

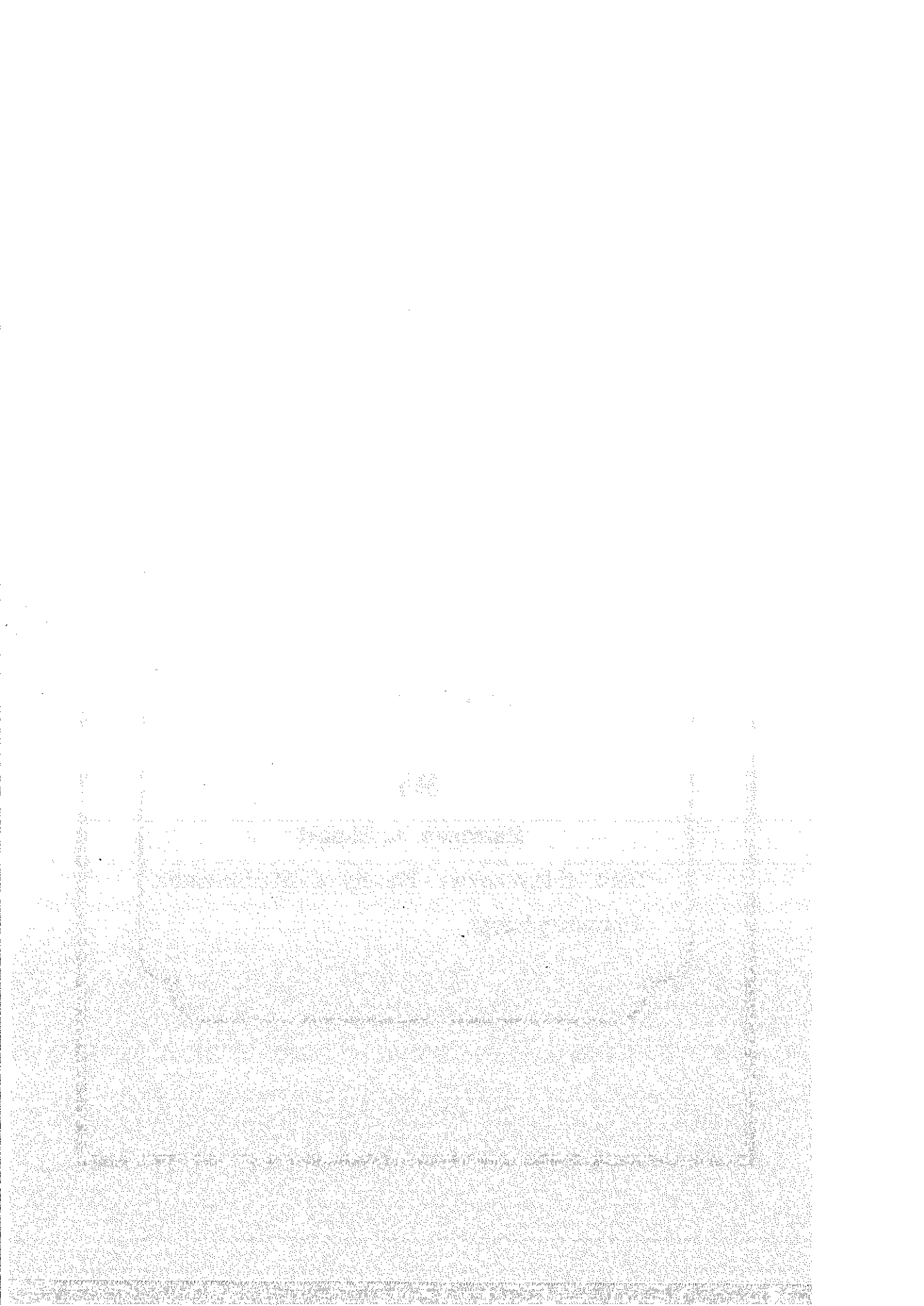
8

**A STATE - TRAIT MORALITY
INVENTORY IN SUDANESE,
KUWAITI AND NON - KUWAITI
SECONDARY SCHOOL AND
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

BY

Ramadan A. Ahmed

- Dept., of Psychology - Faculty of Arts, Menoufia
University Egypt.



