DISCUSSION
Discussion:

The mother-child relationship is the only relationship one can have before entering the world. A mother is the first person on earth who takes care of the child, and is the one as well who the child wants when s/he is unhappy or uncomfortable. Mothers’ temperament has definitive function in the rearing process and the decisions they take for their wards. While sending their children in reality shows their initiative and temperament play a significant role. Since children’s temperament is related to their parents’ temperament, hence in the present study mothers’ temperament has been considered to be an impacting factor worthy of investigation.

5.1 Temperament & self esteem of mothers’ of reality TV show performer (MOT-RSG) & mothers’ of control group children (MOT-CG)

[Refer to Table No.5A & 8A, Pg 62]

To begin with, low Cooperation of MOT-RSG than MOT-CG is a significant thread that needs to be taken into account. This specific trend is evident on Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI) that suggests the self-absorption along with intolerant, unhelpful, and revengeful nature of the MOT-RSG. They have evaluated themselves as having low-self worth and are not satisfied with their self (as revealed on SIP-Adult). Perhaps this poor self-evaluation drives them to enhance their self-esteem to an optimal level which would facilitate their sense of well-being. To carve a niche and also to rise above the level of average call for a capability and enterprise which these people do not find in themselves. Also, it so happens that the environmental conditions are not always congenial enough to pursue any higher goal that would have satisfied their self-esteem. As a result, they want to raise their self-
esteem through the success that their children might achieve. It is only the children whom they perhaps consider to be an extended part of their self, in that sense. Such an identification of self with the child makes them want to have their children engaged in activities to gain recognition and fame that in turn may fulfil their sense of vacuum. It may be inferred that reaching fame could be a more attractive goal to them than the rigorous learning of singing itself. That is why MOT-RSG sends their wards to reality shows where their children get recognition and fame. It has been substantiated from the findings that were obtained from the control group mothers. High score on Cooperation (as revealed on TCI) suggest MOT-CG is tolerant, compassionate, principled individuals who enjoy offering service to others around. High score on Self Satisfaction further indicate that they are satisfied with this temperamental disposition of themselves and with their high self-esteem as well (as revealed on SIP-Adult). Being in such an accomplished state of mind, perhaps they experience an adequate sense of fulfilment in themselves. MOT-CG values the honest accomplishment in their children without being distracted by the noise of external pomp and grandeur. Therefore they do not fill the need to send their wards to reality shows.

MOT-RSG’s high Novelty Seeking (as revealed on TCI) tendency is a driving force that turns them enthusiastic as well as impulsive enough to chase any prospect that might fetch them the much sought-after limelight and eventually the feeling of pride. This experience nurtures their impulse seeking temperament and keeps them vibrant for a considerable period of time. Consequently the energetic state of mind helps to enhance MOT-RSG’s Self Esteem and Self Satisfaction. This novelty-seeking feature keeps them thriving in spite of their lack of cooperativeness which is an index of their self-absorption and intolerance. When their offspring get selected in these reality shows in which they have new experience each day from the audience, it is the
show organizers and celebrity judges who can satisfy their curious and impulsive nature and also prevent them from succumbing to self-absorption. Thus any failure of the ward in the mid-way may make them succumb to their intolerance and may turn them revengeful also.

On the other hand, low Novelty Seeking on TCI revealed the reflective nature of MOT-CG. Since they are systematic and orderly, they can nicely put up with the monotony of regular day-to-day activity as well as their children’s learning process. This kind of temperament helps them to send their children to Indian classical music and Tagore song (Rabindra Sangeet).

[Refer to Table No.1B, Pg 108]

The inverse correlation of novelty-seeking with the Self Esteem (high score reflects low self esteem) on one hand and direct correlation with higher Self Satisfaction on the other indicate that as far as MOT-RSG is concerned, their greater Novelty Seeking fulfils their need and makes them Self Satisfied as compared to MOT-CG. Such enthusiastic and impulsive nature also helps them to turn their negative evaluation of the self into a positive one, especially when their wards achieve the fame. Perhaps identification with their wards helps them to enhance their self-esteem which is found to be low as compared to MOT-CG.

