A study of the Big Five factors in general and convicted population

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ABSTRACT: *The present study is an attempt to study the Big Five Factors of personality in relation to the convicted population and the general population. A sample of 50 convicted prisoners (male) from Haryana jail and 50 general population was taken for the purpose of the study. Data gathered were subjected to SPSS and Means, SD, and T-test were computed further to examine the comparison of personality factors between the convicted population and the general population. Results revealed that the factor of Neuroticism and extroversion were found higher in the convicted population in comparison to the general population. The other three factors (openness to experience, conscientiousness, and agreeableness) were found higher in the general population. Results showed that all five factors were having significant differences between both groups on the bases of mean scores. Results may be useful to understand the personality of convicted prisoners.*

Key Words: Personality, Convicted population, General population

INTRODUCTION

The Big Five personality traits are about the question of "Who are you?" It's a straightforward inquiry, yet it's challenging to respond to. There are numerous ways to interpret that question. An answer could include a person's name, job title, role in his family, likes & dislikes, hobbies & interests, and place from where he belongs.

A further comprehensive answer might include a description of beliefs and his values. Each of our responses to this question is unique and reveals something about who we are.

While we may have a lot in common with our fellow humans, like race, religion, gender, skills, and eye color, there's one thing that makes us each unique personality. Understanding culprits is assumed to be distinct from the rest of the law-abiding society. The question frequently follows from this premise of how a person may come to be part of that separate sub-group of humanity. The simple and favored answer is that there's a commodity distinct about the kind of people who commit crimes that sets them apart.

In other words, it's assumed that culprits of conviction have a different personality and that, in effect, it's this personality that causes them to become a criminal. The assumption that there's a felonious personality underlies all claims that criminals are 'born not made', i.e., that there's some significant inheritable factor that creates the conditions for crime. But it's also implicit in arguments about the social processes that may give rise to crime, the so-called 'nurture' of the social process is seen as creating a particular type of person, prone to carry

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out felonious acts. This is the consequent recrimination that culprits aren't really responsible for their conduct, but it's whatever created their personality that's to be blamed.

Crime is a specific action that represents a comparable behavior as opposed to criminal behavior, which is an act that violates criminal legislation (Kamaluddin, Shariff, Othman, Ismail, & Ayu, 2015). "It is not a crime that is ingrained; rather, it is specific tricks of the central and autonomic nervous system that respond to the environment, parenting, and a variety of other environmental factors to increase the likelihood that a given person would act in a particular asocial manner" (Eysenck & Gudjonsson, 1989). (2005) Bartol & Bartol.

Other studies which have been done on how personality correlates to crime is the part of underpinning personality factors in criminal behavior is handed by the Five Factor Model proposed by McCrae and Costa (1988) which represents a continuum between two axes of these traits. It was set up that neuroticism has shown a positive correlation with criminal acts which is consistent with the findings of Eysenck's PEN Model. Conscientiousness and agreeableness, two of the Big Five variables, were associated with Eysenck's measure of P, according to McCrae and Costa (Zuckerman, Kuhlman, Joircman, Tcta, & Kraft, 1993).

The Big Five personality traits are all about the question of *"Who are you?"* It's, a simple enough question, but it's one of the hardest ones to answer. There are many ways to interpret that question. An answer could include a person's name, job title, role in his family, hobbies or passions, and place of residence or birth. A more comprehensive answer might include a description of beliefs and his values.Every one of us has a different answer to this question, and each answer tells a story about who we are.

While we may have a lot in common with our fellow humans, like race, religion, sexual orientation, skills, and eye color, there is one thing that makes us each unique: personality. Understanding criminals is assumed to be distinct from the rest of the law-abiding society. The question often follows from this premise of how a person may come to be part of that separate sub-group of humanity. The simple and often favored answer is that there is something distinct about the sort of people who commit crimes that sets them apart.

In other words, it is assumed that criminals have a different personality and that, in effect, it is this personality that causes them to become criminals. The assumption that there is a criminal personality underlies all claims that criminals are 'born not made', i.e., that there is some significant genetic factor that creates the conditions for criminality. But it is also implicit in arguments about the social processes that may give rise to criminality, the so-called 'nurture' of the social process is seen as creating a particular type of person, prone to carry out criminal acts. This is the consequent implication that criminals are not really responsible for their actions, but it is whatever created their personality that is to blame.

