

Personality of Schizophrenics on Dimension Personality Inventory (DPI)

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Abstract

This study examined the personality characteristics of 40 schizophrenic inpatients of Psychiatry department, Susheela Tiwari Forest Medical Collage, Haldwani, Uttarakhand and 40 normal controls (General Health Questionnaire-12 negative) from Awas Vikas Colony, Rudrapur, Uttarakhand, India. Subjects fulfilling inclusion/exclusion criteria and giving written informed consent were included in the study. A comparison of their personality profile on Dimension Personality Inventory (DPI)-B revealed that there was significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the mean scores on different dimensions of personality between schizophrenic and normal group. Schizophrenics were found to be passive, non-enthusiastic, submissive, suspicious, depressive and emotionally instable however, normal individuals were on opposite dimension of these. Males were found to be assertive of both the groups. Study findings revealed that schizophrenics can be differentiated from normals on the basis of personality characteristics.

Keywords: Dimension Personality Inventory, Personality, Schizophrenia

Introduction

Studying personality of an individual was used to be a very interesting subject not only in ancient era but even today. The ancient Indian model of "personality", described in the *Upanishads* consists of the five sheaths. These are 'Annamaya', 'Pranamaya', 'Manomaya', 'Vijnanamaya' and 'Anandamaya'. (Das, 1987.) In Atharv Veda and Bhagwat Gita personality was discussed in the terms of *Triguna* i.e. 'Sattvik Guna', 'Rajasik Guna' and 'Tamsik Guna' of an individual (Srivastava, 2012). There are seven types *Sattvik*, six kinds of *Rajasik* and three types of *Tamasik*, total 16 types of personalities under which persons can be classified (Mukherjee, 2007). A triguna

scale has been developed in Mysore, India on this basis (Shilpa & Murthy, 2012). Hippocrates (400BC) also told 4 types of personalities based on body fluid i.e. 'yellow bile', 'black bile', 'blood' and 'phlegm'. Kretschmer and Sheldon described 'pyknic', 'asthenic', 'athletic' and 'dysplastic' type personality later Sheldon postulated somatotype theory of personality and told about 'endomorph', 'mesomorph', and 'ectomorph' personalities (Ellis et al. 2009). Introvert, extrovert and ambivert type of personalities given by Yung and other psychologists got attention (Ellis et al. 2009). But these classifications are limited to tell about personality of an individual

because it was observed that person behave entirely different in specific situations. Therefore, personality was told in terms of dimensions i.e. introversion-extroversion; neuroticism-stability, psychoticism-superego functions (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975). 16 Personality factors questionnaire developed by Cattell also tells dimensions of personality based on low and high score (IAPT Staff, 1991). One of the major catalysts for the advancement of research on personality in recent years has been the growing consensus for a personality model encompassing five broad dimensions, namely Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness to Experience (O), Agreeableness (A), and Conscientiousness (C). These broad factors subsume most personality traits and are known as the Big Five or Five-Factor Model (FFM; Digman, 1990; McCrae & Costa, 2003). After development of different type of psychological tests, the understanding about personality of an individual became broader and specific. Researchers took interest to differentiate personality characteristics of normal healthy individuals from mentally ill. Study reports show that schizophrenics had traits of the schizoid personality, which shows that they are quite, shut-in-persons who show little emotion, are usually unsociable, and indulge in excessive private fantasy (Tripathi and Jahan, 2004); aggressive or violent behaviour (Cheung et al. 1997; Fazel and Grann 2006). Hare and Hart (1993) reported psychopathic traits predict violence even among those with psychosis. Tripathi and Jahan (2004) found that schizophrenics are paranoid, schizoid, impulsive, anankastic, anxious and dependent. It was also found that schizophrenic patients who were assertive, dissocial and impulsive were more likely to get involved in criminal activity in comparison to those who have schizoid traits. Schizophrenics with criminal record were more assertive, less reserved, less conscientious, and more extraverted than

Schizophrenics without criminal record (Tripathi & Jahan, 2010).

Personality traits are predictors of important outcomes (Paunonen, 2003), including a variety of health risk behaviors (Terracciano & Costa, 2004), emotional experience (Terracciano *et al.*, 2003a,b), academic performance (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2003), vocational interests (Gottfredson *et al.*, 1993), job performance (Barrick & Mount, 1991), and political preference (Caprara & Zimbardo, 2004). Of most interest here, personality traits have been shown to be strongly related to a wide variety of psychiatric disorders, from schizophrenia (Camisa *et al.*, 2005) to borderline personality disorder (Trull *et al.*, 2003).

In a review of long-term European studies of schizophrenia, Gross and Huber (1993) reported that individuals who later developed schizophrenic psychosis were, as a group, more likely than normal controls to have been highly introverted (Angst & Clayton, 1986) and to show peculiar thought processes (Parnas & Jorgensen, 1989), including magical thinking (Chapman *et al.*, 1994). Berenbaum and Fujita (1994) reported a meta-analysis of studies evaluating links between schizophrenia and personality traits. They found significantly higher postmorbid level of introversion, neuroticism and peculiarity among persons with schizophrenia as compared to normal controls.

