Research Article

SEXUAL DECEPTION USED BY INDIVIDUALS TO INITIATE SEXUAL ENGAGEMENT WITH THEIR CURRENT OR POTENTIAL PARTNER

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Abstract

Sexual deception, the deliberate manipulation of information regarding one's sexual identity, preferences, and intentions, is a complex phenomenon prevalent in intimate relationships. This research aims to delve into the intricate dynamics of sexual deceit, exploring the connection between male and female perspectives in sexual relationships. The study delves into the reasons behind sexual deception, examining why males are perceived as more manipulative compared to females and how gender influences deceptive practices in sexual contexts. The paper posits that individuals utilize deceptive tactics, including sexual deception, to enhance intimacy in relationships, driven by desires for gratification, fear of rejection, and the pursuit of personal goals. Utilizing the Sexual Deception Scale developed by Marelich et al. (2008), the research uncovers insights into the different dimensions of sexual deception, including blatant lying, self-serving tactics, and avoiding confrontation. Physical beauty plays a major role in sexual deception. Lack of sex in life can cause problems like isolation, self- doubt and trust. Through a comprehensive analysis of the scale's subscales and total scores, the study sheds light on the prevalence of deceptive practices in intimate relationships and the gender disparities in manipulative behaviors.

Keywords: Trust, Isolation, Intimacy, Sexual Deception, Physical Beauty

1. Introduction

Sexual deception refers to the willing manipulation or misrepresentation of information about one's sexual identity, preferences, or intentions. This can take many different forms, such as lying about one's sexual history or health or inflating one's physical beauty or sexual experience. Sexual deceit can stem from a variety of reasons, such as the need for instant fulfilment, avoiding judgement, or obtaining social acceptance. These kinds of dishonest behaviors can happen on first dates, online, or in long-term relationships. While some people use sexual deceit to promote themselves or to get around social standards, it's critical to understand that lying about intimate topics can have unfavorable effects, including destroying trust and possibly hurting the people involved. In order to promote healthy relationships and guarantee mutual understanding and consent, open and honest communication is essential. Sexual deception can occur for a number of reasons, many of which have their roots in psychological, societal, or personal issues. The need for acceptance and approval from others is a prevalent driving force. To fit in with society's standards or to satisfy their

own desires, people may exaggerate their sexual experiences, beauty, or preferences in an effort to win over their partners or peers. Sexual deceit can also be motivated by fear of being judged, which makes people display themselves in ways they think would make them more desirable or acceptable in society. Furthermore, people may lie about who they are in order to obtain immediate gratification or to protect themselves from possible rejection. Sometimes people use deceitful tactics as a defense mechanism to participate in sexual deception because they are insecure or lack confidence. Despite the variety of reasons behind them, it is important to understand that healthy and consensual sexual relationships require open communication and honesty because lying can damage trust and have unfavorable effects on all sides. There are several reasons why people commit sexual deceit; these reasons are frequently entwined with social pressures, personal fears, or the need for quick money. Sometimes people lie about their sexual orientation in order to present themselves in a way that they think would make them more desirable or acceptable in society, out of fear of being judged. People may inflate their sexual experiences, attractiveness, or preferences in an effort to win over others' approval and validation. In addition, people may lie about who they are due to the pressure to fit in with society's expectations, especially when it comes to relationships and sex. Some people use sexual deception as a coping technique for their fears or lack of confidence, and they may use deceitful methods to protect themselves from being rejected. Some might view it as a way to get instant gratification without thinking about the long-term effects, or as a way to negotiate complicated social relationships. Sexual deceit occurs for a variety of reasons, but it always emphasizes how crucial honesty and open communication are to creating and preserving wholesome relationships. For a variety of reasons, people may use deceitful strategies and manipulative techniques to start a sexual relationship with a present or prospective partner. Fear of judgement or rejection serves as one of the main driving forces. People may exaggerate their experiences, beauty, or interests in an effort to seem more desirable or to live up to social expectations. Certain people may use manipulative strategies as a coping technique when they feel vulnerable because of insecurity and low self-esteem. Another factor that may be present is the influence of social and cultural standards on sexual behavior, which may lead people to display themselves in a way that they feel is consistent with expectations from society. Furthermore, some people priorities their immediate needs over the relationship's long-term effects in order to achieve short-term fulfilment by using manipulative techniques. Whatever the motivation, it is critical to stress the need of open communication and honesty in developing healthy, consensual sexual relationships that build mutual trust and understanding.

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Objective

- To understand a connection between male and female thinking in sexual relationship.
- To understand reasons of sexual deception.
- To explore why males are believed to be more manipulative compare to women.
- To understand how gender plays a role in sex manipulation.

2.2 Research Hypothesis

- People use sexual deception techniques for sexual intimacy in relationships.
- Females are more likely to use self-serving tactic as sexual deception.
- Males have a higher likelihood of using manipulative practices for intimacy.

3. Sample

For the study, a total of 60 samples—30 male and 30 female—were drawn from the cities of Delhi, Jaipur, Noida. Convenience sampling is the procedure used to get the sample.

4. Research Design

In this study, an empirical research design was adopted.

5. Psychological Tools

The study, which is detailed below, used one validated metrics in addition to a basic demographic assessment.

6. Demographic Assessment

Participants' age and gender are the only basic details included in the survey form.

