Narcissism and Social Harmony

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Introduction

In this study, the authors wanted to see if people could be influenced by paragraph readings. One paragraph which was written from a narcissist perspective and the other from a social harmony perspective.

It was hypothesized the participants who read the narcissistic paragraph would score higher in narcissism than those participants who read the social harmony paragraph.

Using the NPI-16 test as a scale to measure narcissism, a person who scored lower on the NPI-16 would exhibit empathy and thoughtfulness towards others. Those individuals who scored higher on the narcissism scale would exhibit more self-serving and manipulative type behavior.

Methods

Forty undergraduate students participated in a survey using a provided link to the website survey monkey.

After receiving voluntary consent, participants were assigned one of two surveys based on birth year, either odd or even.

The odd year birth participants read a paragraph containing narcissistic content and the even year birth participants read a social harmony paragraph.

After the paragraph was read, participants completed five basic math problems as a distractor task.

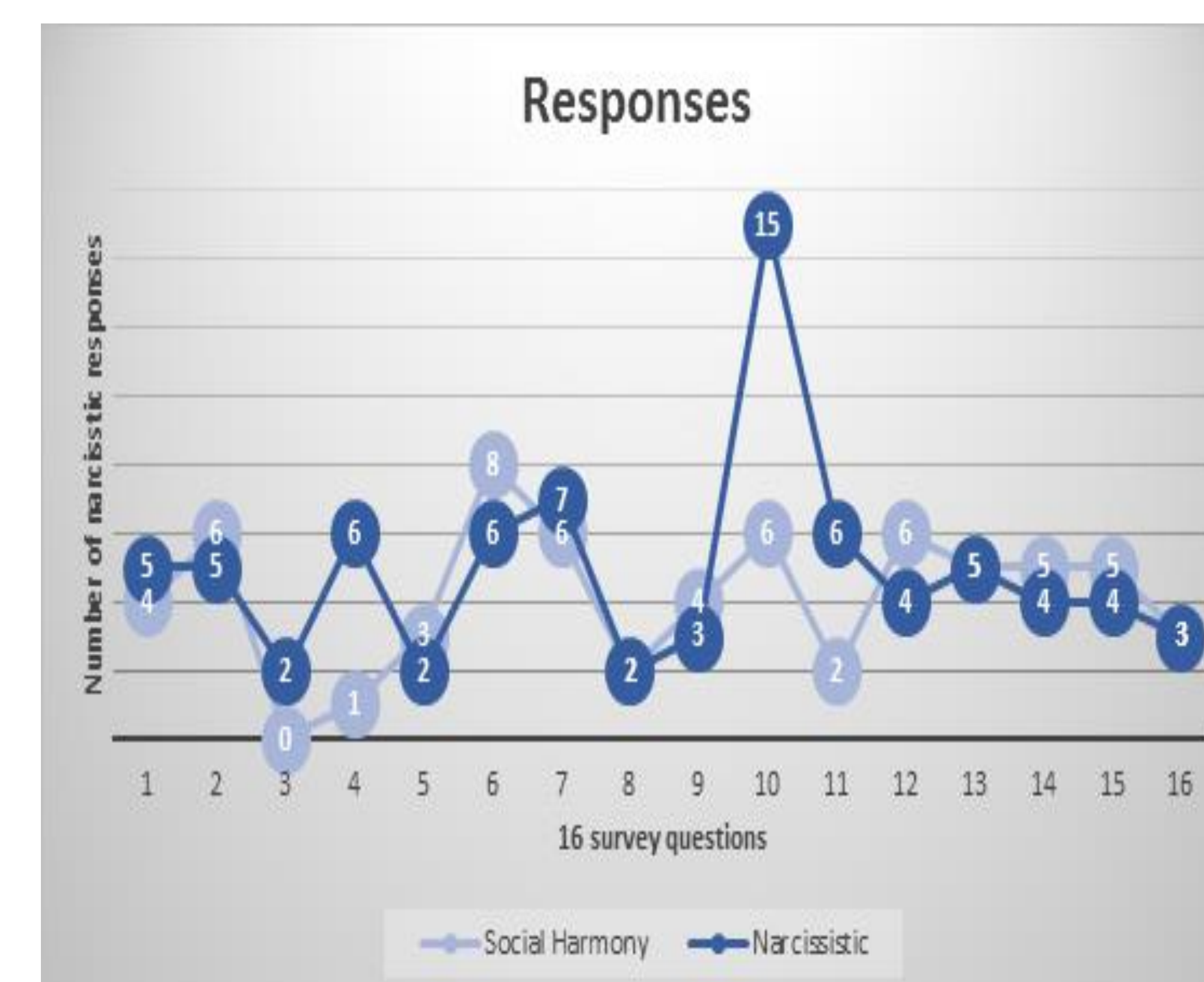Participants were then asked a series of 16 questions using the NPI-16 to measure narcissism.

Results

The results of the 40 participants answers, 20 in each group, were totaled based on the narcissistic responses.

A t-test was used to determine if the paragraph read had an effect on the narcissism scale.

As hypothesized, the group who read the narcissistic paragraph responded higher on the narcissism scale than participants who read the social harmony paragraph.

Figure #1

Conclusions

In conclusion, our study showed that participants were influenced by reading the narcissistic paragraph.

The finding of connections between narcissism, and social harmony raises the possibility that students could benefit from increasing their overall knowledge of social harmony as part of their education process.

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