A State-Trait Morality Inventory in
Sudanese, Kuwaiti and Non-Kuwaiti
Secondary School and University Students

Ramadan A. Ahmed, Ph.D.
Dept. of Psychology
Faculty of Arts
Menoufia University
Egypt

There has been a growing interest in moral behavior and in measuring such behavior cross-nationally and cross-culturally. In this context, a few studies have been conducted in the Arab countries by using Piaget's and Kohlberg's methodology and the Rest's Defining Issues Test (DIT) (Eissa, 1985; El-Sheikh, 1985; Bouhmama, 1984; Ahmed, Gielen & Avellani, 1987; Gielen, Ahmed & Avellani, 1992; Ahmed and Gielen, submitted).

The present study attempts to assess the moral behavior in two different Arab countries, by using the State-Trait Morality Inventory which was devised by Carole A. Rayburn, 1987.

Aims of the Present Study:

1. To assess the influence of gender (differences between the performances of males and females), the educational level (differences between the performances of intermediate and secondary school students and the performance of university students) on the State-Trait Morality Inventory;

2. To assess the differences between the performances of Sudanese, Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti subjects on the State-Trait Morality Inventory; and
3. To assess the relationships between the subjects' performance on the State-Trait Morality Inventory and their performances on Eysenk's neuroticism scale.

Subjects: A cross-national and cross-section design employed with three nations (Sudanese, Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaitis), two age and educational level groups; Intermediate, secondary school students and university students.

In the Sudan, 227 male and female subjects (mean age 17.74 years and 21.070 years, respectively) were tested.

In Kuwait, 301 male and female subjects (mean age 17.14 years and 21.65 years, respectively) had also answered the two questionnaires.

Lastly, 77 males and females of non-Kuwaitis (e.g., Arab who live in Kuwait), have participated in the presented study, the mean ages for the last sub-group were 15.87 and 19.13 years respectively.

Table 1 sums up the characteristics of the three subgroups.

Insert Table 1 about here

All subjects came from skilled and non-skilled working-class and middle-class homes. All participants' native language was Arabic, and all subjects were Muslims.

Procedure:

The subjects in the both countries (the Sudan and Kuwait) were tested in groups at the school or university.

Materials:

Two questionnaires were administered to the subjects, and they were:

- 1) A State-Trait Inventory (STMI) devised by Carole A. Rayburn (1987).
A short version of the STMI (28 items only) was used in the present study. The short version of the questionnaire was translated from English into Arabic by the present researcher. Where necessary, adaptations to the Arab culture were made with respect to questionnaire. The questionnaire was then back-translated into English and discrepancies between original English version and the back-translated version were resolved by discussion between the present researcher and Carole A. Rayburn. The State-Trait Morality Inventory aims to assessing the followings:
 - a) Morality behavior, which influenced by situational factors (State, morality) and
 - b) Ways in which persons are thinking or feeling generally in regard to moral behavior and which are of more enduring quality "Trait morality" (see: Carole A. Rayburn, 1989).

Scoring System: While the high scores on the State-Trait Morality Inventory mean low levels of morality, the low scores mean high levels of morality.

Neuroticism Scale: The neuroticism scale used in the present study consisted of 24 items which were based upon Eysenck's neuroticism measure. The scale was firstly adapted in Egypt by M.I. Soueif in the 1950s and used by him and his associates in several studies. The scale was then, adapted in Egypt by Jabir Abdel-Hamid Jabir and M. Fahkr El-Islam (1973) and used in many studies in Egypt and in some other Arab countries as well.

The neuroticism scale was also adapted in the Sudan by M. Badri in 1960s under the title: "The Sudanese Scale for Personality", and used by him in few studies with Sudanese samples. Moreover, M.A. Ghali also adapted and used the Neuroticism scale in his studies conducted in both Egypt and Kuwait.

All the above mentioned adaptations of the neuroticism scale are almost the same. In the present study, the adaptation of Jabir Abdel-Hamid and M. Fahkr El-Islam (1973) was used. "The items of the scale constitute a measure of emotional instability or neuroticism. The measure has been shown to be meaningful in a variety of cultures", as Eysenck, 1983 reported out (Gielen et al., 1992).

