THE EMERGENCE OF 'EMPTY RELATIONSHIPS' IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SOCIETY

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Abstract

The study was conducted to understand how the empty relationship can be developed through the four elements including loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belonging. Moreover, the study is basically an objective ontological research and hence employed quantitative paradigm in order to understand the empty relationship phenomenon empirically. Hence, research questionnaire was designed and quantitative data representing 110+ respondents was collected from mainly well-educated and working individuals because, it was the researcher's belief that the phenomenon can be analyzed appropriately by those having knowledge of pragmatic affairs of life. Then, the collected research data was analyzed through descriptive and inferential analysis and subsequently, it was found that, majority of respondents were agreed that, loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belonging form an empty relationship. However, when the individual hypothesis was tested, it was observed that, loss of empathy, personal interest and specific belonging, all three have significant but weak relationship with empty relationship phenomenon while, financial rationality has found no significant relationship with the empty relationship phenomenon. However, when the all four were merged and regarded as a whole, then, it was found that, they correlate significantly and positively with empty relationship phenomenon. Finally, the study concluded that, the four independent variables of the study do contribute in understanding the empty relationship phenomenon and the emergence of empty relationships in the future can lead towards creating an anomic, toxic and chaotic 21st century society.

1. Introduction

The study is conducted to understand the concept of an empty relationship and how the empty relationships have hollowed the lives of 21st century individuals. The concept has been analyzed through loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belonging. The relationship formation and its importance are as old as the primitive times when human beings were not called humans but, rather *Australopithecus africanus* (Dunsworth, 2010). The need for humans to form alliances and craving to meet and live with each other has evolved, since the ancient times till the modern society today. But, the twist in the whole milieu is that, the relationship core has been changed from being internally satisfying to externally rewarding. The relationships were built in the primitive and older times, not based solely on personal interest or the gain from having it, but to render the passion, compassion and tenderness towards the other community members (Vanlear, 1987). Although, nowadays, the scenario of relationships has been changed and the relationships are considered to be hollowed from their very internal core due to the emergence of sudden burst of technological revolution and rapid industrialization around the globe after the end of Second World War in the second half of 20th century (Vickers & Ziebarthb, 2019). Actually, a relationship is basically an act of association between two or more than two individuals and it is attributed through constant, stable and recurrent interaction between or among multiple actors. But, relationship building is also regarded as a social process through which, an individual interacts with the outer world through his/her communicative art (Farooqi, 2014). Relationship building is however, embedded into the concept of socialization, hence, socialization process contributes significantly into the personality development and the formation of different values, behaviors and attitudes, those eventually shape the whole society. The process of socialization has been evolving since the primitive days till the modern times, so does the social values, norms and trends but, it always has the adaptive capacity to glue the members of the society in one way or another. The first one to give this idea of socialization was Charles Darwin in 1859 and subsequently, Herbert Spencer included his idea of natural selection and used that to understand the nature of human society back in 19th century (Freeman *et al*., 1974). But, the idea that, some humans are better than others because, they are more adaptive to their external environment didn't last longer as, the idea was discarded by biological scientists first and then the social scientists as well. Then emerged the concept of culture and its influence on the human behavior by Socio-biologists- a prominent among them was Edward O. Wilson. He was the one who argued that, human nature is the expression of some sort of genetic settings. However, the theory that, genes are the sources of human nature is rejected soon by an anthropologist Marvin Harris, who argued that, culture determines and influences over human behavior more than one's genes (Freeman *et al*., 1974). However, the debate upon this concept regarding which is dominant, nature or nurture started and that still exists in today's research spheres. However, today's society is influenced through values and trends of hybrid consumerism- a

philosophy to find the satisfaction of one's self through consumption (Ehrnrooth& Gronroos, 2013). The consumption and acquisition of goods and luxury items has taken the core importance in the society at the expense of care, love and compassion for others. The modern society members are not living and making relationships based on solely as it happens in ancient times, character, intelligence and family background but, on the objective gain of the relationship especially in the form of monetary and social, political or moral aspect (Roach *et al*., 2018). The subjective benefit and obligation against each other in the human society has been replaced with one's objective gain especially in terms of finance. Hence, in today's world, technology and hybrid consumerism and subsequently, the identity formation through the acquisition and use of different commodities has become the general norm and that created the "vacuum" in which, the concept of empty relationship has been developed. Empty relationship is defined as the kind of relationship that is without mutual reciprocity, one's subjective understanding, mutual well-being, mutual respect, mutual growth and development but, it is just a sort of an association, that is solely based on the concept of objective or subjective gain whether social, financial, political, personal or moral.

