

Dark triad personality and media dependency among children of single parent and both parents

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ABSTRACT

Family is the core of one's personality. The foundation of what the person becomes in the society is laid in the home in the initial stages. In today's fast moving society, we could identify divergent groups of family. One among them is single parent family. Also, the popularity of social media is rising day by day. It comes with many positive and negative effects. The positive effects include leisure, seek pleasure, and maintain relationships etc and negative effects can be clubbed as over dependence on these media that would affect one's daily routine. Thus, the present investigation aims to study media dependency and dark triad among 100 college students from single parent family and both parent family respectively. Short Dark Triad Scale for personality and the Social Networking Status Scale –Student Form (SMAS – SF) for media dependency were used. It was found that dark triad personality traits and media dependency were positively correlated among both the study groups. Also children from single parent family were found to be more psychopaths. Male children were found to be more psychopathic and media dependent than female children. Males from single parent and both parents were more psychopathic and media dependent than females from single parent and both parent family. Among the gender females children from single parent family were more psychopathic than females from both parent families. Hence it is concluded that excessive use of media leads to its dependency and hence the development of undesirable characters such as psychopathy.

Keywords: Family, Single Parent Family, Both Parent Family, Dark Triad Personality, Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy, Media Dependency.

"Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master"

-Christian Louis Lange (1869 -1938)

Over the past few decades, the technological face of human being has advanced rapidly and has witnessed many innovations. Internet, computers, smart phones are just a glimpse of how far human brain can spread its roots. They have become a part and parcel of our life. The constructive uses can lead individuals to gainful utilization of their time, true serenity and satisfaction, sound discussions in which individuals like and appreciate by offering individual

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and expert exercises to a wide assortment of individuals, gatherings, and networks. The use of these technologies is perceived to be inevitable and has become more normalized in the contemporary society. However, this normality comes under great cost. Many at times it is an alarming sign of increased tolerance or addiction to the media that may be reflected in increased screen time exposure. It has gained the potential to suppress human interaction. This can in turn have many social as well as psychological problems. Many at times we deviate from our typical behavior in the real world. At times the personality of the individual may take inexplicable turns. This is reflected in many maladaptive behavior patterns that are harmful to them as well as others. The present investigation seeks to explore factors such as the role of family, presence of parents plays in the development of media dependency and dark triad personality traits.

A happy family is an earlier heaven. Family is the most important need for everyone in the world to be secure and go ahead. Family is defined as a complex structure that has common history, togetherness, sharing an emotional bond with an individual action plan to meet the needs of the whole family members of a social construct (Nazli, 2003). It is the family that builds a home. It is the most important unit in any society. It lays the foundation for the upbringing and development of the social, moral, physical and mental domains of the child. The foundation of what the person becomes in the society is laid in the home in the initial stages (Davis, 2011). In today's society there exist mainly six types of family. These are nuclear family, extended family, childless family, step family, grandparent family and single parent family. In nuclear family, children receive nurture from both the parents. It is being regarded as the ideal family structure for raising children. The extended family consists of many relatives living together and working towards a common goal. Childless family consists of husband and wife who either cannot or choose not to have children. Step families consist of a new spouse and their children from previous marriages or relationships as a result of remarriages where two separate families merge into a single new unit. In grandparent family children are raised by their grandparents in the absence of parents.

The single parent family consists of only one parent raising one or more children on his own. Frequently a single parent family is a mother with her children, in spite of the fact that there are single fathers also. It is the biggest change the society has seen in family structures. The circumstances that lead to this include divorce, denied paternity, rape, separation of various kinds and death of one spouse (Nyakutse, 2006; Thwala, 2011; Bada 7 & Ayodela, 2012). Single parents generally have a very less time to look after the child on a daily basis and it can affect the upbringing of the child.

When compared with children living with both parents, a single parent child differs in overall personality development. Depending on the age, gender and socio economic status of family the effect on a child from parent separation can vary. This include loss of concentration and attention, declining grades and behavior problems at school, withdrawal from friends, emotional outbursts and health problems, serious anger with one or both parents, delinquency and substance use. These children are less in socialization and self-actualization in a later phase of life. They are at times deprived of social needs and psychological needs. This may lead to the development of many personality disorders, lack of self-identity and a negative self-image.

On young children the effect would only be aversive if the strong bond with any of the parent is broken. Preschool children are the most affected. They can turn to be more stubborn, aggressive, needy and anxious being ego centric in thinking. They may even blame

