

Abstract

The current research has been conducted to find out the determinants of narcissistic trends among University students. Parenting styles and attachment styles were taken as determinants of narcissism. The sample consisted of 400 university students (Male=195, Female=205) taken from 2 public sector Universities and 2 private sector Universities. It was assumed that there would be positive relationship between parenting styles (authoritarian and permissive) and narcissism. It was also hypothesized that there would be positive relationship between insecure attachment styles (ambivalence and avoidant) and narcissism. Gender differences and age differences were also expected to be significant. Significant relationship between birth-order and narcissism was also assumed. Narcissistic traits were assessed by using Narcissistic personality Inventory (NPI-16) (Ames, Rose, & Anderson, 2005). Parenting styles were assessed with Parental Authority questionnaire (PAQ) (Alkharusi, Aldhafri, Kazem, Alzubiadi, Al-Bahrani, 2011). Attachment styles were measured by Adult Attachment questionnaire (AAQ) (Simpson, Rholes & Phillips, 1996). Results approved the above mentioned hypotheses. Parenting styles and attachment styles were also found to be correlating significantly. It was found that parenting styles (authoritarian and permissive) and insecure attachment styles (ambivalence and avoidant) correlated significantly with narcissism. Significant gender differences and age differences were also found. Males scored high on narcissism than females. Negative relationship was found between age and narcissism. No significant relationship was found between birth-order position and narcissism. Simple linear Regression analysis showed that ambivalence and avoidant

attachment styles predict narcissism. Hierarchical regression analysis showed that permissive alone can predict narcissism but with the presence of ambivalence attachment style, the results changed. So, in the end, by using Amos, a model was developed which says that attachment style (ambivalence) mediate the relationship between permissive parenting and narcissism.

Key words: Narcissism, parenting styles, attachment styles,