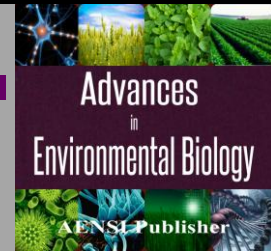




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Investigation and Comparison of Emotional Intelligence and Some of Its Aspects among the Criminals (Robbers, Violent Criminals and Criminals Associated With Drugs) With Normal People In 2013

¹Ahmad Souri and ²Ali Mohebbi

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University Police, Tehran, IRAN

²Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University Police, Tehran, IRAN

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present research was to compare the emotions intelligence and its aspects among criminals and normal people. The first universe of which included robbers, violent criminals and criminals associated with drugs while the second universe was constituted by the normal people of Tehran where the first universe sample included 226 people chosen as in access sampling method and the second sample of the universe included 209 people selected as cluster random method and their emotional intelligence rates were measured through the Sibrya Shering questionnaire. Thus, the current research is naturally speaking, an ex post facto or comparative-causative one. Results of data analysis indicated that firstly, from an overall aspect, the emotional intelligence is found to be significantly different between the criminals and normal people in such a way the normal groups saw a higher level. However, this difference was not significant among different criminals. Secondly, there is significant difference between criminals and normal people in the skill of self-control while in this very aspect, this difference among the criminals is not significant. Thirdly, in the empathy skill there is only difference between normal people and violent criminals. Hence, it can be said that normal people have higher emotional intelligence than the criminals and there is no meaningful difference among the criminals in terms of emotional intelligence.

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INTRODUCTION

Emotional intelligence is a concept for understanding one's emotions and those of others [1]. Mayer and Salovey (1997) have defined emotional intelligence as the ability for accurate understanding, evaluation and expression of emotions, ability for access or creation of feelings, ability for understanding emotions and emotional knowledge and ability of adjusting emotions for promotion of emotions growth and intelligence [2]. For Goleman (1999) emotional intelligence is the ability to contain one's emotional and inclinations, understand the most private feelings of others, soft and deliberate behavior in human affairs so that this aspect of intelligence defines the personal affairs with the others [3]. Hence, the emotional intelligence is concerned with the ability of understanding personal emotions and then generalizing them to understand those of others and growth of empathy [4]. Emotional intelligence is followed by huge impacts in life in such a way this capacity will render resilience, ability to solve problems, and an effective dealing with stresses and shocks [3]. A higher level of this ability accompanies cheerfulness, health, well-being, good educational and occupational performance, and adjustment with changes [1]. While lower level of it is followed by types of mental diseases like depression, and personality disturbances [1].

Statement of the problem:

The relation of emotional intelligence has been continuously discussed by psychologists in such a way Extremera, Fernandez and Berrocal, have in their researches demonstrated that lower emotional intelligence is found to be positively and significantly correlated with high anxiety and depression and lower levels of mental and socio-emotional hygiene. Researches have been performed in terms of the emotional intelligence relation with emergence of crimes where most of which have been concerned with the emotional intelligence in crime

Corresponding Author: Ahmad Souri, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University Police, Tehran, IRAN

commitment [5]. For instance, some researches have shown that criminals have shown difference with others in terms of some emotional intelligence e.g. solving social issues (McGuire, 2005); empathy (Kirch and Becker, 2007); social merits (Bergeron and Valliant, 2001); resilience (Sutker *et al*, 1983); shock control (Struber *et al*, 2008), self-adjustment (Martin, 1982), and emotional intelligence depends on the criminals' personality and criminal thinking (Egan *et al*, 2000; Geyer, 2005; Bulten *et al*, 2009) [6]. Other researches showed that emotional intelligence is negatively and significantly correlated with aggression and types of crimes [1]. However, with respect to role and effect of emotional intelligence in avoiding crimes, its relation with crimes and the extent of its difference on the basis of crimes, we need more scientific researches as we understand there are few researches on this issue. Thus, the fundamental issue is that whether there is a significant difference between criminals and normal people in terms of emotional intelligence and its aspects. Thus, current research seeks to answer the above fundamental question so that guidelines are presented.

