CHAPTER-V

DISCUSSION
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The total set of data was analyzed in terms of the descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviations of all the selected groups of samples. The significant differences obtained from F-test, Post-Hoc Tukey test and t-test in many instances of the selected variables of the study satisfied the theoretical assumptions that "Aging as developmental phase" is expected to have more of problems than earlier stages of life (Patel, 1997; Jamuna, 1988).

In the present study, significant differences were found to exist between the selected groups (i.e. married, widow, divorcee and unmarried) in terms of variables like anxiety, happiness, relationship, narcissism and personality dimensions. The findings are in line with other earlier supportive studies (Patel, 1998; Kanner et.al.1981); the possible reasons or probable contradictory factors behind the obtained differences may be offered in the following fashion:

5.1 Qualitative psychological elements of selected excerpts of specified elderly couples

A. Married Elderly Couples

A 55 year old married woman was reported to say "Love and appreciation of my husband are getting deepened with years. Communication pattern-wise, he has improved with age and we have grown more thoughtful and considerate regarding each other, we appreciate loyalty and commitment...... Appraising affection
by word and touch has increased in recent years. Children and grand children bind us together”.

Similarly a married man said that “Marriage is such a tissue of paradoxes, and conjugal tie exists in an endless variety of forms and shades.”

Basically, the benefits of married life have been well-established through the sub section of married people sampled in this study. Theoretically, people going for marriage expect fulfillment of certain personal and social needs. A more or less satisfied marital life prompts them possibly to have the sense of security, definitely a sense of high self-esteem, giving rise to the positive terms of conjugality. A happy married life is expected to erase the negative concomitants of personality, like exploitativeness, dysfunctional relationship orientation etc rather than other subset of samples without partners either through choice or through natural consequences.

**B. Aged Widow/Widower**

A 52 year old widow woman was found to report “One of the hardest things for me now is the feeling that I am not important to anyone now. My children love me but they have their own families and their own lives to lead. I have good friends, but they're not emotionally available to me regularly. Nobody can take my husband’s place. It would remain a ‘void’ till my end.”

The verbatim report of a widower of 56 years old revealed that “Right now, though I prefer to be alone with our son, my thoughts and memories regarding our complete family life haunt me. I need time to understand what has
happened. This is the time of sadness. I need time for grief, time to adjust and to erase the pain of this separation”.

Experimental data findings suggest that deepest levels of bereavement, loneliness, avoidance from close relatives (sons, daughters, relatives etc) create an emotional void around the sufferers (Ungar and Florian, 2004). Practical problems play a crucial role inviting hazards in lives. Morose feelings greatly enable development of negative attitude towards lives and contribute towards the deepest crises of this section of elderly people.

Widowhood typically sanctions the expression of pangs of emotional separation and hence deep sense of loneliness, absence of emotional authority, no one to share personal feelings, non-supportive sense of lower self-sufficiency and an utter cry of helplessness. In their basic pattern they want to have a continuity of conjugal life but losing it against his/her choice initiates a typical crater of deep dark depression in them (Ungar and Florian, 2004).

**C. Divorced Elderly:**

A 56 years old divorced woman says, “My identity at present is that I am a divorcee. Things have changed a lot around me and within me. Mother no more loves me as earlier....children stay separately in their own flats...I feel lonely.........Not attached to anybody......everything in life seems to be meaningless”.

A 60 years old divorced man says, “What really went wrong? I certainly loved her when we married; she had been so affectionate but, over the years, grew cold. She never seemed to have time for me”.

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Both the excerpts reveal that, distance from spouse, rejection from every member in the society, peoples’ negative outlook towards them in general, contradictory attitudes regarding emotional turmoil, sufferers of practical problems (financial, adjustment with children) are some of the manifested features of these people with least satisfaction, poor adjustment in most of the life-dimensions.

Literature revealed that higher narcissism, self-sufficiency, magnified image of self in divorced elderly’s lives invite relationship struggle. When a marriage falls short of the partners’ expectations, few people consider it shameful or immoral for them to seek a divorce. The breakup of any intimate relationship is painful, especially a marriage for which both partners once held very high hopes. They somehow get estranged from previous friends and he/she faces a certain degree of ambiguity and isolation in the community as well as become surrounded by a host of practical problems regarding meeting financial obligations, making new friends, developing new relationships with members of the opposite sex, and coming to terms with personal psychological significance of the divorce (Kimmel, 1974; Bohannon, 1971).

D. Elderly Spinster or Bachelor:

A 60 year old spinster says “My profession has been very important for my family and I can perhaps sacrifice other things for them- marriage, families free-time, relaxation etc.”

In the same context a bachelor said “I feel more free to stay single for a longer period of time, I don’t have to consider how my actions will affect my spouse and children, I am just enjoying my freedom”.

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Single or never-married individuals generally expressed lesser feelings of loneliness. Single people may be stereotyped as being single because they are sexually unattractive, have unresolved psychosexual conflicts, or cannot make an emotional commitment (Cargan, 1981; Gubrium, 1975). Basically, they are trapped by poor communication, sexual frustration, lack of friends and limited mobility and availability of new experiences (Stein, 1976).

5.2 Quantitative analysis yielding the Psychosocial Profile of Specific Sub-Samples of the Study in terms of the Selected Variables:

5.2.1 Anxiety:

Statistically significant inter-group differences were located in terms of anxiety in the present study (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).

Fig: 4.1.1.1 representing the position of each group namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of their state anxiety scores.
In this respect aged married individuals were found to possess lesser state (Mean= 29.72 and S.D= 4.96) and trait (Mean=34.32 and S.D= 5.29) anxiety than their other comparable counterparts, namely, widows/ widowers, divorcees and unmarried elderly people (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). The probable reason may be that the apparent family involvements along with the hassles of daily routine keep them preoccupied mostly. Additionally, their basic happiness in conjugal life seems to act as a buffer to erase the ill effects of the obvious anxieties in life and mundane hassle patterns.

Further, existing literatures pinpoint that adequate economic and social resources may be another reason for lesser state and trait anxiety among aged married elderlies (Coyne et.al, 2001; Orth Gromer, 2000).

Furthermore, findings of interaction effect reveal significantly higher state (Mean =33.90 and S.D=3.39) and trait (Mean=38.46 and S.D= 3.65) anxiety on the part of females than male (Mean of State anxiety =25.54 and S.D=1.58, Mean of Trait
anxiety=30.18 S.D=2.85) counterparts of the same group (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Dual adjustments in workplace and familial role prevent females to control their temper (Schaie and Geiueitz, 1982; Schneider, 1996) but for females, their spouses are more reliable and available care providers which appears to create a lot of expectations and lesser anxiety among them (Glenna and Russell, 2000).

Similar findings are also evident from the study of Macvarish (2006) who pointed out that significant contextual changes in the landscape of interpersonal relationships due to “never married condition” or currently “living alone” state stigmatized them as “single” and illuminated their lives with daily irritation. Literature also pinpointed that lack of social support invites well documented risks associated with social isolation and hence they tend to suffer from highest state (Mean=68.78 and S.D=8.93) and trait (Mean=69.20 and S.D=8.83) anxiety (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). (Berkman, 1996; Berkman and Glass, 2000; Brammet et.al, 2001).

Underlying analysis detected that spinsters possess significantly higher state (Mean=77.40 and S.D=2.52) and trait anxieties (Mean=77.54 and S.D=3.01) than bachelors (Mean of state anxiety=60.10 and S.D=1.77, Mean of trait anxiety=60.86 and S.D=2.52) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). In spite of freedom and independence, loneliness, meaningfulness and lack of intimacy (Rubin, 1979; Verbrugge, 1979) on the part of spinsters and inability to validate positive effects of marriage due to unfavourable relationship bondings, expression of philosophical rejection of marital institution in case of bachelors (Kapecky, 1972; Bower and Christopherson, 1977; Risman, 1981; Watson, 1983) were held to be possible responsible factors for such negative findings.
Divorcees (State anxiety Mean=64.37, S.D=3.15 and Trait anxiety Mean=58.86 and S.D=1.61) and widowed (State anxiety Mean=50.96 and S.D=4.39 and Trait anxiety Mean 52.71 and S.D=3.57) were found to be placed between these two above mentioned samples (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). The life sketch of divorcees indicates that the circumstances in which their personal inadequacies are evaluated and failure is experienced put an extra threat to their self-images (Kanner et.al.1981; Watkings, Coatas, Ferroni, 1988). As a result of poor interpersonal relationships, they become easy victims of anxiety.

Analysis of interaction reveals higher state (Mean=66.68 and S.D=2.32) and trait (Mean=59.06 and S.D=1.53) anxieties on the part of divorced females than their male counterparts (State anxiety Mean=62.06, S.D=1.95 and Trait anxiety (Mean=58.66, S.D=1.67) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Prolonged retreat from social contact, life based hostility, avoidance of all situations reminding one of the hurt and disappointment, guilt, shame or failure (Nalio, 1990; Mckeny and Price, 1995; Maher,1979; U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1983) tend to make them easy victims of anxiety. On the other hand, interest in personal needs and lack of commitment is supposed to prevent males from drastic effect of anxiety (Etzioni, 1983; Reiss, 1980).

Both widow and widowers tend to be apprehensive in meeting any additional problems in life. In fact, their negative attitude becomes the main source of anxiety (Mean score of State anxiety=50.96, S.D=4.39 and Mean score of Trait anxiety=52.71, S.D=3.57) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) for them (Chao and Chadha, 2002).
Later analysis indicates significantly higher state (Mean=54.18 and S.D=3.61) and trait (Mean=55.64 and S.D=2.56) anxiety on the part of widows (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) because after their husbands’ death, socialization and consequent life experiences do not adequately prepare them to start a new life (Lopata, 1977; 1979; Silverman, 1970) resulting in severe problems of disorganization (Vachon et.al; 1980; Barrett, 1978) and loss of their own sense of identity.

