Chapter Five

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The results have been described and discussed in this chapter under two major heads - Facial Attractiveness, Physique Attractiveness. The results obtained for facial and physique attractiveness stereotyping are discussed here in accordance with the objectives of the present study.

Facial Attractiveness:

The critical value for chi-square test at the .05 level of significance was 9.49. The observed value of chi-square test was 29.53, for 4 df, which exceeds the critical value of 5.99 and was beyond the critical value for a test at the .001 level. This finding indicate that the preferences of high, medium, and low attractive male subjects were different for similar-dissimilar attractive female stimulus persons. The observed value of chi-square test, was 4.68, for 2 df, exceeds the critical value of 4.60 at the .10 level of significance. The data indicate that the preferences of high, medium and low attractive female subjects were different for high and medium attractive male stimulus persons.

The value of chi-square ($\chi^2 = 7.5$, df = 1, $p < .01$) was significant indicating thereby, that there was difference between high attractive male and female in preferences for the high and medium attractive stimulus persons. The observed value of
chi-square \( (X^2 = 1.71, \text{df} = 1, p > .05) \) was not significant and there was no evidence that the table entries really vary from expectations, i.e. medium attractive male and female subjects did not differ significantly in their preferences for the high and medium attractive stimulus persons. Low attractive male and female subjects differ significantly in their preferences for the high, medium, and low attractive stimulus persons \( (X^2 = 19.34, \text{df} = 2, p < .01) \).

High, medium and low attractive male as well as female subjects perceived themselves as adjusted as intelligent. High, medium and low attractive males perceived the common traits - Broadminded, Frank, loving and social - in high attractive stimulus persons. Medium attractive stimulus person was perceived as intelligent and faithful by high, medium, and low attractive male subjects. High, medium, and low attractive female subjects perceived the high attractive male stimulus person as friendly, intelligent, loving, popular and sociable. Adjusted and cooperative were the characteristics perceived by high, medium and low attractive female subjects in medium attractive male stimulus person.

Both high and medium attractive male subjects had similar perception for themselves on nine traits viz - adjusted, ambitious, cooperative, friendly, helpful, honest, humorous, intelligent and sociable. High as well as low attractive male subjects perceived themselves similarly on sensitive, cooperative, serious, intelligent and adjusted traits. Simple, cooperative, intelligent
and adjusted traits were similarly perceived by both medium attractive and low attractive male subjects for themselves.

Adjusted, intelligent and sensitive traits were similarly perceived by high, medium and low attractive female subjects for themselves. In addition to these, high and medium attractive female subjects perceived themselves as tolerant and talkative, and medium and low attractive subjects perceived themselves similarly as cooperative, simple, and conservative.

High attractive male as well as female subjects perceived themselves similarly on adjusted, ambitious, broadminded, humorous, intelligent, kind, loving, popular sensitive and sociable. Both medium attractive male and female subjects perceived themselves as adjusted, cooperative, conservative, friendly, intelligent and simple. The low attractive male and female subjects in their self-evaluation attached similar importance for intelligent, independent, simple, cooperative, sensitive, reserved and moral traits.

High attractive and medium attractive male subjects perceived high attractive female stimulus persons similarly as cooperative, friendly, sociable, frank, broadminded, charming and loving. High attractive female stimulus persons was perceived by high and low attractive male subjects as sociable, broadminded, frank, sophisticated, cheerful, intelligent and loving. High attractive female stimulus persons was similarly perceived as sociable, frank, broadminded, talkative, poised, popular and loving by both medium and low attractive male subjects.
High attractive and medium attractive male subjects perceived the medium attractive female stimulus persons similarly as intelligent, faithful, sincere, loving, and submissive. Cooperative, intelligent, kind and faithful were the characteristics perceived similarly by high and low attractive male subjects in medium attractive female stimulus person. Medium and low attractive male subjects had similar perceptions of the characteristics namely, adjusted, simple, sincere, intelligent, sensitive, faithful, respectful, and conservative in medium attractive female stimulus person.

One of the intriguing observations is that the low attractive male subjects showed preference for the similar attractive female stimulus person, vis-à-vis-perceived fifteen traits.

High attractive and medium attractive female subjects perceived the high attractive male stimulus person as intelligent, loving, friendly, faithful, sociable, popular, and frank. High attractive male stimulus person was perceived by high and low attractive female subjects as intelligent, loving, friendly, faithful, sociable, popular and frank. Medium and low attractive female subjects perceived the high attractive male stimulus person as friendly, sociable, loving, liberal, intelligent, and popular.