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themselves for the parental separation. Many children keep the fantasies of parent reconciliation. Elementary school children may not blame themselves for the loss but turns to be abandoned and feel worthless. They may encounter sadness, shame, disdain, isolated dependability and serious displeasure. Their capacity to turn out to be effectively associated with play and exercises with other kids may assist them with adapting to their family life circumstance. Children at this age may hope that their parents will get back together. Elementary aged children may feel rejected by the parent who left them. They may complain of headaches or stomachaches. Adolescents (age 13 to 18) report frequent feelings of outrage, pity, disgrace, powerlessness, and a feeling of betrayal by the guardians. They will in general adapt by separating themselves from their parents, staying reserved even a year or more. Teens also experience anger, fear, loneliness, depression and guilt (Uskali, 2013). Some teens may even feel pushed to adulthood and burdened with responsibility. Children of single parents are more into substance abuse, violence, unsafe sexual activities and suicidal attempts. Girls may react to parental separation by getting sexually precocious. Boys may turn out to be hesitant and undermined, showcasing their emotions through drug and aggression. College students aged 18 to 22 mentally comprehend and acknowledge the explanations behind their parents' separation, however this does not reduce their emotional disturbances. Many report depression, stress, and sentiments of insecurity. They are mature enough to feel compassion for their parents, yet they regularly stress that nobody values their own misery and confusion. (Cooney et al., 1986). Also, they may considerably drop in academics. National survey studies of family structure and children's outcomes consistently find that children raised in two parent families do better than children raised in single-parent families on measures of educational achievement and adjustment (Jaffee et al., 2003). Children in mother-only families are bound to be poor in adulthood than those who live with both parents. They have more chances of becoming single parents themselves. Financial hardship, parental practices, and neighborhood conditions all add to bring down socioeconomic mobility. (Mc Lanahan & Booth, 1989). Thus, parental atmosphere plays an important role in how child build his world. An effective family helps in socialization of the child. A deprivation of these may lead the child to seek other means to express his views and ideologies and seek the relationship and bond he has heard but not experienced. As put forward by Steve Jobs, parents limit how much technology their kids use at home. Here comes the role that social media plays. Parental negligence and attractiveness of these platforms sets the foundation for many psychological distresses. Prominent among these is the psychological dependence on these media better known as media dependency.

Media dependency is based on the notion that more dependent the individual on a medium for the fulfillment of his needs the more important the medium to the individual. It was first proposed by Ball-Rokeach and DeFluer in 1976. It acts upon two levels namely micro level and macro level. Micro level focuses on relationship between individual and media. The micro level dependency begins with an assessment of type of motivation that brings individuals to use the media. These goals can be understanding, orientation and play or recreation. According to Ball-Rokeach and DeFleur, goals are key dimension of individual motivation. The macro level system implies that every country's media system is interdependent on the country's other social system for resources and vice versa. At the macro level, dependency theory states that these interrelationships impact what sort of media items are spread to general society for utilization and the scope of potential uses individuals have with the media. Dependency has been regarded as a consequence of media use. It is regarded as the ecological theory due to its relationship between small, medium and large systems and their components. The theory attempts to explain a cognitive psychological process that increases the likelihood of one's being affected by media use. The theory

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recognizes media as the society's primary information system and thus connects between individuals and social structure. It assumes that impact of media messages on individual perception is a function of how their dependency as they consider it as a source for goal satisfaction. The more they are dependent the more they would attend to the media information to meet the goals, which would ultimately lead to cognitive processing (Ball-Rokeach & Defleur ,1976). Although media dependency and exposure are likely to be correlated, ongoing dependencies and dependency coupled with exposure may provide a more appropriate basis for predicting media effects.

According to Ball-Rokeach and DeFleur, media use impacts upon social, cognition and behavior of the individual in a number of ways. Media use creates a set of ambiguity. This in turn results in a stress to resolve it that makes the individual be more dependent on media. Thus, media use creates and resolve ambiguity. Media exposes the individual to a divergent group of attitudes. Media use seeks to alter individual's attitude. This attitude adaptation increases as the dependency on media increases. Media also can have potential effect on our belief system. It has the potential to expand or enlarge beliefs in a particular category. Affective effect includes desensitization towards social issues due to prolonged use of media. Media can also have effects on morale and develop a feeling of alienation. Behavioral effects can be classified into two broad categories. First include activation effects that are referred to instances where individuals do things that they otherwise would not do as result of media use or influence. The second set includes deactivation effects where the individual would be hesitant to do things on media which otherwise, he would be performing.

Media dependency can occur at any phase of life. However, adolescents are more prone to develop media dependency. Being a stage of social development, individuals at this age seeks social identification, acceptance and building of social relationships. On the other hand, it can also trigger individuals to develop undesirable traits in behavior and personality. Undesirable personality characters are regarded as dark personality traits. They are regarded as dark as they contain malevolent qualities. This can include narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy, egotism, moral disengagement etc. The present investigation focuses on the dark triad personality traits.

The Dark Triad of Personality

The dark triad (DT) of personality comprises three socially aversive personality dimensions: Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy (Pulhus & Willilams, 2002). The use of term dark implies that people possessing these traits have malevolent qualities. Paulus's approach for identifying dark traits is focused on pathologies characterized by motives to elevate the self and harm others (Paulhus & Williams, 2002) whereas Hogan's approach focuses on the dark side as negative characteristics that rise when individuals let down their guard.

Machiavellianism refers to tendency to manipulate and deceive others in social situations for personal gain (Baughman et. al, 2011). The adoption of Machiavellianism into clinical sphere was a result of Richard Christies selection of statements from Machiavelli's original books. Christie designed those statements into a measure of normal personality by showing reliable contrasts in respondents' agreement with the items. Further research indicated that respondents who concurred with these statements were more bound to act in a cold and manipulative manner in laboratory and real world studies (Christie & Geis, 1970). The dark triad machiavellianism is a manipulative personality, derived from questioning individuals on how much they agree with statements derived from Machiavelli's writings (Christie & Geis, 1970). Individuals high in this trait are called high mach's and they are characterized by a

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lack of empathy, low affect, possessing unconventional view on morality and self centered (Christic&Geis ,1970). However according to Paulhus (1992), these individuals do not necessarily have the superior ability to manipulate and deceive others.