1.2 Problem Statement

The world has moved from the traditional society to a modern one in which, commodities play a more lively and significant role than the bonding and bridging within one's circle. According to National Survey of Drug Use and Health(NSDUH) in USA, there is a considerable increase in mental health diseases in young adults in USA and the main cause of those, can be found in the social settings of one's home(Mojtabi *et al*., 2016). The youngsters feel more isolated, detached and depressed because, there is lack of options available in their social circle whom they can rely upon and share their distress, internal chaos and etc. According to World Health Organization (WHO), almost 4% of world population is showing the symptoms of depression, it is the second most defining cause of suicide in the world and the millennial are considered to be more depressed than their older counterparts due to reasons like lower hours of sleep, lack of physical social connections and engagement in communal gatherings and events (WHO report, 2017). Hence, the researcher has identified the concept of "Empty relationships" as the key to one's physical and mental health and it is an established fact and proved by many psychologists that, people having more cordial and healthy relationships enjoy better physical and mental health and at the same time, they are less prone to serious medical issues like heart arteries blockage, high blood pressure and high blood sugar. The researcher has therefore taken the concept of "Empty relationships" in terms of loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belongings in order to comprehend its impact on any given society and how, the forming of meaningful relationships can play a key role in the betterment of one's life and the society as a whole.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To find out how loss of empathy in one's relationship can form an empty relationship and how that influences on one's life

2. To explore the importance of personal interest in forming relationship and how an empty relationship is formed in terms of personal interest.

3. To understand the concept of financial rationality in any relationship and the role of financial rationality in the formation of an empty relationship

4. To comprehend the concept of specific belonging and how specific belonging forms an empty relationship

5. To explore fully the concept of an empty relationship as a whole and its implications for the society at large

1.4 Hypotheses of the Study

H1= There is a significant relationship between loss of empathy in any relationship and the formation of an empty relationship

H2= There is a significant relationship between personal interest in any relationship and the formation of an empty relationship

H3= There is a significant relationship between financial rationality and the formation of an empty relationship

H4= There is a significant relationship between specific belonging and the formation of an empty relationship

2. Literature Review

There is not much scholarly work done that has been carried out in the field of empty relationships but, there are some theories and researches important to be taken into account. Normally, the definition of relations were quite limited on only dyadic kinds of relations especially the romantic and intimate ones but, it was Hamilton(2007) who while doing research on relations provided very useful definition as it is an "ability to interact effectively with diverse others in a variety of situations (Hamilton, 2007, p. 5). This definition, not only includes dyadic nature of relationships but all those ones, made by an

individual either to survive, progress or become social entity in the world. The relationship building is as old as ancient times, when an infant needs the parents or caregivers to survive and thrive in its life but, its nature has been evolved since then, and it has become a complicated array in which, different kinds do color their importance. But, basically an individual is a self who has inferred through his environment the image of itself and that is initially theorized by Bowlby in 1950s and categorized by his colleague Ainsworth's in 1978 through three categories, Secure, Avoidant and Resistant and then another scholar named Main provided fourth category- Disorganized (Scharfe, 2017). But, the attachment theory was the one that provided the basis for the internal psychological mechanisms or internal working models based upon which, one's personality is developed. The adults classification based on the theory of attachment was further enhanced by Bartholomew in 1990 by streamlining those classifications through a four group survey called Relationship scale questionnaire (RSQ). The RSQ was conducted to analyze four types of personalities as Secure, Fearful, Pre-occupied and Dismissing (Scharfe, 2017). This research that is why has chosen the theory of attachment and the subsequent research done on the topic in order to develop the empty relationship questionnaire and also to understand how different individuals who feel secure, fearful, pre-occupied and dismissing play their role in developing and maintaining their close and not so close relationships. In addition to that, secure individuals are mainly those, who think and evaluate themselves as worthy, confident and possess high self-esteem and hence, regard others also as trustworthy and supportive. Those