High and medium attractive female subjects had similar perceptions of the characteristics - adjusted, cooperative, intelligent, faithful, and submissive in medium attractive male
stimulus person. Medium attractive male stimulus person was perceived by high and low attractive female subjects as cooperative, adjusted, good behaviour simple, intelligent, helpful, honest, and traditional. Medium attractive male stimulus person was similarly perceived as adjusted, cooperative, reserved, honest, obliging, good behaviour, and sincere, by both medium and low attractive females.

Both male and female high attractive subjects, perceived the high attractive stimulus persons of the opposite sex as intelligent, loving, friendly, cultured, sincere, faithful, sociable and frank. Medium attractive male as well as female subjects had similar perception of the characteristics namely, cooperative, friendly, sociable, loving, liberal, popular and frank in high attractive stimulus persons. On sociable, broad-minded, intelligent and loving traits, both male and female low attractive subjects had similar perceptions for the high attractive stimulus persons.

Medium attractive stimulus persons were similarly perceived as cooperative, intelligent, faithful, submissive and cultured by both male and female high attractive subjects, perception of similarity existed between male and female medium attractive subjects for medium attractive stimulus persons on some traits—adjusted, good behaviour, sincere, respectful, conservative, loyal, and reserved. Male as well as female low attractive subjects perceived similarly the medium attractive stimulus persons of the opposite sex as adjusted, simple, intelligent, cooperative, sincere, and kind.
Physique Attractiveness:

The value of chi-square for 2 df and at .10 level of significance was 5.23. On the basis of the results it is observed that the silhouette of stimulus persons were interrelated. The observed value of chi-square was insignificant (i.e. $X^2 = 3.05$) for 2 df and at .05 level of significance. This finding indicates that the preferences of asthenic, athletic, and pyknic female subjects were not different for asthenic and athletic male stimulus persons. No sex differences existed between asthenic male and female ($X^2 = 2.66$, df = 1, $p > .05$) athletic male and female ($X^2 = 1.02$, df = 1, $p > .05$) and pyknic male and female ($X^2 = 1.66$, df = 1, $p > .05$) subjects' preferences for the opposite-sex stimulus persons.

Adjusted and talkative were the characteristics perceived by the asthenic, athletic, and pyknic female subjects in themselves. However, sociable was only the common trait perceived by asthenic, athletic and pyknic male subjects.

Asthenic, athletic and pyknic male subjects perceived the asthenic female stimulus person as adjusted, intelligent and submissive, and athletic female stimulus person as sociable and laborious. Asthenic male stimulus person possess certain traits adjusted, faithful and loyal as perceived by asthenic, athletic, and pyknic female subjects. Active and powerful were the traits perceived by asthenic, athletic and pyknic females in athletic male stimulus person.

The asthenic and athletic male subjects perceived themselves as intelligent and sociable whereas the female asthenic
and athletic subjects perceived themselves as adjusted, talkative, active, sociable and charming. The asthenic and pyknic male subjects perceived similarly on courteous, sociable, loyal, and obedient. The asthenic and pyknic female subjects perceived themselves as friendly, adjusted, talkative, loving and courteous. On sociable, responsible and friendly traits both the athletic and pyknic male subjects rated themselves similarly. The athletic and pyknic female subjects in their self-evaluation gave the same weightage to traits: cooperative, popular, adjusted and talkative.

Both the asthenic male and female subjects perceived themselves similarly as cultured, submissive, courteous, sociable and ambitious. Perception of similarity existed between athletic male and female subjects for themselves on helpful, sociable, competitive, active and independent. The pyknic male as well as female subjects perceived themselves similarly on friendly, humorous, talkative, loving, loyal and courteous.

The asthenic and athletic male subjects perceived the asthenic female stimulus persons as adjusted, simple, submissive, domestic, tolerant, and intelligent. That is, similarity existed between asthenic and athletic male subjects in the perception of asthenic female stimulus persons on these stereotypes. Adjusted, cooperative, loyal, intelligent and submissive were the characteristics perceived similarly by asthenic and pyknic male subjects in asthenic female stimulus persons. Athletic and pyknic male subjects had similar perceptions of the characteristics namely,
adjusted, kind, submissive, and intelligent in the asthenic stimulus persons.

Courageous, sociable, laborious and sensitive traits were similarly perceived by asthenic and athletic male subjects in athletic female stimulus persons. On 'sociable', and 'laborious' traits similarity existed between asthenic and pyknic male subjects in the perception of athletic female stimulus persons. The athletic and pyknic males perceived the athletic females similarly on charming, laborious, ambitious, competitive, sociable and aggressive.