Results and Discussion:

The obtained results indicated that:

1. It seems that gender differences contribute positively to the performance on both two questionnaires, State-Trait Morality Inventory and Eyesenck's neuroticism scale. Generally, male subjects in three subgroups, achieved higher scores than that achieved by females on the State-Trait Morality Inventory (Table 2). According to the scoring system, this means that female subjects in all three subgroups reached higher morality levels than that reached by males. The differences between Sudanese and non-Kuwaiti males and female were, however, not significant. In the case of Kuwaiti males and females, the difference was significant at 0.001 level. On the other hand, females achieved, in general, higher scores than males on Eyesenck's neuroticism scale (Table 2). Again, the differences between Sudanese and non-Kuwaiti males and females on Eyesenck's neuroticism scale were not statistically significant while the differences between Kuwaiti males and females were significant at 0.001 level. To sum up, the obtained results revealed that there was systematic trend: females in the three subgroups have achieved a higher level of morality – and, at the same time, higher scores on the Eyesenck's neuroticism scale – than that achieved by males. One cannot interpret such result very simply, it seems that there is a relationship between morality behavior measured by the STMI and the performance on neuroticism scale.
2. As for the comparison between the three subgroups (Sudanese, Kuwaiti and non—Kuwaiti, intermediate and secondary school and

university males and females students), concerning their performances on the State-Trait Morality Inventory, the obtained results showed that the Kuwaiti subjects had higher scores (mean=49.525, SD=14.254) than the other two subgroups, Sudanese (mean=42.905, SD = 10.725), and non-Kuwaitis (mean=48.531, SD=10.782). While there was no significant differences, between Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti subjects on the State-Trait Morality Inventory, differences have been found between Sudanese and Kuwaiti subjects on one hand, and between Sudanese and non-Kuwaiti subjects on the STMI on the other hand, and all these differences were significant at 0.01 level. According to the STMI's scoring system, the above mentioned results indicated that the Sudanese subjects had achieved highest levels of morality behavior, then, the non-Kuwaitis then the Kuwaitis, in that order.

Insert Table 2 here

2) Examination of the data for all sex and educational levels sub-groups (Sudanese, Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaiti) on both two questionnaires, the State-Trait Morality Inventory and Eysenck's neuroticism scale, as summarized in Tables 3,4 and 5, showed that in the three subgroups, all intermediate and secondary school students had higher scores than the university students on the State-Trait Morality Inventory, with the exception of the intermediate and secondary school male students in the Sudan. This result indicated, according to the STMI's scoring system, that the university students achieved higher morality levels than those achieved by the intermediate and secondary school students. It can be concluded that the performance on State-Trait Morality Inventory steadily improved with increasing age. This result was in line with our

expectations, that the individuals systematically develop their morality behavior. It was also generally noted, that the ordering of subgroups differences, progressively stabilized. These outcomes were clear-out, but not unexpected.

Concerning the performance of all intermediate and secondary school and university students on Eysenck's neuroticism scale, the obtained data indicated that while no differences have been found in the case of the Sudanese subjects, differences were found in Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti samples. Only the differences in the last subgroup (non-Kuwaitis) was significant at 0.05 level (Tables 3,4, and 5).

Insert Tables 3,4 and 5 here

- 4) Examination of the data for all sex and educational levels in all the three nation subgroups (Sudanese, Kuwaitis, and non-Kuwaitis) revealed that the performance on the State-Trait Morality Inventory correlated unsystematically with the performance on Eysenck's neuroticism scale. While the two performances correlated positively in the case of the Sudanese subgroup (males & females) where $r=0.384$, $d.f.=177$, significant at 0.05, the correlation coefficients, in the case of Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, were very small and not significant ($r=-0.007$ and 0.079) respectively.
- 5) The obtained results also indicated that in all three subgroups, there were reasonable correlations between the performance on the first part of the STMI (A=15 items), and the performance on the second part of this questionnaire (B=13 items). The correlation coefficients ranging between 0.565 and 0.712. All r 's were significant at 0.001 level.

These results revealed a good level of consistency among the two parts of the questionnaire.