While summing up things, it can be said that high Novelty Seeking, low Cooperation along with low self esteem and low Self Satisfaction drive MOT-RSG to send their children to reality TV shows. On the contrary low novelty seeking, high cooperation along with high self-satisfaction and high self-esteem may direct MOT-CG not to send their wards to such reality TV shows, rather to learn the music thoroughly instead.
5.2 Temperament & self esteem of RSG & CG

[Refer to Table No. 13A, 18A & 21A, Pg 73, 80 & 86]

It has been found that on Junior Temperament and Character Inventory (JTCI) performers of reality television show (RSG) also have high Novelty Seeking just like their mothers. They may inherit this high novelty seeking from their mother and also can quickly engage with these novel and unfamiliar situations (Cloninger et al., 1994). This eagerness may urge them to take part in the reality television shows, as well as to accept the long process of selection easily. These children can stay separately from their parents for the purpose of grooming, get quickly engaged with the new surroundings and enjoy their work.

The term ‘self’ encompasses the physical body and the socially defined identity comprising the social roles and relationship, the personality and the person’s knowledge regarding the self or self concept (Manstead & Hewstone, 1999). Self-esteem is an evaluation of the self, or feelings of self-worth and self-respect (Rosenberg, 1979). On Self Image Profile for children & adolescence (SIP-C & SIP-A) performers of RSG scored high on self esteem which reflects their low esteem. Research and theories indicate individuals may evaluate themselves based on their knowledge and imagination of how others evaluate them (Bylsma et al., 1992). This process is referred to as a looking-glass self (Cooley, 1902). Individuals high in public self-consciousness may rely heavily on the views of others to evaluate the self. Children taking part in this reality show regularly get feedback regarding their performance and behaviour from groomer during grooming session which in turn helps them to behave as a desired performer. After each performance on stage they also get feedback from their mentors as well as from audience. These feedback, or in other words the knowledge about ‘self’ gathered from different social perspectives
may turn them dissatisfied with their actual self leading towards an instability as far as their state of self is concerned. The discrepancy between actual self and ideal self becomes greater for them leading to low self-esteem.

According to Rosenberg (1979) high self-esteem is innately satisfying and pleasurable, low self-esteem being the opposite. People with low self esteem have uncertain, unstable and contradictory idea about themselves; they usually suffer from self-concept confusion (Campbell & Lavallee, 1993). In a longitudinal diary study, Campbell, Chew & Scratchley (1991) found that people with low self esteem had greater emotional variability; they tend to react to events with greater mood swings. These reality TV show performer’s low esteem is the reflection of poor mental health.

[Refer to Table No.3B, Pg 124]

Additionally, there exists a direct correlation between RSG performer’s Self Esteem (domain of SIP-C) and Persistence (domain of JTCI). Here high score on self esteem actually indicates low self esteem. Therefore it is seemingly attributable to the fact that low Self Esteem of RSG performers directs them to seek more stimuli from the environment to fill in their emptiness, which in turn helps them to become more industrious, determined and perfectionist than control group children.

As is evident from the analysis, the RSG’s novelty seeking (domain of JTCI) score is inversely correlated with their score of emotional self (domain of SIP-C) which indicates their impulsive and highly enthusiastic approach to novel situation (reality TV show) influencing their affective reactions in social situations and driving them to become less shy and upset as well. Not only that this nature helps them to learn in tough situations also it is the space of reality show where they become
courageous, composed, and optimistic. This in turn makes them resourceful (domain of SIP-C), as their harm avoidance is inversely correlated with their resourcefulness.

RSG obtain lots of reactions involving blessings, affections and appreciations from their family members, relatives and audience after their performance on TV show. This recognition can be explained in terms of fame (Ghosh & Mukhopadhyay, 2015). Fame is actually the sum of all people who have heard a person’s name (Currid & Halkett, 2010). This fame is subject to self-reinforcement whereby every increase leads to a greater chance for recognition in the future (Diprete et al., 2007; Merton et al., 1968). Perhaps this fame acts as reinforcement to the performers of reality TV show, influences their appearance score on SIP-C, as there is a direct correlation between novelty seeking and appearance.

