The purpose of this investigation was to study the nature of the self-concept in two clinical groups - neurotics and schizophrenics - as compared to a normal control group within a phenomenological humanistic framework. In addition, the study aimed at throwing more light on the type of variables that would have to be posited to effectively differentiate the two clinical groups from a normal group and between the clinical groups themselves on the basis of certain self-concept measures and case-history and symptomatology variables.

The basic design of the study subsequent to a preliminary pilot study, 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. The tools that were finally selected for the investigation consisted of the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale, The Self-Confidence Inventory, The Personal Orientation Inventory, The Experience Inventory, and the Anxiety Scale Questionnaire. In addition, case-history and symptomatology data including socio-demographic information (data-sheet) was used in the present study.

The null hypotheses formulated for the study were examined by the statistical techniques comprising of both the univariate and multivariate procedures. The analysis of the data from the test measures and that from the data-sheet was kept separate. The test measures were analyzed using one way analysis of variance and the multiple discriminant function analysis. The latter based on the major dimensions purportedly measured by each test. Incidentally, Pearson product moment correlations were also computed between the Tennessee self concept scale
and the other tests separately for the three groups. In respect to the data-sheet, Chi-square analysis was applied and only those variables that were significant at or beyond the .05 level of confidence were subsequently used for the multiple discriminant function analysis.

The results from the analysis of variance indicated that the clinical groups had a significantly more negative self-concept and higher anxiety level, lower self-confidence, showed less self-actualizing characteristics and experienced lower control in certain realms than the normals. In terms of openness to experience, the clinical groups did not differ significantly from the normals. However, the neurotics were significantly more open to deliberate and systematic thought and less open in the realm of constructive utilization of fantasy and dreams than the schizophrenics. The schizophrenics experienced significantly lower control in the area of successful planning and organization than neurotics. No other significant differences were evident between the neurotics and schizophrenics.

The results from the Pearson product moment correlations provided additional and meaningful insights into the nomological network of the self-concept construct and highlighted the point that its correlates (i.e., self concept as measured on Tennessee self-concept scale) are not necessarily invariable across different groups.

The results from the multiple discriminant function analysis indicated that the neurotics, schizophrenics and normals can be significantly differentiated and classified on the basis of the two sources of data.

In view of the obtained results the null hypotheses framed for the present study were rejected.
SELF-CONCEPT IN CLINICAL GROUPS