individuals can achieve better self and inter-personal targets due to more positivity in their lives. While, pre-occupied are those ones, who have negative evaluation of their self but, however positive image of others as mentioned by Bowlby through arguing about "Defensive exclusion" mechanism (Bretherton & Munholland, 2008). That kind of individuals is less likely to achieve their social and economic targets due to having contradictory self-images. Similarly, Bartholomew (1990) defined fearful individuals as those having negative image of their self and others as well and those who regard themselves as unworthy susceptible to mental and personality disorders e.g. neuroticism. Moreover, they have hard time trusting their own self and trusting others, hence live in constant suspicion. Although, dismissing individuals are the ones, actually quite similar to pre-occupied ones but, different in their psychological processing as, having high positive image of themselves, high confidence and self-esteem but, they find it difficult while trusting others and making relationships whether temporary or permanent (Scharfe, 2017). However, Bowlby (1951, 1969/1991) and subsequent scholars like Main *et al*. (1985), Hazan and Shaver (1987), Bartholomew (1990) provided the detailed account of attachment theory and mentioning that, how one's attachment whether a child attachment with its parent or an adult attachment with any other personality determines his or her own personality and how that influences on its ability to form relationships. But, the important aspect of how situations or culture mould that dyadic or triadic relationship, that is left wide open by above psychologists but covered by social psychologists like John Thibaut and Harold Kelley in 1959,

however not comprehensively but, although partially through their theory of interdependence, that was further elaborated by Kelley *et al*., (2003) into a complete comprehensive social interaction theory. It was Interdependence theory, which informed us about how an individual self contributes into the interaction with any other individual through its own aspirations, motives and the prediction of outcomes. The theory has been analyzed through its structure, interdependence processes, social interaction and adaptation. It is a fact that, most humans spend their most of the time in the presence of others so, it is natural that, they have to interact and understand those others in order to live and progress in this world. Hence, the importance of inter-personal communication becomes vital (Rusbult & Lange, 2003). The interdependence theory provides the foundation based upon which the mutual interaction mechanism can be explained and understood in order to communicate and live effectively and efficiently. Its structure based on matrices and transition lists, those are used to explore how the interaction between two people impacts on each other's' outcome and how each other's' internal self contributes into the interaction and how the situation or the circumstances play its role in the interaction. For example, Person A, if having satisfactory relationship with Person B depends on whether person A achieves his/her relationship outcomes and vice versa and whether the situation makes it possible. The interpersonal structure is dependent upon level of dependence, mutuality of dependence, co-variation of interests and temporal structure (Rusbult & Lange, 2008). Hence, the interpersonal structure is the core of the interdependence theory as it provides the basic foundation to that theory, upon

which, the interpersonal processes can be carried out. The first and foremost important interdependence process is transformation when there are two kinds of preferences available and the person choose the effective preference over the given one in order to have long term relationship with other person and to foresee the greater good in the relationship. The transformation happens whether Person A considers his aims, goals and aspiration along with Person B aims, goals and aspiration before making any decision or not. The other interdependence processes include cognition, habit, communication, attribution and self-presentation. Social interaction implies how the members of the society in which we dwell in impacts on our own personal interaction with others. It is similar to how child interaction is influenced through his parents' interaction with each other. The social interaction as per given theory has at least six orientations, altruism, cooperation, equality, individualism, competition, and aggression (Rusbult & Lange, 2012). Adaptation is the human second nature, if one behaves in a particular mode and achieves its desired outcome then, structure of communication in that given situation is fixed in one's mind and next time if encountered by similar situation, the person will behave in similar fashion, however, if the same person yields negative outcome, he/she will switch to some other communication structure that can yield positive outcome (Rusbult & Lange, 2012).The two theories attachment theory and interdependence theory have guided this study and helped to choose independent variables like loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belonging. The loss of empathy has taken from the attachment theory

when one has lost faith into any kind of relationship and doesn't care about other individual whether a relative or friend. The loss of empathy means an individual in question doesn't understand or try to find out regarding other individual problems, goals, aims and objectives. The idea of personal interest has been taken from the interdependence theory while, it explains about individual personal aims and goals and how that can impact on the inter-personal relationship between two individuals. The financial rationality has also taken from the interdependence theory because; it explains how the behavior and attitude changes with one's situation, objectives and outcomes. Moreover, financial rationality implies here that, an individual makes a relationship based purely on some objective achievement whether social, financial, political or personal. The last independent variable to elaborate the concept of empty relationship was specific belonging and that was extracted from the attachment theory regarding how a specific belonging can shape one's behavior and why some individuals would like to attach with only some other individuals in their life span. These all variables are used by the researcher to comprehend the concept of "Empty relationships" and how those relationships can shape the 21st century society at large.

