

Research Notes

# A Study on Dark Triad Personality and Emergency Response and Psychological Adaptation Among Young Adults During Pandemic

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## Article history

Received: 09-05-2023

Revised: 26-06-2023

Accepted: 17-08-2023

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**Abstract:** The present research was titled “A Study on Dark Triad Personality and emergency response and psychological adaptation among young adults during pandemic.” The purpose of the study was to explore the association between the dimensions of dark triad personality namely narcissism, psychopathy, Machiavellianism and the dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaptation namely worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy. The correlation between the dimensions of dark triad personality and the dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaptation. Gender differences were also studied for the dimension of dark triad personality. The results showed that a strong positive correlation existed between narcissism and agitation, Machiavellianism and worry, and Machiavellianism and agitation. Narcissism and psychopathy were found to be strong predictors of agitation. Significant gender differences were noted on the dimensions of psychopathy and Machiavellianism where males scored higher than females.

**Keywords:** Dark Triad Personality, Emergency Response and Psychological Adaptation, Narcissism, Psychopathy and Machiavellianism

## Introduction

Any incident or circumstance that will or may lead to an unstable and hazardous condition affecting a person, a community, or the entire culture is referred to as a crisis. Crises are unfavorable developments in human and ecological situations, particularly when they come suddenly and without notice. In a broader sense, a crisis is a period during which an emergency is put to the test. Perhaps, one of the biggest crises witnessed by the human race in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2. The development of SARS-CoV-2 was first noticed when instances of unusual pneumonia were reported in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019. The COVID-19 virus rapidly spread from China to almost every part of the world causing an upheaval across the human race. Since its emergence, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed a major threat and challenge to human society and civic administration all around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic came as a catastrophe serving not only as a menace to the very existence of humankind but also making survival more difficult. The SARS-CoV-2 triggered a situation that had to be termed as a pandemic and an emergency health situation by the various health

organizations of the world. The pandemic came as a shock and posed a threat to the emergency response and psychological adaptation processes of humans. Individuals struggled and were not exactly aware of the appropriate ways to respond and adapt to the global crises.

The skill of dealing with a crisis and responding to an emergency in an adaptive or maladaptive manner is largely linked to the type of personality possessed by an individual. The mix of characteristics and tendencies that impact a person's behavior, cognition, drive, and emotions is referred to as their personality. It is what motivates people to think, feel, and act in certain ways constantly; it is, in essence, what distinguishes each person from another. These patterns have a significant impact on individual aspirations, judgments, beliefs, and opinions throughout time. This research paper will focus on the effect of dark triad personality on the emergency response and psychological adaptation among young adults during the COVID-19 pandemic (Diotaiuti *et al.*, 2021).

## Dark Triad Personality

The word "dark triad" represents a set of three unfavorable personality traits: Narcissism,

Machiavellianism, and psychopathy, all of which share certain malicious characteristics. Delroy L. Paulhus and Kevin M. Williams developed the concept in 2002. People who exhibit the dark triad personality type have been linked to illegal activities and aggressive tendencies. Even if such people don't go to those lengths, their conduct is generally self-fulfilling, deceitful, and uncompassionate. Persons who have these characteristics are ruthless and deceptive, prepared to do or say almost anything to obtain what they want. They have an exaggerated sense of self-worth and are frequently blatant in their self-promotion. These people are inclined to be reckless and may get involved in risky behavior in some situations, even committing crimes without thinking about the consequences of their behaviors (Jonason and Webster, 2010).

### *Dark Traits*

Dark traits are those that are linked to poor human conduct. Dark qualities are different from specific activities like dishonesty or greed they are related to a wider set of categories. Dark qualities, in simple words, are personality types shown by persons who are often seen as antisocial:

