

A Study on Personality of the Post-Graduate Students

Josnara Khatun¹ and Ujjwal Kumar Halder^{*2}

¹Assistant Professor, Siliguri Mahila Mahabidyalaya, Siliguri, Darjeeling, West Bengal.

²Assistant Professor, Department of Education, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal.

Abstract— The present study was conducted to find out the differences in personality among the post-graduate students due to their gender, locality and disciplines. The investigators adopted the NEO Five Factor Personality Inventory by McCrae and Costa (1989) for required data. The test was translated in Bengali and the reliability of the NEO-FFI had been established by evaluating the Cronbach's-alpha reliability coefficients. The study was conducted on 400 post graduate students from seven departments of Arts and Humanities Faculty of the University of Gour Banga. The study explored that there is a significant difference between Post Graduate Students' Personality due to their gender but also found that there is no significant difference among the post-graduate students with regards to their locality of residence and academic disciplines.

Keywords— Personality, Gender, Locality and Academic Disciplines, Post-Graduate Students.

I. INTRODUCTION

Many philosophers and psychologists were curious about the term personality from ancient time. But many researches are undergoing till date to unfold the mysterious nature of personality. Naturally researchers tried to judge a person by observing his behaviour. Personality includes all the external and internal side of human behaviour. Many factors are related with the development of personality such as heredity, environment, life experiences, situations, learning and maturation process etc. Personality is the external and internal quality of an individual's behaviour that makes unique identity of every individual and it shown on his habits of thinking, in his attitude, interests, his manner of acting and his personal philosophy of life. In this study, the efforts were to unveil the differences in personality of the post graduate students in terms of their gender, locality of residence and academic disciplines.

II. PERSONALITY

Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustment to his environment (Allport, 1937, p.48). McCrae and Costa (1997) defined personality as enduring emotional, interpersonal, experiential, attitudinal, and motivational styles that explain behavior in different situations. In the last of 20th century Big Five Factor model was developed but the first decade of the 21st century, it has been the most widely researched structural model of personality (John, Naumann and Soto, 2008). The model was developed from the lexical tradition (Goldberg, 1981) and has become the leading taxonomy of personality structure (John et al., 2008; McCrae & Costa, 2008). Caspi, Roberts & Shiner (2005) explain that in personality research the broad traits such as, Extraversion, Neuroticism, Openness, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness represent the most general dimensions of individual differences in personality. McCrae et al. (2002) put forward big five personality factors such as neuroticism (emotional stability), extraversion (introversion), openness to experience (closeness to experiences), agreeableness (disagreeableness), and conscientiousness (lack of conscientiousness). These five factors are considered the dimensions in this study.

- a. Neuroticism (N) - The tendency to be angry, sadness worried and anxious.
- b. Extraversion (E) - The tendency to be talkative, outgoing gregarious, assertive, and sociable. Introverts tend to be reserved, timid, and quiet.
- c. Openness to experience (O) - Refers to the extent that people are with values, ideas, sensitive, flexible, creative & curious.
- d. Agreeableness (A) - This dimension refers to an individual's tendency to be cooperative, affectionate, and trusting. Someone who score low on agreeableness are cold, disagreeable, and antagonistic.
- e. Conscientiousness (C) - A highly conscientious person is careful, hardworking, responsible, organized, dependable, and persistent. People who score low on this dimension are easily distracted, disorganized, and unreliable. Refers to someone who are careful, dependable & self-disciplined.