The Sexual Deception Scale by Marelictt et al (2008): The Sexual Deception Scale (SDS) is designed to measure the use of sexual deception in intimate relationships, specifically focusing on the lies and deceptive practices individuals use to engage in sexual activity with a current or prospective partner. The SDS is composed of three subscales (Blatant Lying, Self-Serving, Avoiding Confrontation. A total score is also viable as suggested through a second-order factor analysis (Marelich et al., 2008). The Blatant Lying subscale consists of Items l, 2, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 15. The Self-Serving subscale consists of Items 4, 7 and 8. The Avoiding Combination subscale consists of Items 3, 5, 6, I0, and 14_ A total score assessing overall Sexual Deception consists of all 15 items. Interpretation is done according to the norms.

7. Result

This study aimed to study the sexual deception .

Table 1 shows the comparison between mean, standard deviation and standard error of mean by gender for sexual deception and its three subscales, namely, blatant lying, self-serving, avoiding confrontation.

The mean scores for males are .27 for blatant lying, .11 for self-serving, .33 for avoiding confrontation and .28 for sexual deception. Standard deviation is .321 for blatant lying, .162 for self-serving, .367 for avoiding confrontation and .261 for sexual deception. Standard error of mean is .083 for blatant lying, .042 for self-serving, .095 for avoiding confrontation and .067 for sexual deception.

The mean scores for females are .15 for blatant lying, .26 for self-serving, .23 for avoiding confrontation and .17 for sexual deception. Standard deviation is .190 for blatant lying, .258 for self-serving, .281 for avoiding confrontation and .176 for sexual deception. Standard error of mean is .049 for blatant lying, .066 for self-serving, .072 for avoiding confrontation and .045 for sexual deception.

The combined mean scores for males and females are .21 for blatant lying, .18 for self-serving, .28 for avoiding confrontation and .23 for sexual deception. Standard deviation is .267 for blatant lying, .226 for self-serving, .326 for avoiding confrontation and .226 for sexual deception. Standard error of mean is .048 for blatant lying, .041 for self-serving, .059 for avoiding confrontation and .041 for sexual deception.

Table 1: Comparing Mean, Standard Deviation and Standard Error of Mean by Gender

Gender		Blatant Lying	Self-serving	Avoiding Confrontation	Sexual Deception
Male	Mean	.27	.11	.33	.28
	SD	.321	.162	.367	.261
	Std. Error	.083	.042	.095	.067
Female	Mean	.15	.26	.23	.17
	SD	.190	.258	.281	.176
	Std. Error	.049	.066	.072	.045
Total	Mean	.21	.18	.28	.23
	SD	.267	.226	.326	.226
	Std. Error	.048	.041	.059	.041

The mean scores for blatant lying are .27 for males and .15 for females. Statistically, we can infer that blatant lying is used as a sexual deception technique by males more than females.

The mean scores for self-serving are .11 for males and .26 for females. From the data found we can conclude that self-serving tactic is used for sexual deception comparatively more by females.

Therefore, the hypothesis that females are more likely to use self-serving tactic as sexual deception is proved.

The mean scores for avoiding confrontation are .33 and .23 for males and females respectively. The empirical data shows that avoiding confrontation is seen more in males than in females.

The combined mean scores for sexual deception are .28 for males and .17 for females indicating more use of sexual deception techniques by males as compared to females.

Therefore, the hypothesis that people use sexual deception techniques for sexual intimacy in relationships is proved statistically.

Furthermore, the hypothesis that specific groups, such as males are more likely to manipulate for sexual intimacy is found true for blatant lying and avoiding confrontation. While females are likely to use self-serving as a deceptive technique. Combined mean scores suggest males are more manipulative as compared to females. Henceforth, the hypothesis is partially supported.

8. Discussion

This paper digs into the fascinating world of deceit within the framework of interpersonal relationships, with a special emphasis on gender variations in a variety of deceptive strategies and the possible reasons behind them, with regard to sexual intimacy.

The report reveals gender differences in deceptive tactics, with males using blatant lying more frequently and females resorting to self-serving tactics. Males also avoid confrontation more and demonstrate higher levels of sexual deception.

This suggests that traditional gender norms may encourage assertive, risk-taking behaviors, while females may use subtler, relationship-preserving strategies. The report suggests that individuals use deceptive tactics, particularly sexual deception, to enhance intimacy in relationships. This aligns with psychological theories that emphasize the importance of intimacy in relationships. Sexual deception is a complex interplay of desire, fear of rejection, and personal gratification, driven by psychological needs and motivations to fulfill sexual desires, avoid conflict, and maintain intimacy. The report highlights gender differences in deceptive tactics and the complexity of sexual relationships, highlighting the need for healthier communication and trust-building strategies. It also underscores the importance of open and honest communication in fostering genuine intimacy and satisfaction, thereby enhancing interpersonal dynamics and relationship satisfaction. This study has limitations, such as self-report measures and social desirability bias. Future research should use diverse samples and longitudinal designs to understand deceptive behaviors over time. Investigating psychological mechanisms like attachment styles and sociosexual orientation could provide deeper insights into sexual deception dynamics.

This report provides insights into the complex relationship dynamics between gender, deception, and sexual intimacy, suggesting that understanding deceptive behaviors can help psychologists improve honesty, trust, and intimacy.

9. Conclusion

Whole of the data collection and data analysis process provides us with valuable insights about the deceptive and manipulative practices used by people, differences between males and females using such practices and statistical significance of gender differences. The paper posits that individuals utilize deceptive tactics, including sexual deception, to enhance intimacy in relationships, driven by desires for gratification, fear of rejection, and the pursuit of personal goals. The results confirm the

use of sexual deception techniques for intimacy. Also, females are more likely to use self-serving as a tactic for maintaining an intimate relationship. The hypothesis that males have a higher likelihood of using manipulative practices for intimacy was confirmed by the comparison of mean. Further researches on the topic can help gain in-depth understanding.

Conflict of Interest: None

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