



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATURE OF EMOTIONAL PROCESSING WITH GENDER AND AGE AMONG ADULTS WITH DISSOCIATIVE DISORDER.

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ABSTRACT **Background:** Dissociative disorders, characterized by disruptions in memory, identity, and perception, often stem from early childhood trauma. **Materials & Methods:** Data were collected through self-report measures to assess emotional processing difficulties from both male and female adults diagnosed with dissociative disorders. **Results:** Results indicate gender and age-related differences in emotional processing, with implications for clinical practice and treatment interventions. Specifically, females demonstrate higher levels of emotional dysregulation and difficulty in identifying and expressing emotions compared to males. **Conclusion:** These findings underscore the importance of considering gender and age-related factors in understanding and addressing emotional processing deficits in adults with dissociative disorders.

KEYWORDS : Dissociative Disorder, Emotional Processing

INTRODUCTION:

Dissociative disorders often stem from early trauma and are characterized by disruptions in memory, identity, and perception. Research suggests that gender differences exist in emotional processing among individuals with dissociative disorders. Females may exhibit higher levels of emotional dysregulation and difficulty in identifying and expressing emotions compared to males. These differences may be influenced by societal expectations, coping mechanisms, and neurobiological factors. Additionally, age-related variations in emotional processing have been observed in this population. Older individuals with dissociative disorders may experience greater impairment in emotional functioning and increased severity of dissociative symptoms compared to younger counterparts. This could be due to factors such as prolonged exposure to trauma, cumulative stressors, and differences in coping strategies over time. Overall, understanding how gender and age intersect with the nature of emotional processing in adults with dissociative disorders can inform more effective treatment approaches.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Aims And Objectives:

The aim of the current study was to examine the relationship between emotional processing with gender and age among adults with dissociative disorder.

Sample And Procedure:

A sample of 100 young adults with dissociative disorder experienced for the study was taken on purposive basis from the OPD of Psychiatric Hospital Srinagar for treatment. After fulfilling the inclusion criteria and informed consent has taken before administering the measuring tests.

Measures:

Emotional Processing Scale (EPS 25):

It is a 25-item five-factor self-report questionnaire designed to measure emotional processing styles. Internal consistency was found to be .94 with a split-half reliability of .90 with concurrent validity of .70 (Baker et al, 2007).

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

Table-1 Two Way ANOVA For Suppression Of Emotional Processing

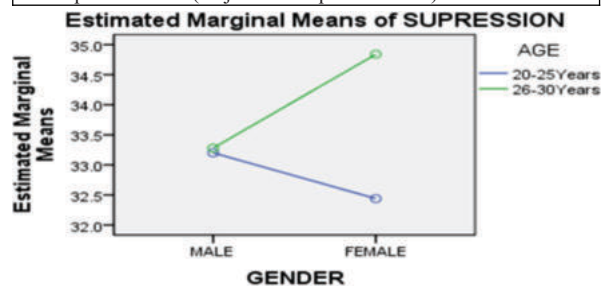
Gender	Age	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Male	20-25Years	33.20	2.784	25
	26-30Years	33.28	2.558	25
Female	20-25Years	32.44	2.238	25
	26-30Years	34.84	3.375	25

Dependent Variable: Suppression

Table-1.1 ANOVA Summary

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	76.080 ^a	3	25.360	3.305	.023
Intercept	111823.360	1	111823.360	14574.566	.000
Gender	4.000	1	4.000	.521	.472
Age	38.440	1	38.440	5.010	.028
Gender * Age	33.640	1	33.640	4.384	.039
Error	736.560	96	7.673		
Total	112636.000	100			
Corrected Total	812.640	99			

a. R Squared = .094 (Adjusted R Squared = .065)



In Table 1, a two-way ANOVA was run to examine the effect of Gender and age differences for suppression of emotional processing variable. The main effect of gender was found non-significant, $F(1, 96) = .521, p > .01$. However, the main effect of age was found significant, $F(1, 96) = 5.010, p < .05$. Mean scores show that dissociative patients whose age between 26-30 years shows more suppression ($N=100, M=34.06, SD= 3.06$) as compared to patients whose age group between 20-25 years ($N=100, M=32.82, SD= 2.52$). The interaction effect between the scores of Gender by Age was significant $F(1, 96) = 4.38, p < .01$, and the sample effect analyses show that female patients aged 26-30 years show a high level of suppression as compared to female patients whose age was 20-25 years. However male patients in an average age group between 20-25 years show more suppression as compared to their respective age group i.e., between 26-30 years.

Table-2 Two Way ANOVA for Un-Processed Emotional Processing

Gender	Age	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Male	20-25Years	32.04	2.541	25
	26-30Years	33.16	2.656	25
Female	20-25Years	33.04	2.850	25
	26-30Years	34.64	3.174	25

Dependent Variable: Un-Processed Emotions

Table-2.1 ANOVA Summary

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	86.120 ^a	3	28.707	3.621	.016
Intercept	110356.840	1	110356.840	13920.762	.000
Gender	38.440	1	38.440	4.849	.030
Age	46.240	1	46.240	5.833	.018
Gender * Age	1.440	1	1.440	.182	.671
Error	761.040	96	7.928		
Total	111204.000	100			
Corrected Total	847.160	99			

a. R Squared = .102 (Adjusted R Squared = .074)

In Table 2, a two-way ANOVA was run to examine the effect of Gender and age difference for un-processed emotions processing. The main effect of gender was found significant, $F(1, 96) = 4.84, p < .01$. Mean scores shows that female patients show more un-processed emotions ($N=100, M=33.84, SD= 3.09$) when compared to their male counterparts ($N=100, M=32.60, SD= 2.63$). The main effect of age was found significant, $F(1,96) = 5.833, p < .05$. Mean scores show that dissociative patients whose age between 26-30 years shows more unprocessed emotions ($N=100, M=33.90, SD= 2.99$) as compared to patients whose age group between 20-25 years ($N=100, M=32.54, SD= 2.72$). The interaction effect between the scores of Genders by Age was non-significant $F(1,96) = .182, p > .01$.