5.2.2. Happiness:

Significant statistical intergroup differences were located in terms of happiness context in the present venture (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).

Fig: 4.1.1.3 representing the position of each group namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of happiness.

Data indicate highest subjective well-being for elderly married individuals (Mean=145.32 and S.D=5.85) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). Actually, their involvement in life circumstances such as friendships and work status help them to carry on stability in conjugal relationships and erase the negative effects from their core lives.
(Easterlin, 2003). Positive perspective in the emotionally involved life context helps them to have a feeling of bliss in the emotional context of conjugal life (Wilcox, Evenson, Aragaki, Wassertheil, 2003; Prakash, 1998).

Later analysis regarding interaction pattern indicates no significant differences between males (Mean=145.82 and S.D=6.96) and females (Mean=144.82 and S.D=4.50) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Due to the same above mentioned logic, marriage for both samples is found to be a source of love, affection, securing romantic fulfillment and companionship (Cox, 1960), as a result of which they appear to have higher loading of happiness (Bowman, 1974).

Least amount of happiness was reported for elderly unmarried (Mean=44.39 and S.D=13.94) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). Unmarried status is simply not being appreciated in our society; this regressive negative feeling basically creates excessive sense of being hassled and impairs the quality of life by decreasing motivation and impairs problem solving (Johnson et.al, 2000 and Rook, et, al.1990; Umberson,1987, 1992).

Significantly higher score on happiness on the part of bachelors (Mean=58.14 and S.D=1.84) than spinsters (Mean=30.64 and S.D=1.89) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) pinpointed the fact that bachelors with their inner energies were able to develop opportunities for self-disclosure and concomitant modifications or realization of personal goals (Jacques and Chason,1979) but spinsters on the other hand, due to the same reasons tend to blame their family members for not having partners in lives and hence possess the least happiness.
Contextually the frame of divorcees (Mean=64.88 and S.D=3.12) is found to be distinctly different (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). The stressor appears to be emotional trauma associated with the recognized knowledge that the marital relationship is in danger of ending (Bloom and Caldwell, 1981; Goode, 1956; Weiss, 1976). Due to the effect of marital disruption, they fail to find out the other sources of happiness.

Significantly higher magnitudinal increment on happiness on the part of male divorcees (Mean=66.80 and S.D=1.70) than female ones (Mean=62.96 and S.D=3.04) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) indicate that though pain of divorce exists, they have a willingness to become socialized and be a part of happy family life which helps them not to dissolve their family unit (Goeytong’s, 1979; Bonham et.al, 1983), whereas, incongruence in relationship on the part of the females invites conflict and gradual de-escalation in personal relations (Blood and Blood, 1979).

In widowhood (Mean=78.13 and S.D=3.09) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3), the process of mourning is long and often a torturous one, where grief returns again and again in cycles, their shock and numbness fades and gets replaced by a deep and at times, desperate awareness of immensity of their loss (Costello, et.al, 2000; Harris, et. al. 2008). Gradually though, reality is transformed into acceptance, yet it leaves greater levels of fatigue, anxiety, lack of interest and reduced functioning (Fry, 2003; Finley, 2003; Vangroenou, 2001).

Dealing separately with widowers (Mean=77.86 and S.D=3.12) and widows (Mean=78.40 and S.D=3.07), it was found that both the sub-samples have similar positions in this perspective (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Usually, after death, the survivors alone have to carve out an entirely new life structure and receive avoidance from the
loser ones when it is mostly needed (Silverman and Cooperband, 1975) and as a result they fail to smell the fragrance of happiness in the context of general life.

5.2.3. Relationship Profiles in terms of its distinctive dimensions:

Destructive Overdependence (DO):

Significant intergroup differences were located with respect to destructive overdependence in the present context (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). Fig: 4.1.1.4 representing the position of each group namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of destructive overdependence.

In the comparative scale, unmarried elders were found to have the highest score on destructive overdependence (Mean=39.60 and S.D=4.61) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). They tend to be dependent on others, having the basic need to be
looked after. Being without partners, they become maladaptive in their adjustive pattern and develop a kind of inflexible dependency (Bornstein, 1995; 1998a; Cross, Bacon and Morris, 2000; Kobayashi, 1989) on others.

**Aged married couples** obtained the lowest scores (Mean=11.88 and S.D=1.66) in this dimension (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). Due to their healthy and stable conjugal relations they exhibit flexible, adaptive and support seeking attitude towards others (Head, Baker and Williamson, 1991).

Further analysis of results also reveals significantly higher dependence for males (Mean=12.72 and S.D=1.25) than female ones (Mean=11.04 and S.D=1.60) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Basically passive avoidance, positive self instruction, seeking social support, adequate situation control and humour appear to be the predictors of adaptive behaviour for female counterparts (Roohafza, Sadeghi, Shirani, Bahonar, Mackie, Sarafzadeghan, 2009). On the other hand, males have an unconscious demand that their personal needs will be fulfilled by their partners and hence sometimes exhibit inflexible and maladaptive behaviour pattern (Head, Baker and Williamson, 1991).

**Divorces** (Mean=14.03 and S.D=2.01) and elderly widowed people (Mean=13.65 and S.D=1.96) on the other hand, are placed at the middle point of the continuum (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). Due to their different marital status, they exhibit a pattern of insecurity and clinging behaviour that alienates the other members of their families and undermines the dependent person’s efforts to cultivate affiliative ties (Blatt and Homann, 1992; Pincus and Gurtman, 1995).

By analyzing the interaction effect of the former group it was found that female divorcee received higher scores (Mean=15.80 and S.D=.83) than male
counterparts (Mean=12.26 and S.D=1.03) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Literature reveals that, society erodes the familial supports for females and leaves them vulnerable and isolated which results in maladaptive behaviour (Bengtson and Harootyan, 1994; Silverstein and Bengtson, 1997; Treas and Bengtson, 1998). But due to mutual interactions males receive maximum support at the time of emergency (Sun, 2002) and exhibit lack of distortion in relationships.

Same analytical results for the latter group (widowed) indicate higher dependence on the part of widows (Mean=14.88 and S.D=1.57) than widowers (Mean=12.42 and S.D=1.49) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). After husbands’ deaths there is a remarkable sense of alienation and hopelessness in widows’ lives; they feel disrespected and exhibit maladaptive behaviour (Gangrade, 1989; Malhotra and Chadha, 2007; Mazumdar, 1985), while widowers undergo a conscious process of adaptation in which they must take daily tasks and routine responsibilities which were once shared by the couple (Carey, 1979; 1980).

**Dysfunctional Detachment (DD):**

With respect to the above mentioned dimension of relationship profile, significant inter group differences were located (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).
Fig: 4.1.1.5 representing the position of each group namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of dysfunctional detachment.

According to available literature elderly divorcees (Mean=38.03 and S.D=7.67) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) are unable to cultivate social ties or engage in situation appropriate-affiliative behaviour (Birchnell, 1987, 1996) which appear to come from deficits in social, sexual and occupational functioning (Kantor, 1993; Millon, 1996). Actually, their early learning and socialization emphasize independence and self-sufficiency at the expense of social connectedness (Clark and Ladd, 2000; Colgan, 1987), intra-psychic conflicts regarding closeness and intimacy (Birchnell, 1996; Bornstein, 1998b).

Statistically significant difference with female divorcees having higher scores (Mean=45.14 and S.D=2.54) than male counterparts (Mean=30.92 and S.D=2.16) was revealed (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Females are able to recognize that
marriage will not get better by itself but the present situation is likely to damage their life; so separation is the best for everyone and it is the only way to regain personal autonomy. But male divorcees try to recognize that indeed marriage has died but they must truly begin to think, act and feel like single persons (Bohannon, 1971).

Elderly married ones, at the extreme end, were found to have comparatively better attachment, being able to carry the fragrance of happiness and are consequently positioned at the lowest point of this dimension (Mean=16.40 and S.D=3.89) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) (Bornstein, 1998a; Cross, et.al. 2000; Pincus and Wilson, 2001).

Interaction effect of the same sample indicates significantly higher scores for females (Mean=18.80 and S.D=4.76) than males (Mean=14.80 and S.D=1.64) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4).

Widowhood, on the other end, seems to paint the negative end of higher social detachment (Mean=32.65 and S.D=8.58) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) (Bornstein, 1993).

Later analysis of interaction effect indicates higher detachment for widows (Mean=40.88 and S.D=2.54) than widowers (Mean=24.42 and S.D=2.03) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Mazumdar (1985), stated that due to a sense of alienation and hopelessness widows are not able to change their habits of being dictated by their husbands and hence experience the highest detachment. But widowers, in spite of their bereavement, faded attachment and affection, try to adjust with daily lives (Mazumdar, 1985) reporting the least detachment.
The degree of detachment for elderly unmarried people (Mean=23.60 and S.D=6.26) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) is much lesser as they do not taste the flavour of marital life. Social detachment in their lives perhaps comes due to their magnified self-image and narcissistic trend (Birtchnell, 1987, 1996).

From the point of degree of detachment, elderly bachelors possess higher scores (Mean=29.60 and S.D=.90) than spinsters (Mean=17.60 and S.D=2.23) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). More detachment for bachelors reveals that 'singleness' and absence of reciprocity invite conflicts, negativity and ambivalence (Stambul and Kelley, 1978) among them. Expressiveness in behavioural patterns leads spinsters to exhibit their needs for heterosexuality (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1982) and greater willingness to live together outside of marriage (Glick and Spainer, 1980) and hence, they report less detachment.