A huge study involving over 12,000 participants across 51 cultures from Argentina to Uganda conducted by Borkenau, McCrae, and Terracciano (2013) has concluded that men tend to have more varied personalities than women. Their study shows that men's personalities showed more variation for four of the Big Five traits: extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness. The exception was neuroticism, which tended to vary more widely in women. Rahmani and Lavasani (2012) found significant difference between female and male students in big five factors of personality. Girls showed significantly higher scores on openness to experience and agreeableness compared with boys. Moreover, sensation seeking of boys was significantly different from girls. Male students showed significantly higher scores on subscales of thrill and adventure seeking, disinhibition and boredom susceptibility than female students. Weisberg, DeYoung and Hirsh (2011) explored that women reported higher Big Five Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism scores than men. Extensive gender differences were found in the study at the level of the aspects, with significant gender differences appearing in both aspects of every Big Five trait. For Extraversion, Openness, and Conscientiousness, the gender differences were found by them to diverge at the aspect level, rendering them either small or undetectable at the Big Five level. Rubinstein (2005) revealed that women are significantly more agreeable and conscientious than men. He also showed that Law students are significantly less agreeable and open to experience than students of all other faculties, and more neurotic than natural science students. Female students of the natural sciences are significantly more agreeable than both their male counterparts in the natural sciences than law students. Meit, S.S., Borges, N.J., & Early, L.A. (2009) revealed that distinct personality differences existed between male and female medical students. Results suggest that female medical students are more warm and outgoing (Warmth); more dutiful (Rule-Conscientiousness); more sensitive (Sensitivity); more self-doubting and worried (Apprehension); more organized and self-disciplined (Perfectionism); and more tensed and driven (Tension) than their male counterparts. On the other hand, male medical students appear to be more adaptive and mature (Emotional Stability); more forceful and assertive (Dominance); more suspicious and skeptical (Vigilance); more imaginative and idea-oriented (Abstractedness); more private and discreet (Privateness); and more solitary and individualistic (Self-Reliance) as compared to female medical students. A significant difference was found for the following personality attitudes and functions: introversion and extraversion, and thinking and feeling (Ingoldsby, 1995). Men were found to be more likely to be introverted and thinking, while women were more likely to be extraverted and feeling in this study. The studies conducted by Feingold (1994) and Costa et al. (2001) concluded that women are often found to be more agreeable than men. Whitesel (1984) showed that male and female art students differ significantly in their ACL (personality) scores. Likely, there are huge numbers of researches on gender differences in terms of personality, but there is a lack of the study on locality and discipline related differences in personality. Hence, the researchers selected problem to conduct the present study on the post graduate students of the University of Gour Banga, Malda.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The researchers carried out their study to attain the following objectives:

- to explore the difference between post graduate students' personality due to their gender.
- to investigate the difference between post graduate students' personality due to their locality of residence.
- to find out the difference between post graduate students' personality due to their discipline.

IV. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The null hypotheses of the present study were as follows:

- H_{0.1}:** There is no significant difference between Post Graduate students' personality due to their gender.
- H_{0.2}:** There is no significant difference between Post Graduate students' personality due to their locality of residence.
- H_{0.3}:** There is no significant difference between Post Graduate Students' Personality due to their discipline.

V. METHOD OF THE STUDY

In order to achieve the objectives of the present study normative survey method of descriptive research was used to measure and assess personality of the post graduate students.

VI. POPULATION AND SAMPLES OF THE STUDY

The Post Graduate students studying at 21 academic departments of the University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal were treated as the population of the present study. The total sample of the study was consisted of 400 Post Graduate students from seven departments of Arts and Humanities Faculty.

VII. VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

In the present research, personality of the post graduate students was considered as the dependent variable and the gender, locality of the students' residence and academic departments were treated as independent variables.

VIII. TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

To study the Personality of the respondents, The NEO Five Factor Personality Inventory by McCrae and Costa (1989) is used. The test was translated in Bengali. The reliability of the NEO-FFI had been established by evaluating the Cronbach's-alpha reliability coefficients. The values of the coefficient are 0.90, 0.78, 0.76, 0.86 and 0.90 for the dimensions of neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness, respectively. These values are high enough (0.76 and more) to reflect on the reliability of the inventory.

IX. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE STUDY

In the present study, the researchers analysed the data collected from sample group and presented the analysis in the following discussions.

- H_{0.1}:** There is no significant difference between post graduate students' personality due to their gender.

TABLE I
RESULTS OF T TEST FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS' PERSONALITY DUE TO THEIR GENDER.
Independent Samples Test

	Gender	t-test for Equality of Means							
		N	Mean	SD	Mean Diff.	SED	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Neuroticism	Male	216	33.00	5.587	3.163	.570	5.552	398	.000
	Female	184	29.84	5.784					

Extraversion	Male	216	21.59	3.712	1.316	.359	3.664	398	.000
	Female	184	20.27	3.420					
Openness	Male	216	20.85	3.619	-.284	.353	-.804	398	.422
	Female	184	21.14	3.407					
Agreeableness	Male	216	16.57	3.126	.982	.308	3.188	398	.002
	Female	184	15.59	3.001					
Conscientiousness	Male	216	6.51	1.865	.340	.181	1.873	398	.062
	Female	184	6.17	1.741					
Personality	Male	216	98.53	10.258	5.517	1.023	5.393	398	.000
	Female	184	93.01	10.124					

From the Table 1, it was found that there is a significant difference between the male and female of post graduate students' in terms of their personality ($t = 5.393, p < 0.001$). It was also found that there is a significant difference between the male and female of post graduate students' in terms of their neuroticism ($t = 5.552, p < 0.001$); extraversion ($t = 3.664, p < 0.001$) and agreeableness ($t = 3.188, p < 0.01$). But it was found that there is no significant difference between the male and female of post graduate students' in terms of openness ($t = -.804, p > 0.05$) and conscientiousness ($t = 1.873, p > 0.05$). Hence, it is evident that the null hypothesis ($H_{0.1}$) is rejected and it may be interpreted that there is a significant difference between the personality of male and female students of post graduate level.