Table-3 Two Way ANOVA for Un-Regulatory Emotional Processing

Gender	Age	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Male	20-25years	31.88	1.764	25
	26-30Years	33.68	3.132	25
Female	20-25years	32.68	2.529	25
	26-30Years	34.44	2.888	25

Dependent Variable: Un-Regulatory Emotions

Table-3.1 ANOVA Summary

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	94.430 ^a	3	31.477	4.553	.005
Intercept	110024.890	1	110024.890	15914.883	.000
Gender	15.210	1	15.210	2.200	.141
Age	79.210	1	79.210	11.458	.001
Gender * Age	.010	1	.010	.001	.970
Error	663.680	96	6.913		
Total	110783.000	100			
Corrected Total	758.110	99			

a. R Squared = .125 (Adjusted R Squared = .097)

In Table 3, a two-way ANOVA was run to examine the effect of Gender and age difference on for un-regulatory emotional processing. The main effect of gender was found non-significant, $F(1, 96) = 2.20, p > .01$. However, the main effect of age was found significant, $F(1, 96) = 11.458, p < .05$. Mean scores shows that patients aged between 26-30 years show more un-regulatory emotions ($N=100, M=34.06, SD= 3.06$) as compared to patients whose age group between 20-25 years ($N=100, M=32.28, SD= 2.19$). The interaction effect between the scores of Genders by Age was found non-significant $F(1, 96) = .182, p > .01$.

Table-4 Two Way ANOVA For Avoidance Emotional Processing

Gender	Age	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Male	20-25years	33.00	3.055	25
	26-30Years	35.24	2.538	25
Female	20-25years	35.40	2.661	25
	26-30Years	35.00	2.179	25

Dependent Variable: Avoidance

Table-4.1 ANOVA Summary

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	93.880 ^a	3	31.293	4.534	.005
Intercept	120131.560	1	120131.560	17406.167	.000
Gender	29.160	1	29.160	4.225	.043
Age	21.160	1	21.160	3.066	.083
Gender * Age	43.560	1	43.560	6.312	.014
Error	662.560	96	6.902		
Total	120888.000	100			

Corrected Total	756.440	99		
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a. R Squared = .124 (Adjusted R Squared = .097)

In Table 4, a two-way ANOVA was run to examine the effect of Gender and age difference on the avoidance dimension of emotional processing. The main effect of gender was found significant, $F(1, 96) = 4.225, p < .05$. Mean scores shows that female patients show more avoidance ($N=100, M=35.20, SD= 2.41$) when compared to their male counterparts ($N=100, M=34.12, SD= 3.001$). The main effect of age was found non-significant, $F(1,96)=3.006, p > .01$. However, the interaction effect between the scores of Genders by Age was found significant $F(1,96)=6.312, p < .05$. The interaction effect between the scores of Genders by Age was significant $F(1,96) = 6.31, p < .05$, and the sample effect analyses show that female patients aged 20-25 years show a high level of Avoidance as compared to female patients whose age was 26-30 years. However male patients in an average age group between 26-30 years show more Avoidance as compared to their respective age group i.e., between 20-25 years.

DISCUSSION:

The results of suppressed emotional processing among dissociative patients shows that the sample effect analysis in female aged 26-30 years were more emotionally suppressed compared to 20- 25 years of age group. The results were supported by the previous finding by Koopman, et,al & Steiner, (2004) has observed that high levels of dissociative symptoms were related to suppression among young adolescent females. However, male patients in an average age group between 20-25 years were more emotionally suppressed as compared to their respective age group i.e., 26-30 years. The findings were consistent with the findings observed by Kaufman, et,al & Keane, (2002) in young male veterans in their psychological response.

In unprocessed emotions processing the results revealed that female dissociative patients show more un-processed emotions than their male counterparts. The current findings were validated by the findings of (Kalpakci, et, al & Sharp, 2016). Moreover, dissociative patients aged between 26-30 years show more unprocessed emotions as compared to patients whose age group is 20-25 years.

Moreover, in un-regulatory emotions processing the results revealed that patients aged between 26-30 years show more un-regulatory emotions as compared to dissociative patients whose age group is between 20-25 years. The observed findings were confirmed by (Hébert, Langevin, & Charest, 2020) found a high level of emotional dissociation among abused children, and further, it was observed that dysregulation mediated the association between dissociation and child sex abuse.

In avoidance emotional processing the results revealed that female patients aged 20-25 years show a high level of Avoidance as compared to female patients aged 26- 30years. (Gipple, Lee, & Puig, (2006). However male patients in an average age group between 26-30 years show more avoidance as compared to their respective age group i.e., between 20-25 years. The findings were confirmed by the study done by (Xavier, Cunha, & Pinto-Gouveia, 2018) have found Male adolescents more likely to engage in experiential avoidance in response to external and internal distress.

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