3. Research Methodology

The research methodology usually starts with deciding the particular ontological and epistemological stance and then choosing particular research paradigm and research method. Hence, Amakiri & Juliet (2018) argued that, the choice of particular ontological stance is dependent upon whether researcher is interested to investigate the phenomenon objectively or subjectively. Crotty

(1998) therefore mentioned that, ontology and epistemology both are dependent and interrelated because; subjective worldview can lead towards choosing the qualitative paradigm and objective worldview, the opposite quantitative one. As, the research topic is although uncommon by all means but, can be objectively observed, hence the researcher has chosen objective ontological stance and quantitative paradigm in order to analyze the phenomenon of empty relationship. The researcher has chosen quantitative paradigm over the qualitative one because, he is interested to analyze the empty relationship phenomenon objectively in order to understand its deeper impact in the society in concrete way. Hence, the study is based upon positivist philosophy as it is a kind of a peculiar research that has taken the normally used natural sciences epistemology, however used in the domain of social sciences while observing the phenomenon of the empty relationship and then collecting data regarding the phenomenon to infer the final conclusion (Pham, 2018). The researcher has hence, not used any theory to support his research conclusion or results but he rather chooses to find about empty relationship based on the results of the data analysis. Moreover, the researcher has used non-probabilistic convenience sampling in order to access and collect data as, the type of sampling suits the research objectives of getting and accessing data from specific people, who are mostly mature adults and having experience in pragmatic affairs of life. Moreover, the research is basically a cross-sectional descriptive study as it tries to evaluate the present situation of the phenomenon of empty relationship and its importance in the current society of Pakistan

and then suggest that, the results of this study could be replicated in different societies around the world. However, the researcher has taken the research data from 110+ educated and mostly working individuals through two ways, Google online survey and self-administrated questionnaires, in order to find importance of the concept in detail. Moreover, the reliability of the questionnaire is found satisfactory through SPSS Cronbacha's alpha. Finally, the gathered data is analyzed through SPSS as well in order to either approve or disapprove the individual research hypothesis.

4. Results Analysis

The results of this study will be analyzed through two ways descriptive and inferential analysis. The descriptive analysis is used to find the trends in the data and how the respondents have reacted to the multiple questions in the survey. It is the way to find the majority respondents' thinking pattern or the majority direction with respect of individual survey questions. However, on the other hand, inferential analysis is used mainly to find the relationship between two individual variables in order to test the research hypothesis. It is the kind of analysis used to either approve or disapprove the research hypothesis after hypothesis testing. This research has hence, included the descriptive analysis through SPSS in order to show the majority respondents' thinking pattern and to find multiple trends in the data. Moreover, the inferential analysis is used through SPSS in order to either approve or disapprove the individual research hypothesis and to find out ultimately that, whether the variables however individual or combined form the empty relationship.

4.1 Descriptive Analysis

Demographics

Question No.1

4.1.1 What is your Age?

Table 1: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.1

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	25-30	54	45.8	45.8	45.8
	30-35	27	22.9	22.9	68.6
	35-40	22	18.6	18.6	87.3
	40-45	13	11.0	11.0	98.3
	45-50	2	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The above data (as shown in Table no. 1) highlights that, two-thirds of the respondents included in the study are below 35 hence, this describes that, mostly young people are included in the study.

Question No.2

4.1.2 What is your Gender?

Table 2: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.2

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	56	47.5	47.5	47.5
	Female	62	52.5	52.5	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The above data (Table no.2) shows that, there is a slight imbalance in the gender representation of the study as there are 5% more females included in the study than their male counterparts.