Theoretical basics :

During the past two decades the emotional intelligence has been at the focal point of psychology discussions and its applications and capacities have been discussed in comparison with the abstract emotion. Emotional intelligence that is concerned with understanding one's emotions and those of others [1], could foresee %80 of one's success [1]. Black and Black have defined the emotional intelligence as self-confidence, optimism and emotional balance. They agreed that people with high emotional intelligence enjoy higher self-control and self-motivation and are comfortable with others [7]. Gardner who is a theorist of multiple emotions thinks of emotional aspects as being related with emotions where two aspects of it namely, interpersonal and intrapersonal emotion [8]. But, within new theories, there are three, main models of emotional intelligence [9] which are:

1. Emotional intelligence ability model:

Mayer and Salovey have faith in the emotional intelligence model in such away they believe the emotional intelligence as the ability to understand emotions, integrate emotions for thinking fluidity and facilitation, understand emotions and adjust it for the personal growth [10]. The emotional intelligence model involves four types of abilities: emotional awareness, emotions applications, emotions understanding and emotions management [11].

2. Emotional intelligence trait model:

Emotional intelligence, on this footing, is a set of emotional tuitions that related to the lower levels of personality [12]. In this approach, emotional intelligence is defined as personal understanding of his own emotional abilities. The trait model is against the ability model that is related with real abilities and competencies.

3. Mixed emotional intelligence model:

Here, in this model, emotional intelligence includes personal abilities, and personal attributes like motivational attributes and personality seen in the person [11].

Goleman who considers emotional intelligence as understanding of one's feelings and appropriate life decision making maintains emotional intelligence is thought to be one of the human needs for coping with problems and stress management. He introduces four main emotional intelligence structures that include self-awareness (ability to ascertain personal emotions and identify their impacts making decisions), self-management (ability to control emotions and one's shocks and adjust with changes conditions), social awareness (ability to understand, ascertain and address peoples' emotions) and managing relations (ability, encouragement, influence, and other growth and managing conflicts).

Bar-on (2007) considers emotional intelligence as interests in effective understanding oneself and the latter, appropriate relations with people and adjusting with the setting and environmental situations and success in relation with environmental demands. He held that emotional intelligence develops through education, planning and treatment and highly emotionally intelligent people are more successful in meeting with the environment and pressures and shortage in this category is accompanied with lack of success and problems while adjusting [13]. These problems, among people lacking emotional intelligence include debilitation to solve problems, stress and control of shocks that holds true for the criminals [6].

Emotional intelligence and criminal behavior:

Failure to understand others' feelings, failure to control oneself in challenging situations and failure in a positive management with others will lead to stress, lack of gaiety and clinical disorders [11]. Furthermore, lack of control could culminate in deviant behaviors, e.g. crime and misusing the others. Low emotional intelligence is correlated with some psychological diseases like depression, and borderline personality disorder [1]. On the other hand, it should be noted that these disorders are related with criminal and antisocial conducts in such away

it can be said that depression is correlated with crime and felony [14]. In addition, personality disorders like antisocial personality disorder and borderline personality disorder are specified with interpersonal communication problem signs having a major role in violence [15]. The antisocial personality disorder specified by an overall pattern resulting from inattention and violating the rights of the latter [16], is found to be most closely related with the criminal activities of the adults in such a way some studies have proven that %47 of the prisoners are afflicted with disorder [17]. There is evidence indicating the most violent criminals and those doing crimes repeatedly suffer from cognitive drawbacks and faulty self-adjustment behaviors [18]. In addition, generally speaking, during the past decade, in psychology and criminal psychology in particular, interest in emotional and affection situations has always been on the rise in such away the role of emotions has been discussed among the sexual and violent criminals. Emotions seen most in violent crimes and matters is anger that is a main gateway for types of crimes like manslaughter, violence, complicity, and sexual and physical abuse [19].

A professional view is that criminals are not empathetic and even absence of empathy plays a greater part in criminal activities ,e.g. Jolliffe and Fraington addressed analyzing 35 reports that included over 5000 cases .They found out that there is a main relation between crime and weak empathy in such a way low empathy is correlated with violent crimes[1]. Some other researches have shown that the empathy aspect of the emotional intelligence is inversely related with the criminal and antisocial conduct [4]. Hence, the emotional intelligence is a good predictor for the future of the criminal. Megreya too holds that the criminal thinking is negatively correlated with the emotional intelligence, hence, there is a negative relationship between the emotional intelligence and mental disorders and antisocial conducts [6]. Quoting Packer *et al*, he holds that there is strong relation between the high criminal thinking and low levels of self-control and criminals have lower aspects of resilience and high levels of impulsivity. Also, training emotional intelligence will lead to reduced rage level [1]. Zeidner *et al*, consider as relevant lack of control in deviant conducts like misuse and crimes [11]. Hayes and Reilly (2007) in their investigation on three groups of criminals and psychosis and control with frequency of 55, 20 and 30 found out that the overall average emotional intelligence in the control group (97/33) was higher than the other two levels. The average emotional intelligence of the psychosis (85/15) was lower than that of the criminal group (87/70) but, this difference was nit in total significant while differences being significant were seen among the emotional intelligence aspects in different groups in such a way it can be said that groups of criminals and psychosis were having a significant low average emotional intelligence than the control group [20].

