-

TABLE 1

	<i>Psychopathy</i>	<i>Males(N=58)</i>	<i>Females(N=110)</i>
Shame and Guilt	-0.289**	-0.046	-0.298**

\*\*p<.01

-Psychopathy and Guilt-Shame were found to be significantly inversely

Correlated overall with only female sample displaying significant inverse correlation(TABLE 1).

-There was significant difference between males and females on Psychopathy

and Guilt-Shame and its three dimensions except Shame Withdrawal. Males were significantly

Higher on Psychopathy whereas females were high on Guilt-Shame. Females were high on three

aspects of Guilt-Shame except Shame withdrawal.(TABLE 2).

-Psychopathy was found to be significantly higher in rural population as

compared to urban. Shame-Guilt's only dimension that was found significant was Shame Negative Self Evaluation which was higher in Urban population.(TABLE 3)

TABLE 2

<i>Traits</i>	<i>Mean</i>		<i>S.D.</i>		<i>t</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
	<i>(N=58)</i>	<i>(N=110)</i>	<i>(N=58)</i>	<i>(N=110)</i>	
Psychopathy	23.31	19.52	4.566	4.486	5.177**
Guilt and Shame	70.53	78.18	13.005	11.879	-3.839**
Guilt repair	19.60	22.59	3.969	4.222	-4.451**
Negative Self Evaluation	19.03	21.65	5.328	4.788	-3.242**
Guilt Negative Behaviour	18.64	20.72	4.764	4.728	-2.705**
Shame Withdrawal	13.26	13.22	4.722	4.112	0.58

\*\*p<.01

TABLE 3

<i>Socio-demographic factors</i>	<i>Psychopathy</i>			<i>Guilt and Shame</i>			<i>Guilt Negative behaviour Evaluation</i>			<i>Guilt Repair</i>			<i>Shame Negative Self Evaluation</i>			<i>Shame Withdrawal</i>		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>
Occupation Of Business Father	20.97	5.27	-.69	76.27	12.03	-.76	20.42	4.84	-1.09	21.81	4.34	-.56	20.93	4.99	-3.24	13.12	4.27	.06
	20.42	4.35		76.27	12.03		19.57	4.89		21.42	4.19		20.72	5.25		13.03	4.29	
Occupation Of Mother	21.28	5.03	1.94	74.78	12.8	-1.22	19.79	4.78	-0.88	21.5	4.22	-.28	20.46	5.23	-1.17	13.03	4.48	-.94
	19.69	4.19		77.44	12.42		20.52	4.95		21.71	4.75		21.48	4.79		13.73	3.89	
Residence	20.17	4.68	2.62**	76.33	12.05	-1.18	20.28	4.87	-1.10	21.76	4.25	-0.86	21.31	4.70	-2.12*	12.98	4.07	1.10
	22.25	4.95		73.83	14.19		19.40	4.72		21.13	4.61		19.53	5.78		13.77	4.81	
No. of Siblings	21.38	6.13	-.34	75.13	14.12	.55	21.19	4.45	1.29	19.88	5.08	-.33	21.06	5.41	.76	13.00	4.15	-.27
	21.92	5.06		72.65	15.43		19.16	5.57		20.38	5.18		19.73	6.04		13.38	4.86	

\*\*p<.01

**CONCLUSION-** In a study by Prado et al.,(2016) psychopathy was found to be inversely correlated to guilt proneness in a sub-clinical sample of N=739. However shame-proneness was found to be uncorrelated.

-In a study by Lyons (2014) Psychopathy was associated with lower guilt proneness and lower negative self-evaluation which validated our results.

-A study by Andrew et al. (2015) indicated that shame was positively related to behavioural features of psychopathy whereas guilt was negatively related to psychopathic characteristics more broadly.

-The fact that Rural population came high on Psychopathy should be examined further.

-The fact that males are high on Psychopathy than females is consistent with existing literature on the subject(Wynn et al, 2012)

Authors report no conflict of interest for this study, Citations available on demand. This is an original piece of work has not been presented or published before.

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