In summary it can be said that the results of this preliminary research must remain incomplete, leaving important questions for further investigations. These questions would deal with the relationships between the performance on State-Trait Morality Inventory and the performance on other personality questionnaires such as self-confidence, extroversion, introversion, dogmatism etc. and possible with the performance on religiosity. It could include different types of socialization practices of children and adults with regard to background cross-nationality, cross-ethnically and cross-culturally on the effects of morality behavior development. In addition, the future investigations could also deal with the relationship between morality behavior development and academic achievement (Ahmed, Gielen, & Avellani, 1987; Eissa, 1985; Gielen, Ahmed & Avellani, 1992).

References

- Ahmed, R. A.; Gielen, U.P. & Avellani, J. (1987). Perceptions of parental behavior and the development of moral reasoning in Sudanese students. In C. Kagitcibasi (Ed.), Growth and progress in cross-cultural psychology, (pp. 196-206). Lisse (The Netherlands): Swets and Zeitlinger.

- Ahmed, R.A. and Gielen , U.P. (submitted). A critical review of Arab research studies on moral judgement using the Defining Issues Test (DIT). Arab Journal for the Humanities (Kuwait).
- Bouhmama, D. (1984). Assessment of Kohlberg's stages of moral development in two cultures. Journal of Moral Education 13(2), 124-132.
- Eissa, M.R. (1985). The relationship between higher education and the level of moral judgment using a selected sample of students at the University of Oran (Algeria). The Educational Journal (Kuwait), 13(2), 117-131 (in Arabic).
- El-Sheikh, S.A. (1985). A study of moral thinking in Egyptian adolescents and adults. In F.A. Abou-Hatab (Ed.), Yearbook of psychology. Vol. 4 (pp. 123-169). Cairo: The Anglo-Egyptian Bookshop (in Arabic).
- Gielen, U.P.; Ahmed, R.A. and Avellani, J. (1992). The development of moral reasoning and perceptions of parental behavior in students from Kuwait. Moral Education Forum, 17 (3) 20-37.
- Rayburn, C.A. (1989). State-Trait Morality Inventory in high school students. Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the International Council of Psychologists (ICP). Halifax, Nova-Scotia, Canada, June 2-6, 1989.
- Rayburn, C.A.; Gulberston, F.M. & Thomas, A. (1987). A State-Trait Morality Inventory. U.S.A.: (Unpublished).

Table 1

Characteristics of the Three Subgroups (Sudanese, Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis)
 Classified according Nation, Sex, and Educational level.

Educational Level Groups	Sudanese		Kuwaitis		Non-Kuwaitis	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Intermediate & Secondary School Students	46	32	161	42	41	21
University Students	46	103	26	72	3	12
Total	92	135	187	114	44	33

Table 2

Comparisons between Sudanese, Kuwaiti and Non-Kuwaiti Male and Female subjects in the performance on State-Trait Morality Inventory and Eysenck's Neuroticism Scale.

Sex and Education Level		N		Age in Years	SIMI A	STMI B	STMI (Total)	Neuroticism (Eysenck)
S U D A N E S E	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	92 (M)	M	19.284	21.435	21.880	43.207	11.591
			SD	2.189	6.765	5.264	10.810	4.983 (n=44)
	University Students	135 (F)	M	20.364	20.148	22.185	42.348	12.363
			SD	1.868	5.922	6.107	10.652	4.339 (n=135)
		M+F	T	3.968***	1.509	0.388	0.590	0.982
K U W A I T I S	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	184 (M)	M	18.226	24.951	26.326	51.348	11.882
			SD	4.935	6.991	7.391	12.773	4.213 (n=34)
	University Students	117 (F)	M	19.203	22.513	22.299	44.812	15.426
			SD	2.912	5.945	4.910	9.159	3.607 (n=47)
		M+F	T	1.778*	3.557***	4.899***	4.887***	4.013***
N O N - K U W A I T I	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	78 (M)	M	16.972	24.386	25.477	50.068	12.133
			SD	5.907	7.049	7.527	13.174	4.161 (n=30)
	University Students	33 (F)	M	15.876	23.394	23.121	46.515	13.552
			SD	2.589	8.374	5.923	13.043	3.389 (n=29)
		M+F	T	0.983	0.556	1.466	1.161	1.408

*significant at 0.05

**significant at 0.01

***significant at 0.001

Table 3

Sex and Educational Level Comparisons in the Performance of Sudanese Students on the State-Trait Morality Inventory and the Eysenck's Neuroticism Scale.