Asthenic male stimulus persons was perceived by asthenic and athletic subjects as adjusted, faithful, cooperative, tolerant, and loyal. The Asthenic and pyknic female subjects perceived the asthenic male stimulus persons as adjusted, cultured, good-behaviour, sincere, loving, submissive faithful and loyal. On adjusted, faithful, loyal, sophisticated and reserved traits, asthenic male stimulus persons was similarly perceived by athletic and pyknic subjects.

The asthenic and athletic female subjects perceived similarly laborious, active, helpful, and peaceful. The athletic male stimulus person was perceived by asthenic and pyknic female subjects as bold, competitive, active, popular, optimistic, dominant, and peaceful. The perception of similarity existed between athletic and pyknic female subjects on active, friendly, warm, and powerful for the athletic male stimulus persons.
Both male and female asthenic subjects perceived the asthenic stimulus persons of the opposite sex as adjusted, loving, intelligent, submissive, cooperative, tolerant and loyal. On adjusted, tolerant, and simple similarity existed between male and female athletic subjects in the perception of asthenic stimulus persons. Male as well as the female pyknic subjects perceived the asthenic stimulus persons as adjusted, cultured, sophisticated, reserved, loyal, submissive and polite.

The athletic stimulus persons of the opposite sex were similarly perceived as active, laborious and sensitive, by both male and female asthenic subjects. On 'active' and laborious' traits both male and female athletic subjects had similar perception for the athletic stimulus persons. The perception of similarity existed between male and female pyknic subjects for athletic stimulus persons on friendly sociable, competitive and charming traits.

Consistent with Husain and Kureshi's (1982, 1983) findings, both facial and physique attractiveness served as significant predictors for both male and female subjects' attractiveness. The findings of the present study depart from an earlier study in one respect i.e. the low attractive male subjects showed preferences for the low attractive female stimulus person. In addition, both the high and medium attractive male and female subjects and asthenic and athletic male and female subjects preferred stimulus persons similar to their own face and physique. These findings indicated
that perceivers' physical attractiveness were related to perceived attractiveness. Furthermore, there was evidence that low attractive male and female subjects showed higher liking for the medium attractive stimulus person than the low and high attractive stimulus persons. Similarly, pyknic male and female subjects showed higher liking for the athletic than for the asthenic silhouette of the opposite-sex stimulus persons. These findings attest the proposed hypothesis "What is liked is good". The current study provides further evidence that the subjects perceived physical appearance a purely gestalt phenomenon.

CONCLUSIONS: Some important conclusions that may be drawn from the findings may be:

1. Low attractive male subjects showed their preferences for the similar attractive stimulus person of the opposite sex, whereas the low attractive female subjects did not show any preference for the low attractive male stimulus person.

2. Pyknic male as well as pyknic female subjects did not show any preference for the pyknic silhouette of the opposite-sex.

3. There was greater similarity in stereotyping for both facial and physique attractiveness between the liked stimulus persons.

4. Perceivers facial and physical attractiveness stereotyping seemed to have little to do with the perception of stereotyping of the liked stimulus persons.
Similarity in stereotyping in respect of self-evaluation was of a markedly low order among the subjects belonging to facial and physique attractive groups.

Both in self and others evaluations male and female subjects of facial and physique attractiveness groups made greater use of the provided list of characteristics than introducing characteristics on their own.

Suggestions for further research:

1. An important outcome of the present study is that it underlines the need for further research to determine the relative role of facial and physique attractiveness in overall attractiveness.

2. The findings, by and large, confirmed the hypothesis as advanced in this investigation. The applicability of our hypothesis - "What is liked is good" to stereotyping in general tends to open up an important avenue for future research.

3. This study suggests that the hypothesis is also applicable to dissimilar facial and physique attractive stimulus persons who have positive or negative characteristics. The results of the present study have for the first time revealed that the stereotypes may sometimes lead to more favourable evaluations even on the dissimilar individuals. The process underlying this hypothesis is likely to operate in the same manner among other populations.

4. It is important for future research to assess the physical attractiveness stereotyping - not only of liked stimulus person but also of the disliked stimulus persons.
Self-other evaluations for traits representing the facial and physique attractiveness stereotyping may also be done following the rating method to obtain the desirability of traits.

Our experience of the study suggests that since the constitutional types has generally kept aside a large number of subjects, making it difficult for any investigator to find out subjects of these 'pure' types "asthenic, athletic, and pyknic", the left out ones falling between the categories (intermediary) should also be included in future studies not only to ensure facility of sampling out but also to turn to subjects who have generally been left out in most of the studies of body-build.