Narcissism is characterized by grandiosity, self-orientation as well as dominance and superiority with lack of empathy. The construct of subclinical or normal narcissism emerged from Raskin and Halls (1979), who attempted to describe a subclinical version of the DSM defined personality disorder. Items were filtered on large samples of students and compiled in the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI). The effective relocation from clinical to subclinical construct is very much upheld by solid research. (Morf & Rhodewalt, 2001). Individuals appear egocentric. They are inclined to be hypercritical and retaliatory if they do not receive the validation or assistance they desire. It is frequently the situation that they generally have low self-esteem. Narcissism emerged from Raskin and Hall's (1979) attempts to develop a subclinical version of narcissistic personality disorder (PD). Narcissism therefore has facts from its clinical variant such as grandiosity, entitlement, dominance and superiority. Narcissists have tendencies to engage in self enhancement and can therefore appear charming or pleasant in the short term. In the long term, however, narcissists have difficulty maintaining successful interpersonal relationships, lacking trust and care for others, and sometimes feeling disdain for them. Numerous studies support two subtypes of narcissism namely grandiose and vulnerable narcissism (Cain et al, 2009). The grandiose narcissistic patients are high in grandiosity, aggression and dominance. They tend to overestimate their abilities and achievements and underestimate the abilities and achievements of others. Their sense of entitlement is often a source of wonderment to others, in spite of the fact that they themselves appear to see their rich experience as merely what they deserve. They believe in stereotypical way with constant self-referring and bragging. They are unwilling to forgive others for perceived insights, and they easily take offence. The vulnerable narcissists have a very fragile and unstable sense of self-esteem, and for those individuals, arrogance and condescension is merely a façade for intense shame and hypersensitivity to rejection and criticism (Cain et. al, 2008; Pincus&Luknowitsky, 2010). They become completely absorbed and preoccupied with fantasies of outstanding achievements but at the same time experience profound shame about their ambitions. They may avoid interpersonal relationships due to fear of rejection or criticism.

Psychopathy is characterized by persistent anti-social behavior, low empathy and remorse, and bold, disinherited and egotistical traits. The early description of psychopathy was made by Cleckley (1976) in the 1940s. Extensive research with the Psychopathy Checklist Revised (PCL-R) by Robert Hare (1980, 1991, 2003) bought two separable dimensions of psychopathy. The first dimension involves traits such as lack of remorse or guilt, lack of empathy/ callousness, glibness/ superficial charm, grandiose sense of self-worth and pathological lying. The second dimension reflects conduct traits such as antisocial or impulsive acts, social deviance as well as a need for stimulation, poor behavior controls, flightiness and a parasitic way of life. Psychopaths seem enchanting, spontaneous and amiable for first acquaintance; psychopaths are deceitful and manipulative, insensitively using others to accomplish their own finishes. They appear to have inadequate conscience development, irresponsible and impulsive and ability to impress and exploit others. They may glibly claim to adhere to high moral standards that have no apparent connection with their behavior. Their conscious levels are severely retarded or nonexistent and behave as though social regulations and laws do not apply to them. However, their intellectual development is quite normal. They hardly abstain immediate pleasure for future gains and long range goals. They seem to have good insight about the needs and weakness of others and tend to exploit

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them. These frequent liars seem sincerely sorry if caught in a lie and promise to make amends but do not do so. Manipulative, exploitative and sometimes coercive in sexual relationships, psychopaths are irresponsible and unfaithful mates.

The cause of psychopathy cannot be attributed to a particular source. Culture, environment, genetics do play important role in development of psychopathy. In 2012, Dr. Kent Kiehl, a psychologist at the University of Mexico and one of the foremost experts on psychopathy, discovered that psychopaths have reduced gray matter in the paralimbic system of the brain (Seabrook , 2008). A condition of pseudo psychopathy can also occur due to brain injury or damage to prefrontal cortex and orbitofrontal cortex. Damage to amygdale and limbic system can contribute to the development of aggressive behavior (Seabrook, 2008). Research shows that children of psychopaths are more vulnerable to develop psychopathy than others. Early development factors such as parental neglect, absence, poor parenting such as over punishment, separation, low economical background, child abuse or violence and substance abuse of parents play an important role in development of psychopathy.

Regardless of their distinct origins, the personalities composing this Dark Triad share various features. To shifting degrees, each of the three involves a socially malicious character with behavior tendencies toward self-promotion, emotional coldness, hypocrisy, and aggressiveness. As a result, of recent development of non-clinical measures in these three constructs, there is now empirical evidence for the overlap of Machiavellianism with psychopathy (Fehr, Samsom, & Paulhus, 1992; McHoskey, Worzel, &Szyarto, 1998), and Machiavellianism with narcissism (McHoskey, 1998).

A number of studies have conducted to explore media dependency and dark triad personality traits.

Sumner, Byers, Boochever and Park (2012), conducted a linguistic analysis of tweets (posts on twitter) and studied the relation of twitter usage and dark triad personality traits. It was found that people high in machiavellianism and psychopathy tend to use more swear words and words of anger. Also, both the traits were negatively correlated with positive emotions. Fox and Rooney (2015), found that individuals high in dark triad personality traits use various self presentation tactics in social media to gain popularity and social capital so as to exploit and manipulate others.

Ayodele, (2003), showed that individuals raised by single parents are likely to suffer deprivations and denials of some rights and opportunities that will have negative psycho-socio impact on them. Studies have equally shown that children from broken homes are usually associated with anti-social behaviors and poor academic records. Ayodele (2003), reported that children living in single parent homes are more prone to develop personality and anti social developmental problems.