Question No.3

4.1.3 What is your Occupation?

Table 3: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.3

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Students(Full-time student or those doing a part-time job with the full-time study)	34	28.8	28.8	28.8
	Full-time employees(working for any Private, Govt, Semi-Govt or any other type of organization)	80	67.8	67.8	96.6
	Businessmen (those having their own small or big business etc.)	2	1.7	1.7	98.3
	Freelancers(working for single/multiple projects for a short or long time)	2	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The data in Table no.3 shows that, two-thirds of the respondents included are working individuals hence; this confirms researcher's assertion of choosing only those respondents well familiar with the pragmatic affairs of the life.

4.2 Important Survey Questions

4.2.1 Question No.4

It is quite important to understand the goals, aims, and objectives of any other person related to you by anyway- Parent, Brother, Sister, Friend, and Colleague, etc.

Table 4: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.4

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	4	3.4	3.4	3.4
	Disagree	5	4.2	4.2	7.6
	No Idea	7	5.9	5.9	13.6
	Agree	53	44.9	44.9	58.5
	Strongly Agree	49	41.5	41.5	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: This question data (Table no.4) shows that, more than 80% respondents agreed on the idea that, it is important to understand one's goals, aims and objectives.

4.2.2 Question No.5

It is quite important to build a relationship with any other person (close or not close) regardless of any self-interest- financial, social or any other kind.

Table 5: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.5

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	5	4.2	4.2	4.2
	Disagree	18	15.3	15.3	19.5
	No Idea	15	12.7	12.7	32.2
	Agree	52	44.1	44.1	76.3
	Strongly Agree	28	23.7	23.7	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The above data (Table no.5) shows that, two-thirds of the respondents agreed on the idea that, it is important to build a relationship with any other person whether close or not close. However, almost 20% also disagreed with the notion as well.

4.2.3 Question No.6

It is quite necessary to weigh relationship with any other person (close/not close) based on purely cost/benefit analysis.

Table 6: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.6

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	36	30.5	30.5	30.5
	Disagree	48	40.7	40.7	71.2
	No Idea	15	12.7	12.7	83.9
	Agree	17	14.4	14.4	98.3
	Strongly Agree	2	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The above data (Table no.6) shows that, more than 70% respondents disagreed with the perception that, it is essential to weigh relationship based on cost/benefit analysis. However, more than 15% agreed with the idea as well.

4.2.4 Question No.7: It is necessary to build and maintain a relationship with any other person purely based on personal financial gain.

Table 7: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.7

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	44	37.3	37.3	37.3
	Disagree	51	43.2	43.2	80.5
	No Idea	6	5.1	5.1	85.6
	Agree	13	11.0	11.0	96.6
	Strongly Agree	4	3.4	3.4	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The question data (Table no.7) shows that, 80% respondents disagreed with the idea that, one should maintain a relationship based on purely personal financial gain. However, 14% disagreed with the notion as well.

4.2.5 Question No. 8

It is not necessary to build and maintain a relationship with other individuals in society (close/far) without any kind of gain- Financial, Social, Moral, Political, etc.

Table 8: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.8

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	19	16.1	16.1	16.1
	Disagree	47	39.8	39.8	55.9
	No Idea	16	13.6	13.6	69.5
	Agree	30	25.4	25.4	94.9
	Strongly Agree	6	5.1	5.1	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The above data (Table no.8) shows that, 55% of the respondents disagreed with the idea that, it is not necessary to build and maintain a relationship in the society without any kind of gain. However, 30% agreed with the notion that, it is not essential that, one should build and maintain a relationship in the society without getting any kind of gain.

4.2.6 Question No. 9

Do the loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality, specific belonging form an empty relationship?

Table 9: Explaining the descriptive analysis of Question No.9

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	4	3.4	3.4	3.4
	Disagree	6	5.1	5.1	8.5
	No Idea	33	28.0	28.0	36.4
	Agree	60	50.8	50.8	87.3
	Strongly Agree	15	12.7	12.7	100.0
	Total	118	100.0	100.0	

Analysis: The above question data (Table no.9) shows that, slightly more than 60% of the respondents agreed that, loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belongings form an empty relationship. However, interestingly, 28% had no idea whether they form an empty relationship or not and 8% disagreed with the notion as well.

