

CREATIVITY AND SELF-ACTUALIZATION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON SELF-ACTUALIZATION OF CREATIVE WRITERS

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Abstract

The study was undertaken to study the Self-actualization of Creative writers (Sahitya Akademy Awardees & Non-awardees) of Jammu & Kashmir. The sample of the study comprised of 40 creative writers as Awardees and 40 Creative Writers as Non-awardees.). Personal Orientation Inventory (1974) by Shostrom, E.L was used for the collection of Data and 't' test was employed for the analysis of data. The investigator found a significant difference between the two groups on factors I (Inner directedness), Time competence, SAV (Self-actualizing Value), Ex (Existentialism), Fr (Feeling reactivity) and Sy (Synergy). However, no significant difference was found on factors S (spontaneity, Sr (self-regard, Sa (Self-acceptance), Nc (Nature of Man Constructive), A (Acceptance of Aggression) and C (capacity for intimate contact) of self-actualization between the two groups of Creative Writers.

Keywords: Creative Writers; Self-actualization; Inner-directedness; Time competence; Existentialism; spontaneity ; Synergy; Self-acceptance.

Introduction

Human beings have been bestowed with the most striking and distinctive quality of Creativity. Since the dawn of human history, man has been involved in the process of creative imagination. Highlighting its significance, some researchers do argue that creativity constitutes human kinds ultimate resource (Toynbee 1964). Creativity is the ability to produce work that is both novel (i.e. original, unexpected) and appropriate (i.e. useful, adaptive) concerning task constraints (Lubart, 1994). The scientific and socio-cultural progress of any nation depends much on the extent of the development of creativity among its people. Social and technical innovations rely heavily on creative people and processes (Runco, 2004). Toynbee (1964) has rightly remarked, "A few creative minds can make enormous differences to civilization". Highly creative people are a national resource and such people should be identified at the school stage only and permitted to pursue the field of activity in which they show talent. It is essential that nation should become concerned about all its potential human resource, especially aware of the waste and loss of such resources in each person (Taylor 1978).

Creative people do exhibit their creative potential in a number of ways. Creative artists, scientists, musicians, painters, and writers etc do express their inner voice in their own unique stylistic modes. There has always been a scope for conducting studies to understand their personality peculiarities which work as a driving force for their creative expressions. Studies on personality dimensions on high and low creative have been conducted after identifying these categories on the basis of creativity tests and we find contradictory results so far as the personality characteristics of these high low creative subjects are concerned (Feist (1998), Wolfrad and Pretz (2001), Bety and Furnhan (2006), Burch et al (2006) and Silvia et al.(2008). Creative artists' scientists, musicians, painters, and writers etc., do express their inner voice in their own unique stylistic modes.