But in CG the pattern of correlation between JTCI and SIP-C is different. Their low score on Novelty Seeking is directly correlated with their low score on Self Esteem (here low score meaning high self esteem). This score points towards their reserved, systematic, and orderly nature which leads to their high self esteem. Due to this nature they do not need that quick fame; rather they enjoy the rigorous learning process of Indian classical vocal music and Rabindra Sangeet.

Hence it may be summed up as follows: RSG children have greater amount of Novelty Seeking, and low Self Esteem like their mother, which is indicative of their poor mental health. The CG children, on the contrary, have much lower amount of novelty seeking and high Self Esteem like their mother. This, in turn goes on to signify that they are more stable and their mental health is in a better shape.

The next part of our analysis will focus on the correlation between the temperament of the respective mother and child in both these two groups. This issue
is particularly significant since these two groups of children share the same kind of personality characteristics with their respective mothers.

5.3 Mother-Child temperament of MOT-RSG & RSG, MOT-CG & CG

[Refer to Table No. 2B, Pg 116]

Parent’s temperament is related to children’s temperament. Rettew et al. (2006) conducted a study which intended to measure the interactions between child and parent temperament and child behaviour problems. Parent’s temperament and children’s temperaments were assessed using TCI and JTCI respectively. Childhood behaviour problems were assessed with Child behaviour checklist. Results revealed that children’s high novelty seeking tendency and mothers’ high novelty seeking tendency were associated with children’s attention problems, whereas children’s high harm avoidance disposition and fathers’ high harm avoidance dispositions were associated with children’s internalizing problems. In the present study Pearson’s coefficient of correlation findings indicate an inverse correlation between harm avoidance (domain of TCI) and persistence (domain of JTCI) of MOT-RSG and RSG performers. It can be said that when mothers of the performers of the reality show group feel relaxed, courageous, composed and optimistic (Cloninger et al., 1994) their children become more industrious, hard-working, persistent, and stable despite frustration and fatigue. MOT-RSG can freely send their children to this reality TV show and they stay optimistic about their children in tough situations also. Such modes of behaviours encourage their children to become more persistent and involved as well in the long competitive process of reality shows.

It has been revealed that there is a direct correlation between harm avoidance (domain of TCI) of MOT-RSG and cooperation (domain of JTCI) of RSG performers. Relating to the previous findings it can be said that since RSG children are persistent in their
behaviour, they can adjust well with the cut-throat competitive space of the television reality show. Hence mother’s courageous nature along with RSG’s heightened competitive environment makes them less cooperative with co-performers.

[Refer to Table No. 1C, Pg 143]

Findings may further be supported by the step-wise multiple regression analysis (SAMRA). It has been revealed from SAMRA that RSG performer’s 13.1% persistence and 22.4% cooperation score can be predicted from their mother’s harm avoidance score.

There is a direct correlation between reward dependence of MOT-RSG and reward dependence of RSG performers. When MOT- RSG tends to become warm, sensitive and sociable in nature, they feel proud of their children’s fame. The social space too confers on them a special status identifying them as celebrity kids’ mother. This unique feeling of pride drives MOT- RSG to let their children take part in such reality TV shows. RSG also, like their mother, get overwhelmed after achieving instant fame through their reality TV performances. Thus same kind of behavioural reactions influence reward dependence score, both of MOT-RSG & RSG, in same direction.

There is inverse correlation between Cooperation score of MOT-RSG and reward dependence score of RSG performers. When mothers become less cooperative with the child, it turns into a tough state of affair for them. They try to become more efficient to compete with others in their TV performances. It helps them to build their reputation and consequently the feedback of their performance enhances their reward dependence score. It has been revealed from stepwise regression analysis mother’s score on reward dependence in combination with cooperation and self transcendence
(as assessed on TCI) contributed significantly to the children’s reward dependence score (45%).

