ABSTRACT

A STUDY OF COMMUNAL PREJUDICE AS RELATED TO SELF-DISCLOSURE AND ADJUSTMENT

The present study was undertaken to investigate (i) the effect of self-disclosure on communal prejudice i.e. to what extent self-disclosure facilitates or inhibits the development of communal prejudice; (ii) the effect of adjustment on communal prejudice i.e. to extent adjustment influence the development of communal prejudice; and (iii) effect of the type of religion on communal prejudice i.e. to what extent Hindus and Muslims differ in communal prejudice. In addition to these main objectives of the present research, the study was also designed to explore (a) the relationship between self-disclosure and adjustment; (b) the relationship between self-disclosure and the type of religion and (c) the relationship between adjustment and the type of religion.

A 2x2x2 factorial design, in which two personality variables (i.e. self-disclosure and adjustment) and one sociological variable (i.e. religion), each varying into two ways, was used. The two personality variables i.e., self-disclosure and adjustment, were varied into two ways by selecting (a) high and (b) low disclosure; and (a) adjusted and (b) maladjusted respectively. The two types of religion were (a) Hinduism and (b) Islam. Thus there were eight groups of subjects namely,

In order to form above mentioned eight groups of subjects, Sinha’s (1973) Self-Disclosure Inventory was administered on 850 (425 Hindus and 425 Muslims) subjects. On the basis of their scores, two extreme groups, namely high-self-disclosure group and low self-disclosure group, were formed. Aligarh Adjustment Inventory, developed by Bell and adapted by Umaruddin and Qadri (1964), was administered on these two groups. On the basis of their scores on Aligarh Adjustment Inventory, each group was subdivided into two groups to form four groups of subjects. Each of the four group was further subdivided into two groups on the basis of religion to form eight groups mentioned above.

Prejudice Scale, developed by Qamar Jahan, Bhardwaj and Saeeduzzafar (1986), was administered on all the eight groups of subjects. The data thus obtained were tabulated group-wise and were analysed with the help of analysis of variance and t-test.
The results clearly revealed that (i) high self-disclosure subjects were less prejudiced than low self-disclosure subjects; (ii) adjusted subjects were less prejudiced than maladjusted subjects; (iii) Muslims were more prejudiced than Hindus; (iv) all the interactional effects were statistically significant; (v) high and low self-disclosure subjects did not differ with respect to adjustment; (vi) Hindu subjects were significantly higher in self-disclosure than Muslim subjects; and (vii) Hindus were significantly better adjusted than Muslim subjects. Different alternative explanations of the findings were offered.