Development of Self Orientation Scale for Measurement of Karen Horney's Tripartite Neurotic Trends

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ABSTRACT

After going through literature of Horney's tripartite neurotic trends, the items for the Self Orientation Scale were selected. The scale was developed with 15 items. Each item begins with a situation which has three alternative behavioral responses. One depicting moving towards people, second depicting moving away and the third depicting moving against people. The scale was administered to 100 students. For item analysis of the test the median split was applied to the scores of moving towards people, away from people and against people and two groups for each neurotic trend were obtained. The frequencies of the responses to each alternative were tabulated for the high and the low groups. Chi-square test was applied on these frequencies to test whether the particular response differentiated between the high and the low groups pertaining to the concerned tendency. Those items where a significant chi square value has been obtained have high discriminative validity and thus are quite appropriate for distinguishing people who are high or low on the respective trends.

Key words: Neurotic Trends, Moving toward people, moving away from people, moving against people, Self Orientation Scale, Karen Horney.

1. INTRODUCTION

Over a six decade ago, Karen Horney emphasized the significance of interpersonal relations among individuals. In, The Neurotic Personality of Our Time (1937) and 'The New Ways on Psychoanalysis' (1939), she tried to redefine psychoanalysis by replacing Freud's biological orientation with an emphasis on culture and interpersonal relationships. In, 'Our Inner Conflict' (1945) and 'Neurosis and Human Growth' (1950), she developed her complete theory in which individuals cop with the anxiety produced by feeling unsafe, unloved and unvalued by developing both interpersonal and intrapsychic neurotic strategies. The interpersonal strategies involve moving toward, against, or away from other people and adopting a self-effacing, expansive or resigned solutions. Each of these solutions entails of personality traits, behaviors and beliefs.

The strategy of moving towards people is the self-effacing solution in which the person compulsively seeks affection and acceptance from others through dependency, humility and self-sacrificing 'goodness'. The strategy of moving against people is the expansive solution in which the person may be narcissistic, perfectionist or arrogant and vindictive. Such people are full of self-admiration and try to achieve mastery by manipulating others. Finally the strategy of moving away from people is the resigned solution, in which the person strives for independence and privacy. Such a person is self-sufficient, has few friends and prefers isolation. The Karen Horney's tripartite theory can be very useful in the evaluation of various interpersonal relationships. But despite calls for more investigations into Horney's theories, e.g., van den Daele, (1987), there has been a dearth of empirical research. However, Cohen (1967) and Coolidge (2001) have made meaningful attempts to study Karen Horney's neurotic trends. The present research paper is an attempt to develop the self-orientation scale (SOS) to assess the three interactional patterns given by Karen Horney

Further research in this area would require the measurement of the Horney tripartite neurotic trends. For this purpose, a scale needs to be developed. The author is not familiar with an appropriate scale for measuring these criteria is there in Indian. Thus, the development of such scale was therefore undertaken.

2. METHOD

2.1 Item Writing

After going through literature of Horney's neurotic trends, the items for the Self Orientation Scale were selected. About 20 items were given to three judges for reviewing their content and language. The judges were told that the scale was to measure Horney's neurotic trends. A brief description of the concept of Horney's neurotic trends (as given in the preceding paragraphs) was given to them. They were asked to write against each item 'yes' or 'no' depending on whether it assess or did not assess the neurotic trends.

Finally the scale was developed with 15 items. Each item begins with a situation which has three alternative behavioral responses. One depicting moving towards people, second depicting moving away people and the third depicting moving against people. The three types of responses were presented in different positions in successive items. The subject was required to choose the response which was most descriptive of his behavior by writing M (most) and also the response which was least descriptive of his behavior by writing L (least) in front of each statement

This scale was thus administered to 100 students in the age range of fifteen to seventeen years from the 12th class participated in the research.

For the statement marked M a score of 2 was awarded for the concerned tendency, for the statement not marked, a score of 1 was awarded and for the statement marked L, a score of 0 was awarded. In this manner the total score for each of the three dimensions was calculated.