Jahan *et al.* (1998) found that schizophrenic patients expect affection, seek help and sympathy, are imaginative in inner life act on sensitive intuitions, and are anxious about self.

It is a well-established finding that most schizophrenic patients are not violent, but they do have a higher rate of aggressive behaviour when compared to the general population (Monahan, 1993; Torrey, 1994; Wessely *et al.*, 1994).

After knowing of the personality which is harmful for the people and society we can

differentiate them from normal healthy individuals and will be able to take precautionary measures against them. Therefore, this study was planned to study the personality of schizophrenics and compared it with normal healthy controls.

It was hypothesized that there will be no difference in personality of schizophrenics and normal controls as well as for the gender.

Materials and methods

Participants: The study was conducted on purposively selected 40 diagnosed in-patients (20 Male, 20 female) of schizophrenia (group 1) according to diagnostic criteria Research of international classification of disease-10 (DCR of ICD-10)(WHO 1993) from Susheela Tiwari Forest Medical Collage, Haldwani, Uttrakhand and randomly selected 40 normal healthy (20 Male, 20 Female)controls (Group 2) from Rudrapur district. The participants of group II were normal males and females who were found to be negative on General Health Questionnaire-12 (Jacob et al. 1997). The age range of the participants was 20-50 years with minimum education up to 5th class. There was insignificant difference between mean age (35 ± 9.6 and 34 ± 8.2 years respectively) and year of schooling (10 ± 4 & 12 ± 3 years respectively) of schizophrenic and normal group.

Tool Used:

1. General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12): The 12-Item General Health Questionnaire (Jacob et al. 1997) is the most extensively used screening instrument for common mental disorders, in addition to being a more general measure of psychiatric well-being.
2. Dimension personality inventory (DPI): It is constructed by Bhargava (2012) and

deals with six dimensions by which ones personality can be evaluated. They are: 'Activity-passivity', 'enthusiastic-non enthusiastic', 'assertive-submissive', 'suspicious-trusting', 'depressive-non depressive' and 'emotional instability-emotional stability'. It is similarly applicable for normal as well as psychotic patients. Score 10 or more indicative of left sided dominated personality on that dimension and score less than 10 indicative of the other side of that dimension. For example if person scored 15 on the dimension 'activity-passivity', he/she is active. The rater-reliability of this test is as follows:

Procedure

Male and Female patients of schizophrenia were selected according to the age range from the ward of Susheela Tiwari Forest Medical Collage, Haldwani. After taking permission from the principal of Susheela Tiwari, forest medical college. Written informed consent was taken from the patients and their available relatives. Interview was conducted in a separate room associated with the ward to maintain confidentiality. In Group II normal individuals were randomly selected from Awas Vikas colony, Rudrapur who were found to be negative on GHQ-12 (score less than 3). Dimensional Personality inventory (DPI-B), Bhargava 2012 was administered on all the included subjects. Data was analysed using mean, SD and t test.

Results

Keeping in view the main objectives of the present study t- test was employed to see the difference between schizophrenics and normal individual's personality dimensions. The result of the present study has been given below and consecutively discussed.

Table 1: Comparison of personality between normal and schizophrenic groups onDPI.

Dimensions	Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	t- value
Activity- Passivity	Normal	40	16.82	3.02	8.65*
	Schizophrenics	40	9.52	4.40	Df=78
Enthusiastic- Non enthusiastic	Normal	40	15.82	2.94	7.28*
	Schizophrenics	40	9.65	4.48	Df=78
Assertive- Submissive	Normal	40	14.8	3.20	5.85*
	Schizophrenics	40	9.6	4.62	Df=78
Suspicious- Trusting	Normal	40	7.6	3.47	11.75*
	Schizophrenics	40	16.37	3.20	Df=78
Depressive- Non depressive	Normal	40	6.67	4.54	10.95*
	Schizophrenics	40	15.85	2.73	Df=78
Emotional instability- Emotional stability	Normal	40	6.95	3.52	13.43*
	Schizophrenics	40	16.4	2.72	Df=78

*p<.05 significant

Table-1 shows comparison of personality dimensions of normal individual and schizophrenic patients. A significant difference ($p<.05$) was found on all six dimensions of personality between normal and schizophrenic group. Mean scores of normal individuals in three dimensions 'activity- Passivity', 'Enthusiastic- non enthusiastic', 'Assertive- submissive' were more than 10 shows that normal individuals were active, energetic, enthusiastic, happy go lucky, social and outgoing, bold having leadership traits and dominant on the other hand the mean scores of schizophrenic patients in above three dimension of personality is less than 10 shows that schizophrenic patients were significantly more passive, dull, inactive slow and irregular in working and non-enthusiastic, shy, inhibited and submissive in nature.