Healthy Dependency (HD):

Similar significant results of inter group differences were located for the above mentioned dimension of relationship profile also (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).
Highest scores for the aged married elderlies on healthy dependency (Mean=41.00 and S.D=6.21) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) indicate manifestation of considerable behavioural flexibility, along with the ability to delay short–term gratification to strengthen long term supportive relationships, (Bornstein, 1998a; Bornstein and Languirand, 2003) which are the main sources of elderly married individuals’ happiness quotient. They are able to show confidence and self-directedness (Lee and Robbins, 1995) in the context of their relationships.

Later analysis of interaction effects of the same sample indicates significant mean magnitude for females (Mean=45.10 and S.D=6.41) than for males (Mean=36.90 and S.D=1.59) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Emotional gratifications to each partner can only be achieved by the active process of talking, listening, negotiating and
problem solving. So, dependency for females is a source of maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain (Bowman, 1974; Anderson, Russell and Schumm, 1983; Rollin and Cannon, 1974), while for males it is just a matter of losing prestige because they are bounded by independence, self-sufficiency and authority (Cox, 1960).

Aged Unmarried seem to express least dependence (Mean=12.10 and S.D=1.57) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) on others which seems to be derogatory to their self-images and hence cannot form dependable social-emotional relationship bonds (Bornstein, 1995; 1998a; Cross, Bacon and Morris, 2000; Kobayashi, 1989).

Though aged bachelors (Mean=13.92 and S.D=1.23) possess significantly higher dependence than spinsters (Mean=12.06 and S.D=1.30) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4), basically the above mentioned logic is applicable for both counterparts (Bornstein, 1998a; Bornstein and Languirand, 2003).

Due to detachment caused either by losing spouses or by separation, aged widow (Mean=15.43 and S.D=2.83) and divorced individuals (Mean=12.30 and S.D=2.04) are found to be positioned far from the cross line of dependence (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) (Gurtman, 1992; Pincus and Gurtman, 1995).

Analysis of results in terms of interaction effect of the former group (widow) reveals higher dependency on the part of widower (Mean=17.46 and S.D=2.24) than widows (Mean=13.40 and S.D=1.65) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Widowers may attract more assistance from their adult children (Zick and Smith, 1991b) because bereaved husbands are considered ill-equipped to handle the daily tasks for maintaining a household (Vachon et.al., 1980; Barrett, 1978) while widows due to lack of social...
support redefine social reality that reflects their new status as a widow (Hatch, 2000; Thompson, Breckenridge, Gallagher and Peterson, 1984).

Similar higher dependency on the part of male divorcee (Mean=13.76 and S.D=1.76) than females (Mean=10.84 and S.D=.98) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) reveals that they live more skillfully in the present reality and build a new self-image on the newly divorced life (Blood and Blood, 1979; Cooney and Uhlenberg, 1990) but, on the other hand, feelings of obligation, moral prescriptions, religious directives, general level of community acceptance, ultimately creates an emotional and social void for females (Reiss, 1980) as they usually do not seem to have any other emotional cushion to lean on.

5.2.4. Narcissism:

Inter group differences with respect to narcissistic trend also indicates significant results (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).
Married elderlies seemed to have higher narcissistic flair in personality. The reason may be that, their more or less satisfied marital life prompts them to have a sense of security, definitely a sense of high self-esteem, meaning that they are able to carry on in conjugal relationship context, signifying a special set of narcissism and specially entitlement trait. Basically, this satisfaction creates a self-pride in them which they express openly (Brown and Zeigler-Hill, 2004). Literature also suggests that their concern about social dominance and admiration (Morf and Rhodewalt, 2001) enhances high levels of self-esteem which ultimately process narcissistic attitude among them.

Analysis of interaction effect reveals higher narcissism for males (Mean=21.46 and S.D=2.46) than females (Mean=18.10 and S.D=4.47) (Table-4.2.2 and
Literature also indicates that marital satisfaction comes due to male's adequacy of role performance (Chadwick, 1976) because in most cases he was the economic support of the family (Hicks and Platt, 1970) and his status determined theirs. On the other pole, females are unable to stimulate their personal emotions, they distort their needs and personalities and sometimes mould, redirect themselves for their mates and children (Vaknin, 2002).

But due to societal stigma the ability of judgment and decision making of aged widows becomes distorted (Paulhus, Harms and Bruce and Lysy, 2004; Campbell, Goodie and Foster, 2004) and they become unable to develop any positive perspective regarding their self-esteem and life satisfaction (Rose, 2002; Sedikides, Rudich, Gregg, Kumashiro and Rusbult, 2004) and hence exhibited the lowest score (Mean=10.70 and S.D=1.34) in this dimension (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).

No significant statistical difference among widowers (Mean=10.82 and S.D=1.29) and widows (Mean=10.58 and S.D=1.40) with respect to narcissism, (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) indicates that their self-identification system becomes destroyed (Lopata, 1973, 1979). Moreover due to the presence of emotional void, they become disengaged from the social world (Nathawat and Rathore, 1996; Shirolkar, 1995; Jamuna, 1996; Cumming and Henry, 1961).

Aged unmarried subjects comparatively have the highest scores in narcissism (Mean=27.08 and S.D=2.31) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) and tend to, lash out with aggression when they are rejected or insulted (Bushman and Baumeister, 1998; Twenge and Campbell, 2003). Literature also revealed that many of these behaviours can potentially be explained by the link between narcissism and impulsivity.
(Vazire and Funder, 2006; Kernberg 1975; Kohut 1966, 1977). They reported that this apparent grandiosity seems to be the covering or underlying feelings of insecurity or inferiority.

Analysis of latter part indicates elderly bachelors (Mean=28.48 and S.D=1.93) to possess higher score than spinster (Mean=25.68 and S.D=1.75) counterparts (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Bachelors always express a kind of bossiness through their attitudes. They feel that they are omnipotent and feel rejected if anybody disrespects them (Macklin, 1983; Whitehurst, 1974; Reisman, 1981). By nature, though spinsters are considered as a strong shoulder of the family but in reality, they are stamped as burden (Laslie, 1979; Glick and Spainer, 1980).

On the other hand, the divorcee’s narcissism (Mean=16.38 and S.D=2.59) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) was found to be expressed by arrogance, self-absorption, a sense of entitlement and reactivity to criticism. Their expectations about self, harboured feelings of entitlement display a willingness to exploit other individuals for their own gain (Cooper 1998; Dickinson and Pincus, 2003; Pimentel, Ansell, Pincus and Cain, 2006).

Higher scores on narcissism for females (Mean=16.90 and S.D=3.44) than male counterparts (Mean=15.86 and S.D=1.07) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) indicate that though certain degree of ambiguity and isolation in community exists, there tends to be financial obligation and separation in case of females, inviting growth and maturity (Eriksen, 1995; Lee, 1982; Mckenry and Price, 1995). Males have little time to reassess their motives. Their challenges of becoming an independent person are simply less important to others (Whyte, 1990).
5.2.5. Personality Dimensions:

Psychoticism:

Statistical analysis of inter group differences indicated significant results with respect to Psychoticism (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).

Fig: 4.1.1.8 representing the position of each group, namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of psychoticism.

Highest scores in psychoticism of aged unmarried (Mean=14.08 and S.D=2.00) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) signify that ego-centricism, aggressiveness, higher impulsivity, non-conformity are inevitable characteristics of the mental profile of this sub sample. The probable basic insecurities prevent them from having openness in character pattern (Eysenck, 1967; Zubin, 1967 and Stroh, 1969).

Aged spinsters are positioned at higher point (Mean=15.66 and S.D=.66) than bachelor ones (Mean=12.50 and S.D=1.61) in this dimension (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Immediate gratification of needs and absence of such pleasure in reality result in deviated behaviours in them (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975). No other reason for least psychoticism among bachelors was suggested by literature, except that suppression of
feelings and more involvement in work sphere were formed to help them to maintain balance in their personalities (Zubin, 1967).

In case of aged married (Mean=2.66 and S.D=1.40) and widow (Mean=4.88 and S.D=1.28) as the magnitude of psychoticism shows lower trend (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3), it can be said that their psychoticism can be considered as specific individual pathology. Being in a relationship and having general empathetic, cooperative attitude characterizes them generally more than against their psychotic character pattern (Griffith, 1975).

Further analysis of interaction effect for married sample revealed no significant difference among males (Mean=2.72 and S.D=1.26) and females (Mean=2.60 and S.D=1.54) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Literature suggests that, emotional dependence, self-related happiness, tolerance in self expression are the major factors responsible for less psychotic trend among them (Mulatu and Schooler, 2002).

But statistical explanation of the same group detected that widows possess higher psychotic trend (Mean=5.66 and S.D=1.00) than widowers (Mean=4.10 and S.D=.97) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Literature suggests that narrowing of emotions, weakness of fantasy; increasing egocentricism (Pollack, 1929) ultimately result in psychotic trend in widows, where as, propensity to maintain social ties and likelihood of receiving assistance from others help widowers to share emotional attachment with other family members (Holmes and Rahe, 1967).

Angle of interpretation regarding reality seems to be mainly negative in divorcee's life along with the insecurity regarding being exploited, ignored, disrespected, left out etc which creates the demands for separation in conjugal life. As a
result, they exhibit low frustration tolerance and react in negative ways in wider range of situations which might have contributed in earning higher score on psychoticism (Mean=11.51 and S.D=1.76) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).

Higher psychotic trend for divorced females (Mean=12.98 and S.D=1.02) than divorced males (Mean=10.04 and S.D=.88) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) indicated that due to social isolation and smaller social networks, marital breakdown for females creates emotional distress (Kitsons’, 1992), dissatisfaction, non-conforming attitude in dealing with others (Honig and Hershatter, 1988). But males tend to think that it is the ending of highly conflictual marriage and separation can relieve stress among all family members (Amato, 2000).