McLanahan and Sandefur (1994), showed that individuals raised by single parents are twice more likely to be poor and have children outside marriage and have psychological and other behavioural problems. Park (2007) showed that lack of time and involvement of parent in child's life increases the likelihood of them being engaged in problematic behavior. Furstenberg and Teitler (1994) found that children from disrupted families are significantly more likely to express discontent with their lives as measured by an index of life satisfaction.

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Wallerstein and Kelly (1980), found that children may develop school and/or peer problems characterized by poor performance, problematic behavior with peers or authority, and/or somatic symptoms as an effect of separation from parents. Studies have found links between the quality of the parent relationship and positive outcomes for children and families (Amato, 2005). Moore, et al., (2006), stated that children living in single-parent and/or low-income households are more likely to exhibit problem behaviors and depressive symptoms and are less likely to display social competence than are children who grow up in more fortunate circumstances.

Lamb (1997) summarized several reasons the role of fathers plays in development of the child and how the absence would have its effect. He cited the emotional stress on mothers who may receive little social support, economic stressors, pre divorce and post-divorce conflict and perceptions of abandonment of the child which can lead to poor outcome in children. In a meta-analysis of 63 studies dealing with nonresident fathers and children well-being, Amato and Gilbreth (1999), found that children had fewer behavioral problems and more academic success when fathers paid child support, when children felt emotionally close to their fathers, and when fathers engaged in authoritative parenting practices. Pabian, Backer, and Vandebosch (2015), found a positive association between dark triad traits and cyber aggression among adults as well as girls and boys of age 14 -18.

Thus, a question arises whether it is possible that a different version of us arises as we get more connected to screens than people. And is it the impoverishments received from family background that leads to such undesirable traits and habits. It is also important to investigate and through light on other passive factors that would lead to media addiction and dark personality traits.

Need and Significance of The Study

The increasing popularity of media and its use has raised the concern about its effects on personality and other psychological aspects. Understanding media dependency and personality characteristics of its users may help researchers, educators and policy makers to understand the effects on young minds and thus reduce the occurrence of unfavorable outcomes.

According to 2011 census reports published by Ministry of Home Affairs, India, there was a 39% increase in the number of single women in India. The number rising from 5102 million in 2001 to 7104 million in 2011. This includes widows, divorcees and unmarried women and those abandoned by husbands. Children brought up in single parent families are more vulnerable to develop undesirable psychological traits than others of the same peer group. Also, more than 50 per cent of children from single parent family face similar problems as of their parents in every phase of life. Thus, it is high time we look into this and how it affects the individual upbringing. The study looks forward to shed light on this so as to be aware and provide the right kind of help.

Statement of The Problem

With the growing need and significance of study, the problem is stated as to understand the Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency and among college students from single parent family and both parent family.

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Objectives of the Study

1. To study the relationship between Dark Triad Personality trait and Media Dependency among children of single parent and both parent.
2. To study the difference between children of single parent and children of both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
3. To study the difference in gender on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
4. To study the gender difference of children of single parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
5. To study the gender difference of children of both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
6. To study the difference with in the female children of single parent and both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.

Hypotheses

1. There will be no significant relationship between Dark Triad Personality trait and Media Dependency among children of single parent and both parent.
2. There will be no significant difference between children of single parent and children of both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
3. There will be no significant difference in gender on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
4. There will be no significant gender difference of children of single parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
5. There will be no significant gender difference of children of both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.
6. There will be no significant difference with in the female children of single parent and both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.

Operational Definition of Terms

Media Dependency

Media dependency refers to the condition in which the individual is highly dependent on the media for the gratification of his needs and considers it to be the most important. It is measured by social media addiction scale – student form (SMAS –SF) developed by CengizŞahin (2018).

Dark Triad Personality

Dark triad personality refers to the set of three personality traits that possess malevolent qualities. This includes traits such as narcissism, machiavellianism and psychopathy. Machiavellianism refers to the tendency to manipulate others. Narcissism refers to excessive love for oneself. Psychopathy refers to the mental condition characterized by amoral and antisocial behaviour, lack of remorse, inability to establish and maintain relationship and extreme egocentricity. It is measured using Short dark triad scale devised by Jones &Paulhus (2014).

METHODOLOGY

Sample

A quantitative study was performed using grounded theories and related literatures. The study focused on children belonging to two different family systems; namely single parent nuclear family and both parent nuclear family respectively. 50 samples from each category were selected through random sampling, contributing to a sample size of 100. The sample was distributed to age groups 18 -20 and 21 –23.

Table 2.1. The number of participants with respect to gender.

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	61	61
Male	39	39
Total	100	100

Table 2.2. The number of participants with respect to type of family.

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Single Parent	50	50
Both Parent	50	50
Total	100	100

Table 2.3. The number of participants with respect to age groups.

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
18-21	53	53
21-23	47	47
Total	100	100

Measure

The present investigation takes into consideration two factors, media dependency and dark triad personality trait. The following measures were used for the same.

Social media addiction scale – student form (SMAS – SF) (Sahin, Cengiz, 2018) was used to measure media dependency of the participants. This is a 5-point Likert type scale which consists of 29 items. All items are positively scored. The participant has to choose one option most suitable for them. The highest score that can be obtained here is 145 and least is 29. The reliability of the scale as measured by Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient was calculated as 0.93, by Peer-to-Peer Correlations was calculated as 0.83; Sperman Brown reliability coefficient was calculated as 0.91; Guttmann Split-Half value was calculated as 0.90 respectively. The factors and the independent sample t-test values for the total score of 26 item scale vary from 11.83 to 26.58. According to this finding, it can be said that the scale has internal validity, meaning that it distinguishes students with high addiction and students with minor addiction.