2.2 Item analysis

For item analysis of the test the median split was applied to the scores of moving towards people, away from people and against people and two groups for each neurotic trends were obtained.

The frequencies of the responses to each alternative were tabulated for the high and the low groups. Chi-square test was applied on these frequencies to test whether the particular response differentiated between the high and the low groups pertaining to the concerned tendency. The frequency and the chi-square values for all the alternatives are reported in table-1

Those items were a significant chi square value has been obtained have discriminative validity and thus are quite appropriate for distinguishing people who are high or low on the respective trend. The items which show non-significant chi-square value need to be modified for further research or application of the test

2.3 Other statistics

Frequency Distribution, mean, standard deviation skewness and Kurtosis were calculated on a sample of 100 subjects of scores obtained on the Self Orientation Scale (SOS). The values of the same are presented in table-2

Items	Moving toward People					Moving away from people					Moving against from people				
	Scores	2	1	0	Chi-square	Scores	2	1	0	Chi-square	Scores	2	1	0	Chi-square
1	High	35	13	3		High	18	14	23		High	14	23	5	
	Low	15	14	20	20.57**	Low	6	6	33	10.00**	Low	12	31		3.87
2	High	44	5	2		High	3	17	35		High	7	26	9	
	Low	39	3	7	3.54	Low	2	14	29	0.005	Low	5	34	19	2.47
3	High	32	14	5		High	27	19	9		High	5	22	15	
	Low	19	15	15	8.31*	Low	13	15	17	6.90*	Low	4	16	38	8.70*
4	High	46	4	1		High	10	35	10		High	3	20	19	
	Low	35	4	10	8.82*	Low	2	21	22	12.46**	Low	3	16	39	4.90

5	High	40	7	4		High	19	26	10		High	5	23	14	
	Low	28	10	11	5.87	Low	9	17	19	7.32*	Low	0	17	41	17.03**
6	High	45	6	0		High	14	19	22		High	12	22	8	
	Low	21	12	16	26.69**	Low	2	10	33	13.12**	Low	6	26	26	9.54*
7	High	43	8	0		High	10	23	22		High	11	18	13	
	Low	32	9	8	9.64**	Low	1	14	30	9.88**	Low	3	30	25	9.03*
8	High	41	6	4		High	19	17	19		High	10	19	13	
	Low	21	23	5	16.49**	Low	4	10	31	13.61**	Low	6	24	28	4.62
9	High	42	6	3		High	11	26	18		High	10	16	16	
	Low	30	8	11	6.82*	Low	3	22	20	4.05	Low	4	21	33	6.75*
10	High	51	0	0		High	4	34	17		High	3	17	22	
	Low	42	4	3	7.83*	Low	0	20	25	8.23*	Low	1	25	32	1.86
11	High	46	4	1		High	10	26	18		High	6	20	16	
	Low	31	12	6	10.45*	Low	6	11	28	8.81	Low	1	27	30	6.48*
12	High	45	3	3		High	12	16	27		High	5	26	11	
	Low	29	10	10	10.96**	Low	6	14	25	1.22	Low	4	31	23	2.28
13	High	34	11	6		High	25	16	14		High	2	23	17	
	Low	28	11	10	1.54	Low	10	17	18	6.02*	Low	1	21	36	4.79
14	High	42	16	3		High	12	29	14		High	5	17	20	
	Low	32	12	5	3.81	Low	9	19	17	1.82	Low	0	17	41	9.92**
15	High	27	18	6		High	20	23	12		High	20	13	9	
	Low	19	17	13	3.96	Low	5	18	22	11.66**	Low	9	11	38	20.19**

*Chi square significant at 0.05 level = 5.991; **Chi square significant at 0.01 level = 9.210

Table-1: The contingency table giving the frequency of the responses in the high and low groups on each of the three trends, and the respective Chi-square values.