Saberi *et al*, while investigating 281 criminals in the central Yazd prison demonstrated that people committing adultery have had lower emotional intelligence scores from among the other criminals and check criminals had the highest emotional intelligence score while the criminals of atonement (blood money) crimes, drugs, battery and rogue cases were having in between average emotional intelligence [21]. Razavi *et al*, while investigating criminals in the central Yazd prison demonstrated that there is significant difference among the criminals with respect to the emotional intelligence on the basis of the type of crime committed while the emotional intelligence of the robbers and crimes related with drugs was not significantly different with that of other criminals .In their research , the average emotional intelligence for the crime of rape , drugs , robbery, manslaughter , financial cases and abduction were 98/22, 110/53, 111/23, 116/53, 118/93, 120/05 and 121/30 respectively[22].

Procedures and methods:

The first universe of the current research includes the criminals detained for robbery, battery, and drugs who were held in Tehran in 2013 while the second universe includes adults residing in Tehran lacking a history of crime commitment. The first universe sample included 226 people (86 robbers, 61 criminals associated with drugs and 79 violent criminals)chosen as in access sampling method and the second sample of the universe included 209 people selected as cluster random method and their emotional intelligence rates were measured through the Sibrya Shering questionnaire . Thus, the current research is naturally speaking; an ex post facto or comparative-causative one .The main form of the questionnaire has two parts of 70 questions each where the second part of it including 33 questions was used due to the fact that the first part was inconsistent with our culture. In the first part, there are questions related with emotional intelligence aspects where the scores of each of them are separately estimated. These components are self-motivation, self-awareness, self-control, empathy or social consciousness and social skills where in the research in addition to the total intelligence of the research, two aspects of self-control and empathy are discussed. The current research is supported from a nominal and thematic view and is among the established questionnaires .The reliability of the questionnaire has been established in various researches so that the overall reliability in correspondence with the Mansoori's research has been 0/84.

Findings:

Table 1: Descriptive statistic for comparing emotional intelligence in different groups.

Row	Classes	Frequency	Average	Standard deviation
1	Robbers	86	100/79	11/82
2	Drug associated criminals	61	102/72	10/80
3	Violent criminals	79	101/12	15/49
4	Normal people	209	113/27	11/66

Table 2: Results of variance analysis test for comparing emotional intelligence in different groups.

Row	Classes	Square sum	Freedom degree	Square average	F test	Sig.
1	Intergroup	15675/25	3	5125/08	33/51	0/000
2	Intragroup	65915/37	431	152/93		
3	Total	81290/62	434			

Information set forth in the above table indicates that there is difference in different groups in terms of emotional intelligence that based on the results of the variance analysis test , we can say that this difference is significant in accordance with the F test and significance level of 0/001.The Tuckey follow-up test results indicate that difference has been significant between the normal groups and the three criminal groups , secondly, this difference was not significant among the three criminal groups . Thus, the first hypothesis is supported.

Table 3: Descriptive statistic for comparing self-control in different groups.

Row	Classes	Frequency	Average	Standard deviation
1	Robbers	86	19/61	3/94
2	Drug associated criminals	61	19/40	3/28
3	Violent criminals	79	19/27	3/99
4	Normal people	209	22/10	3/14

Table 4: Results of variance analysis test for comparing self-control skillin different groups.

Row	Classes	Square sum	Freedom degree	Square average	F test	Sig.
1	Intergroup	733/48	3	257/82	21/12	0/000
2	Intragroup	5260/88	431	12/21		
3	Total	6034/36	434			

Information set forth in the above table indicates that there is difference in different groups in terms of self-control that based on the results of the variance analysis test , we can say that this difference is significant in accordance with the F test and significance level of 0/000.The Tuckey follow-up test results indicate that difference has been significant between the normal groups and the three criminal groups , secondly, this difference was not significant among the three criminal groups . Thus, the second hypothesis is supported .

Table 5: Descriptive statistic for comparing empathy skill in different groups.

