

MEASURING THE COMPONENTS OF LOVE IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

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Abstract: This study pins down what passionate love is and the degree of passion in relationships formed using dating apps and in relationships formed through meeting people in a social environment. The sample was collected from 60 people using purposive sampling method in the age group of 18-21 years. The objectives of this study are: 1) To understand the difference between usage of dating apps and the degree of passionate love. 2) To understand if there is any difference between selected independent variables and the dependent variable. For the present research, Passionate Love Scale (PLS) is used to measure the dependent variable. The results of the paper showed a significant difference between usage of dating apps and passionate love. The researcher would be using SPSS version 21 to calculate correlation and t-test.

Index terms: *Passionate love, interpersonal relationships, dating apps.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Love is what brings everyone together in a social environment and the lack of it drives us apart. In ancient Greece, the father of the bride had to give the approval for marriage. Later in the middle ages, the sacrament of marriage was instituted by the catholic church. By the 12th century, southern France poets invented courtly love known as 'l'amour courtois', love emerged as an necessary theme in the relationships between women and men. Later online dating came into existence. It is not something we started doing from the recent past. It started from the 17th century. Before the internet came into existence, there were personal ads and before that shepards used to carve on the barks of trees about their longingness for physical contact. In 1695, British bachelors tried to find eligible wives through personal ads. Later in the 1700s, the gay and lesbian communities met through personal ads. In the late 1800s, people started using fake profiles for the personal ads, continue the tradition today.

Online dating has become very popular these days. Browsing profiles is not as time taking as meeting people in a social environment. Most of the dating apps don't really work as it's just a way of making money and not really about helping people to find a suitable partner. People obviously lie on their dating profiles because, who doesn't want to be appealing? One third of the people using dating apps never really go on a date with the person they've met online. Michigan State University conducted a research and found out that relationships made through dating apps are 28% more likely to end in the span of a year than the relationships where the couples met directly in a social environment. And people who met online are 3% more likely to get divorced than the rest. Keeping all of this in mind, do these relationships really last? Is their love passionate enough compared to relationships made without using dating apps?

II. METHOD

Research design

This research follows a descriptive design. The sample consisted of people in the age group of 18-20 years, in the city of Hyderabad.

Sample

The sample consisted of 100 undergraduate students, both male and female, between the ages of 18-21 years. The participants were drawn from the metropolitan city of Hyderabad. The sampling techniques used to select the students were those of sampling and purposive sampling.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

1. Participants from Hyderabad and Secunderabad were included.
2. Participants using dating apps were included.
3. Participants between the age group of 18 and 21 were included.
4. Participants in a committed relationship were included.

Exclusion Criteria

1. Participants who were not willing to take part in the survey were excluded.
2. Non residents of Hyderabad and Secunderabad were excluded.

Instruments

The data analyzed in this study was collected using the Passionate Love Scale. The researcher chose this questionnaire because it was designed specifically to accomplish the objectives of this study.

The Passionate Love Scale was specifically designed to understand the behavioural, affective and cognitive aspects of passionate love. The behavioural aspects include serving the other person, maintaining physical intimacy, understanding the other person, actions aimed at determining the significant other's feelings. The cognitive aspects of love include idealisation of the relationship or the significant other, desire to be known by the significant other or to know him/her, preoccupation with the partner. The emotional aspects include sexual and emotional attraction towards the partner, positive and negative feeling when things come and go, desire for permanent union.

The common form of the PLS is a 15-item scale, but another 15-item version is also available. The two scales have been combined to form a 30-item scale.

Procedure

The participants were given the questionnaire and a brief explanation was given about the purpose of this study and the assurance that all their responses would be kept confidential.

Participation in the study was entirely voluntary, and with the informed consent of all participants. The participants were asked to complete a questionnaire including (a) a brief demographic questionnaire and (b) the PLS questions. Researchers themselves distributed and collected the surveys. Each participant was instructed to read each statement carefully and mark the responses closest to his/her preference in the manner specified on the questionnaire. That is, putting down a rating as per a given scale. There was no right or wrong and time gender as 1.00, mode of relationship status as 2.00, mode of PLS as 68.00 and mode of usage of dating apps as 1.00. The standard deviation (SD) of age is seen as 4.00, SD of gender as 1.00, SD of relationship status as 1.00, SD of PLS as 93.00 and SD of usage of dating apps as 1.00.