Findings further reveal an inverse correlation between Self Direction (domain of TCI) score of MOT-RSG and Cooperation score (domain of JTCI) of RSG performers. Perhaps it indicates that when mothers become more self-directed, their children become less cooperative. Thus it can be argued that with their self-direction getting elevated, mothers take the initiative to bring their ward to these reality shows and also adjust their own schedule according to TV channel’s hectic work plan. In reality, they bring themselves to manage a lot more. They take the responsibility of arranging the dress materials and accessories needed for performances of their ward. Therefore when mothers get more self-directed, their attitude motivates their wards to get more involved in the competition. This particular involvement in turn makes RSG children less cooperative.

On the contrary, MOT-CG’s elevated score on cooperation (domain of TCI) makes their children more reward-dependent (domain of JTCI) and persistent (domain of JTCI). In other words, the empathetic, tolerant and compassionate nature of the mothers make their children more sensitive, warm, and dedicated in their learning process on one hand, while a lot more industrious on the other. This kind of nature enables them to stick to their own goal, far from the so-called glamour world.

[Refer to Table No. 2C, Pg 144]

These findings can further be supported by step-wise multiple regression analysis (SMRA). Results of SMRA showed that MOT-CG’s score on cooperation directly contributed on the children’s reward dependence (17.2 %) and persistence (11. 8%) score.
Figure 1: The constellation of MOT-RSG & RSG

Figure 1 indicates the relationships among MOT-RSG and RSG's temperament and character.

The next part of our analysis would seek to address the issue of perceived parent-child relationships.

5.4 Parent-child relation and temperament of RSG & CG

[Refer to Table No. 31A, Pg 99]

On Parent Child Relationship scale (PCRS) RSG performers have perceived their mothers as more Demandning, Symbolically punishing and on the other hand Protecting and Loving. RSG obtain protection, love and nurturance from their mother if they fulfil their demand. Otherwise they get symbolically punished. It can be said that they may have an ambivalent attitude towards their mother. Thus while RSG children perceive their mother as expressing negative feelings about them and knowingly make them feel unwanted, they become more carefree, daring, courageous.
and optimistic even in tough situations which they have to face often in the reality television shows. Perhaps, due this reason their *Harm Avoidance* (domain of JTCI) is inversely correlated with their perception of mothers as rejecting (domain of PCRS).

Mothers provide greater protection which may indicate that they are more involved with the circumstances of their children’s life than CG group. Since they send their children in such a competitive situation (reality show) where the chance to face the adverse feeling is greater, they prefer to be more protective and loving. Previous studies have associated parental overprotection with anxiety and lower self esteem (Edwards & Rapee, 2007; Mofrad, Abdullah, & Samah, 2009; Otani, Suzuki, Matsumoto, Shibuya, Sadahiro, & Enokido, 2013). In the present study RSG children also have lower self esteem.

RSG children’s reward dependence (domain of JTCI) is directly correlated to their perception of their mother as Loving (domain of PCRS). It can be said that when the children of RSG are more reward dependent they perceive their mothers as more loving. RSG child performer’s existence in the show depends entirely on the feedback elicited from the audience and the judges as well. When they become more sensitive, warm, sociable and dedicated in their performance - these as a whole help them to maintain their reputation and fulfill their mothers’ need. So they perceive their mothers as accepting and loving. Mothers communicate warmth and give attention to child’s need.

The Self Directedness of RSG is inversely correlated to the children’s perception of their mothers as neglecting. It indicates that as the RSG children become more self-sufficient, responsible and goal-oriented their mothers become more caring and they devote time to look after the needs of their children.
Thus it may be summed up as follows: when RSG children perceiving their mothers as expressing negative feelings about them and knowingly making them feel unwanted, they become more courageous and optimistic even in tough situations of the reality show. When they become sociable, goal-oriented, warm and dedicated in their performance - these features as a whole help them to maintain their reputation. In this way they fulfil their mothers' need also. At that time their perception of their respective mother undergoes a change. They begin to perceive them as accepting, caring and loving. Mothers on their part too, begin to communicate warmth and get attentive to child's need.

