ABSTRACT

Creativity has generated much interest in many over the past century. Galton, as early as 1869, attempted examining the relationship between the gifted and hereditary factors. Since then efforts have been made in several directions towards an understanding of creativity like processes involved in the emergence of a creative product, the personality characteristics of the creative individuals, the nature of the possible environmental influences on creativity, or the quality or type of creative product itself. However, creativity has been viewed to possess the characteristics of 'uniqueness', 'usefulness', 'surprise', and 'originality'.

Existing literature in the field, pertaining to creativity-mental health relationship has been meagre and inconclusive. While some studies have shown that the creatives are mentally healthy, the others have depicted them as pathological.

Against this background of creativity and mental health relationship the study was carried out on three groups of subjects having thirty individuals in each group. The experimental group consisted of creative artists in the fields of art, literature, dance and music known for their manifest creativity. The two control groups consisted of
neurotic and normal subjects. The groups were examined on related aspects based on tests of adjustment and mental health, objective and projective tests of personality, intelligence, and creativity. Demographic and biographic variables were also considered. The results indicated significant differences between the creative and control groups.

The creative group was found to be having positive mental health in spite of some personality traits. They were found to have good ego-strength and self-concept. They also showed a healthy and active interplay of conscious and unconscious forces, with an ability to view their problems objectively and dispassionately. They were capable of having lively emotional relationships with others though moderately reserved. They also indicated a superior level of intellectual functioning.