H_{0.2}: There is no significant difference between post graduate students' personality due to their locality of residence.

TABLE 2
RESULTS OF T TEST FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS' PERSONALITY DUE TO THEIR LOCALITY.

Independent Samples Test

	Locality	t-test for Equality of Means							
		N	Mean	SD	Mean Diff.	SED	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Neuroticism	Urban	166	32.61	6.069	1.828	.591	3.093	398	.002
	Rural	234	30.79	5.646					
Extraversion	Urban	166	21.20	3.503	.380	.369	1.030	398	.304
	Rural	234	20.82	3.727					
Openness	Urban	166	20.75	3.410	-.392	.357	-1.098	398	.273
	Rural	234	21.15	3.596					
Agreeableness	Urban	166	16.07	3.360	-.086	.315	-.272	398	.786
	Rural	234	16.16	2.916					
Conscientiousness	Urban	166	6.40	1.865	.079	.184	.428	398	.669
	Rural	234	6.32	1.781					
Personality	Urban	166	97.05	10.679	1.809	1.068	1.694	398	.091
	Rural	234	95.24	10.415					

From the Table 2, it was found that there is no significant difference between the rural and urban post graduate students in terms of their personality ($t = 1.694, p > 0.05$). It was only found that there is a significant difference between the urban and rural post graduate students in terms of their neuroticism ($t = 3.093, p < 0.05$) but no significant differences between urban and rural post graduate students in terms of their extraversion ($t = 1.030, p > 0.05$); openness ($t = -1.098, p > 0.05$);

agreeableness ($t = -.272, p > 0.05$) and conscientiousness ($t = .428, p > 0.05$). Hence, it is evident that the null hypothesis ($H_{0.2}$) is accepted and it may be interpreted that there is no significant difference between the urban and rural post graduate students' in terms of their personality.

H_{0.3}: There is no significant difference between Post Graduate Students' Personality due to their discipline.

TABLE 2
RESULTS OF ANOVA FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS' PERSONALITY DUE TO THEIR DISCIPLINES.

<i>ANOVA</i>		<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Neuroticism	<i>Between Groups</i>	82.065	6	13.677	.391	.885
	<i>Within Groups</i>	13747.125	393	34.980		
	<i>Total</i>	13829.190	399			
Extraversion	<i>Between Groups</i>	66.394	6	11.066	.835	.543
	<i>Within Groups</i>	5208.483	393	13.253		
	<i>Total</i>	5274.878	399			
Openness	<i>Between Groups</i>	140.436	6	23.406	1.914	.077
	<i>Within Groups</i>	4806.442	393	12.230		
	<i>Total</i>	4946.878	399			
Agreeableness	<i>Between Groups</i>	119.181	6	19.863	2.095	.053
	<i>Within Groups</i>	3725.817	393	9.480		
	<i>Total</i>	3844.998	399			
Conscientiousness	<i>Between Groups</i>	30.736	6	5.123	1.569	.155
	<i>Within Groups</i>	1283.142	393	3.265		
	<i>Total</i>	1313.878	399			
Personality	<i>Between Groups</i>	630.802	6	105.134	.944	.463
	<i>Within Groups</i>	43777.158	393	111.392		
	<i>Total</i>	44407.960	399			

From the Table 4, it was found that there is no significant difference among the disciplines of post graduate students in terms of their personality ($F = .944, p > 0.05$). It was also found that there is no significant difference between the disciplines of post graduate students' in terms of the score of neuroticism ($F = .391, p > 0.05$); extraversion ($F = .835, p > 0.05$); openness ($F = 1.914, p > 0.05$); agreeableness ($F = 2.095, p > 0.05$) and conscientiousness ($F = 1.569, p > 0.05$). Hence, it is evident that the null hypothesis is accepted and it may be interpreted that there is no significant difference among the academic disciplines of post graduate students in terms of their personality.

X. DISCUSSION

The present study explored that there is a statistically significant difference between male and female post graduate students' personality as well as in the neuroticism, extraversion and agreeableness factors. In openness and conscientiousness factors no gender differences were found. In case of the locality of the residence and academic disciplines of the post graduate students did not differentiate in their personality. It was only the neuroticism factor of personality make a difference between the urban and rural students.

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