Neuroticism:

Following the findings of Psychoticism similar significant inter-group differences were evident in case of neuroticism (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).
Fig: 4.1.1.9 representing the position of each group namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of neuroticism.

Literature indicates that unmarried ones often have a tendency to overreact emotionally and have a difficulty in returning to a normal state after arousal; as a result, they frequently complain of psychological symptoms such as worries, anxieties and depression (Eysenck, 1964). As such, they are found to be the toppers (Mean=17.61 and S.D=1.37) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) in this respective dimension.

Though magnitudinal differences among aged bachelors (Mean=17.92 and S.D=1.44) and spinsters (Mean=17.30 and S.D=1.23) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) were found out, their sample homogeneity regarding emotional processes was found to bear variation in intensities (Lee and Masako, 1987).

Sustained and stable relationships are the basic threads that help married ones (Mean=5.60 and S.D=2.95) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) to keep life long bondage which ultimately leads to lesser neurotic trend in behaviour pattern (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975).
On the basis of degree of higher neurotic trend, the higher trend was found out among married females (Mean=8.16 and S.D=1.78) than married males (Mean=3.04 and S.D=1.05) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Coping with negative aspects, temperamental setbacks and sometimes due to excessive stress, married females exhibit anger, disappointments (Jourard, 1963), while males take life’s disappointments in their stride and have a tolerant, easy-going attitude towards themselves as well as others (Murrell, Norris and Grote, 1988; Cohler, 1991; Markus and Herzog, 1991; Costa and McCrae, 1992).

Literature indicates, divorcees’ (Mean=16.31 and S.D=1.32) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) overall stance as irrational and sometimes are very much rigid in temporal pattern. Maiden, Peterson, Caya and Hayslip (2003) showed that decreased support and increased unmet needs are usually associated with more neuroticism in case of divorced ones.

Female divorcees here also occupied higher scores (Mean=16.84 and S.D=1.54) than male counterparts (Mean=15.78 and S.D=.76) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Females, due to their limited post-divorce options, have more difficulty in adjustment (Kitson and Morgan, 1990), fail to maintain situation-appropriate coping skills and emotional stability (Hetherington, Law and O’Connor, 1997; Tschann, Johnston and Wallerstein, 1989). But male divorcees, though experience trajectories in adjustment, begin to consider end of marriage as a road to recovery (Ahrons, 1994).

In case of widow or widower (Mean=11.47 and S.D=1.88) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3), being without partner makes them feel unsupported having combination of physical and emotional loneliness (Kanagasniemi, 2005) that increases
their pain, risk of depression, physical illness (Costello and Kendrick, 2000; Havens and Hall, 2001; VanBaarsen, 2002; Victor et al., 2005) and invites neurotic trend in them.

Analysis of interaction effect indicates higher trend magnitude-wise on the part of widows (Mean=12.82 and S.D=1.61) than widowers (Mean=10.12 and S.D=.89) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Basically, lack of comfort in family relations invites fear of dependence, tension for family, poor health, inability to work among widows (Morgan, 1938). Widowers, due to their non-interfering attitude try to adjust with transitions associated with becoming widowed (Elder, 1998).

**Extraversion:**

This particular dimension of personality also indicates significant differences among the groups (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).

Fig: 4.1.1.10 representing the position of each group namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of extraversion.
Married ageds were found to have the highest score (Mean=14.14 and S.D=1.84) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) on extraversion possibly due to less hazardous life style for which they become more sociable, like parties, have many friends, need to have people to talk to, crave for social excitement, take chances and act on the spur of the moment. Happiness in conjugal life makes them carefree, easygoing, and optimistic, they like to laugh and be merry (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975).

Later analysis indicates higher magnitudinal trend for males (Mean=15.08 and S.D=1.66) than females (Mean=13.20 and S.D=1.52) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) in the context. Due to the above mentioned reasons married elderly males are still romantic, in achieving successful marriage (Hurlock, 1997; Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975) while females, due to excessive pressure of family life and work stress, are characterized as quiet, passive, careful, reserved, thoughtful, sober and controlled (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975).

Being victims of interpersonal conflict either by losing their spouse as widows (Mean=6.00 and S.D=1.10) or being separated as divorcees (Mean=6.91 and S.D=1.48) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3), these sub samples tend to have the prominent tone of depression and hence the possibility of higher introvertive trend seemed to be prevalent in them (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1969).

Interaction pattern for the former group (widow) revealed that widowers possess slightly higher extroversion trend (Mean=6.66 and S.D=.62) than widows (Mean=5.34 and S.D=1.08) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Basically, becoming a widow, having non-availability of partner's love, creates a sort of emotional paralysis in their lives (Becker, 1965, 1991; Parsons, 1954). The world of widowers are also in tones
of gray. They try to begin their journey in new directions at times (Gurtman, 1999; Sinnott, 1977).

No significant difference was found in case of male (Mean=6.76 and S.D=1.39) and female (Mean=7.06 and S.D=1.57) divorced individuals (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) with respect to extraversion of personality dimension. The reason may be that, as their self-image becomes distorted in behaviour, males take on an automatic robot-like quality and females put up a glass wall between them and other people (Mott and Moore, 1979).

Unmarried ones (Mean=12.83 and S.D=3.97) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) at the midpoint, are not able to keep their feelings under tight control and sometimes tend to be aggressive and loose their temper quickly (Stroh, 1969) in this respect.

Here also aged spinsters possess higher extraversion (Mean=15.83 and S.D=3.61) than bachelors (Mean=9.78 and S.D=.65) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Same character patterns mentioned in the above paragraph that is, excessive aggression, lack of temper control are responsible for higher extraversion in spinsters (McKenry and McKelvy, 2003) where as, due to reserved attitude and withdrawal tendencies, bachelors often exhibit unsociable behaviours and introverted trend in them (Glenna and Russell, 2000).

Lie Score:

Inter group differences with respect to lie score also indicates significant results (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3).
Fig: 4.1.1.11 representing the position of each group namely, married, widow/widower, divorcee and unmarried on the basis of lie score.

Married counterparts have higher scores (Mean=16.72 and S.D=1.75) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) in the above mentioned dimension. In the midst of normal daily life, they seemed to have higher social desirability to maintain their social images (Michaelis and Eysenck, 1971).

Analysis of later part indicates no significant differences between married male (Mean=16.46 and S.D=1.25) and female (Mean=16.98 and S.D=2.11) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) elderlies. In satisfying marital relation each couple values the basic factor of marital satisfaction differently, so sometimes they have to mask their own needs, so that social desirability can be achieved (Hicks and Platt, 1970; Laws, 1971).

Much negative orientation, lack of committed support and interest in daily routine activities indicate that unmarried individuals have problems in emotional and personal lives and as a result, have the lowest score (Mean=4.28 and
Further analysis indicates higher lie score for bachelors (Mean=5.78 and S.D=.98) than spinsters (Mean=2.78 and S.D=.55) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) which may be attributed to the same reasons mentioned before.

On the other hand, totally opposite tendencies are perceived in case of divorcee aged who showed the least lie score (Mean=6.15 and S.D=.93) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3). The possible reason may be their total apathy to social fringes of life which prompts them to remain aloof from social acceptability mostly, while aged widows (Mean=6.48 and S.D=1.01) (Table-4.1.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.3) lying in between are able to maintain a balance between their inner needs and outer manifestations (Hud, 1999).

For the former group further statistical analysis indicates higher lie score on the part of divorced female elderlies (Mean=6.89 and S.D=.64) than male counterparts (Mean=5.42 and S.D=.50) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4). Emotional trauma seems to be near its peak after separation, as a result divorced females fail to culminate other interpersonal relationships and manifest deviations in expressing social behaviour (Bloom and Caldwell, 1981).

Higher lie score on the part of widowers (Mean=6.74 and S.D=1.01) than widows (Mean=6.22 and S.D=.95) (Table-4.2.2 and 4.3.4) indicates that in the process of mourning, widowers try to rediscover or reconnect their identity and find their way beyond their grief (Hud, 1999).
5.3. Quantitative analysis yielding the psychosocial profile of male and female elderlies on the whole:

5.3.1 Profile of Elderly Males:

Old age has different implications for men and women. For males, their role as major earner in the family is critical. They are likely to suffer in self-esteem if they see themselves as dependent. At the end part of their lives, they abruptly lose power, feel less dominant in such context. When self-concept and self-esteem suffer, older men have, or are likely to have psychological problems like depression, anxiety (NIH Consensus Development Conference, 1991). It is a time of crisis for many men, a time when feelings of frustration and personal inadequacy may surface and strain in marriage may be felt. The crisis can also be seen as a creative challenge, a stimulus for deeper understanding, self-realization and growth. As a result, they can venture new directions and dimensions of aspirations of life.

5.3.1.1 Anxiety:

The first fold of the result section revealed that significant differences exist between gender variation with respect to anxiety (4.1.2 and 4.2.2).
Aged males were found to have lesser degree of anxiety (Mean of State Anxiety=48.88, S.D=14.71 and Mean of Trait Anxiety=49.87, S.D=12.32) than female counterparts.

Though the common factor of anxiety of elderly appears to be ‘empty-nest’ (Hurlock, 1997) but aged males possess certain traits like contentment, pride, optimism, hope, trust, and pleasure more than the females. As a result, they
become able to erase the unsuccessful past episodes of their lives and suffer from less anxiety (Seligman, 2002).

Further intra-gender differences among married, widow, divorced and bachelor males were found to have specific statistical significance (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2). This signifies that the significance of each of the groups in case of state and trait anxiety is influenced by gender. Similarly the significance of gender is influenced by the different groups.