Short dark triad scale (Jones & Paulhus, 2014) was administrated to measure the dark triad personality traits of the participant. It is a 27 item measuring scale that uses 5 point Likert scale to look at 3 DT personality traits. The participants were asked their level of agreement to each statement. The scale consists of both positive and negative items. The test-retest values for the various scales were as Machiavellianism rtt = .81 (95% CI = .80–.82), Psychopath rtt = .83(95% CI = .81–.85) and narcissism rtt = .74 (95% CI = .73–.75).

Validity: Inter correlations among the SD3subscale range from 0.22 TO 0.55(Jones & Paulhus, 2014). For the subscales, the authors reported (a) convergence with the standard Dark Triad measures; (b) convergence with peer – ratings and (c) confirmation patterns of association with the interpersonal circumflex (Jones & Paulhus, 2011). Also, the correlations of the SD3 subscales with the big five were comparable to those based on standard measures of the Dark Triad.

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Procedure

A randomly selected sample of 100 college students belonging to the two categories under consideration was selected, 50 from both parent type each. Method of simple random sampling was used for sample selection so as to avoid manipulation. Participants were instructed to read each item in the list carefully and choose the expression that deem the most agreeable to them. Required data were collected, recorded and administrated to further analysis.

Administration

The participants were seated comfortably and a good rapport was established. They were provided with the two sets of questionnaire namely short dark triad personality trait and socialmedia addiction scale – student form (SMAS – SF) for measuring the two variables under consideration. They were instructed as follows:

“Please read the following statements carefully. Each question has 5 options. Put a tick mark (X)for the most suitable option for you. All questions are necessary.”

“Different statements related to social media use are given below. You are asked to read each expression carefully and put an (X) mark for the expression you deem the most correct for you. Do not skip any item and mark each statement please.”

The researcher emphasized not to identify the participant by name in any reports. It was also added that subsequent use of records of data follows policies which protects the confidentiality of the participant.

Data analysis

For further analysis of the present data various statistical measures were employed. Data collected was initially administrated to statistical package of social science (SPSS 20). Pearson's correlational analysis was used to find the relationship between dark triad personality and media dependency. Student- t test was used to find out the group difference between single parent and both parent gender and differences with a gender among individuals from single parent and both parent family. The mean and standard deviation of the participant were also found out.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

For the present investigation, 50 participants from single parent family and 50 participants fromboth parent families were administrated with the questionnaire. Data collected were administrated to many statistical analyses so as to yield reliable results. The following were obtained and discussed for better understanding.

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Table 3.1. Relationship between Dark Triad Personality Traits and Media Dependency among children of single parent and both parents.

Correlations

		Machiavellianism	Narcissism	Psychopathy	Media dependency
Machiavellianism	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2 -tailed)				
	N	100			
	Pearson Correlation	0.298**	1		
Narcissism	Sig. (2 -tailed)	0.003			
	N	100	100		
	Pearson Correlation	0.294**	0.288**	1	
Psychopathy	Sig. (2 -tailed)	0.003	0.004		
	N	100	100	100	
	Pearson Correlation	0.364**	0.206*	0.473**	1
Media dependency	Sig. (2 -tailed)	0.000	0.040	0.000	
	N	100	100	100.0	100

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Table 3.1 represents the hypothesis ‘There will be no significant relationship between Dark Triad Personality trait and Media Dependency among children of single parent and both parents.’ Analyzing the results, it was found that the two variables, ***dark triad personality and media dependency are positively correlated.*** It shows a positive correlation significant at level 0.01(2-tailed) and 0.05 (2-tailed) respectively. Machiavellianism is significantly correlated to narcissism and psychopathy at 0.298 and 0.294 respectively. Narcissism and psychopathy were found to be positively correlated at 0.288. Media dependency is significantly correlated to Machiavellianism at 0.346, to narcissism at 0.206 and to psychopathy at 0.473 respectively. Thus, it is to be positively correlated. Thus, increased use of social media results in increased machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy. Also, individuals with increased machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy are more prone to social media dependency. Thus, the null hypothesis there is no significant relationship between dark triad personality and media dependency among children with single parent and children with both parents was rejected.

People with dark traits of personality are socially inhibited. They are restricted to display their core characteristics as freely as others. They would also be administrated with punishments. Thus, they use social media plat forms to explore the hidden dimensions of self. They are free to express maladaptive behavior without the fear of inhibition. This in turn act as reinforcement for further display of dark triad personality traits.

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Table 3.2. The mean, standard deviation and t value among children of single parent and both parent with dark triad personality on media dependency.

Group Statistics

		GROUP	N	M	SD	t
Machiavellianism	SINGLE PARENT	50	28.9000	4.14163	1.769	
	BOTH PARENT	50	27.2000	5.38706		
	SINGLE PARENT	50	25.9000	4.14655		
Narcissism	BOTH PARENT	50	24.9400	4.5239	1.106	
	SINGLE PARENT	50	23.8800	5.00873		
Psychopathy	BOTH PARENT	50	21.6200	4.78898	2.206 **	
Media dependency	SINGLE PARENT	50	75.4200	18.84425	0.724	
	BOTH PARENT	50	72.6600	19.25936		

Table 3.2 represents the hypothesis ‘There will be no significant difference between children of single parent and children of both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.’ Analyzing the mean, standard deviation and t value, it was found that **children of single parent are more psychopathic than children having both parents**. Psychopathy has a t value of 2.206, mean being 23.88 and SD being 5.008 thus a significant difference between children with single parents and children with both parents. However other variables did not show significant differences. Thus, the null hypothesis of there will be no significant difference between children of single parent and children of both parent with respect to dark triad personality on media dependency was rejected.