- **Narcissism:** Narcissism is a preoccupation with one's self to the point of obsession. While all individuals are guilty of prioritizing their wants from period to period, narcissists do it nearly daily. Psychologists rate people on a four-point tool called the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI) to see if they are actual narcissists. The extreme selfishness, supremacy, dominance, and exploitativeness (tendency to use others for personal benefits) of a person are all evaluated by this tool. Narcissists often struggle to build and sustain connections with other people since it requires them to think about somebody's needs other than their own
- **Subclinical psychopathy:** A psychopath is a person who engages in antisocial conduct. They lack compassion or guilt, and their impulse control is often weakened. This lack of compassion and guilt is the pattern, not the exception, in the conduct of actual psychopaths. Psychopathy and subclinical psychopathy are very similar. Some researchers even argue that there is not much of a qualitative distinction between the two. That is, a psychopath's and a subclinical psychopath's actions are similar. Rather, the distinction is quantitative. Real clinical psychopaths have deviant or anti-social conduct that pervades most or all aspects of their lives. A subclinical psychopath, on the contrary, shows similar conduct as a clinical psychopath, however, the impact on their life is decreased due to the lesser frequency and severity of the actions

- **Machiavellianism:** Machiavellianism, as the term implies, is a kind of personality that integrates Niccolo Machiavelli's beliefs. Niccolo Machiavelli was a Medieval thinker who, in one of his most celebrated writings, "The Prince," explained how a leader of a nation should act. The book's central argument is that the results justify the methods, and it is this notion that distinguishes Machiavellianism as a kind of personality. Machiavellianism is characterized by a high level of manipulation. They are frequently considered skilled liars in society, but their dishonesty typically goes far deeper. A truly Machiavellian mentality, according to Machiavelli in "The Prince," understands the value of looking accessible while utilizing deception to gain what they desire (Dark Triad, 2023)

### *Light Triad of Personality*

There has been an increasing number of studies on the dark triad personality. The attention paid to the dark traits is important because of its apparent role in criminal behavior and anti-social activities. The increasing focus on the dark traits led to the emergence of a new concept known as light triad which brought to focus three positive traits known as Kantianism, humanism, and faith in Humanity. The individuals possessing light triad personality are on the positive end of the continuum. Individuals with this kind of personality care more about other humans.

Other individuals, according to Kantianism, are goals in themselves, not methods to validate goals. This personality feature enables individuals to care about others and make decisions that profit them rather than just themselves. Humanism is the importance placed on a person's value. Trust in mankind is the conviction that individuals are naturally fair and will treat others well (Kaufman *et al.*, 2019).

### *COVID-19 and Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health*

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a major danger. Together with the physiological illness burden produced by COVID-19, there are serious worries that the uncertainty and confinement induced by the COVID-19 crisis, as well as attempts to reduce infection spread, may have significant and perhaps long-term mental health consequences for the community (Campion *et al.*, 2020; Holmes *et al.*, 2020; Pfefferbaum and North, 2020).

Early studies from the beginning phases of the COVID-19 pandemic show that psychological well-being deteriorated. By Early May 2020, the Office of National Statistics in the United Kingdom suggested a rise in people experiencing high levels of anxiety from 21 to 37%, in comparison to the findings obtained as part

of a nationally representative research in 2019. Additionally, using a similar technique and contrasting separate samples of US people, McGinty *et al.* (2020) discovered that in April 2020, both mental distress and hopelessness were greater than in April 2018. However, there is a scarcity of longitudinal studies that examine how psychological health has altered over the course of the pandemic in the same group of people.

Another research indicates that, while psychological health has deteriorated since the outbreak of the pandemic, humans' psychological health is likely to be more resilient in the long run (Galatzer-Levy *et al.*, 2018). In the aftermath of the 2003 SARS outbreak, for instance, health professionals who were at greater risk of disease and were functioning under distressing situations exhibited little evidence of increased psychological issues (Lancee *et al.*, 2008).

Various researchers have discovered an alarming rise in anxiety and mood disorders, general discomfort, and sleep difficulties as well as a worsening of pre-existing signs of posttraumatic stress disorder depression, and eating disorders since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak (Shevlin *et al.*, 2020).

Certain pandemic-related conduct have a substantial impact on affective expressions during COVID-19. People who followed the COVID-19 pandemic closely on the media and followed the disease-related precautionary measures were more tense. Youths exhibited less anxiety and concern than elderly adults, but they also indicated more monotony, which might be mitigated by having regular regimens in place to reduce monotony and unpleasant feelings. Another research revealed contradictory findings, smaller age was linked to larger worries about virus, depressed mood, and lower positive mood in this research. Youths reported lower pleasant occurrences and poorer perceived coping efficiency, whereas elderly individuals appeared to be able to cope with stresses better and had better mental health (Holmes *et al.*, 2020).

