ABSTRACT

This study was aimed at finding out differences in terms of personality, self-concept and mental health of internet addicted and non-addicted students. In this study both male and female Iranian and Indian students were compared on dependents variables. The main objectives of this study were:

1. To study the differences if any, in personality, self-concept and mental health of internet addicted and non-addicted students.
2. To study the differences if any, in personality, self-concept and mental health of Iranian and Indian students.
3. To study the differences if any, in personality, self-concept and mental health of male and female students.
4. To study the differences if any, in personality, self-concept and mental health of internet addicted and non-addicted Iranian and Indian students.
5. To study the differences if any, in personality, self-concept and mental health of internet addicted and non-addicted male and female students.
6. To study the differences if any, in personality, self-concept and mental health of Iranian and Indian male and female students.

On the basis of review of literature the hypotheses were framed and tested.

H1: Internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism, extroversion and agreeableness and low on openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to non-internet addicted students.

H2: Iranian students would score high on neuroticism, extroversion and agreeableness and low on openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Indian students.

H3: Female students would score they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to male students.

H4: Iranian internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Iranian non-internet addicted students.
H5: Indian internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Indian non-internet addicted students.

H6: Iranian internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Indian internet addicted students.

H7: Iranian non-internet addicted students would score low on neuroticism and agreeableness and high on extroversion, openness and they would also have good self-concept and mental health compared to Indian non-internet addicted students.

H8: Female internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to female non-internet addicted students.

H9: Male internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and conscientiousness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to male non-internet addicted students.

H10: Female internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to male internet addicted students.

H11: Female non-internet addicted students would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and mental health compared to male non-internet addicted students.

H12: Iranian female would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Iranian male.

H13: Indian female would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Indian male.
H14: Iranian female would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Indian female.

H15: Iranian male would score high on neuroticism and agreeableness and low on extroversion, openness and they would also have poor self-concept and poor mental health compared to Indian male.

The instruments used to measure the variables were: 1) Internet Addiction Test (IAT) by Young (1998) to measure the internet addiction, 2) NEO Five-Factor Inventory-R by Costa and McCrae (1992) for measuring the personality factors, 3) Self-Concept Checklist by Deo, Pratibha (1998) to measure the self concept and 4) Symptom Check List (SCL) 90-R by Derogatis, (1983) to measure the mental health. The alpha coefficient reliability was adequate for the above mentioned tools. The data were collected from 400 students studying in Arts, Commerce and Science stream (first to third year) in various colleges from Pune and Mumbai city. The statistical analysis of descriptive statistics, One-way ANOVA was employed to analysis the data.

The results indicated that:

1. Internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism, and lower on extroversion, agreeableness, openness to experience and conscientiousness than Non-internet addicted students.
2. Internet addicted students were shown poor self-concept than Non-internet addicted students.
3. Internet addicted students were higher on Somatization, Obsessive-compulsive, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety, Paranoid ideation, Psychoticism than Non-internet addicted students. It means that internet addicted students were poor on mental health than Non-internet students.
4. Iranian students were higher on extroversion, agreeableness, and openness to experience and conscientiousness and lower on Neuroticism than Indian students.
5. Indian students were poor on self-concept than Iranian students.
6. Indian students were poor on mental health (higher on somatization, interpersonal, sensitivity, depression, anxiety, hostility, phobic anxiety and psychoticism) than the Iranian students and there is no any difference in terms of paranoid ideation.

7. Female students were higher on neuroticism and lower on extroversion and conscientiousness than male students and there is no any difference in terms of agreeableness and openness to experience between male students and female students.

8. Female students were poor on self-concept than male students.

9. Female students were higher on Somatization, Obsessive-compulsive, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety and Psychoticism than male students and there is no any difference in terms of Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression and Paranoid ideation.

10. Iranian Internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism, and lower on extroversion, agreeableness, openness to experience and conscientiousness than Iranian non-internet addicted.

11. There is no any difference in terms of self-concept between Iranian Internet addicted students and Iranian non-internet addicted students.

12. Iranian internet addicted students shown poor mental health (higher on Somatization, Obsessive-compulsive, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety, Paranoid ideation, Psychoticism and Additional items) than Iranian non-internet addicted students.

13. Indian Internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism, and lower on extroversion, agreeableness, openness to experience and conscientiousness than Indian non Internet addicted students.

14. There is no any difference in terms of self-concept between Indian Internet addicted students and Indian non-internet addicted students.

