ABSTRACT

In the study an attempt has been made to understand autistic processes as an individual phenomena and as a social characteristic. A sample of thirty-five nuclear and defence scientists and thirty-five medical doctors have been studied through the help of the case history approach.

In the study autism/autistic process does not imply a clinical manifestation of the syndrome but is used as a metaphor to describe a process whereby one self-isolates and retreats into a private inner-world and all experiences and responses are based on one’s own needs rather than the actual demands of reality.

From the study one infers that autism is more a social phenomenon induced by the organization. Science and ‘scientificization’ of aspects of life emerged as the major factor in inducing many autism like characteristics.

The kind of autism demanded by organizations for successful membership in them stunted creativity and originality, and encouraged conformity and obedience from its members.

Both doctors and scientists equally endorsed the importance of science but scientists considered it more important. Doctors are more wary of people and more socially aloof. Scientists conformed to the demands of their organization more than doctors. Doctors derived more satisfaction from their work, scientists had more doubts about the contribution their profession made to society.