4.3 Inferential Analysis

Hypothesis Testing

4.3.1 Hypothesis 1

H1= There is a significant relationship between loss of empathy in any relationship and the formation of an empty relationship

Table 10: Explaining the Pearson Correlation of Hypothesis 1

		Loss Of Empathy	Empty Relationship
Loss Of Empathy	Pearson Correlation	1	.208[*]
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.024
	N	118	118
Empty Relationship	Pearson Correlation	.208[*]	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.024	
	N	118	118

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 11: Explaining the Spearman's Correlation of Hypothesis 1

			Loss Of Empathy	Empty Relationship
Spearman's rho	Loss Of Empathy	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.205[*]
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.026
		N	118	118
	Empty Relationship	Correlation Coefficient	.205[*]	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.026	.
		N	118	118

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Analysis: The two correlation tests Pearson and Spearman was conducted in order to find significant relationship between loss of empathy and empty relationship and therefore, it was observed at the end that, there is a weak significant relationship between the two as strength of association is below 25% and p value is also 2 %(as shown in Table 10 & 11). However, the first hypothesis is accepted.

4.3.2 Hypothesis 2

H2= There is a significant relationship between personal interest in any relationship and the formation of an empty relationship.

Table 12: Explaining the Pearson Correlation of Hypothesis 2

		Personal Interest	Empty Relationship
Personal Interest	Pearson Correlation	1	.207[*]
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.025
	N	118	118
Empty Relationship	Pearson Correlation	.207[*]	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.025	
	N	118	118

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 13: Explaining the Spearman's Correlation of Hypothesis 2

			Personal Interest	Empty Relationship
Spearman's rho	Personal Interest	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.085
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.362
		N	118	118
	Empty Relationship	Correlation Coefficient	.085	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.362	.
		N	118	118

Analysis: The correlation tests Pearson and Spearman was conducted to find significant relationship between personal interest and empty relationship and hence, it was found that, there is a significant relationship between the personal interest and empty relationship. However, only Pearson confirmed the relationship while Spearman didn't exhibit the same (as shown in Table 13). But, the strength of association found is also weak as the strength is below 25% with p value of 2 %(as shown in Table 12). In addition to that, it can be said at the end that, the hypothesis is accepted.

4.3.3 Hypothesis 3

H3= There is a significant relationship between financial rationality and the formation of an empty relationship

Table 14: Explaining the Pearson Correlation of Hypothesis 3

		Financial Rationality	**Empty Relationship**
Financial Rationality	Pearson Correlation	1	-.037
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.692
	N	118	118
Empty Relationship	Pearson Correlation	-.037	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.692	
	N	118	118

Table 15: Explaining the Spearman's Correlation of Hypothesis 3

			Financial Rationality	Empty Relationship
Spearman's rho	Financial Rationality	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	-.032
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.731
		N	118	118
	Empty Relationship	Correlation Coefficient	-.032	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.731	.
		N	118	118

Analysis: The same two tests Pearson and Spearman were conducted in order to find the significant relationship between financial rationality and empty relationship. It was found ultimately that, there is no significant relationship between the two (as shown in Table 14 & 15) however; the association is negative in nature hence it implies that, if there would be a significant relationship between the two, it could be opposite in nature meaning that, more financial rationality will lead towards creating less empty relationship at the end. However, it can be concluded that, the hypothesis is rejected.

4.3.4 Hypothesis 4

H4= There is a significant relationship between specific belonging and the formation of an empty relationship

Table 16: Explaining the Pearson Correlation of Hypothesis 4

		Specific Belonging	Empty Relationship
Specific Belonging	Pearson Correlation	1	.319**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	118	118
Empty Relationship	Pearson Correlation	.319**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	118	118

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 17: Explaining the Spearman's Correlation of Hypothesis 4

			Specific Belonging	Empty Relationship
Spearman's rho	Specific Belonging	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.224*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.015
		N	118	118
	Empty Relationship	Correlation Coefficient	.224*	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.015	.
		N	118	118

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The two tests Pearson and Spearman Correlation tests (Table 16 & 17) were conducted in order to find the relationship between specific belongings and empty relationship. It was found that, there is a significant relationship between the specific belongings and empty relationship however, the strength of association is weak in nature as it is slightly over 30% in Pearson test and less than 25% in Spearman test. The p value however is 0 and 1%. But, it can be concluded that, the hypothesis is accepted.