Lowest scores in anxiety on the part of married males (Mean of State Anxiety=25.54, S.D=1.58 and Mean of Trait Anxiety=30.18, S.D=2.85) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) indicate that spouses in satisfied marriages tend to view their partners’ positive behaviours as a result of stable, internal causes and dismiss negative behaviours as a result of temporary and external causes (Fincham, Beach and Bradbury, 1989 and Karney, Bradbury, Fincham and Sullivan, 1994). Actually, longtime bondage helps them to cope with stressful events and orients them to achieve more goal-directed behaviours (Scheier and Carver, 1985, 1987, 1992).

Due to social isolation, illness, lack of well-being, aged bachelors become more vulnerable to emotional disturbance which ultimately leads to higher state anxiety (Mean=60.16 and S.D=1.77) (Table-4.3.2) among them (Aldwin, Spiro, Levenson and Bosse, 1989; Chappell and Badger, 1989; Newman, 1989). Higher trait anxiety (Mean=60.86 and S.D=2.52) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) in them may be the causal root of their remaining bachelors. The non-supportive environment might have added more fuel to it and hence is the prominent anxiety orientation in character pattern.
Due to break-up in relationship, male divorcees tend to view their partners as the cause of negative congruences in life and hold this point of view to be true even for manifestations of depressive symptoms, negative affectivity and level of marital violence (Fincham, Beach and Bradbury, 1989; Karney, Bradbury, Fincham and Sullivan, 1994; Fincham, Bradbury, Arias, Byrne and Karney, 1997). For this reason they tend to react negatively in wider range of situations and become the victims of highest state anxiety (Mean=62.06 and S.D=1.95) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2). Not only that, the nature of changes in social ties and non-supportive attitude from neighbours and closer ones leads them to be the worst sufferers of trait anxiety (Mean=58.66 and S.D=1.67) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) (Hickson, Housley and Boyle, 1998; Nehrke, Belluecci and Gabriel, 1978; Tate, 1982; Vickio and Cavanaugh, 1985).

Literature revealed that bereaved persons also experience an immediate decline in physical and emotional context after loss of loved ones (Ferraro, 1985). Widowers show impaired psychological and social functioning including depression (Hyman, 1983; Wan, 1984) and can be regarded as a risk population that is confronted with dependency. Sudden and unexpected loss of a spouse creates special problems and lack of social support decrease their well-being and impaired quality of life (Coyne and Downey, 1991) resulting in anxiety (Mean of state anxiety=47.74; S.D=2.16 and Mean of trait anxiety=49.78, S.D=1.32) (Table- 4.3.1 and 4.3.2) among them.

5.3.1.2 Happiness:

Statistical analysis indicates significant differences in gender context with respect to happiness also (4.1.2 and 4.2.2).
In this context aged males possess higher scores (Mean = 87.16 and S.D = 34.80) than elderly females. Due to pension, health care, size of family, proper living arrangements provided by family members, the factors are found to be significantly related to the perception of more happiness among elderly males (Pei and Pillai, 2000). Moreover, activities in the families and social domains were found to be consistently associated with positive affective well-being or happiness for aged males (Butcher, Robertson, Warr and Callinan, 2004).

Later analysis of intra gender differences among married, divorced, widower and bachelor males were found to have specific statistical significance (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2).

Highest scores in happiness on the part of married males (Mean = 145.82 and S.D = 6.96) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) suggest that their relatively stable features of personality, patterns of commitment affects the way the situational events are appraised in terms of their positive impact on well-being as well as influencing the way they have managed life events (Lazarus and DeLongis, 1983). Literature also indicates
that positive relationship of this sub-sample has consistently been found between life satisfaction and socio-economic status, perceived adequacy of income and perceived health status (Kutner, et.al., 1956; Cutler, et, al.1965; Edwards and Klemmack, 1973).

**Bachelors**, at the opposite pole exhibit a kind of rigidity and inflexible behaviour pattern in maintaining their relations. Basically, they fail to rely on somebody with whom they share their feelings (Crumbaugh and Maholick, 1964; Yalom, 1980) and hence suffer from excessive degree of unhappiness (Mean=58.14 and S.D=1.84) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2).

Unhappiness of elderly divorcees (Mean=66.80 and S.D=1.70) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) is associated with negative affect and cognitively based evaluations of well-being which invites depression, anxiety, low frustration tolerance and non-conforming attitude in behaviour pattern (Chamberlain and Zika, 1988; Diener, 1984; Viet and Ware, 1983) among them.

Literature suggests that, spousal loss, non social support produce a kind of stress which deteriorates their mental health, reduces sense of well-being, invites depression, impairs psychological and social functioning and makes widowers (Mean=77.86 and S.D=3.12) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) victim of unhappiness (Hyman, 1983; Wan, 1984; Norris and Murrell, 1990).

**5.3.1.3. Relationship Profile in terms of its Distinctive Dimensions:**

**Destructive Overdependence (DO):**

Statistical analysis indicates that significant differences exist among the males with respect to destructive overdependence (4.1.2 and 4.2.2).
Here elderly males (Mean=18.16 and S.D=9.97) established themselves at the lowest point of this particular dimension. Aged males due to their less involvement in household work are able to manage stress distractions by external factors, perceive emotional intimacy without too much distance and achieve a satisfying sexual equilibrium (Kingsberg, 2000).

Individual profile of the intra-gender difference indicates that only the bachelor group had different profile in the respect from that of the other three groups, namely, widower, divorcee and bachelors (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2). Here aged bachelors (Mean=35.24 and S.D=1.36) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) had the highest score. In any social situation old bachelors may have a tendency to express a desire to maintain close ties but negative evaluation from others prevents them to develop such bondage.
This inadequacy creates a kind of helplessness in their self-presentation (Bornstein and Languirand, 2003).

Considering the latter part of statistical analysis, it can be said that the status of being ‘male’ and being a part of conjugal life either for a short span or for long time they are being able to lead an independent life style. Though grief and bereavement exist in elderly married (Mean=12.72 and S.D=1.25), widower (Mean=12.42 and S.D=1.49) and divorcees’ (Mean=12.26 and S.D=1.03) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) lives, they try to take into their strides their gender-stereotyped sense of masculinity.

**Dysfunctional Detachment (DD):**

Similar significant differences also exist in this domain of relationship profile (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

**Fig: 4.1.2.5** showing the position of each gender on the basis of dysfunctional detachment.
Profile of elderly males revealed lower scores (Mean=24.94 and S.D=6.59) than females with respect to dysfunctional detachment. Aged males due to their variation in social perspectives often see themselves as more assertive, less dependent, more capable of solving problems and more authoritative (Bengtson and Gordon, 1985). Moreover, greater involvement in social roles decreases the detachment context in their lives (Prakash, 1997).

Further analysis of intra-gender differences indicates that except married and divorced males other sub-groups namely widower and bachelor have specific statistical significance (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2).

Highest magnitudinal values on the part of elderly divorcee (Mean=30.92 and S.D=1.59) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) revealed that due to marital discord the committed support of the group is less. Motivational tone pinpointed the fact that they have less problems in personal lives and perceive others as harmful and untrustworthy and become distant from others (Bornstein and Languirand, 2003).

Elderly bachelors (Mean=29.60 and S.D=.90) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) basically fail to cultivate social ties and engage in adaptive affiliative behaviours (Kantor, 1993; Millon, 1996). Excessive intrapsychic conflicts regarding closeness and intimacy tend to make them separate from other counterparts. Actually, due to their temperamental instability they become detached from others (Birchnell, 1996).

Widowers (Mean=24.42 and S.D=2.03) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) due to their bereavement status, always exhibit negative emotionality, which ultimately impair their quality of life and hence emotional distance has been formed in them (Caspi, 1998).
Aged married individuals (Mean= 14.80 and S.D=1.64) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) as a result of their consistent intimate ties with the fundamental nature are found to adjust with ups and downs of their interpersonal relationships (Deci and Ryan, 1991; Argyle, 1987; Myers and Diener, 1995) which leads to the lowest detachment among them.

Healthy Dependency (HD):

Statistical analysis indicates no significant difference in terms of gender variation with respect to the above mentioned domain of relation profile (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Fig: 4.1.2.6 showing the position of each gender on the basis of healthy dependency.

The gender homogeneity in this respect (male mean =20.51 and S.D= 9.76 and female mean =20.35 and S.D =14.75) can be explained as both the samples have basic needs to share their feelings or to depend on their closer ones. They show considerable confidence, adaptability, behavioural flexibility most of the times for
strengthening their long-term supportive relationships (Bornstein, 1998a; Bornstein and Languirand, 2003).

Dealing with intra-gender differences it was found out that married and widowers have different profiles from the other two groups, namely, divorcee and bachelors (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2). Since interaction effect is found out to be significant along with the main effect of group, it may be inferred that gender plays a qualifying role when taken together as per as healthy dependency is concerned.

Highest scores on the part of aged married (Mean=36.90 and S.D=1.59) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) indicates that stable relationships, general life satisfactions, shared mutual interests, attitudes and values allow their partner to be comfortable with them (Snyder, Gangestad and Simpson, 1983). Basically, dependency among them seems to be achieved by flexibility, situation-appropriate support-seeking behaviour (Bornstein, 1998; Pincus and Wilson, 2001).

Widowers (Mean=17.46 and S.D=2.24) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) on the other pole due to their relationship scarcity have an underlying need for bondage but reality decorate their lives through black and white shades and tends to position them at the lowest point of this dimension (Bornstein, 1995,1998a; Cross, Bacon and Morris, 2000; Kobayashi, 1989).