Table 2 shows the difference the usage of dating apps and the passionate love.

	Using dating apps (n=50)		Not using dating apps (n=50)		t-ratio	sig.
	M	SD	M	SD		
Passionate love scale	107.32	51.66	248.00	13.55	-18.64	0.00

In table 2, an independent sample of t-test was conducted to compare the scores of people using dating apps and people not using dating apps. There was a significant difference found between the both of them (t= -18.64).

was not taken into consideration. After following the instructions on the instruments, the questionnaire was completed and collected back for evaluation of the data.

Data Analysis

Mean, median, mode and standard deviation were derived and t-tests were conducted to identify if there is any significant difference between usage of dating apps and the degree of passionate love, relationship status and the degree of passionate love, and to check if the degree of passionate love had any affect on the gender of the participant.

III. RESULTS

Table 1 shows the frequencies of age, gender relationship status and the usage of dating apps among the participants.

		Age	Gender	Relationship status	Passionate love scale	Usage of dating apps
N	Valid	100	100	100	100	100
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		19.70	1.45	1.63	177.66	1.50
Median		20.00	1.00	2.00	235.00	1.50
Mode		20.00	1.00	2.00	68.00	1.00
Range		1.000	0.50	0.48	80.06	0.50
Standard deviation		4.00	1.00	1.00	232.00	1.00
Percentiles	25	19.00	1.00	1.00	93.00	1.00
	50	20.00	1.00	2.00	235.00	1.50
	75	20.00	2.00	2.00	248.00	2.00

Table 2 shows the calculation of measures of central tendencies of age ,gender, relationship status, passionate love scale and usage of dating apps. The mean of age is seen as 19.70, mean of gender as 1.45, mean of relationship status as 1.63, mean of PLS as 177.66 and mean of usage of dating apps as 1.50. The median of age is seen as 20.00, median of gender as 1.00, median of relationship status as 2.00, median of PLS as 235.00 and median of usage of dating apps as 1.50. The mode of age is seen as 20.00, mode of

Table 3 shows the difference between the relationship status and the passionate love.

	Single		Dating		t-ratio	sig.
	M	SD	M	SD		
Passionate love scale	97.97	49.00	224.46	53.15	-11.819	0.00

In table 3, an independent sample of t-test was conducted to compare the scores of people who are single and the people who are in a relationship. There was a significant difference found between the both of them (t=-11.819).

Table 4 shows the difference between gender and the passionate love.

	Female		Male		t-ratio	sig.
	M	SD	M	SD		
Passionate love scale	218.10	63.57	128.22	70.11	6.715	0.00

environment. The study also proves the hypothesis that people in a relationship are prone to have higher levels of passionate love than people who are single

In table 4, an independent sample of *t*-test was conducted to compare the scores between men and women. There was a significant difference found between the both of them ($t=6.715$).

Summary of results

To conclude we can say that, as the hypothesis states that there is a significant difference between the usage of dating apps and the levels of passionate love and that people using dating apps have lesser levels

IV. DISCUSSION

This study pins down what passionate love is and the degree of passion in relationships formed using dating apps and in relationships formed through meeting people in a social environment. The sample was collected from 60 people using purposive sampling method in the age group of 18-21 years. The results show that there is a significant difference between usage of dating apps and the levels of passionate love. One of the recent studies has done an analysis on the usage of dating apps and long term relationships. Almost forty percent of american adults are using dating apps. This study suggests that American marriages that start online are slightly prone to collapse than those who met offline.

Limitations

One of the most important limitation of the study is the small sample size. The results of the study cannot be applied to the whole population due to the dynamic nature of the participants and the very nature of each individual. Another limitation of this study is the inability to generate the results due to geographic barriers.

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