The reward dependence (domain of JTCI) of CG children is found to be directly correlated to their perception of mothers as protecting (domain of PCRS) and is negatively correlated to the children’s perception of their mothers as Indifferent. When the children of the control group show greater reward dependence they perceive their mothers as more protective and less indifferent. It may be said that as the children tend to be tender-hearted, loving, sensitive, dedicated, and sociable, their mothers show concern to protect their children from situations or experiences which appear to be hostile or harmful. They show greater amount concern towards their activities.

[Refer to Table No. 36 A, Pg106]

On Parent Child Relationship Scale (PCRS) RSG children perceived their father as objectively punishing, symbolically punishing, rejecting and neglecting than CG children. This can lead to a pair of observations. One, as far their perception goes, when they do not behave according to the demand, sometimes they are directly punished by their father and sometimes indirectly. Two, their fathers spent more time
in pursuing their own goals and sometimes knowingly made the child feel her/himself unwanted.

Here CG children have perceived their father also as indifferent. Although in mother- father-child triangular relationship both the mother and the father assume important roles but the child may show a preference for one parent to the other (Ban & Lewis, 1974). It depends on the amount of time the parents spend with the child and the quality of care they could provide. In the Indian context, children usually spend more time with their mother and seem to be more close to them than their fathers. Fathers are seen to be strict, rigid and angry or many a times negligent. Mothers get more involved with the education and achievement of the children as fathers more often than not, play the role of the bread-earner, positioned outside the home-space. The emotional needs of the children are taken care of more by the mothers due to their inborn motherly nature. May be due to this reason control group children has perceived their father as Indifferent.

The present study finds RSG children staying away from their family, residing temporarily in spaces earmarked for grooming session and performing in shows. During that phase they get emotional support mostly from their mother. This is because their fathers can’t regularly meet RSG children due to their occupational commitments while their mothers are mostly house-wives. As a result, the children can get to spend maximum time with the mother. This may direct them to perceive their father as a negative figure. Hence, RSG children have perceived their father as punishing and mother as ambivalent figure. Hence, the punishment given by their mothers produces a negative feeling in them, yet that is what serves to motivate them also to achieve the aspired reputation. So, when they become popular reality show
singer, their negative feeling towards their mothers turns into a positive one. Consequently they perceive mother as ambivalent figure.

The next part of the discussion would try to focus on the frustration reaction and direction of aggression of these junior performers.

5.5 Frustration reactions, aggression & temperament in RSG & CG

As per the rules of the reality shows, basing on both the performance and television rating point (TRP) every participant has a chance of getting eliminated. How do they eventually deal with their sense of frustration and aggression as well? According to Freud (1920) aggression is an inborn device and an unavoidable motive in human beings. In frustration-aggression hypothesis Dollard et al. (1939) explained two basic assumptions: (a) aggression is always a consequence of frustration, and (b) the occurrence of aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration.

[Refer to Table No. 26A, Pg 92]

Findings revealed that RSG children have high Intropunitiveness and low ego defense whereas CG children have higher Extrapunitiveness on Rosenzweig Picture Frustration Study. Their low Ego Defense indicates greater flexibility of response to this potentially frustrating situation (Govia, 1994). It helps them to learn and accept the daily struggle which they are likely to face before every performance on reality show. They usually do not blame others in the frustrating situation and do not attribute responsibility for the frustration to anyone else (Rosenzweig, 1938). Instead they direct it towards themselves, acknowledge guilt or shame and take the responsibility for correcting the frustrating situation (Rosenzweig, 1938).
Their high score on intropunitiveness indicate that RSG performers direct their aggression inwardly upon themselves. Here it can be argued that every performance of these children on reality television is followed with a volley of comments from judges and feedback from the audience apropos of their performance. These objective feedbacks turn them self-critical in nature. If they perform better than the other contestants, only then they can move forward to the next episode in such shows. So they are likely to feel that both their defeat and win are subject to their own conduct. This makes them less defensive as reflected in low score on ego defense domain and they take the responsibility for correcting the source of their frustration. It should be mentioned here that, as was revealed earlier on PCRS, they perceived their mother as ambivalent and father as negative figure. So their home environment is not much likely to accept their aggression being expressed spontaneously upon anyone. At the same time they want to maintain their public image, as disseminated through television performance in front of their parents also. Low score on extrapunitiveness also supported this finding. Their home environment is not much likely to accept their aggression being expressed spontaneously upon anyone.