Blagov (2021) conducted a study in online mode on 502 individuals, to assess the role of different kinds of personalities in the endorsement of actions leading to physical well-being and the reach of information related to physical well-being. Normal-range personality qualities (particularly agreeableness and conscientiousness) indicated support for social distance and cleanliness, and also the acceptability of messaging related to physical well-being in a broad sense, in a sample of 502 individuals. Low support for actions leading to physical well-being and the desire to willfully put everyone in danger were indicated by dark qualities (particularly psychopathy, meanness, psychopathy, and disinhibition). The majority of respondents favored a statement addressing compassion, while dark personality characteristics favored such messages at a lower degree.

In a common infectious disease situation, personality seems to be a significant factor (Blagov, 2021).

Hardin *et al.* (2021) researched to understand the various reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic based on dark characteristics of personality. A randomized sample of 412 individuals from America was taken. The results showed that two sub-dimensions Machiavellianism as well as narcissism indicated more negative emotions and viewed the pandemic as a danger, however, psychopathy and sadism indicated more positive emotions. It was also observed that these personality qualities were indicative of activities associated with the pandemic like washing hands with greater frequency (Galatzer-Levy *et al.*, 2018).

Gogola *et al.* (2021), conducted research to assess the disparity in the degree of dark personality characteristics among individuals who followed COVID-19-related obligations and who did not follow the obligations. The research also tried to understand the relation between the dark qualities and the severity of signs of depression and anxiety. The study included 604 respondents from Poland. Respondents scoring higher on psychopathy were more inclined towards not following the obligations whereas respondents scoring higher on narcissism was related to greater following of norms. The dark characteristics were related to a greater occurrence of depression. It was also seen that narcissism was associated with anxiousness (Diotaiuti *et al.*, 2021).

Grežo and Adamus (2022) researched to investigate the correlation between light and dark qualities of personality and insightful reporting of obedience to pandemic-related obligations. A sample of 600 individuals was taken for the research. The study hypothesized that the association between light and dark characteristics of personality and obedience to pandemic-related obligations are directed by motivation to follow the measures. The light characteristics of personality were positively associated with obedience and it was directed by motivation. On the other hand, the dark qualities of personality were negatively associated with obedience and it was not directed by motivation (Gogola *et al.*, 2021).

Dębska *et al.* (2021) conducted a study to investigate the association between dark triad characteristics of personality and health-inclined activities in college-going individuals. The research was conducted on 143 individuals. The results showed that the trait of narcissism is positively associated with health-inclined activities. Psychopathy was negatively associated with health-inclined activities. It was also reported that a positive mindset was linked with narcissism. In conclusion, the research showed that even though narcissism is seen as a negative personality characteristic it has a positive impact on health-inclined activities (Campion *et al.*, 2020).

Monteiro *et al.* (2022) conducted a research of 496 participants to evaluate the dark characteristics of

personality and spitefulness. The results show that ed that narcissism, sadism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy had a negative correlation with the perceived danger of the pandemic and the urge to behave in ways violating the obligations of a pandemic. It was also seen in the results that the tension associated with the virus directed the association between the dark characteristics of personality and the functioning and non-functioning reactions. From the findings, it was evident that all dark characteristics of personality have a link with antisocial behavior (Jones *et al.*, 2021).

## Materials and Methods

### *Objectives of the Study*

To study the relationship between the dimensions of dark triad personality i.e., narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism, and the dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaptation i.e., worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy among young adults during a pandemic.

To investigate the gender differences in dark triad personality on the dimensions of Narcissism, Psychopathy, and Machiavellianism.

### *Methods*

It was a correlational study. Data analysis was done using SPSS. Correlation was taken out to find the relationship between dark triad personality and Emergency response and Psychological Adaptation dimension-wise. Regression was used to investigate the strength of the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. T-test was used to analyze the difference between males and females on dark triad personality on the dimensions of narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism.

