

The Relationship of Basic School Skills and Psychological Characteristics in Roma

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Introduction: The relationship between basic educational skills and psychological characteristics in Roma is not fully explored.

Objectives: This study examined the potential association among basic skills of reading and writing and psychopathology, shame, hostility and anxiety as trait in Romani community members.

Aims: To test the link between basic school skills and psychological characteristics in Roma citizenships in Greece.

Methods: In this study 361 Roma residents in region of Greece were participated. The sample consisted of 125 men and 236 women with mean age 34 years (SD = 13, ranged 18-73) The participants completed: a) a question for the recording of social-demographic characteristics a) The Symptom Checklist-90-Revised, b) The Other as Shamer Scale, c) The Experience of Shame Scale, d) The Hostility and Direction of Hostility Questionnaire, and e) The State-Trait Anxiety Inventory.

Results: One hundred thirty two out of 361 Roma have the skill of reading while 131 out of those have the ability to writing. There were no statistical significant differences between the two sexes (reading $p=.094$ and writing $p=.127$) We did not found any significant associations among the skill of reading and the psychological characteristics that investigated in the present study, by using general linear models (MANCOVA). Regarding skills of writing statistical significant associations were found in terms of depression ($p<.05$) and trait anxiety ($p<.05$).

Conclusions: The analysis of Roma education related to their psychological profile is important, as it tries to reveal the ambivalence of the psychological situation in which the Gypsies may exist.