Higher score in the last three dimensions of personality 'suspicious-trusting', 'depressive- non- depressive', 'emotional instability- emotional stability' in shows negative traits of the personality. Schizophrenic patients were found to be suspicious, depressive, and emotionally less stable. However, normal group was found to be trustworthy cheerful, and emotionally mature.

Table 2 shows that there was significant difference ($p<0.05$) in all the dimensions of personality of males between normal and schizophrenic group. Schizophrenic males were found to be passive, non-enthusiastic, assertive, suspicious, depressive and emotionally unstable. Normal males were found to be active, enthusiastic, assertive, trusting, non-depressive and emotionally stable. Similar findings were found for females also except 'assertive-submissive' dimension. On this dimension normal females found to be assertive however, schizophrenic females were submissive. (Table 3).

Table 2: Comparison of personality between normal and schizophrenic group of males.

Dimensions	Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	t- value
Activity- Passivity	Normal male	20	16.95	3.03	7.78*
	Schizophrenic male	20	8.75	3.85	Df=38
Enthusiastic- Nonenthusiastic	Normal male	20	15.7	2.92	4.77*
	Schizophrenic male	20	9.85	4.63	Df=38
Assertive- Submissive	Normal male	20	14.9	3.16	3.51*
	Schizophrenic male	20	11.35	3.23	Df=38
Suspicious- Trusting	Normal male	20	7.35	4.02	8.76*
	Schizophrenic male	20	17	2.84	Df=38
Depressive- Non depressive	Normal male	20	6.3	3.48	9.74*
	Schizophrenic male	20	16.05	2.81	Df=38
Emotional instability- Emotional stability	Normal male	20	6.35	3.70	10.24*
	Schizophrenic male	20	16.75	2.63	Df=38

*Significant at $p < .05$

Table 3 Comparison of personality between normal and schizophrenic group of females.

Dimensions	Groups	No	Mean	S.D.	t- value
Activity- Passivity	Normal Female	20	16.7	3.07	4.97*
	Schizophrenic Female	20	10.3	4.86	Df=38
Enthusiastic- None enthusiastic	Normal Female	20	16.3	2.95	5.75*
	Schizophrenic Female	20	9.45	4.43	Df=38
Assertive- Submissive	Normal Female	20	14.7	3.32	4.95*
	Schizophrenic Female	20	7.85	5.20	Df=38
Suspicious- Trusting	Normal Female	20	7.9	2.90	7.76*
	Schizophrenic Female	20	15.75	3.47	Df=38
Depressive- Non depressive	Normal Female	20	7.05	4.42	7.38*
	Schizophrenic Female	20	15.65	2.70	Df=38
Emotional instability- Emotional stability	Normal Female	20	7.55	3.31	9.21*
	Schizophrenic Female	20	16.4	2.74	Df=38

*Significant at $p < .05$

Discussion

Mean profile of normal and schizophrenics indicate that schizophrenic male and female had some deviant characteristics in their personality. They had negative traits, non-enthusiastic, submissive, suspicious, depressive, emotionally instable in comparison to normal group. This type of results were shown in previous research also (Berenbaum and Fuzita 1994; Di Lalla et al.1993; DiLalla and Gottesman 1995; Lenzeweger 1993; Tripathi and Jahan, 2004 & 2010). The result shows that some common characteristics found in normal and

schizophrenic male in 'Assertive-Submissive' dimension of personality. Both were found to be assertive. Tripathi and Jahan (2004) found that assertive schizophrenics indulge in criminal act. But this is not clear about normal individual having assertive trait. Therefore, drawing any conclusion about assertive person needs careful attention and subject to study. Results also reveal that schizophrenic female having some personality traits like normal females, both were energetic and enthusiastic. Gleser and Gottschalk (1967) found that in comparison to normal

participants, schizophrenics were affected by feeling, sober, expedient, shy, apprehensive and group dependent. Schizophrenic's weaker control over emotionality and their tendency to act out their reaction in overt behavioral experiences is reported by Sandhu (1978) in comparison to normal group, higher level of introversion is reported in schizophrenic patients by Gurarra et al. (2000).

The findings of the study throw light about the personality of normal individuals as well as schizophrenic patients. Significant differences in dimension of personality between both the groups indicate that schizophrenics can be differentiated on the basis of passive, non-enthusiastic, assertive, suspicious, depressive and emotionally instable personality from normal individuals. Broader personality characteristics may be assessed of an individual for prediction like 16 Personality factors, EPI and other relevant personality tests. Premorbid personality of schizophrenic patients was not assessed in the study and thus drawing any conclusion at this point of time will be unfair. There is need to study those persons who are normal and share common personality traits and later develop schizophrenia longitudinally. There is study limitation that we could not control clinical variables of schizophrenic group.

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