### *Sample*

The sample consisted of 60 students, studying at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Out of the 60 students, 30 were males and 30 were females. The individuals belonged to the age group of 19-25 years. A simple random sampling technique was used for the selection of the participants in the study.

### *Tools*

For the research, two questionnaires were used:

- The Dirty Dozen: This questionnaire was developed by researchers Webster and Jonason. It is one of the most commonly utilized scales for evaluating the strength of dark triad personality. The questionnaire comprises twelve questions. There are three dimensions of the questionnaire namely narcissism,

psychopathy, and Machiavellianism. Each dimension is evaluated using four items. The responses are measured on a five-point Likert scale. The analysis of the outcomes can be taken in total or according to the dimensions. On each dimension, the lowest possible score is 4 (12 for the entire questionnaire) and the highest possible score is 20 (60 for the entire questionnaire). The reliability of the test was found to be between 0.67-0.79. The Cronbach alpha value of the entire was found to be 0.85 (Hardin *et al.*, 2021).

- The Emergency Response and Psychological Adaptation Scale (ERPAS) this scale was developed by Diotaiuti, Valente, and Mancone. The scale incorporates sixteen items which are spread over five dimensions. The first dimension assesses the tension and worry experienced by an individual when he/she anticipates the likely negative outcomes. The second dimension measures an individual's irritation response. The third dimension assessed an individual's awareness of and after unexpected situations. The fourth dimension assessed prosociality which is expressed by being present for others, helping other people, etc., and the fifth and the last dimension measured perceived self-efficacy in unexpected situations. The validity of the questionnaire was tested using the method of concurrent validity. The concurrent validity was between 0.77-0.78 for the dimension of worry, 0.79-0.80 for the dimension of agitation, 0.70-0.72 for the dimension of awareness, 0.84-0.85 for the dimension of prosociality and 0.73-0.74 for perceived self-efficacy. The reliability of the scale was investigated using the Composite Reliability Index (CRI) and Average Variance Extracted Index (AVEI). The AVEI was calculated to be 0.521 and the CRI was calculated to be 0.785 (Dębska *et al.*, 2021)

### *Hypothesis*

- There will be a significant positive correlation between narcissism and emergency response and psychological adaptation i.e., worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy
- There will be a significant positive correlation between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of worry, agitation, awareness
- There will be a significant negative correlation between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of prosociality and perceived self-efficacy
- There will be a significant positive correlation between Machiavellianism and emergency response

and psychological adaptation i.e., worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy

- Males will score higher on the dimensions of dark triad personality i.e., narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism than females

## Results

Table 1 shows the correlation between the dimensions of dark triad personality and emergency response and psychological adaptation. There exists a strong positive correlation between psychopathy and narcissism. The correlation is significant at both 0.01 level and 0.05 level. There exists a strong positive correlation between Machiavellianism and narcissism and Machiavellianism and psychopathy. Both the correlations are significant at 0.05 level and 0.01 level. There exists a strong positive correlation between worry and Machiavellianism. The correlation is significant at a 0.05 level. There exists a strong positive correlation between agitation and narcissism, agitation and Machiavellianism, and agitation and worry. All the correlations are significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level. There exists a strong positive correlation between awareness and worry, and awareness and agitation. Both the correlations are significant at 0.05 level and 0.01 level. There exists a strong positive correlation between prosociality and agitation and prosociality and awareness. Both the correlations are significant at 0.05

level and 0.01 level. There exists a strong positive correlation between perceived self-efficacy and worry, perceived self-efficacy and awareness, and perceived self-efficacy and prosociality. All the correlations are significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level. There exists a positive correlation between perceived self-efficacy and awareness which is significant at a 0.05 level

Table 2 shows the regression analysis. In regression analysis, Narcissism (n), Psychopathy (p), and Machiavellianism (m) served as independent variables. Agitation was the dependent variable. The table shows that narcissism significantly predicts agitation. The value was significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels. The table also shows that psychopathy significantly predicts agitation. The value was significant at 0.05 level.