[Refer to Table No.5B, Pg 139]

Correlation between the scores on Rosenzweig P-F study & Junior Temperament and Character Inventory reveals that the RSG performer’s obstacle dominance (Rosenzweig P-F study) is positively correlated to their reward dependence (RD). RD entails a tendency to maintain behaviour in reaction to stimuli of social reward. It is reflected as social sensitivity, attachment and a dependence on others’ approval (Cloninger et al., 1993). When they perceive obstacle in the surrounding environment regarding their performance, the tendency to seek approval from the surroundings, specifically from the audience, gets increased.
RSG performer’s score on obstacle dominance (Rosenzweig P-F study) is directly correlated with their persistence (P) score. Here P entails a heritable bias in maintaining behaviour regardless of frustration, fatigue, and reinforcement. It is reflected as industriousness, determination, and perfectionism (Cloninger et al., 1993). It can be argued that when obstacles in the surroundings heighten their frustration, they tend to become more hard working and active to combat it. (Cloninger et al., 1993).

It has been revealed from stepwise regression analysis RSG children’s score on reward dependence in combination with self direction and persistence (as assessed on JTCI) significantly contributed to the children’s obstacle dominance (35.1%) score.

The discussion above may lead to a conclusion that high novelty seeking disposition of the RSG performers directs them to take part in the reality television shows. As performer they evaluate themselves based on their knowledge and idea of how others evaluate them. The knowledge about ‘self’ from different social perspective hence make them dissatisfied with their actual self, leading to low self esteem. To fill up the vacuum they chase after public fame and success desperately. This short-lived fame of reality show usually fades away and they go back to their everyday life like other children. However this particular propensity for seeking novelty continues to be there but the chances of performing in “reality TV talent hunt shows” do not come regularly. Thus in reality they lead their lives in the ordinary way as any other common children do. ‘Ordinary’ life in that sense involves attending schools and other activities that are usual in a child’s daily routine. However, these children find it difficult to deal with this shift from glamorous showbiz to the typical lifestyle of any common kid. Thus, the dissonance between the seeking of sensation and availability of stimulation perhaps makes them retain their cravings for
stimulation while denying them any sense of fulfilment continuously. This particular feeling of a void, in other words of the lack of a stimulation which is neither available in regular life nor desirable - leads to a sense of emptiness or vacuum within the self child. The inability to deal with this feeling of vacuum may lead to a sort of meaninglessness. Since they fail to understand that the reality show is just a platform to exhibit their skill and the related pomp is superfluous by-product of their performance only to fade away whenever the camera stops following them, they are not able to dissociate the professional place (though on legal basis they cannot be professional at this age but the adult world takes these children to this space before they achieve the level of maturity or any prior preparation for dealing with the adverse situation) from their real regular life. Such a state of mind is consisted of a particular dichotomy. It is a dichotomy between the failure to control an intense expectation for quick and wide fame via television reality show and the real world that hardly provides these children with such reinforcements. It is this dichotomy that eventually makes them succumb to low mood or drives them to manifest the low mood either with possibly internalised behavioural tendency or mask it with externalized behavioural tendency. Any of these two consequences is likely to have a detrimental effect on their mental health as they are in the developing phase of life. Therefore reality shows, which bank on children talent hunt, continue to pose a serious threat to the state of childhood as far as these contestants are concerned affecting their mental health in a negative way.