

### **Abstract**

The purpose of current study was to investigate relationship among deviant behavior, psychopathic tendency and empathy in young adults. It also examined gender differences in terms of deviant behavior, psychopathic tendency and empathy in young adults. Furthermore the study examined that low empathy predicts deviant behavior and psychopathic tendency among young adults. A purposive sample of 300 students was drawn from public and private universities to measure deviant behavior, psychopathic tendency and empathy among young adults. Deviant Behaviour Measuring Scale developed by Khan (2015), Psychopathic Personality Trait Scale developed by Beaver, Barnes, May and Schwartz (2011) and Interpersonal Reactivity Index IRI developed by Davis (1980) were used to measure the constructs of the study. Findings indicated that empathy has an inverse relationship with deviant behavior and its subscales uncivilized acts, deviant theft acts, ego centric acts and law breaking acts. Empathy subscale perspective taking and personal distress were strongly correlated with psychopathic tendency in young adults. Significant gender differences were found in terms of deviant behavior, psychopathic tendency and empathy in young adults. Deviant behavior was higher in young adult males than young adult females. Psychopathic tendency and empathy were higher in young adult females than young adult males. The results of multiple linear regression analysis revealed that empathy subscale perspective taking and personal distress were strongest predictors of psychopathic tendency in young adults. Results also depicted that empathic concern was strongest predictor of deviant behavior and its subscales uncivilized acts, deviant theft acts, ego centric acts and law breaking acts. This research has wide implications in the area of forensic psychology. It highlights that low empathy is an important factor which may lead to psychopathic tendency and deviance among young adults.