The final tests (as shown in Table 18 & 19) were conducted in order to find out empirically that whether the independent variables (loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belongings) as a whole, validates the formation of an empty relationship or otherwise. Subsequently, it was found at the end that, the independent variables do correlate positively as a whole with empty relationship phenomenon however; the association is weak in nature by all means.

4.3.5 Cumulative Result

Table 18: Explaining the Pearson Correlation of Cumulative Result

		Independent Variables	Empty Relationship
Independent Variables	Pearson Correlation	1	.272**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.003
	N	118	118
Empty Relationship	Pearson Correlation	.272**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	
	N	118	118

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 19: Explaining the Spearman's Correlation of Cumulative Result

			Independent Variables	Empty Relationship
Spearman's rho	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.193[*]
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.036
		N	118	118
	Empty Relationship	Correlation Coefficient	.193[*]	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.036	.
		N	118	118

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

4.4 Discussion

The research is conducted in order to understand a rather new phenomenon of empty relationships through the objective analysis of four independent variables namely loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belongings. The research is basically a quantitative research with particular emphasis on objective worldview and focusing particularly on full time employees and full time students for data collection. The research is guided through two main theories attachment theory and interdependence theory. The attachment theory guides towards the independent variables by hinting that, the individual personality is developed through the internal working model and that eventually becomes the basis for the classification of personalities (Secure, Fearful, Pre-occupied and dismissing)(Scharfe, 2017). That classification can lead towards exploring regarding the formation of multiple relationships and by guiding towards a mechanism through which expectations and reciprocity is maintained. However, Independent theory as argued by Rusbult &Lange (2003) informed the researcher that, the individual is self-motivated while making any kind of relationship with others, he/she has its own motivation, aspirations and a particular expectation of an

outcome and that encourages an individual to interact with multiple kind of individuals and that doesn't happen in a vacuum but, through a independence structure and the formation of that structure includes number of variables including level of dependence, mutuality of dependence, co-variation of interests and temporal structure. Hence, the two theories provided the foundation for the researcher to think about four independent variables (loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belongings) and then find their respective association with the phenomenon of empty relationship. Subsequently, the close-ended questionnaire was developed to evaluate objectively the four variables and their respective association with empty relationship. The multiple questions related with five variables were asked in order to evaluate them objectively. The majority of respondents included in the data collection were lesser than 40 years of age with slightly more number of females than males. Moreover, two-third of them was full time employees and remaining majority belonged to full time students. However, while asking regarding whether one should understand the goals, aims and objectives of any other person, more than 85% respondents agreed with the idea. While, it was asked from the

respondents regarding whether one should develop a close/not close relationship without any self-interest, majority of them nodded with "yes" but, almost 20% disagreed and asserted that, there is no need to develop such a relationship without any self-interest. Moreover, when it was asked regarding whether it is necessary to weigh any relationship based on purely cost-benefit analysis, more than 70% of the respondents disagreed with the idea while, slightly over 15% also agreed with the notion that, it is necessary to weigh any relationship based on purely cost-benefit analysis. Similarly when asked regarding whether one should make a relationship in order to get any personal financial gain, 80% of the respondents disagreed with the notion while, 14% agreed with the idea as well. In addition to that, when it was asked from the study respondents that, it is not important to develop a relationship with any other person without any kind of gain whether financial, social and political or otherwise, only 55% disagreed, however 30% agreed with the perception along with those 13%, who had no idea about subject matter. Finally, when it was asked regarding whether loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality and specific belongings form an empty relationship or not, 63% agreed that, they do form an empty relationship, however, 28% meaning more than one-fourth of the respondents had no idea regarding the issue with only 8% disagreed with the perception. Nevertheless, it can be concluded from the descriptive analysis of the survey questions that, most of the respondents understand the concept of empty relationship and do agree in one or another that, loss of empathy; personal interest, financial rationality and specific belongings form an empty relationship. The similar results somehow can be

