

Meena Sharma

Supervisor: Prof. Waheeda Khan

Co-Supervisor: Prof. Manas K. Mandal

Department of Psychology

Title of the Thesis

**Neurobehavioral Study of Deception among
Adolescents**

ABSTRACT

Deception possibly has the origin with human civilization. Researchers have investigated deception by employing discrete levels of psychological stimulations at neural and behavioral levels. Investigated brain markers and behavioral elements have rarely determined real-life settings across several human developmental periods. The present study aimed at (a) developing the situation judgment scale of deception (b) assessing the psychometric properties of memory-based situation judgment scale

during deception, and (c) investigating the relationship between 'feel' and 'behave' rating scales in male and female adolescents in memory-based stimulating situations. Adolescence markers of deception are determined by identifying different components of deception in 325 school students, providing Situation Judgment Scale with memory-based scenario, and validating the scale with social desirability measures. Overall results suggested that self-deception (enhancement and denial), impression management, and behavioral (inhibition-activation, and repression-sensitization) dimensions are mainly identified in assessing deception on situation judgment scale in adolescents with high test-retest reliability and construct validity. Results also revealed that the male adolescents were more responsive to the dimensions of self-deception (enhancement and denial), impression management and behavioral dimensions with repression-sensitization and behavioral inhibition-activation. Female adolescents were more responsive to impression management and behavioral dimensions of repression-sensitization, denial and inhibition-activation. Furthermore, significant but moderate level of negative relation between 'feel' and 'behave' rating scales was observed on the repression-sensitization (male adolescents) and impression management dimensions (female adolescents). The present study findings ascertain the link between cognitive domain and behavioral elements and provide direction to neuroscientists and behaviorists to understand deception using real-life situations as a function of age and gender. Moreover, it may also be concluded that a behavioral deception scale based on cognitive domain may provide a base to standardize a tool which may represent neural processes involved in deception.

Keywords: Neural litigates, behavioural elements, memory-based scenario, behavioral dimensions.