5.3.1.4. Narcissism:

First fold of statistical analysis indicates significant differences in terms of gender variation with respect to narcissism also (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).
Elderly males (Mean=19.16 and S.D=6.82) possess higher scores on narcissism than females. Tendency to dominate others, being the major earners in the family tends to maximize and protect self-esteem resulting in general feelings of self-worth, intimacy and commitment towards partner (Robins and Beer, 2001). Basically, need for appreciation and admiration from others reduce the level of anxiety, depression and increase subjective well-being among them (Sedikides, Rudich and Gregg, Kumashiro and Rusbult, 2004). Their concern about social dominance (Brown and Zeigler-Hill, 2004) and admiration suggest that they possess high levels of self-esteem that would be positively associated with competition and family support (Morf, Weir and Davidov, 2000; Ryckman, Thornton and Butler, 1994; Watson, Morris and Miller, 1997).

Intra-gender analysis indicates that the four groups namely, married, widower, divorcee and bachelor males were found to have specific statistical differences (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2).
Aged bachelors receive the highest position (Mean=28.487 and S.D=1.93) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) in this dimension. Due to dominating role of 'males' in our society, this particular sample tends to develop a kind of grandiose feeling about themselves. Actually, with this weapon, they tend to closely guard their feelings of inferiority, insecurity, inadequacy, incapability and embarrassment, their awareness that they are bluffing, their doubts about themselves and their marked sensitivity to criticism (Akhtar and Thompson, 1982; Kernberg, 1975; Kohut, 1971). Not only that, lack of mutual understanding with other family members and feelings of loneliness stamped them as a separate category in our society. When these individuals with high narcissistic traits see the possible threats to their personal importance, they see themselves in an unrealistically positive way (Gabriel, Critelli and Ee, 1994; John and Robins, 1994) and would rather be admired than nurtured by others (Campbell, 1999). Literature also suggests that, they may adopt a highly defensive self-regulatory style, denying negative experiences and overemphasizing positive ones (Tracy and Robins, 1994).

On other side, married elderlies' (Mean=21.46 and S.D=2.46) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) narcissism is associated with their useful interpersonal relationships which help them to enhance their self-concept. It is associated with attentional self-focus (Emmons, 1987). Being a part of satisfactory conjugal life, they have a tendency to use 'I' in every unstructured and unrehearsed speech (Raskin and Shaw, 1988). Actually, the basic happiness in relationship profiles helps them to develop positive self-esteem (Raskin, Novacek and Hogan, 1991a; 1991b) and the need for uniqueness (Emmon, 1984). Literature also suggests that their self feels admired by
interactive process and this ensures a sense of cohesiveness and boosts the idea that self is exceptional (Ryle and Kerr, 2002).

**Elderly divorcees**, (Mean=15.86 and S.D=1.07) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) due to emotional turning off in their interpersonal relationships, become distant and incapable of depending on others and develop a tendency of not experiencing the emotional side of relationships (Cooper, 1998; DiMaggio, et.al., 2002). Not only that, such relations also create a tendency of not committing oneself to achievement of goals (Robins and Paulhus, 2001).

Last position was occupied by widowers (Mean=10.82 and S.D=1.29) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) in the context. Their behaviours are driven by emotions and negative beliefs (Bowlby, 1969; Fiscalini, 1994; Scannell, 2003). They always try to elicit problematic emotions in others that complacent with their own inferiorities (Safran and Muran, 2000). In reality, widower-ship invites some amount of insecurity and helplessness which ultimately scratch them emotionally at the loss of their partners.

### 5.3.1.5 Personality Dimensions:

**Psychoticism:**

Significant differences were found with respect to gender variation in case of psychoticism also (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).
Elderly males (Mean=8.08 and S.D=4.56) due to less hazardous lifestyles are able to achieve the equilibrium in both work and home spheres. They can rely on social supports and are able to utilize it when their own resources are inadequate (Gourash, 1978; Veroff et.al., 1981). Though they sometimes react too strongly but they seem to be capable of erasing the negative emotional trace resulting from their arousal, and hence lowest psychotic trend was located in them.

Further intra-gender differences indicate statistically significant differences among elderly males (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2).

Due to ‘Single’ status, aged bachelors may have hostility, lack of sympathy, inhumanity, unfriendly, untrustful, paranoid ideas within them (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975). Excessive possession of those traits may destroy their reality-orientation slowly and as a result, they are not able to utilize their insight properly which ultimately
results in highest manifestation of psychotic trend (Mean=12.50 and S.D=1.61) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) within them.

**Elderly divorcee** (Mean=10.04 and S.D=.88) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) due to their negative emotionality, reported lower levels of satisfaction and quality of well-being. Being aggressive, alienated and stress-reactive they tended to be unhappy which invites psychotic trend in them.

In case of **widowers** (Mean=4.10 and S.D=.97) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) frequently bereavement invites loneliness, depression and anxiety (Brugha, 1984; Ferraro, 1985. Garrett and Senter 1987; Gass, 1985, Lesher and Bergey, 1988; Murrell, Himmelfarb and Wright, 1983; Phifer and Murrell, 1986; Pihlblad and Adams, 1972) in their lives, which results in a change in close ties and loss of social support from the very person who has passed away. So these elderlies are in need of coping assistance from other resources within their remaining social network (Sauer and Coward, 1985; Vaux, 1988). Scarcities of such mental support make them the victim of unrealistic inclinations.

**Literature suggests that aged married** (Mean=2.72 and S.D=1.26) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) who were high in positive emotionality were happier in their relationships. The effect was possibly due to social closeness. Men with the capacity to develop intimacy and ability to provide comfort and express warmth tend to have more satisfied conjugal partnership (Karney and Bradbury, 1995; Buss, 1991) which ultimately leads them to maintain consistency in their life styles.
Neuroticism:

Significant differences were found with respect to gender variation in case of neuroticism also (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Fig: 4.1.2.9 showing the position of each gender on the basis of neuroticism.

Aged males are initially more likely to report positive emotions and try to retain their positivity throughout the life (Reynolds and Gatz, 2001). They tend to be neither too anxious, worrying individuals nor too frequently depressed and receive lower scores (Mean=11.72 and S.D=5.87) than female counterparts (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975).

Separate profile of intra-gender differences of elderly males (namely married, widower, and divorcee) revealed same magnitudinal trend in case of neuroticism also (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2).

Bachelors are positioned at the highest level (Mean=17.92 and S.D=1.44) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) in this dimension. Due to pessimistic thoughts and, negative interpersonal interactions, they sometimes reported the presence of negative
mood. They felt more bored, tired and apathetic than other counterparts, namely, married widower and divorcee (Raikkonen, Matthews, Flory and Owens, 1999). Not only that, lack of balance in character pattern makes them impulsive at times and destroys their stability.

The problem of elderly divorcees (Mean=1.57 and S.D=.76) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) lies in the area of ego development. Divorce demands personal reorganization and adjustment to new roles and life styles. But numerous distresses inhibit their impulse control, interpersonal style and hence produce innumerable stresses. Such distresses inhibit their impulse control, lead to maladjusted interpersonal style, conscious preoccupation and adopt distorted cognitive style (Loevinger, 1976; Kaplan, 1974; Chiriboga and Cutler, 1978) and make them victim of neuroticism.

Widowers (Mean=10.12 and S.D=.89) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) are often reported to be depressed, to be unhappy with their lives and develop a negative image of themselves (Gove, 1972; Campbell, 1975; Silverman, 1969; Pearlin, 1975; Radloff, 1977; Gurin, Veroff and Feld, 1960; McKee and Sheriffs, 1959). Basically, the social support they receive must match the specific needs of the recipients but in reality it differs and deviation comes in behaviour (Cutrona and Russell, 1990).

Actually, the social support for elderly married individual (Mean=3.04 and S.D=1.05) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) work as a buffer against stressors and stamped them as the most advantageous group than their counterparts (Coyne and Downey, 1991).
Extraversion:

Statistical analysis indicates no significant differences in gender variation with respect to extraversion (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Fig: 4.1.2.10 showing the position of each gender on the basis of extraversion.

![Graph showing mean scores of males and females for extraversion](image)

Magnitudinal trend pinpointed lower scores (Mean=9.57 and S.D=3.62) on the part of elderly males than females. Lack of adequate social support and marital satisfaction might be the probable logic of this homogeneity which have already been forwarded in the female analysis section.

Further intra-gender differences revealed that married and bachelor groups have different profiles from that of the other two groups (Divorcee and widower) (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2). Literature posits that married males (Mean=15.08 and S.D=1.66) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) are able to develop friendships more easily and have more elaborate social support networks and social resources (Bergeman, et al., 1990).
Their high self-esteem, external locus of control and optimistic behaviour pattern help them to enjoy the fragrance of marital satisfaction (Sarason, Levine, Basham and Sarason, 1983) and have the highest position in extraversion.

**Aged bachelors** (Mean=9.78 and S.D=.65) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) due to their lack of social resources and lower level of self- perceived social competence and loneliness, can not control their impulsivity (Cohen, 1988; Jones, 1985; Newcomb, 1990; Rook, et, al.1985; Vinokur, Schul and Caplan, 1987).

**Lie Score:**

*Here also gender variation indicates no statistically significant differences among elderly males* (Mean=8.60 and S.D=4.68) *and females* (Mean=8.22 and S.D=5.45) *(Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).*

**Fig: 4.1.2.11** showing the position of each gender on the basis of lie score.
The criteria of achieving social desirability and attempts to present them in socially accepted version seem to bear same pattern for both males and females (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975)

Further intra-gender analysis indicates that married and widowers have different profile than the other two groups (Divorcee and Bachelors) (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.2).

Highest magnitudinal value for elderly married individuals (Mean=16.46 and S.D=1.25) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) indicates that for achieving consistent bondage with family members, they can easily reveal conformity to the social demands instead of concentrating on their personal choices (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975).

Lower scores for other three samples, namely, widower (Mean=6.74 and S.D=1.01), divorcee (Mean=5.42 and S.D=.50), bachelor (Mean=5.78 and S.D=.98) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.2) individuals can be explained by the same logic of non-conformity and attention seeking attitude among them.