Row	Classes	Frequency	Average	Standard deviation
1	Robbers	86	16/93	3/16
2	Drug associated criminals	61	16/60	2/92
3	Violent criminals	79	16/36	3/30
4	Normal people	209	17/42	2/66

Table 6: Results of variance analysis test for comparing the average empathy skill in different groups.

Row	Classes	Square sum	Freedom degree	Square average	F test	Sig.
1	Intergroup	78/97	3	26/32	3/07	0/028
2	Intragroup	3696/78	431	8/58		
3	Total	3775/76	434			

Information set forth in the above table indicates that there is difference in different groups in terms of empathy that based on the results of the variance analysis test , we can say that this difference is significant in accordance with the F test and significance level of 0/028.The Tuckey follow-up test results indicate that difference has been significant between the normal groups and the three criminal groups , secondly, this difference was not significant among the three criminal groups . Thus, the second hypothesis is supported.

Discussion:

Analysis of the research hypotheses indicate that in the area of the overall emotional intelligence , there is significant difference between the criminals including robbers, violent criminals and people associated with drugs and normal people . Generally speaking, the average estimated for the normal people (113/27) is higher than that of the three groups of criminals i.e. robbers (100/79), drug related criminal s (102/72) and violent criminals (101/12) and it is statistically significant. The current research is consistent with most studies in this area and generally Mayer *et al* found in a research that emotional intelligence is negatively correlated with

behavioral disturbances and violence, Russell and Cabman(2002) have emphasized on the role of the emotional intelligence in containing aggression while extensive research by Egan, 2000; Geyer, 2005; Balton *et al.*, [6], and also, Hayes and Reilly have all found out that the emotional intelligence of the criminals is lower than that of the normal people quite significantly [20]. Chermant Glass found that emotional intelligence and tendency to drugs are significantly related. While in the area of lack of difference among the criminals in terms of emotional intelligence, we can say that this research is in concert with that of Razavi *et al* who stated that there is no significant difference between the robbers and crimes related to drugs with other criminals [22].

One of the main emotional intelligence aspects is self-control whose relation in different researches with crimes and antisocial behavior that has been proven. Data analysis has shown that no difference was seen in different groups of criminals while there was a difference between the normal people and the three groups of criminals. For example, Struber *et al.*, held that criminals are different with the normal people with relation to the shock control aspect [6]. Zeidner *et al.*, demonstrated that lack of control will lead to crimes and deviancies [11]. Johnson, Kirsh and Andershed, stated that the most violent criminals and those doing crimes repeatedly suffer from cognitive drawbacks and faulty self-adjustment behaviors [18]. Packer *et al.*, he holds that there is strong relation between the high criminal thinking and low levels of self-control and criminals have lower aspects of resilience and high levels of impulsivity. Also, training emotional intelligence will lead to reduced rage level [1]. Zeidner *et al.*, consider as relevant lack of control in deviant conducts like misuse and crimes [11]. Hayes and Reilly in their investigation on three groups of criminals and psychosis and control with frequency of 55, 20 and 30 found out that the overall average emotional intelligence in the control group (97/33) was higher than the other two levels. Comparison of empathy aspect of the emotional intelligence indicates that though the average rate of the normal people is higher than that of the criminals, while statistically speaking difference is only significant between criminals and normal people. In terms of the views of the experts the difference of the empathy aspect is mostly directed at the crimes against humans because criminals unable in this aspect will commit crimes of rape, battery, manslaughter and adultery[20]. Some other researches have shown that the empathy aspect of the emotional intelligence is inversely related with the criminal and antisocial conduct [4]. A professional view is that criminals are not empathetic and even absence of empathy plays a greater part in criminal activities, e.g. Jolliffe and Fraington addressed analyzing 35 reports that included over 5000 cases. They found out that there is a main relation between crime and weak empathy in such a way low empathy is correlated with violent crimes [19].

Recommendations:

1. Emotional intelligence should be trained within the corrective and educational programs
2. Self-control is one of the important components in avoiding crimes, it is necessary to attend to this problem so that crimes are prevented and hence, education classes and workshops should be established for this purpose
3. Empathy skills should be trained for the criminals and the people causing them
4. It is recommended future researchers deal with the emotional intelligence of the criminals and carry out researches in the areas of manslaughter, intense violence and robberies and abduction
5. Counseling and rehabilitation be done to promote the emotional intelligence of the criminals including self-control and empathy
6. Encompassing education be performed in the area of emotional intelligence by the media and different organizations.

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