Table 3 shows the regression analysis. In regression analysis, Narcissism (n), Psychopathy (p), and Machiavellianism (m) served as independent variables. Worry was the dependent variable. No significant prediction was found between the independent variables and the dependent variable.

Table 4 shows gender differences in the dimensions of dark triad personality namely, narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism. The results show that a significant difference exists between males and females on the dimensions of psychopathy and Machiavellianism. The difference is significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels. Males score higher on the traits of psychopathy and Machiavellianism than females.

**Table 1:** Showing correlations between dimensions of dark triad personality and dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaptation

	Nar	Psychopa	Mach	Worry	Agi	Awareness	Pros	PSE
Nnar	X							
Ppsychopa	0.509**	X						
Mmach	0.675**	0.653**	X					
WWorry	0.207	0.138	0.299*	X				
Aagi	0.445**	0.086	0.360**	0.502**	X			
Awareness	0.165	0.023	0.153	0.533**	0.613**	X		
PPros	0.132	-0.194	0.036	0.195	0.495**	0.404**	X	
-PSE	0.021	-0.033	0.060	0.328**	0.254*	0.339**	0.396**	X

\*\*= p<0.01

\*= p<0.05

**Table 2:** Showing regression analysis

	Unstand. coeff.		Std. coeff.		
	B	Std. error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	8.7	1.35	0.00	6.41	0.000
N	0.4	0.14	0.41	2.61	0.011**
P	-0.0	0.14	-0.31	-2.02	0.049*
M	0.2	0.13	0.28	1.59	0.117

\*\*= p<0.01

\*= p<0.05

**Table 3:** Showing regression analysis

	Unstand. coeffe.		Std. coeffe.		
	B	Std. error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	13.0	1.39	0.00	9.46	0.000
N	0.1	0.15	0.06	0.34	0.732
P	0.0	0.15	0.02	0.10	0.917
M	-0.0	0.15	-0.23	-1.06	0.294

\*\*= p<0.01

\*= p<0.05

**Table 4:** Showing gender differences in the dimensions of dark triad personality

	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Sig. (2-tailed)
Narcissism	Females	30	19.83	3.72	-1.92	0.06
	Males	30	12.83	4.32		
Psychopathy	Females	30	6.30	2.12	-4.67	0.000**
	Males	30	10.50	4.45		
Machiavellianism	Females	30	7.83	3.10	-3.62	0.001**
	Males	30	12.07	5.60		

\*\*= p<0.01

\*= p<0.05

## Discussion

The present research was conducted on dark triad personality and emergency response and psychological adaptation in Young adults during a pandemic. The research aimed to find the association between the dimensions of dark triad personality namely Narcissism, Psychopathy, and Machiavellianism, and the dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaption namely worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy.

The research had five hypotheses. The first hypothesis stated that there will be a significant positive correlation between narcissism and emergency response and psychological adaptation i.e. worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy. The second hypothesis was that there would be a significant positive correlation between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of worry, agitation, and awareness. The third hypothesis was that there would be a significant negative correlation between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of prosociality and perceived self-efficacy. The fourth hypothesis stated that there will be a significant positive correlation between Machiavellianism and emergency response and psychological adaptation i.e. worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy. The last hypothesis stated that males will score higher on the dimensions of dark triad personality i.e., narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism than females.

The results showed that there was a highly significant positive correlation between narcissism and agitation. The

correlation was significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels. The first hypothesis which stated that there will be a significant positive correlation between narcissism and emergency response and psychological adaptation i.e. worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy was partially accepted. The first hypothesis was partially accepted because a strong positive correlation was seen between narcissism and agitation, which is just one dimension of the emergency response and psychological adaptation scale. No significant positive correlation was observed between narcissism and other dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaptation scale namely worry, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy. In a study by Gogola *et al.* (2021), it was reported that there exists a strong positive association between the traits of dark triad personality and the signs of depression. It was also reported in the same study that narcissism is highly associated with anxiousness and tension. The study suggests that these associations aid in the more effectual understanding of the actions and consequences carried out by people possessing dark triad personality traits during the pandemic. Since irritation and agitation is both a symptom of clinical depression and anxiety disorders, the results of the research showing a strong association between narcissism and agitation may be due to this reason (Diotaiuti *et al.*, 2021). The results also showed that narcissism strongly predicts agitation.