drawn from the inferential analysis of the study data, when the Pearson and Spearman tests were conducted to either approve or disapprove individual hypothesis. When the two variables loss of empathy and empty relationship were analyzed through two tests, it was observed that, there is a significant relationship between the both; however, the relationship was weak in nature as the strength of association was only 20%. While, the two similar tests were conducted to find whether there is a significant relationship between personal interest and empty relationship, it was found through the Pearson test only that, there is a significant relationship between the personal interest and empty relationship; however the strength of association is found to be 20% only hence weak in nature. Similarly, when the researcher tried to find the significant relationship between financial rationality and empty relationship, he found that, there is no significant relationship between the two, but the association is also found to be negative, hence it implies that, if there could be a relationship between the two, it would have been inverse, meaning that more financial rationality will lead towards having less empty relationship at the end. While, the final hypothesis was tested at the end by using two tests, it was noticed that, there is a significant relationship between specific belonging and empty relationship; however, the strength of association is weak in nature but better than other three hypotheses. However, the researcher tried to find at the end that, whether there is a cumulative relationship between all four independent variables and empty relationship by using two tests and he found that, there is a weak relationship between the independent variables as a whole and the empty relationship.

Hence, it can be concluded from the last results of the study that, independent variables do correlate with the concept of empty relationship.

5. Conclusion

The research was conducted in order to understand the concept of empty relationship and how the four variables (loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality, specific belonging) contribute into the formation of an empty relationship. However, the phenomenon is novel in nature but, the study is guided by two previous theories, attachment theory and interdependence theory. Methodologically, the researcher used objective ontology and quantitative paradigm in order to analyze the phenomenon objectively as he believes that, it is the kind of an issue that can be measured quantitatively and hence, can easily be analyzed objectively. Therefore, the researcher has used the close-ended questionnaire in order to collect majority data from those, who are well familiar with the pragmatic affairs of life because, those could be able to understand the concept better than others. The collected data was analyzed through descriptive and inferential analysis and it was found that, majority of the respondents were agreed that, one should understand the goals and objectives of others while making any relationship, one should be able to develop a relationship without any self-interest. It was further extracted that, it is not necessary to weigh relationship based on purely cost/benefit analysis or on pure financial gain. Moreover, the majority respondents' of the survey also agreed that, loss of empathy, personal interest; financial rationality and specific belonging do eventually form an empty relationship. The descriptive data confirms the findings of the following inferential results as,

the majority of the respondents somehow accepted the idea that, empty relationship is formed due to loss of empathy, having personal interest, focusing on financial gain and forming specific belongings. Subsequently, the individual hypothesis was tested and it was observed that, there is a significant relationship between loss of empathy and empty relationship, however, the relationship was weak in nature. It was further manifested that, there is a significant relationship between personal interest and empty relationship, but the strength of relationship was considered weak in nature. However, no relationship was found between financial rationality and empty relationship but, a significant relationship although weak in nature was noticed between specific belonging and empty relationship. Finally, it was analyzed that, whether all four variables (loss of empathy, personal interest, financial rationality, specific belonging) as a whole correlate with the concept of empty relationship or not and it was discovered eventually then, they do form an empty relationship. Hence, it can be concluded from the study that, if one understand how an empty relationship is formed then, one would be able to escape from the negative impact of empty relationships and by that means form meaningful and interest-free relationships at the end of the day. Although, the study implies that meaningful relationships are the key for one's physical, emotional and intellectual growth and development. The study has also concluded at the end indirectly that, relationship of any kind should not be formed or based on any kind of interest whether personal, financial or social but, the relationships' formation in the society should reflect the nature of humanity as the relationships play a

greater and vital role in enhancing and nurturing the society for creating the better emotional ecosystem. Hence, a better emotional ecosystem is fundamental for prosperous society of 21st century.

5.1 Implications of this study

1. The empty relationships can lead towards creating anomic society in which, individuals are disintegrated from each other and hence completely void of social values and norms

2. The empty relationships can lead towards creating individual chaos and that can move into the direction of developing social chaos

3. The empty relationships can also contribute in the dysfunctioning of social structures hence creating a social vacuum in the society

4. The empty relationships can also contribute towards creating unhealthy and toxic relationships and by that means harming the social milieu of the society

5. The self-centered individualism and complete emphasis on personal gain can lead towards creating a society in which people are gathered together not because of mutual love, care and empathy but, because of self-interest and personal gain

6. The wide spread of empty relationships will lead towards developing a distrustful, fake, self-centered and brutal world of anonymity.

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