5.3.2. Profile of Elderly Females:

The perception of self of the females as old is based on the presence of grandchildren, widowhood, shrinkage of social roles and post menopausal status (Prakash, 1997). As they have deeper negative involvement in the process of aging, the effect of family cycle seems more traumatic for them at times (Butler, et. al., 1976). In our societies women are expected to conform to ideologies of wifely, fidelity and chastity as part of their religion and culture. Female status even in old age becomes
circumscribed and expressed through house-hold production. Even if she has her career
and lives her own life she is seen as an extension of her husband, as such her own status
is closely related to, and is never independent of her own prestige, power with few
exceptions (Prakash, 1999).

Profile of Elderly Females with Respect to selected Psycho-social Variables:

5.3.2.1. Anxiety:

Statistical analysis indicates significant differences in gender
variation with respect to anxiety (state and trait) (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2)

Aged females possess higher anxiety in both dimensions (Mean of
state anxiety=58.04, S.D=16.49 and Mean of trait anxiety= 57.68, S.D=14.18). The
reason may be that at the end part of life they feel that they are impotent and useless. Not
only that, lack of satisfaction, hopelessness, lack of social support also lead to lesser
positive affect in them (Nathawat and Rathore, 1996; Schneider, 1996).

Further, intra-gender differences among married, widow, divorcee
and spinster females were found to have specific statistical significance (Table-4.1.2,
4.2.2 and 4.3.3). Considering state and trait anxiety the significance of each group is
influenced by gender. Similarly the significance of gender is qualified by the different
groups.
Fig: 4.3.1.1 showing the position of male and female participants of different groups on the basis of state anxiety.

Married females possess lower anxiety (Mean of state anxiety=58.04, S.D=16.49 and Mean of trait anxiety= 57.68, S.D=14.18) (Table- 4.3.1)

Fig: 4.3.1.2 showing the position of male and female participants of different groups on the basis of trait anxiety.

Married females possess lower anxiety (Mean of state anxiety=58.04, S.D=16.49 and Mean of trait anxiety= 57.68, S.D=14.18) (Table- 4.3.1)
and 4.3.3) than the other three counterparts. Harmonious relations with members, economic security, positive self-perception makes them physically and psychologically being more active and establishes them at the peripheral side of anxiety domain (Wilcox, Evenson, Aragaki, Wassertheil, 2003; Prakash, 1998).

**Elderly spinsters** (Mean of state anxiety=77.40, S.D=2.52 and Mean of trait anxiety= 77.54, S.D=3.01) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) on the other side, are positioned at the highest point of this dimension. Conflict between work and family, excessive attention seeking attitude and a desire for heterosexual relation etches their position as nothing but a burden in family. They are not treated respectfully in a social set-up and hence develop irritation regarding the normal flow of life (Frone, Russell and Cooper, 1992; Greenhaus and Parasuraman, 1999; Kinnunen and Mauno, 1998; Noor, 2003).

**In divorcee’s life** ‘divorced’ status is the main responsible factor for creating anxiety. After this transition they seem to be more stubborn, rigid, stronger, resigned and conscientious (Heckhausen, Dixon and Baltes, 1989). Actually, their generalized insecurity feelings lead them to react in negative ways in wider range of situations and are likely to become the victims of higher state (Mean =66.68, S.D=2.32) and trait (Mean= 59.06, and S.D=153) anxieties (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) (Kanner, et. al. 1981; Watkings, Coatas, Ferroni, 1988; Noor, 2003).

**Widowhood** is basically a kind of stigma. Due to social comparison, widows not only increase uncertainty about themselves but also through negative evaluations they fail to cope with stressful situations (Vanderzee and Wood, 1997; Wood, Taylor and Lichtman, 1985). Excessive strains, lack of coping ability
illuminates their lives with negative affect and position them at the middle point of anxiety continuum (Mean of state anxiety=54.18, S.D=3.61 and Mean of trait anxiety=55.64, S.D=2.56) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) (Pei and Pillai, 2000; Chao and Chadha, 2002).

5.3.2.2 Happiness:

Significant differences were also found in terms of gender with respect to happiness (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Aged females manifested lesser happiness (Mean=79.21 and S.D=41.85) than male ones. Marital discord in later ages, health problems, marginal decline in personal mastery, problems in informal support are the responsible factors for such findings (Chao and Chadha, 2002; Kirby, Coleman and Daley, 2004; McKenry and McKelvy, 2003).

Later analysis of intra-gender differences also indicated statistically significant differences among them (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3).
Highest scores in happiness for married females (Mean = 144.82 and S.D = 4.50) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) reveal that their pleasant affect prompts them to smell the fragrance of marital satisfaction across a multitude of life domains (Diener, 1984; Diener, Suh, Lucas and Smith, 1999). Their mitigation of interpersonal behaviour is the key component of secured life styles.

Beside them, due to negative self-image, frustration and anxiety spinsters become easy victim of excessive daily hassles (Diener and Emmons, 1984; Green, Salovey and Truax, 1999; Moskowitz and Cote, 1995) which ultimately leads to least happiness (Mean = 30.46 and S.D = 1.89) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) among them.

Accidental transition in the life of divorcees (Mean = 62.96 and S.D = 3.04) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) increases excessive work family conflict (Aryee, Luk,
Leung and Lo, 1999; Frone, et.al., 1992; Noor, 2003). Separation from husband actually destroys their emotional make-up. Beside this, society views them from a negative angle that lowers happiness in them.

Accepting *widowhood* is to adjust with mourning episode but they can't get rid of the trauma of their personal loss that results in depression, anxiety and unhappiness in them (Mean=78.40 and S.D=3.07) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) (Bloom and Caldwell, 1981).

5.3.2.3. **Relationship Profile in terms of its distinctive dimensions:**

**Destructive Overdependence (DO):**

Statistical analysis here also indicates significant differences in terms of gender (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Here *elderly females* possess higher scores (Mean=21.42 and S.D=13.24) than their male counterparts. They need to be protected by their husbands which ultimately lead to intra-psychic conflict and maladaptive behaviour within them (Clark and Ladd, 2000; Colgan, 1987; Head, Baker and Williamson, 1991).

Later intra-gender differences indicate that all groups have distinctive profiles of them (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3). This indicates that as regards destructive overdependence, the significance of each group is influenced by gender. Similarly the significance of gender is qualified by the different groups.
Elderly spinsters receive higher scores (Mean=43.96 and S.D=1.52) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) in this domain. ‘Unmarried status’ basically gives them low self-feeling, as a result, they are not able to structure their interpersonal relationships that allow them sufficient freedom and security (Gaines, et. al. 1997). Moreover, excessive attention seeking attitude makes them maladaptive and develops inflexible dependency within them (Bornstein, 1995; 1998a; Cross, Bacon and Morris, 2000; Kobayashi, 1989).

Elderly married individuals (Mean=11.04 and S.D=1.60) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) know their target well, so they do not need to pay much attention to their partner (Kenny and DePaulo, 1993; Thomas and Fletcher, 1997). After monitoring their partners’ behaviours during early stages of life, commitment and closeness confers
knowledge of the others (Swann and Gill, 1997) which results in lower dependence within them.

Excessive distress brings negative affectivity among the lives of divorcees (Mean=15.80 and S.D=.83) and widows (Mean=14.88 and S.D=1.57) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3). Moreover, their attribution style has been thought to play a causal role for inviting inflexible behaviour pattern among them (Abramson, Seligman and Teasdale, 1978; Karney, Bradbury, Fincham and Sullivan, 1994).

**Dysfunctional Detachment (DD):**

Considering the above findings, similar significant results were found in case of gender with reference to the above mentioned dimension of relationship profile (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Women’s status does not depend directly on their abilities (Brozen, 1978). Actually, emotional deprivation resulting from loss of status leads to situational inappropriate behaviours on the part of women (Kantor, 1993; Millon, 1996) which create a barrier between women and criteria for social desirability, hence results in higher detachment (Mean=30.41 and S.D= 13.16).

Further, intra-gender differences indicate that only divorcee and widows have distinct profile than the other two groups (married and spinster) (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3).
Divorcees possess higher scores (Mean=45.14 and S.D=3.31) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) in dysfunctional detachment. Basically, deficits in social, sexual and occupational functioning (Kantor, 1993; Millon, 1996), greater “internal orientation” and a dominating tendency prevent them to strengthen long-term supportive relationships (Bentler and Newcomb, 1978).

After spousal loss, widows (Mean=40.88 and S.D=2.54) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) are typically separated from their world. Hence, deeper feeling of loneliness, lack of self-sufficiency invites an utter cry of helplessness within their lives (Gangestad and Snyder, 1987; Snyder, 2000).

Profile of elderly married (Mean=18.80 and S.D=4.76) and spinsters (Mean=17.60 and S.D=2.23) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) indicates that either
having partner for a long time or never experiencing such bondage creates a boundary between them and a pattern of detachment in life.

**Healthy Dependency (HD):**

Statistical analysis of no differences in terms of gender variation with respect to healthy dependency (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2) has been located. The possible reason has been cited in the section 5.3.1.3.

Further intra-gender differences indicate that except elderly spinsters other three groups namely married, widow and divorcees have distinct profiles (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3). Since interaction effect is found out to be significant along with the main effect of group, it may be inferred that gender plays a qualifying role when taken together with group to bring about significant difference as per as healthy dependency is concerned.

