ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted with three objectives:

a) to find out differences in self and others' perception of three sociometric groups viz, populars, neglectees and isolates;
b) to discover differences among the three groups with respect to the evaluation of traits in terms of their social desirability importance and rareness; and
c) to discover the differences among three groups with regard to the biased components viz, the leniency error, halo-effect and rater-trait interaction.

The study was carried out in two phases. Three sociometric groups, each comprising of 50 subjects, were identified from among 450 students of 9th and 10th standard of various schools, who made the sample for the first phase. For the second phase, another sociometric sample of three groups, each comprising of 30 subjects, was drawn.

Sociometric status of each subject was determined by the administration of a sociometric test using three choices and three criteria. For the 1st phase of the study, a 16 pairs adjective list was used to measure the self and others' perception. These 16 pairs were detached to have 32 adjectives, and were used for the trait evaluation measurement. The 2nd phase of the study was concerned with the measurement of biased
components viz, leniency error, halo-effect and rater-trait interaction. The study of biased components was confined to the four chosen pairs of objectives. The four pairs were those eight polar opposites which were evaluated differently by the three sociometric groups viz, populars, neglectees and isolates, in all respects i.e. importance, desirability and rareness.

The data was analyzed with the following techniques

a) the t-test was used for the significance of differences in self and others’ perception of the three groups and also for the significance of difference among the evaluative ratings of the traits by the three groups; b) Guilford’s (1954) formulae were used to detect the errors and the extension of median-test was used to find out the significant differences among the three groups.

The analysis of the data has revealed that there is difference in self as well as others’ perception of populars, neglectees and isolates. Difference has also been found among the three groups with regard to the trait evaluation. So far as the biased components are concerned, the difference is found only in the case of leniency error. Populars have rated themselves and other populars positively, whereas, neglectees and isolates have been rated negatively by them. Neglectees
and isolates have rated negatively themselves as well as other neglectees and isolates. However, populars have been given some positive ratings by them. Those traits which populars suppose are present in them, have been evaluated as important, socially desirable and rare by them; whereas, the traits which neglectees and isolates suppose are present in them, have been evaluated as unimportant, undesirable and uncommon by them. Regarding the biased components, populars are more lenient in assigning ratings as compared to neglectees and isolates. No difference, among the three groups is found regarding the halo-effect and rater-trait interaction.

The findings have been interpreted in terms of different theories of self and others' perception and social exchange theory.

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