Single parent child receives less care and attention from parents. The lack of strong morale lay out due to low parenting quality and a sense of insecurity makes single parent child more prone to develop psychopathic characteristics such as breaking of social rules, irritability, pathological lying and aggressiveness. Poor parental bonding such as lack of maternal care is associated with psychopath development in adulthood. Also, negative feelings of parent towards child’s environment increased the negative risk of anti-social personality traits.

Table 3.3: t value of gender with respect to dark triad personality traits on media dependency.

Group Statistics

		GENDER	N	M	SD	t
Machiavellianism	female	61	27.4590	5.17228	1.532	
	male	39	28.9744	4.21456		
	female	61	25.2623	4.10651		
Narcissism	male	39	25.6667	4.73694	0.452	
	female	61	21.0164	4.45904		
Psychopathy	male	39	25.4615	4.63877	4.745 **	
Media dependency	female	61	70.8525	19.10047	2.163 **	
	male	39	79.0256	17.98170		

Dark triad personality and media dependency among children of single parent and both parents

Table 3.3 represents the hypothesis ‘There will be no significant difference in gender on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency’. When the t scores of gender with respect to dark triad personality on media dependency was calculated to study the difference in gender , it was found that **males were found to be more psychopathic and media dependent than females** , despite the difference in respective sample size of 61 and 39 .Psychopathy in males had a t score of 4.74 (significant at 0.01 level) where mean was 25.46 and SD is 4.63 and t score of media dependency for males was 2.16 with a mean of 79.02 and SD 17.98 respectively. Thus, the null hypothesis that there will be no significant difference in gender with respect to dark triad personality on media dependency is rejected.

Today’s society views behaviors such as aggression to be more prototypical to men. Thus, people allow men to display such behavior without social sanctions. These can also act as social models for other male children. Also, males have an innate tendency to dominate and exercise power. This act as a predisposing factor for psychopathy. They are more prone to engage in violent acts and behavior like physical assaults and wars.

Table 3.4. t value of children of single parent and dark triad personality with gender on media dependency.

Group Statistics

		GENDER	N	M	SD	t	
SINGLE PARENT	Machiavellianism	female	30	28.3667	4.18934	1.126	
		male	20	29.7000	4.04058		
	Narcissism	female	30	25.4333	4.03163	0.960	
		male	20	26.6000	4.32131		
	Psychopathy	female	30	22.2333	4.24819	3.085**	
		male	20	26.3500	5.14296		
		female	30	73.2000	21.67694	1.021	
		male	20	78.7500	13.38450		

Table 3.4 represents the hypothesis ‘There will be no significant gender difference of children of single parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.’ It was observed that **male children of single parent family were more psychopathic than female children of single parent family**. It was found that t score of males in psychopathy of single parent was 3.085 where mean was 20.35 and SD was 5.142, significant at 0.01 level. Thus, the null hypothesis that there will be no significant difference in children of single parent and dark triad personality traits on media dependency was rejected.

Children of single parent family have adjustment difficulties due to low parenting quality. They may face either an immediate gratification of their needs. They may also either be over protected or even neglected. These would create a sense of incongruence in the child and he can develop psychopathic traits. A male from a single parent family faces a number of circumstances. Attimes they would be forced to take up the responsibility of the family at a very young age.

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Studies have shown that males have a more biological predisposition to develop anti social personality traits than females. These predisposed individuals when faced with any kind of stressor in later life develops psychopathic and anti-social personality traits and potential psychopathology.

Table 3.5.t value of children of both parent and dark triad personality with gender on media dependency.

Group Statistics

GENDER			N	M	SD	t
BOTH PARENT	Machiavellianism	female	31	26.5806	5.90917	1.039
		male	19	28.2105	4.36627	
	Narcissism	female	31	25.0968	4.23757	0.310
		male	19	24.6842	5.06681	
	Psychopathy	female	31	19.8387	4.40528	3.790**
		male	19	24.5263	3.96328	
	Media dependency	female	31	68.5806	16.26607	
		male	19	79.3158	22.21124	1.828

Table 3.5 represents the hypothesis ‘There will be no significant gender difference of children of both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.’ It was found that **Male children of both parent families were found to be more psychopathic than females from both parent families**. T score of men in psychopathy of both parent family was 3.790 where mean was 79.31and SD was 22.21. Thus, the null hypothesis of their will be no significant difference in children of both parent and dark triad personality on media dependency was rejected.

Females are relatively more submissive than their comparison group. Women tend to be more emotionally sensitive, warm and apprehensive. Men on the other hand are dominant, assertive and extroverts. This has turned to a socially accepted phenomenon and thus acts of overt violent behavior by men are more encouraged and accepted. The feeling of dominancy, power acquisition and social modeling has contributed to developing psychopathic traits in men from both parent families too.

Table 3.6. Group statistics of t values within females children of single parent and both parent with respect to dark triad personality on media dependency.

