

Personality Influence on Examination Result-A Institute Based Cross Sectional Study

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Abstract: Personality is the set of characteristics possessed by a person that is unique to him/her and is influenced by emotion, interpersonal relation, motivations etc. [1, 2]. Assessment of personality was done with Big Five Assessment Inventory with specific questionnaire format in first year M.B.B.S students. Subsequently their final examination results were collected. The statistical analysis was done using SPSS version 18. Pearson's correlation coefficient is done. Significance level set on p value equals to 0.05. Neuroticism and Agreeableness is significantly associated with good examination scores.

Keywords: personality, examination results.

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Introduction

Personality is the set of characteristics possessed by a person that is unique to him/her and is influenced by emotion, interpersonal relation, motivations etc. [1, 2]. Assessment of personality is a matter of debate. In the recent year the personality is assessed by objective or projective tests.

Objective tests are easy to assess by answering by self-report questionnaire and then analyze them. Human behavior thus analyzed in terms of personality and is classified in five domains, namely–neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness- all five comprises of Big Five personality factors [3].

These had been used in different literatures and was widely practiced. Five domains of personality are

Neuroticism: it is an fundamental personality trait. Persons with high scores feels anxiety, anger, envy and have depressed mood. Low scorers are emotionally more stable and less reactive to stress.

Extraversion: high scorers are sociable, assertive, intimate and friendly.

Openness: Openness to experience like imagination, attentiveness. They are conscious about inner and outer lives, willing to consider novel idea.

Agreeableness: they are usually altruistic, frank, sincere and helpful.

Conscientiousness: related to control impulses and temptations, high scorers are prepared to deal with life.

Theory of Eysenck was that controller of the neuroticism is the limbic system and has highly reactive sympathetic nervous system. A study through the MRI to measure brain volume is negatively correlated to the neuroticism. According a study published in Journal on Applied Psychology, titled "Determination of Personality trait for predicting both acquisition of knowledge and interpersonal performance in medical profession", trait such as conscientiousness, self-discipline and competency are good predictors of the learning process.

The researchers found that extravert students spend less time for study than their social relation in early year of medical school, so got lower score in early years but in interpersonal relationship in later year of medical study. The big five trait have been related to wide range of behavior including job performance, academic achievements, leadership and wellbeing [4]. So it is commonly used in wide range of research in psychology and education. Tranman's meta-analysis showed that neuroticism was negatively related to the performance.

Hakimi *et al.*, [5] showed that neuroticism and extraversion were the negative predictor of academic success. Researchers found contradictory results probably due to cultural and institutional differences in the educational process.

The result is contradictory in the different parts of the World. The students enrolled in the medical school and colleges mostly the toppers of their respective schools. In Medical colleges they will face a huge cultural and educational transition. Their personality may decide their future success in education and carrier. Assuming the students have more or less same I.Q level, attempt was made to know the personality trait and examination results, to alert the low scorers to change their study behaviors and have good control in their life.

Aim of the Study

1. To find out examination results among the first year M.B.B.S. students
2. How their personality is related to their examination result

Material and Methods

An institution based cross sectional observational study was carried out in the Department of Physiology, North Bengal Medical College, among the first year M.B.B.S students aged 18-20 years for 3 months, from February to April 2018. All the students were included in the study. Explaining the whole procedure to the participants and informed consent was taken.

Questionnaire based on Big Five inventory were given to them. Big five inventory questionnaire is actually a visual analog scale containing particular set of questions and each question has options to choose any one. After getting the answer, they were scored and then analyzed.

The Internal Assessment examination held on August 2018, the results were collected from respective departments of the medical college with the permission of the respective head of the Department. Subject totals were averaged for each student.

The statistical analysis was done using SPSS version 18.

Result and Analysis

Table 1. Distribution of marks among students according to gender (N= 100)

Gender	>60% marks	Total
	<60% marks	
Male	36 (48%)	75
Female	39 (52%)	25
Total	16 (64%)	100
	9 (36%)	
	52	
	48	

Table 2. Domains of personality and significance level on examination results in different gender

Domains of personality	Male	Female	Both genders
Neuroticism	0.233	0.044	0.107
Extraversion	0.813	0.418	0.850
Openness	0.129	0.314	0.205
Agreeableness	0.07	0.009	0.048
Conscientiousness	0.210	0.317	0.661

Discussion

Total number of students employed in the study was 100, there is no dropout from the study. In study our aim of the study was to determine to what extent different domains of personality affects the examination result.

Personality is that domain of psychology that which is difficult to define and quantify. To overcome this difficulty, psychologists use Neo five inventory objective method was invented and used successfully in different studies before.

I used that same method, and analyzed that, not all but some personality domains were significantly associated with examination performance. Agreeableness is one of them. In both genders it is associated with good exam result (0.048), especially in females. According to McCare and John, agreeableness appeared in altruism and support. They avoid conflict and they are sincere and helpful. Agreeableness is related with the good result probably due to sincerity of the students in their study. It is more significant in girls as it appears that girls were more sincere than boys.

Neuroticism is an fundamental personality trait. Persons with high scores feel anxiety, and have depressed mood. Low scorers are emotionally more stable and less reactive to stress. My study reveals in girls, neuroticism was significant associated with good exam score ($p=0.044$). In a Swedish study by Hanne Jacobson on 200 students aged between 16- 19 years, reveals more nervous but orderly pupil had string sense of duty , amongst whom who scored best results. Actually, they were the students had fear of failure, had learned their best and scored good marks. My study was corroborative with the above findings.

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