CHAPTER VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The quantity, if not quality of research on self-concept has been impressive (Wylie, 1974). As McGuire and Padawer Singer (1976) have stated, "this continuing fascination with the self concept is easy to understand: what we think about ourselves is probably the central concept in our conscious lives" (McGuire and Padawer-Singer, 1976, p 743). Similarly, Greenwald says that the self is the "least common denominator of experience, meaning that it is the fact shared in common by the largest number of experiences" (Greenwald, 1978; cited in Wegner and Vallacher, 1980, p 15).

The puzzlement and wonder attending this capacity (i.e., for self awareness) has been fodder for religion, myth, and art - and only relatively recently, in an historical time frame, become the subject of intensive scientific inquiry. Today, there are several diverse theoretical frameworks within which the construct of self is formalized. These range from James (1890) conception of the 'I' through to Smith's (1978) recent analysis of selfhood as encompassing 'the feeling of identity over a life time' wherein this theme is interwoven in attempts to understand the 'blooming, buzzing
confusion' of our mental lives. For many, though by no means all personality and social psychologists this concern of the person for himself represents the core phenomenon for understanding individual behavior. So called self psychology in its various forms may be thought of as an effort to specify conceptually the variables - and their interrelationships - necessary for understanding this core phenomenon.

A major approach to the self concept is represented by the phenomenological humanistic school of thought (eg: Rogers, 1959; Maslow, 1954; Fitts, 1971) which incidentally, has been one of the most productive school of thought both theoretically and empirically (Diggory, 1966). This approach is a concern with the way the individual perceives and construes his environment, of which his self concept constitutes a central and pervasive point, into a uniquely meaningful construction.

The purpose of the present investigation was to study the self-concept in two clinical groups within a phenomenological-humanistic framework. Consequently, a review of the relevant literature with the amenities available at the disposal of the investigator was carried out. This indicated the major trends in the literature as well as their lacunae. Cognizance was taken of these in the planning of the design of the present study and attempts were made to overcome these to the extent
possible in a research programme wherein the inclusion boundaries are tightly drawn and rigidly adhered to. After a pilot study which helped in clarifying the design and methodology of the current research the aims and objectives of this investigation were delineated.

The aim of the present research was to study the nature of the self concept in two clinical groups comprising of neurotics and schizophrenics as well as a control group in terms of several measures of the self concept. In addition, the study aimed at throwing more light on the type of variables that would have to be probably posited to effectively differentiate the two clinical groups from a normal group and between the clinical groups themselves.

The hypotheses of the present study were stated in the null form in terms of a major and minor hypothesis as follows:

**Major hypothesis**

No significant differences will be evident on the various measures of the self concept among the neurotics, schizophrenics and normal control groups.

**Minor hypothesis**

The neurotics, schizophrenics and normals cannot be significantly discriminated and classified on the basis of certain self concept, demographic and clinical case history variables.
The tools that were finally selected are as follows:

1. The case history and symptomatology data sheet including a socio-demographic questionnaire.

2. The Tennessee Self Concept Scale.

3. The Self Confidence Inventory.

4. The Personal Orientation Inventory.

5. The Experience Inventory.


7. The IPAT - Anxiety Scale Questionnaire.

From the above it is apparent that both multidimensional measures of the self-concept as well as tests yielding single - scores on this are included.

The basic design of the study consisted of two experimental groups comprising of neurotics and schizophrenics and a normal control group using group matching technique. Several inclusion and exclusion criteria were set up for the selection of subjects in the study group using a purposive sampling technique.

The sample consisted of 30 neurotics, 30 schizophrenics and 30 normals who were matched and controlled on some of the major variables pertinent to the study.

The tests selected for the research were individually administered to the subjects and data-collection proceeded simultaneously for all the three groups. On the whole for the two experimental groups a total of
approximately 240 men hours were spent in data gathering and in respect to the control group approximately 90 man hours were expended for this purpose.

Each of the protocols of the 90 subjects was scored as suggested by the respective authors of the tests and in regard to the case history, symptomatology and sociodemographic data sheet a rational scoring system was employed for use in this investigation. Consequent to the scoring a master chart was prepared with the relevant details from the various tests. The data was statistically analyzed both manually and by the aid of a computer.

The statistical analyses comprised of the univariate statistical technique of Chi-square, analysis of variance and Pearson product moment correlation coefficients. In addition, the multivariate technique of multiple discriminant function analyses was employed.

The results from the investigation were examined in terms of the null hypothesis and the relevant theories and empirical studies that may bear on the nature of the findings.