15. Indian internet addicted students were poor mental health (higher on Somatization, Obsessive-compulsive, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety, Paranoid ideation, Psychoticism and Additional items) than Indian non-internet addicted students.

16. Iranian internet addicted students were higher on extroversion, agreeableness and conscientiousness than Indian internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of neuroticism and agreeableness.
17. Indian Internet Addicted students were poor on self-concept than Iranian internet addicted students.

18. Indian internet addicted were poor on mental health (higher on Somatization, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety and Psychoticism) compared to Iranian internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of Obsessive-compulsive and Paranoid ideation.

19. Iranian non-internet addicted students were lower on neuroticism and higher on agreeableness, extroversion and conscientiousness compared to Indian non-internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of openness to experience.

20. Iranian non-internet addicted were higher on self-concept compared to Indian non-internet addicted students.

21. Iranian non-internet addicted were poor on mental health (higher score on somatization, interpersonal sensitivity, depression, anxiety, hostility, phobic anxiety and psychoticism) compared to Indian non-internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of Obsessive-compulsive and Paranoid ideation.

22. Female internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism and lower on agreeableness, extroversion, openness to experience and conscientiousness compared to female non-internet addicted students.

23. Female internet addicted students were poor self-concept compared to female non-internet addicted students.

24. Female internet addicted students were poor mental health (higher score on somatization, obsessive-compulsive, interpersonal sensitivity, depression, anxiety, hostility, phobic anxiety, paranoid ideation, and psychoticism) compared to female non-internet addicted students.

25. Male internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism and lower on agreeableness, extroversion, openness to experience and conscientiousness compared to male non-internet addicted students.

26. Male internet addicted students were poor on self-concept compared to male non-internet addicted students.
27. Male internet addicted students were poor on mental health (higher score on somatization, obsessive-compulsive, interpersonal sensitivity, depression, anxiety, hostility, phobic anxiety, paranoid ideation, and psychoticism) compared to male non-internet addicted students.

28. Female internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism and lower on extroversion and conscientiousness compared to male internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of agreeableness and openness to experience.

29. There is no any difference in terms of self-concept between Female Internet addicted students and male internet addicted students.

30. Female internet addicted students were poor on mental health (higher on Obsessive-compulsive and Paranoid ideation) compared to male internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of Somatization, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety and Psychoticism.

31. Female non-internet addicted students were lower on extroversion and conscientiousness compared to male non-internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of neuroticism, agreeableness and openness to experience.

32. There is no any difference in terms of self-concept between female non-internet addicted students and male non-internet addicted students.

33. Female non-internet addicted students were poor on mental health (higher on Somatization, Hostility, Phobic anxiety and Psychoticism) compared to male non-internet addicted students and there is no any difference in terms of Obsessive-compulsive, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety and Paranoid ideation.

34. Iranian female were higher on neuroticism and lower on extroversion and openness to experience compare to Iranian male and there is no any difference in terms of agreeableness and conscientiousness.

35. There is no any difference in terms of self-concept between Iranian female students and Iranian male students.

36. There is no any difference in terms of mental health between Iranian female students and Iranian male students.
37. Indian female students were lower on conscientiousness than Indian male students. There is no any difference in terms of neuroticism, extroversion, agreeableness and openness to experience.

38. There is no any difference in terms of self-concept between Indian female students and Indian male students.

39. Indian female were poor on mental health (higher on Somatization, Depression, Hostility, Phobic anxiety, Psychoticism) compared to Indian male and there is no any difference in terms of Obsessive-compulsive, Interpersonal sensitivity, Anxiety and Paranoid ideation.

40. Indian female were higher on neuroticism and lower on extroversion, agreeableness, openness to experience and conscientiousness than Iranian female.

41. Indian female students were poor on self-concept than Iranian male students.

42. Indian female were poor on mental health (higher score on interpersonal sensitivity, anxiety and phobic anxiety) compared to Iranian female and there is no any difference in terms of Somatization, Obsessive-compulsive, Depression, Hostility, Paranoid ideation and Psychoticism.

43. Indian male were lower on extroversion, agreeableness and conscientiousness compared to Iranian male and there is no any difference in terms of neuroticism and openness to experience.

44. Indian male students were poor on self-concept compared to Iranian male students.

45. Indian male students were poor on mental health (higher on Somatization, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety and Psychoticism) compared to Iranian male students and there is no any difference in terms of Obsessive-compulsive and Paranoid ideation.