Group Statistics

GROUP		N	M	SD	t
Machiavellianism	single parent			4.18934	
		30	28.3667		1.358
	both parent	31	26.5806	5.90917	
FEMALE	single parent	30	25.4333	4.03163	
	Narcissism				0.318
		both parent	31	25.0968	4.23757

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Psychopathy	single parent	30	22.2333	4.24819	2.160**
	both parent	31	19.8387	4.40528	
Media dependency	single parent	30	73.2000	21.67694	
	both parent	31	68.5806	16.26607	0.943

The table 3. 6 represent the hypothesis ‘There will be no significant difference with in the female children of single parent and both parent on Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency.’ It was found that ***female children of single parent family were more psychopathic than female children with both the parents.*** Female individuals from single parent family shows a t score of 2.160 (mean=22.233, SD=4.248) which is statistically significant. Hence the null hypothesis of there will be no significant difference with in the gender of children of single parent and both parents with respect to dark triad personality on media dependency was rejected.

In women the tendency to express psychopathy is less when compared to men. Studies shows that the form of expression tends to differ across the gender. Female psychopaths are more likely to use seductive behaviour to manipulate people. They are more likely to be verbally aggressive and mean but less likely to violently attack people. The interpersonal symptoms in female psychopaths are not particularly characterized by superficial charm and a grandiose self-image, as is the case with men. Childhood circumstances and family background can be attributed to these characteristics.

A number of literature reviews provide the causes for the varying degree of media dependency and psychopathic traits. Trukle (1984), argued that cyber space gives individuals an ability to act anonymously away from the normality confrontation and to explore multiple identities or personality traits. Suler (2002), coined this tendency as “otherwise hidden dimensions of self”. Suler (2004) has also found that it facilitates the expression of latent personality that are concealed due to social pressure of material world. Todd (2014) and Whittier (2013), argued that social media use can lead to weakening of our morale and empathy. It also decreases our remorse, truthfulness and increases manipulative behavior.

Nauert (2013), shows that there is a small link between antisocial personality characteristics in adulthood and more TV watching as a child. The risk of early adulthood criminal conviction increased by nearly 30 percent with each hour children spent watching TV on an average weekend.

Study conducted by Mokrue, et al. (2012), shows that girls in single-mother households scored higher in externalizing behaviour and hyperactivity than those in two-parent households. In a 2016 American Family Survey, Wilcox discovered that women from single parent homes are much worse. As adults, these women are more likely to experience troubled romantic relationships; additionally, they are more likely to experience financial difficulties. Girls in similar circumstances may struggle to maintain strong, healthy relationships as adults. This can turn into a pattern of instability, bringing about another age of single parents and battling kids.

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Research shows that 1 per cent of general population exhibits psychopathy and is more prevalent in males than females (Forth et. al 1995; Hicks et al., 2012; Verona et al., 2012). There exists a difference in degree of expression of various traits across the two genders. Study conducted by Sevecke et al.,(2009), states that psychopath men are more prone to exhibit overt aggression and engage in violent acts of behavior. Exposure to stressful childhood events such as neglect and abuse on a malignant level shows high degree of psychopathy in adulthood (Alf Klinteberg & Alm, 2002).Also a link between physical abuse in childhood and psychopathy has been found among psycho pathetic men but not in women.

A 2012 study conducted Mokrue, et al, shows that behavior problems for boys in single-mother households did not differ from those in two-parent households. Studies by Marten (2002), show that testosterone, male sex hormone, plays a role in development of psychopathic traits. This makes them more susceptible to develop anti-social personality traits. It has been recommended that early criminal inclinations, rule violations, physical hostility and violence are acceptable indicators of psychopathic advancement in young people. Girls adjust to divorce more easily than boys, and one reason seems to be that boys suffer more by being separated from the father when the mother has custody (Guidubaldi & Perry, 1985). Boys in single-parent families were more likely to develop psychiatric disease and narcosis related disease than were girls, and additionally a risk of all-cause mortality.

From the above results it was inferred that media dependency can be attributed as a factor which elevate the growth of dark triad traits, especially psychopathy. However, it cannot be contributed as the only factor for the development of the same. Biological and environmental factors also play an equivalent role in development of dark traits of personality and media dependency can be added to one of the causal factors. There is no considerable evidence on the presence of a particular gene responsible for development of these personality disorders. However, being born to a psychopath parent makes the individual more vulnerable to develop psychopathy in later stages of life. Studies have shown that changes in brain structure during the earlier stages of development leads to anti-social personality traits. Altered functioning of the brain's frontal lobes and limbic system has also been shown to underlie a tendency for people to commit aggressive and violent acts. Being diagnosed with conduct disorder also poses a threat to developing these undesirable traits later in life. Psychopathic individuals are characterized by impulsive, aggressive, and to seek-out extreme and highly stimulating experiences that usually involve an element of danger. Studies have linked these factors to the decreased level of hormone serotonin. Studies conducted by Martens (2002), shows that elevated thyroid hormone (T3) levels, and elevated testosterone levels, have been associated with criminal behavior, Antisocial Personality Disorder, and Psychopathy.

Family environment can be regarded as one of the environmental factors necessary for child development. Parental presence is necessary for the development of the child and for his better nourishment. Children drifted from parents, who are brought up in an unhealthy environment such as parental neglect, parental absence, parental deprivation have a fair chance to develop many psychopathological problems. Depending on the age of the individual during the parental separation, socio economic condition and duration of separation the adversity of the pathology can vary. There are chances that these children may feel inferior to their companion group. They would be subjected to constant stress and emotional irregularities. This would lead to the development of a sense of insecurity and chaos. Thus, the individual may seek many ways to overcome this phase.