The second hypothesis which stated that there would be a significant positive correlation between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of worry, agitation, and

awareness was rejected. The results showed that a positive correlation existed between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of worry, agitation, and awareness, however, the correlation was neither significant at 0.05 level nor at 0.01 level. The third hypothesis that there will be a significant negative correlation between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of prosociality and perceived self-efficacy was also rejected. The results showed that a negative correlation existed between psychopathy and emergency response and psychological adaptation on the dimensions of prosociality and perceived self-efficacy, however, the correlation was neither significant at 0.05 level nor at 0.01 level. The regression analysis indicated that psychopathy significantly predicts agitation. The prediction was significant at 0.05 level. Anderson and Keihl (2014) reported in a study that psychopaths possess a high degree of anger and irritation. They are more likely to engage in violence. The reason for this increased anger and irritation is reported to be a biological one as the brain areas that must link affective reactions to higher thinking functions are not that active in psychopaths (Anderson and Kiehl, 2014). This serves as an explanation why psychopaths are self-acquired and they are not capable of understanding the effect that their actions may have on other people.

The fourth hypothesis which stated that there will be a significant positive correlation between Machiavellianism and emergency response and psychological adaptation i.e. worry, agitation, awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy was partially accepted. The results showed that a positive correlation existed between Machiavellianism and worry. The correlation was significant at a 0.05 level. It was also seen in the results that a positive correlation existed between Machiavellianism and agitation. The correlation was significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels. The hypothesis was partially accepted because a significant positive correlation existed only between Machiavellianism and worry and agitation. A positive correlation existed between Machiavellianism and the other dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaptation scale namely awareness, prosociality, and perceived self-efficacy but it was neither significant at 0.05 level nor at 0.01 level. A study by Spitzer *et al.* (2007) indicated that individuals who are high on Machiavellianism have problems in recognizing the feelings and effects they are going through. Such individuals tend to view the temperament of other people in a negative light and they are more likely to make use of malfunctional strategies. They are also more likely to have symptoms of depression and anxiety. The reason these individuals

are more vulnerable to depression and anxiety is their increased attention and awareness of negative aspects of the environment. This research explains the results of a significant correlation between Machiavellianism and worry and Machiavellianism and agitation as Machiavellian individuals are more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety and are more attuned to negativity.

The fifth hypothesis which stated that males will score higher on the dimensions of dark triad personality i.e. narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism than females was partially accepted. The results showed that males are more psychopathic and machiavellian than females. However, no gender difference was seen in the dimension of narcissism. Research by Björkqvist *et al.* (2000) suggested that females too have machiavellistic and psychopathic tendencies, however, females are less likely to demonstrate these tendencies. One reason for this is the way women are brought up because they are always taught to not exhibit anti-social and negative behaviors. Another reason could be that women show their anger in a very different manner than males. Their expression of anger is more covert and passive. This research explains the findings of the present study as to why males score higher on psychopathy and Machiavellianism.

## Conclusion

This study explored the relationship between the various dimensions of dark triad personality and the dimensions of emergency response and psychological adaptation scale. The research also explored if any dimension of dark triad personality i.e. narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism predicted emergency response and psychological adaptation. Gender differences in dark triad personality were also studied. The results showed that a significant positive correlation exists between narcissism and agitation and Machiavellianism and worry and Machiavellianism and agitation. Narcissism and psychopathy were strong predictors of agitation. Males scored higher on the dimensions of psychopathy and Machiavellianism.

## Acknowledgment

The authors acknowledge the support received in completing the paper, including the participants who agreed to the study, the Central Library of Amity University, technical assistance, and the faculty members who provided valuable insight.

## Funding Information

The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

## Author's Contributions

**Sidrah Jamal:** Conducted data collection and theoretical research.

**Sandhya Bhatt:** Performed data analysis and proofreading.

## Ethics

This article is original and contains unpublished material. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and that no ethical issues are involved.

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