

# COMPARISON OF STUTTERERS AND NORMALS ON SACKS SENTENCE COMPLETION TEST (IN KANNADA) SSCT (K)

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Interest in the personality of stutterers is as old as the history of the disorder itself. Bender (1942) found a greater tendency toward introversion, neuroticism, of being less dominant, less sociable and having less self-confidence, when compared with a matched control group.

Pizzat (1951), Dahlstrom and Craven, (1952) Boland (1953) and Walnut (1954) reported stutterers having lower adjustment than non-stutterers, although on average their scores were not far from average. But, Goldstein (1958), while summarising research studies concluded that no significant difference existed between stutterers and non-stutterers either in terms of maladjustment or unique personality. Bharathraj and Pranasha Rao (1970) found that introverted neurotics were many more among stutterers than normals. Stutterers were some where mid way between normals and neurotics on the dimension of neuroticism.

Personality of stutterers may be studied by different procedures. Projection is one of the techniques. Sentence completion test is found to be quite useful. Hence, an attempt is made here to test the null hypothesis, namely, the stutterers do not differ significantly from non-stutterers either in personality or in the different areas of adjustment by using Sacks Sentence Completion Test.

## **Methodology: Subjects**

Two groups of males of 30 each to form experimental and control groups ranging in age from 15 to 30 years were used. The experimental group was formed by 30 stutterers who came for either consultation or for therapy at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing. Thirty normals formed the control group.

## **Material**

### *I. Sacks Sentence Completion Test, S.S.C.T. (K)*

The test was constructed by Sacks (1949). It consists of incomplete sentences in first person to facilitate projection. It has 56 items relating to different

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areas like, (1) Family, (2) Sex, (3) Interpersoml relationships, (4) Self-concept and (5) Goals.

### Procedure

Instruction was given in the printed facing sheet in Kannada on the sentence completion test with an examble to complete each sentence as quickly as possible.

#### *Stammering Description Prof or ma*

In this study stammering description proforma of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore was also used, in order to estimate the proportion of stutterers with regard to the severity of stuttering. Later the data was analysed to find out whether the composite scores differ according to the severity of stuttering.

### Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows that the stutterers as a group differ significantly from normals regarding the composite scores on, the sentence completion test indicating greater adjustment problems and so the null hypothesis needs to be rejected.

TABLE 1  
Showing the distribution of Composite scores of stutterers and non-stutterers

| Frequency distributions |          |               |                 |             |               |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Scores                  | Exp. Gr. | Control group | Total           | Expt. group | Control group |
| 52-56                   | 1        |               |                 |             |               |
| 32-34                   | 4        |               |                 |             |               |
| 28-32                   | 5        |               | N = 60          | 30          | 30            |
| 24-28                   | 5        | 1             | Mean            | 24.26       | 10.33         |
| 20-24                   | 4        | 2             |                 | 10.55;      | 5.42          |
| 16-20                   | 6        | 2             | SE <sub>D</sub> | 3.35        | signi-        |
| 12-16                   | 3        | 10            |                 |             | ficant        |
| 8-12                    | 2        | 4             |                 |             |               |
| 4-8                     | —        | 8             |                 |             |               |
| 0-4                     | —        | 3             |                 |             |               |

The test is found to come with reliable results as far as the stutterers are concerned, as the Mean of the group is significant whereas it is not so for normals.

Further analysis of scores, have revealed that among stutterers, self-concept was found to be of the largest score indicating guilt feelings, fears in family life, showing more concern about their speech problem. Interpersonal relationships is the next area affected seriously.

Normals have also indicated problems in different areas but not as much as is found in case of clinical group. Analysis of scores as per the degree of stuttering and composite scores (Table-2) reveal that in all the three groups the scores are almost same, indicating this factor may not have to do with the severity.

TABLE 2

Showing severity of stuttering and the composite scores on S.S.C.T. (K)

| Severity of<br>stuttering | Mild | Moderate | Severe |
|---------------------------|------|----------|--------|
| Mean                      | 25   | 21       | 23     |

The fact that stutterers as a group are low in self-confidence is brought out in this study and merits consideration in therapeutic approach.

This test it found to be helpful in clinical work.

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