

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to investigate the perceptions of right-handed people regarding left-handers and to explore the experiences of left-handed adults. This research had three studies which utilized quantitative techniques and qualitative approach (IPA). In study 1, different clusters of personality characteristics through cluster analysis and two dimensional cognitive map provided by multidimensional scaling displayed the general perception of right-handed adults (N=150) regarding left-handers. In study 2, one focus group with right-handed adults and other with left-handed adults was carried out to see the similarities and differences in perception and experiences of both groups. The similarities included primary cause of left-handedness, problems faced by left-handed people, problem solving strategies and in some aspects of suppression. Comparable differences were observed regarding suppression, discrimination and personality of left-handers. In study 3, four semi-structured interviews were conducted with left-handed adults (2 males, 2 females) about their experiences. The highlighted themes included left-hander's development: interplay of heredity basis and environmental influences, suppression of left-hand, support and consideration, feeling it's okay, left-handers as being particular, physical and psychological health challenges, agonized life, struggle for maintaining identity and transforming attitude, attitudinal barriers to equality and acceptance. Implications of the research for parents, teachers and psychologists were discussed.