Moving towards people		Moving away from people		Moving against people	
C.I.	F	C.I.	f	C.I.	F
12-14	3	2-4	2	0-2	1
14-16	0	4-6	7	2-4	5
16-18	3	6-8	13	4-6	10
18-20	16	8-10	16	6-8	13
20-22	16	10-12	20	8-10	28
22-24	16	12-14	22	10-12	20
24-26	24	14-16	10	12-14	18
26-28	15	16-18	7	14-16	4
28-30	7	18-20	3	16-18	1
Mean	23.49	Mean	11.71	Mean	9.97
SD	3.53	SD	3.58	SD	3.34

| Skewness | -0.494 | Skewness | 0.048 | Skewness | -0.260 |
| Kurtosis | -0.070 | Kurtosis | -0.354 | Kurtosis | 0.109 |

Table-2: Frequency distribution, means, standard deviation, skewness, and Kurtosis of scores obtained on the Self Orientation Scale (SOS)

3. SELF-ORIENTATION SCALE

Your Name: _____, Sex: _____

Age: _____

Instructions: This scale has fifteen items. Each item has three responses. You are required to choose (i) the response which closely describes you (write 'M' in front of it) and the (ii) response which least closely describes you 'L' in front of it). There is no right or wrong response, so respond freely. Please do not spend too much time on each item.

1. **When I meet a stranger, I ….**
   (a) (___)   take initiative to know him better.
   (b) (___)   try to avoid him.
   (c) (___)   try to ensure that he is not up to some tricks.

2. **When a friend moves to another town, I ….**
   (a) (___)   don't bother about it.
   (b) (___)   miss him very much.
   (c) (___)   consider it to be a good riddance.

3. **While working on a project, I ….**
   (a) (___)   feel others may create problems in my project work, if they are allowed to join me.
   (b) (___)   prefer to handle it alone.
   (c) (___)   would like my friends to be my associates.

4. **When I go for shopping, I ….**
   (a) (___)   Like my friend/friends to accompany me.
   (b) (___)   prefer to go alone.
   (c) (___)   tell others not to poke there nose in my decisions.

5. **In the free periods at school, I ….**
   (a) (___)   prefer to spend time with my books.
   (b) (___)   enjoy interacting and playing with others.
   (c) (___)   Keep distance from others because they do not measure up to my expectations.

6. **I feel that ….**
   (a) (___)   one has to be careful that the so called friends don't exploit you.
   (b) (___)   living alone in better than living in the company of others.
   (c) (___)   I have made a number of good friends.

7. **I usually ….**
   (a) (___)   win the heart of others.
   (b) (___)   avoid sharing feelings with others.
   (c) (___)   manage to keep others in their place.

8. **Generally, I ….**
   (a) (___)   prefer to pass time alone.
   (b) (___)   feels restless when I am alone for a long time.
   (c) (___)   tick off people who try to associate with me.

9. **I like others to ….**
   (a) (___)   be a little scared of me.
   (b) (___)   keep to themselves.
   (c) (___)   express their feelings to me.

10. **When my friends face a problem, I….**
    (a) (___)   give full support to them.
    (b) (___)   let them tackle it themselves.
    (c) (___)   think they deserved it.

11. **Occupying a high position in the society, gives you the opportunity to ….**
    (a) (___)   manage your life without bothering about others.
    (b) (___)   be kind and helpful to others.
    (c) (___)   rebuke and direct others.

12. **After retirement one ….**
    (a) (___)   does not have to bother whether others like what you say or do.
    (b) (___)   can lead a lonely life.
    (c) (___)   gets more time to spend with friends and relatives.

13. **When I go to parties, I….**
    (a) (___)   try to attach myself to the most powerful person or group there.
    (b) (___)   can lead a lonely life

(c) (___)   gets more time to spend with friends and relatives.

14. If anybody need my books or notes in the school, ….

(a) (___)   I tell them that I need them myself.

(b) (___)   it gives me great pleasure to be helpful

(c) (___)   I never give these to anybody, because I doubt the intention of other.

15. If someone hurt me, I ….

(a) (___)   am very much disappointed.

(b) (___)   move away from the situation.

(c) (___)   pay back in the same coin.

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