The highlights and major findings of the study are given below:

An analysis of variance indicated as follows:
The schizophrenics and neurotics had significantly lower general self-esteem than the normals.

Self-esteem in terms of the different facets of self-perception from an internal and external frame of reference was significantly lower in the neurotics and schizophrenics as compared to normals.

The neurotics were significantly more confused, conflicted and dissonant in their self-perception than the normals.

The schizophrenics were significantly more variable in self-regard from one area of self-perception to another than normals.

The neurotics were significantly more non-committal and defensive in their report of their self-concept than normals.

The schizophrenics were significantly less well defended on a 'subtle' measure of defensiveness than the normals.

On the various empirical scales the neurotics and schizophrenics were significantly more deviant than the normals.

The neurotics and schizophrenics showed significantly lower personality integration than the normals.

No significant differences emerged on any of the measures of the TSCS between neurotics and schizophrenics.

The neurotics and schizophrenics had significantly lower self-confidence than the normals.
No significant differences emerged between the neurotics and schizophrenics in regard to self-confidence.

The neurotics and schizophrenics showed significantly lower self-actualizing characteristics on both the major scales of the POI viz. Time Competence and Inner directed as well as on most of the subscales of the POI than the normals, i.e., in the realms of valuing, feeling, self perception and awareness.

No significant differences were evident between the neurotics and schizophrenics on any of the POI scales.

The schizophrenics were significantly more open to experience pertaining to the realm of 'constructive utilization' of fantasy and dreams than the neurotics.

The neurotics were significantly more open than the schizophrenics in the realm of 'Deliberate and systematic thought'.

No significant differences were apparent between the neurotics and normals and schizophrenics and normals on any of the openness to experience dimensions.

The schizophrenics experienced significantly lower control in the area of successful planning and organization than the neurotics and normals.

The neurotics and schizophrenics reported significantly lower experience of control in respect to 'self control over internal processes' than the normals.
The neurotics and schizophrenics evidenced significantly lower control than the normals in respect to 'control in immediate social interactions'.

The neurotics and schizophrenics were significantly more anxious and evidenced significantly higher 'Lack of self sentiment development', 'Ego weakness', 'Guilt proneness' and 'Frustration tension, id pressure' than the normals. No significant differences were evident between the neurotics and schizophrenics on the above measures of anxiety.

Pearson product moment correlation co-efficients between the measures of the TSCS and other tests indicated as follows:

- In respect to self-confidence various significant measures of the TSCS correlated in a theoretically congruent direction with the SCI in the three groups.

- On the POI the significant correlations with the TSCS measures for the normals indicated that a more positive self concept (TSCS) is concomitant with higher self actualizing characteristics. For the neurotics a majority of the significant correlations between measures of the TSCS and POI suggested that a more negative self concept is simultaneously accompanied with lower self-actualizing characteristics. In respect to the schizophrenic group the results did not indicate a consistent trend.
in respect to the EI, the significant correlations in the 3 groups suggested a lack of uniformity in the trend of the association pertaining to self concept (TSCS) and 'openness to experience (EI) occurs as in some instances both deviant and positive features of the self concept appeared to be concomitant with 'openness'.

In regard to the POS, the significant correlations in general indicate that in the normals, neurotics and schizophrenics a more positive self concept (TSCS) is concomitantly associated with greater 'experience of control'.

With the IPAT-ASQ the results of the correlations in the 3 groups are in a theoretically congruent direction indicating that a more negative self concept is associated linearly and significantly with higher anxiety. An interesting highlight of these significant correlations is that anxiety is apparently linked to more numerous facets of self-esteem in the clinical groups than in the normals.

The results from the multiple discriminant function analysis indicated that the major dimensions from the TSCS, SCI, POI, EI, POS and IPAT-ASQ significantly differentiated and effectively classified the neurotics, schizophrenics and normals. In general, the results indicated that a positive self concept which
is more characteristic of the normals than the neurotics and schizophrenics is simultaneously associated with a balanced support orientation and lower anxiety. However, it was not uniformly and consistently associated with greater openness to experience and experience of control.

The multiple discriminant function analysis of the case history, symptomatology and sociodemographic data sheet revealed that the 3 groups can be significantly differentiated and classified on the basis of certain variables from this source of data.

An integrated interpretation of the more 'salient' discriminating variables that emerged on the basis of the analysis on the above two sets of data suggested that in general a negative self concept (self esteem, variability, conflict) is concomitant with many occupational difficulties and maladaptive symptoms and that this is more characteristic and predictive of the neurotics and schizophrenics.

In the light of the above findings the major and minor hypotheses of the present study were rejected.