Unpacking the Gifted Paradox: Anxiety Experiences Among High-Achieving Female Students

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This study seeks to identify the extent of anxiety among gifted girls in Saudi Arabia and, further, to determine whether differences in anxiety levels exist according to grade. The study sample consisted of 66 female 6th and 7th graders, 11 to 14 years old, attending public school enrichment programs for gifted students in Jeddah Province, Saudi Arabia. The author assessed levels of anxiety among gifted students to ascertain whether these levels were above the average levels of anxiety as defined by the scale used. Differences were examined according to grade level using a t-test. The findings indicate that levels of anxiety in gifted girls are higher than the average defined by the scale. Furthermore, results of the study indicate that levels of anxiety in gifted girls tend to be higher in earlier grades, i.e., the degree of anxiety in gifted 6th grade girls is higher than that of gifted 7th graders.