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Beliefs have been termed as the basic units of knowledge categories, are stored in individual’s mind and are expressed in various human products such as books and newspapers and may have influence over our behavioural intentions and behaviour. Belief in heredity/environment refers to one’s heredity or environment orientation for the determination of behavioural characteristics or in the interactive effect of both heredity and environment i.e. balanced belief. Present study mainly exploratory in nature was intended to examine the relationship of belief in heredity/environment with awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms. It was also intended to examine the effect of belief in heredity/environment and awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms as well as their interactive effect on causal ascriptions for events of success and failure (objective No., 2,3 and 4). The fifth objective was to examine the variations in attributional styles of the heredity, balanced and environment believers having different levels of awareness.

*Hypotheses:* To achieve the objectives of the study the following hypotheses were formulated:
1. Awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms would have significant relationship with belief in heredity/environment.

2. Awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms would have significant effect on the causal ascriptions for events of success and failure.

3. Belief in heredity/environment would have significant effect on causal ascriptions for events of success and failure.

4. There is a possibility of obtaining significant interactive effect of awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms and belief in heredity/environment on causal ascriptions for events of success and failure.

5. Heredity, balanced and environment believers having different level of awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms would hold different attributional styles.

To fulfil the objectives of the investigation, the study was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, 800 subjects were administered measures of awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms and belief in heredity/environment. For the second phase of the study 270 subjects were selected on the basis of scores on heredity/environment belief and awareness of heredity/environment
mechanisms following a single step double criteria, and a 3×3 factorial design was used. There were three belief groups viz. - heredity, balanced and environment believers and three groups formed on the basis of awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms.

Sample: Initially 800 subjects of 18 years and above in age were selected from all walks of life, following incidental sampling form Rohtak and Bhiwani districts of Haryana and Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan state. Out of these, 270 subjects were selected following single step double criteria (Scores on heredity/environment belief scale and on heredity/environment awareness checklist). Their age ranged from 18 to 81 years with a mean of 28.02 (SD = 11.11) years. The subjects were from rural and urban areas and were from both sexes. Both literate and illiterate subjects were included in the study.

Tools: A measure of heredity/environment for human characteristics (Singh and Shyam, 2002) was used for measuring belief in heredity/environment.

A checklist for the awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms prepared by Singh, Shyam and Kumar (2004) was used for assessing the awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms.
A specially prepared questionnaire describing seven events of success and seven events of failure was used for assessing the causal ascriptions for events of success and failure. The reliability and validity of the questionnaire were calculated and were found to be high.

Procedure: All the measures were administered to the subjects under uniform testing conditions and scoring was done as per standard procedure. Besides calculating measures of central tendency and variability, the obtained results were analyzed by calculating Pearson coefficients of correlation, chi-square, simple and 3 × 3 factorial ANOVA. Post-hoc comparisons were done by Duncan’s test wherever required.

MAIN FINDINGS:

Awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms was found to be negligibly associated with belief in heredity/environment. The direction of the relationship was negative suggesting that high awareness associated with heredity orientations. However, when coefficients of correlation were calculated between awareness and belief in heredity/environment in high, moderate and low awareness groups, increase in awareness was associated with environment orientation in high awareness group whereas, with heredity orientation in low and moderate awareness groups.
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Causal Ascriptions for Events of Success: The main effect of belief in heredity/environment was significant on internality, stability and globality dimension of attribution as well as on composite scores wherein the heredity believers were attributing events of success to internal factors stably and globally.

The main effect of awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms was significant on internality, stability and globality dimensions of attribution as well as composite scores indicating that the highly awared subjects were attributing events of success to internal factors, stably and globally.

Interaction of belief in heredity/environment and awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms was significant on internality, stability and globality dimension as well as on composite scores. The heredity believers having low and high awareness were attributing events of success to internal factors but the heredity believers having high awareness were also stable and global in their attributions for events of success. The environment believers having low awareness were also ascribing events of success to internal factors.

Events of Failure: Main effect of belief in heredity/environment was significant only on stability and globality dimension of attribution. The
heredity believers were stable and global in their attribution for events of failure.

Awareness of heredity/environment mechanism significantly influenced stability and globality dimension and composite scores for events of failure. The highly aware subjects were stable and global in their ascription of causes to events of failure.

The interaction of belief in heredity/environment and awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms was significant on internality, stability and globality dimensions of attribution as well as on composite scores. The heredity believers having low awareness ascribed events of failure to internal factors stably and globally. The heredity believers having high awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms were stable in their attributions.

The heredity believers attached more importance to events of success. The group having high awareness attached more importance to events of failure.

Attributional Styles: Though majority of subjects fall in the moderate category yet more than expected number of the heredity believers having high awareness were found to hold internal attributional style for events
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of success whereas, the heredity believers having low awareness of heredity/environment mechanisms were holding internal or depressogenic attributional style more than the balanced and environment believers.