

Abstract

The study aimed at finding the relationship between autistic traits, paranormal beliefs and emotional response bias in obsessive compulsive disorder patients. The study sample comprised of 70 patients with obsessive compulsive disorder and 70 participants from general population with age range of 20 – 40 years. The clinical sample was mainly drawn from government hospitals of Lahore. Autism Spectrum Quotient (Baron-Cohen, 2001), A Revised paranormal Belief scale (Tobacyk, 1988), Emotional Recognition Task (Montagne, Kessels, Perrett & de Haan 2007) and OCD symptom checklist (Rehman, Dawood, Jagir, Rehman, & Mansoor, 2000) were the tools used in the study. Results of the study indicated that high level of autistic traits and paranormal beliefs had a significant impact on OCD. It has also been observed that impairments in recognition of emotions were related to the presence of high autistic traits and obsessive compulsive symptoms in OCD patients. Moreover, the results highlighted that the emotion of disgust was severely impaired in people with obsessive compulsive disorder as emotion of disgust and anger appeared a significant negative predictor of obsessive compulsive symptoms. Thus, it has been concluded that autistic traits, paranormal beliefs and emotional response bias have significant relationship among obsessive compulsive disorder patients.

Key words: Autistic traits, emotional response bias, obsessive compulsive disorder, disgust