**Fig: 4.3.1.6 showing the position of male and female participants of different groups on the basis of healthy dependency.**

![Graph showing healthy dependency scores for different groups](image-url)
Here married counterparts receive the highest scores (Mean=45.10 and S.D=6.41) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3). In marriage, both partners share similar disposition to each other to be a compatible life partner. Their positive self-perception, similar values and beliefs help them to bind the family with thread of kindness, responsibility and honesty (Buchanan, 2000; Glick, 1975; Snyder, et. al., 1985; Jones, 1993). Not only that, secured attachment is associated with greater behavioural consistency for them that may be expressed very differently for different relationships (Bornstein, Riggs, Hill and Clabrese, 1996; Heiss, Berman and Sperling, 1996).

In case of divorcees (Mean= 10.84 and S.D=.98) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3), it is the time of self-renewal as a single person. They understand the way they were habitual in their marriage, but now as a result of social stigmatization and familial obstruction they try to set-up their own house-holds and become self-sufficient (Choudhary, 1988; Mehta, 1975; Pothen, 1989).

Rate of dependency on the part of aged spinsters (Mean=12.06 and S.D=1.30) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) indicates that they tend to pursue more autonomy and reject wifely dependence. The decision to remain single was often part of commitment to a career in social reform. Their experience of economic independence inhibited their desires to hurry into the dependence of marriage.

Emotional and instrumental dependence on one’s spouse affects older adults’ psychological adjustment to widowhood. As widows (Mean=13.40 and S.D=1.65) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) are mostly emotionally dependent on their spouses so they had poorest self-esteem which prevents them to have confidence and pushes them to intense dependency (Carr, 2004).
5.3.2.4 Narcissism:

Statistical analysis detected significant differences to gender context with respect to narcissism (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

**Elderly females** receive lower scores (Mean=17.82 and S.D=6.16) than male counterparts. Low self-monitors do not allow females sufficient freedom and security to express their dispositional attributes without suffering from interpersonal conflict (Gaines, et al. 1997) and rarely receive approval from others (Foster, Campbell and Twenge, 2003).

Later intra-gender differences reveal that married, divorcees, widows and spinsters have significant differences among them (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.1 and 4.3.3). This indicates that as regards narcissism the significance of groups and gender both serve as qualifying factors for each other.

**Fig: 4.3.1.7 showing the position of male and female participants of different groups on the basis of narcissism.**
Aged spinsters receive the highest scores (Mean=25.68 and S.D=1.75) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) with respect to narcissism. Owing to their defensive facade they make good impressions at first, yet are eventually regarded negatively as arrogant and self-centered (Paulhus, 1998; Robins and Beer, 2001). Due to less commitment to relationships, they have a tendency to exhibit lack of empathy, marked levels of hostility, especially in the face of failure, negative feedback or social rejection (Paulhus, 1998; Robins and Beer, 2001).

On the other hand, literature suggests that elderly married females (Mean=18.10 and SD=4.47) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) can be quite healthy (Campbell, 2001). They tend to report high trait of self-esteem (Campbell, Reeder, Sedikides and Elliot, 2000) and such positive regard for self seems to confer upon them their relative psychological benefit. Due to possession of greater sociability (Clarke- Stewart, 1973; Rothbaum, 1988) they display better self-regulation (Stayton, Hogan and Ainsworth, 1971) than other counterparts.

Self-esteem of divorced females (Mean=16.90 and S.D=3.44) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) becomes fragile; as a result they feel easily hurt and threatened (Horney, 1939). Basically, they see themselves in an unrealistically positive way and want to accuse others being the cause of their failures or engage arrogant social behaviour (Paulhus, 1998) and react with hostility towards others (Bushman and Baumeister, 1998; Dimaggio, 2002; Rhodewalt and Morf, 1998).

At the extreme end, widows possess least amount of narcissism (Mean=10.58 and S.D=1.40) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3). After spousal loss they become cold, an-hedonic (Jellema, 2000; Lowen, 1983) and see the world to be unreal. Due to
this turning off emotion, they fail to achieve the goals and it makes them distant from others (Cooper, 1998; DiMaggio, 2002).

5.3.2.5. **Personality Dimensions:**

**Psychoticism:**

Significant differences were found in terms of gender with reference to psychoticism context (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Elderly females established themselves in the highest position (Mean=9.23 and S.D= 5.42) in this continuum. Occurrence of stressful life events and development of variety of psychological difficulties illuminate their lives (Dohrenwend and Dohrenwend, 1974; Rabkin and Struening, 1976) and they fail to utilize social support as a buffer for protecting from life stress (Andrews, Tennant, Hewson and Vaillant, 1978; Wilcox, 1981).

Separate profile of elderly females (namely married, widow, divorcee and spinster) detected significant intra-gender differences among them (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3).
The resemblance of elderly spinsters of higher psychotic behaviour (Mean=15.66 and S.D=.66) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) signifies impulsivity, non-conformity, poor communicability of mental status. Moreover, due to same reason of having ‘unmarried’ status, they tend not to receive respect from society (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975; Zubin, 1967 and Stroh, 1969).

Higher psychoticism for divorcees (Mean=12.98 and S.D=1.02) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) depicted that they may have a tendency to interpret every situation in a negative way and develop unduly magnified self-image from which they become exploited, ignored, disrespected. Actually, basic insecurities prevent them having openness in character pattern (Eysenck an Eysenck, 1975).

The similar reasons of empathetic, co-operative attitude in behaviour pattern are responsible for lower psychotic trend within aged married (Mean=2.60 and S.D=1.54) and widow (Mean=5.66 and S.D=1.00) (Table-4.3.1 and
Neuroticism:

Contrary to psychoticism similar significant results in context to gender variation were also found in case of neuroticism (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Here elderly females receive higher scores (Mean=13.78 and S.D=4.00) than male counterparts. Situationally, their strong emotional reactions interfere with proper adjustment in social set-ups; they stand as irrational and sometimes very rigid in temporal pattern (Schaie and Willis, 1991). They are more likely to report negative emotions and a decline in flexibility was more prominent among them as age increases (Charles et.al. 2001).

Separate intra-gender differences reveal that only married and widowed females have distinct profiles than other two sub samples namely-divorced and spinster ones (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3).
Aged spinsters possess highest magnitude of (Mean=17.30 and S.D=1.23) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) neuroticism. ‘Single hood’ highlights personal freedom, career opportunities, chance of self-improvement, diversity makes their lives advantageous but on the other hand sexual unavailability, loneliness, stamps them as ‘sick’, ‘neurotic’ or ‘immoral’ (Rummel, 1975). Due to excessive criticism they loose their temper quickly and are reported to be very much moody and frequently depressed (Eysenck, 1967).

Same reasons like low frustration tolerance, insecurity regarding marital relations are responsible for higher neurotic trend (Mean=16.84 and S.D=1.54) among divorcees which have already been mentioned in the profile of inter group differences (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3).

The prospect of death de-motivates the widows to assume responsibility and respond to the opportunities that life has offered (Frankl, 1971).
Actually, lack of hope results in neurotic attitude (Mean=12.82 and S.D=1.61) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3) within them.

Statistical analysis indicates lesser degrees of neuroticism among married females (Mean=8.16 and S.D=1.78) (Table- 4.3.1 and 4.3.3). The probable logic is being forwarded in the inter group analysis section.

**Extraversion:**

Gender differences indicated from the perspectives of extraversion, revealed that both elderly males and females are positioned at the same point (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).

Here elderly females possess higher magnitudinal trend (Mean=10.37 and S.D=4.82) than male counterparts. Literature suggests that in case of females' negative correlations exist between neuroticism and openness with the quality of family and marital relations (Costa, Zonderman and McCrae, 1985). On the other hand, positive correlation exists between extraversion with adequacy and satisfaction of social support in case of older males (McCrae, 1985).

Later intra-gender differences among married, widow, divorcee and spinster females were found to have specific statistical significance (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.1 and 4.3.3).
Here aged spinsters possess the highest score (Mean=15.83 and S.D=3.61) (Table-4.3.3) than other three counterparts namely married (Mean=13.20 and S.D=2.11) widow (Mean=5.34 and S.D=1.08) and divorcee (Mean=7.06 and S.D=1.57) (Table-4.3.1 and 4.3.3). The probable explanations like, excessive aggressive outbursts, lack of temper control are responsible for such differences, which have already been mentioned in the segment of inter group differences.

**Lie Score:**

This dimension of personality indicates that from the perspectives of gender variation both elderly males and females are positioned at the same point (Table-4.1.2 and 4.2.2).
Further intra-gender differences of individual sub samples indicate that all the groups (namely married, widow, divorcee, spinster) have distinctly different profile than the other groups (Table-4.1.2, 4.2.2 and 4.3.3).

*Fig: 4.3.1.11 showing the position of male and female participants of different groups on the basis of lie score.*

The above discussion highlights the characteristics of groups (married widowed, divorcee and unmarried), gender (male and female) and interaction effect among different selected groups. Thus, a schematic representation of the profiles of the personality make-up of the different elderlies based on marital status can be understood as follows:
Married elderlies

Significantly higher happiness, healthy dependency, vanity, entitlement, extraversion and lie scores in comparison to widowed, divorced and unmarried counterparts.

Widowed elderlies

Loss of significant support figure in life; sense of loneliness and depression, emotional void.

Significantly higher scores on state anxiety, destructive overdependence, dysfunctional detachment, exploitativeness, psychoticism and neuroticism in comparison to their married partners.

Divorced elderlies

Presence of the disturbed relational history in interpersonal and familial matrix often leading to difficult relational style in general.

Significantly higher state anxiety, trait anxiety, destructive overdependence, exploitativeness, psychoticism and neuroticism compared to married and widowed elderlies to job difficulty.

Unmarried elderlies

Difficulty to relate to others emotionally at times, independent bent of mind frame; sense of emotional incompleteness and "somebody to lean on to".

Significantly higher state anxiety, vanity, entitlement and extraversion in comparison to widowed and divorced partners.

Fig. 7: Schematic representation of the personality profiles of married, widowed, divorced and unmarried elderlies.