Sex and Education Level		N		Age in Years	SIMI A	STMI B	STMI (Total)	Neuroticism (Eysenck)
M A L E S	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	46	M	17.369	20.435	21.348	41.783	
			SD	.746	5.833	5.898	10.940	
	University Students	46	M	21.187	22.435	22.413	44.630	11.591
			SD	1.308	7.450	4.480	10.487	4.983 (n=44)
			T	17.038***	1.148	0.965	1.261	
	F E M A L E S	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	32	M	18.271	21.406	23.375	44.781
SD				0.906	9.400	6.804	15.024	4.763 (n=32)
University Students		103	M	21.014	19.757	21.816	41.592	12.330
			SD	1.593	4.228	5.824	8.727	4.198 (n=103)
			T	9.218***	1.375	1.260	1.480	0.157
M A L & F E M		Intermediate & Secondary School Students	78	M	17.740	20.833	22.179	43.013
	SD			0.928	7.520	6.364	12.860	4.763 (n=32)
	University Students	149	M	21.070	20.584	22.000	42.530	12.109
			SD	1.513	5.570	5.451	9.411	4.460 (n=147)
			T	17.689***	0.282	0.221	0.321	0.406

*significant at 0.05

**significant at 0.01

***significant at 0.001

Table 4

Sex and Educational Level Comparisons in the Performance of Kuwaiti Students on the State-Trait Morality Inventory and the Eysenck's Neuroticism Scale.

Sex and Education Level		N		Age in Years	SiMI A	STMI B	STMI (Total)	Neuroticism (Eysenck)
M A L S	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	161	M	17.354	25.429	26.677	52.174	11.774
			SD	4.325	6.900	7.443	12.709	4.195 (n=31)
	University Students	26	M	23.898	22.707	23.350	46.190	13.000
			SD	4.508	7.320	6.380	11.490	4.243 (n=3)
			T	7.078***	1.798*	2.146*	2.244*	0.468
F E M A L S	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	42	M	16.316	23.619	24.643	48.262	15.441
			SD	2.347	6.195	5.406	9.530	3.615 (n=34)
	University Students	72	M	20.820	21.490	21.060	42.540	15.385
			SD	1.691	5.340	4.080	8.160	3.585 (n=13)
			T	11.670***	1.921*	3.972***	3.360**	0.047
M A L & F E M	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	203	M	17.139	25.054	26.256	51.365	13.692
			SD	4.019	6.800	7.118	12.223	4.311 (n=65)
	University Students	98	M	21.646	21.827	22.663	43.510	14.938
			SD	3.067	5.957	4.901	9.304	3.832 (n=16)
			T	9.776***	4.000***	5.743***	5.605***	1.044

*significant at 0.05

**significant at 0.01

***significant at 0.001

Table 5

Sex and Educational Level Comparisons in the Performance of Non-Kuwaiti Students on the State-Trait Morality Inventory and the Eysenck's Neuroticism Scale.

Sex and Education Level		N		Age in Years	STMI A	STMI B	STMI (Total)	Neuroticism (Eysenck)
M A L E S	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	41	M	16.130	24.707	25.854	50.780	12.133
			SD	4.864	7.195	7.547	13.282	4.161
	University Students	3	M	28.472	20.000	20.333	40.333	(n=30)
			SD	6.819	0.816	4.922	5.735	-
			T	4.015***	1.107	1.219	1.322	-
F E M A L E S	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	21	M	15.349	23.952	23.476	47.429	12.762
			SD	0.964	9.698	6.673	15.438	3.379
	University Students	12	M	16.799	22.419	22.500	44.917	(n=21)
			SD	3.934	5.171	4.233	6.837	15.625
			T	1.557	0.493	0.443	0.518	2.119*
M A L & F E M	Intermediate & Secondary School Students	62	M	15.866	24.452	25.048	49.645	12.392
			SD	4.012	8.137	7.349	14.139	3.872
	University Students	15	M	19.133	21.933	22.067	44.000	(n=51)
			SD	6.594	4.739	4.464	6.880	15.625
			T	2.421**	1.137	1.486	1.484	3.395
							1.484	(n=8)
							2.255*	

*significant at 0.05

**significant at 0.01

***significant at 0.001