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Being faced with childhood negative abuses or experiences can lead to the development of psychopathy. Studies by Martens, (2002), show that these individuals show a very low physical symptom when faced with stressful situation. This makes them remain calm during stressful situations. This condition is known as under arousal (Martens, 2002). This implies the need for more sensation seeking and intense experience in order to feel the strong emotions.

Social media create a platform for the individual for unrestricted interaction. They rest upon the idea of virtual interactions and communication. Lenhart (2010), showed that found that men were more likely to have multiple social networking profiles. Men tend to use social media together influence, information, contacts and overall status. It may act as a platform to provide attention and think and act without regulations. This restriction less platform thus pays way to development of undesirable behavioral factors. As the present study quotes, it leads to the flourishing of dark triad personality traits especially traits such as especially psychopathy considering the presence of other biological and environmental pathological factors. If other stimulating demographic variables exist it increases the rate of development of the same.

Results from the present investigation shows a gender difference in psychopathy. Men were found to be more psychopathic. This was found to be applicable in individuals from single parent family and both parent family. However, within the gender females from single parent family showed more psychopath than females from both parent family. Thus, it can be inferred that psychopathy exists in both the genders. However, they differ in their prevalence and mode of overt behavior.

Empirical evidences show that psychopathic men are more physically aggressive and more likely to commit fraud than females. A major proportion of people who engage in crimes are males. Police records show that 93 per cent of individuals who engage in crimes, petty and serious criminal behavior, are males. Thus, contemporary society has formed an association between psychopathic behavior and males. Hence it might have risen to an accepted level for men to be more expressive with regards to anti-social traits. Females on the other hand may restrict to display overtly. However, it should be also made into consideration that not all psychopaths are born criminals. It is the enormous number of causal factors that makes them predisposed to such crimes and anti-social behavior patterns. Thus, we need to take these factors more seriously.

Psychopathy comes with a series of personality traits and thus the treatments have to be looked up seriously. According to Dr. Nigel Blackwood (2015), a leading forensic psychiatrist at King's College London, psychopathy among adults can be treated or managed, but not cured. Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC) developed a decomposition model for the treatment of psychopathy. The model was initially incorporated in the most dangerous psychopaths in Wisconsin. It works on the principle of positive reinforcement system. The individuals are continuously monitored and are rewarded for displaying any sort of desirable behavior. This could be a small gift such as a candy bar to a pat on the shoulder. They are made aware about the scaling system of rewards and more the good deeds they perform, more they are rewarded. Also, psychopathy can be considerably controlled by cutting apart the coexisting factors. Individual and group therapeutic counseling, psychotherapies, medications such as anti-depressants, mood stabilizers can be used to regulate the condition. Psychopathy arising from media dependency can be cured by reducing the screen interference time. Parents and caregivers do play an important role. Parents and caregivers should seek to build

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a healthy family environment. They should be made aware about the importance of limiting the use of social media, thereby reducing its further dependency.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present study investigated the Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency among children of single parent and children of both parent families. Through random sampling method sample of 100 was selected, 50 participants from each family type respectively. For further clarification the sample was distributed to age groups of 18-20 and 21-23. Hypotheses were formulated with reference to problem and were analyzed using different statistical methods. The relationship between Dark Triad Personality and Media Dependency and the differences across different conditions such as varying parental type and gender were established.

Hence it is concluded that excessive use of media leads to its dependency and hence the development of undesirable characters such as psychopathy. Since it has no immediate cure, prevention and alertness can be attributed as the best possible ways to keep mental health intact. Society can be made aware excessive use of media would lead to development of psychopathy and males are more vulnerable. The study can be further expanded by focusing on the elements of media that leads to its dependency thus to reduce its use by cutting the dependency factors. The experimenter can also seek to further explore the coexisting factors of psychopathy and reduce its development.

Major Findings

1. Dark triad personality and media dependency are positively correlated.
2. Children of single parent are more psychopathic than children having both parents.
3. Males were found to be more psychopathic and media dependent than females
4. Male children of single parent family were more psychopathic than female children of single parent family.
5. Male children of both parent families were found to be more psychopathic than females from both parent families.
6. Female children of single parent family were more psychopathic than female children with both the parents

Limitation of The Study

The present study has its own limitations. The number of samples were not equally distributed with respect to age groups as the study was more focused on categorizing based on parental type. The study was only focused on two variables. It was only measured by quantitative means.

Scope for Further Study

The present study can be further expanded by focusing on other co-existing factors or other variables among the same study group of family type. Also, it can be expanded by focusing more on male psychopaths. The researcher can also improvise by incorporating severe qualitative measures to asses factors such as personality. Media dependency can also be given more focus to explore its growing impact on individuals.

Recommendations to Society

The findings of the study can be used as a measure to explain the negative impact of media on personality development. Parents, teachers and policy makers should join their hands to mold the individual and his upbringing and to reduce the number of criminals born every day.

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Measures should be taken to make the generation realize the importance of social interactions and healthy relationships. Early identification of these distortions can help reduce many psychological problems. Social workers can lend their hands for the same. Psychologists and psychiatrists can contribute by developing strategies to control the circumstances that lead to developing of undesirable personality characters thereby protecting the individual from many personality disorders.

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Conflict of Interest

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