Criminal behavior is any behavior or act that is in violation of the criminal law, whereas crime is the particular action representing such behavior (Kamaluddin, Shariff, Othman, Ismail, & Ayu, 2015). "It is not itself, or criminality that is innate; it is certain peculiarities of the central and autonomic nervous system that react with the environment, with upbringing,

and many other environmental factors to increase the probability that a given person would act in a certain antisocial manner" (Eysenck & Gudjonsson, 1989) (Bartol & Bartol, 2005)

Additional evidence of the role of underlying personality factors in criminal behavior is provided by the Five Factor Model proposed by McCrae and Costa (1988) which represents a continuum between two extremes of these traits. It was found that neuroticism has shown a positive correlation with criminal acts which is consistent with the findings of Eysenck's PEN Model. McCrae and Costa found that Eysenck's measure of P was related to the Big Five factors, Conscientiousness and Agreeableness (Zuckerman, Kuhlman, Joircman, Tcta, & Kraft, 1993).

Research Methodology

Sample:
It was purposive sampling in which 50 participants were from the Haryana and Delhi jail and 50 participants were from the general population in a random sampling method of adults.

Instruction and Procedure:

The researcher administered individually one by one through physical involvement for data collection. A good rapport was formed with the participants and then the instruction on the test measures was given. After giving adequate instruction about the scale Oral instructions were given based on their understanding. Because most of them were comfortable with the Hindi language we used Hindi-translated questionnaires (completely filled), and instructions were also in the Hindi language to remove the obstacles biographical sheets will be filled by me only.

Aim &Objective:
1. To compare the difference between the General population and the Convicted population on Personality Factors (Neuroticism, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness to experience).

Hypothesis:

H_{01} -: There is a significant difference between the General population and the Convicted population on Personality Factors.

- There is a significant difference between the General population and the Convicted population on the factor of Neuroticism.
- There is a significant difference between the General population and the Convicted population on the factor of Extraversion.
- There is a significant difference between the General population and the Convicted population on the factor of Agreeableness.

- There is a significant difference between the General population and the Convicted population on the factor of Conscientiousness.
- There is a significant difference between the General population and the Convicted population on the factor of openness of experience.
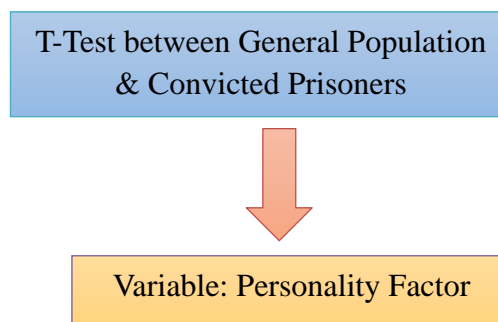
Tools/ Inventory:

- Personality scale (Big Five factor): The Suitability of the Hindi version of the five-factor scale of personality has been empirically evidenced by some recent studies it has been found to possess psychometric properties required to be a Suitable tool to measure personality. This tool was developed by Prof. R.N. Singh, and Dr. S.S. Bhardwaj:

Big Five- Scales	Split-Half	Test-Retest
Extraversion	.88	.84
Agreeableness	.87	.79
Conscientiousness	.78	.80
Neuroticism	.86	.82
Openness to Experience	.85	.78

Statistical Analysis:

The data has been analyzed by using SPSS 26.

- T-Test: A statistical test that is used to compare the means of two groups researcher used the T-Test to determine if there is a significant difference between the means of both groups (convicted population and general population) inPersonality factors

T-Test between General Population & Convicted Prisoners

↓

Variable: Personality Factor

RESULT

Table No. 1: Showing Mean and Standard Deviation for Personality Factors of GP and CP

Group Statistics					
1=GP,2=CP		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
NEO_NE	1.00	50	17.9200	1.84988	0.26161
	2.00	50	28.8600	3.21990	0.45536
NEO_EX	1.00	50	32.5800	3.65385	0.51673
	2.00	50	30.9000	3.56428	0.50407
NEO_AG	1.00	50	38.1600	4.74819	0.67150
	2.00	50	27.5000	5.92556	0.83800
NEO_CO	1.00	50	40.2200	3.11212	0.44012
	2.00	50	31.5200	4.57250	0.64665
NEO_OP	1.00	50	35.5000	5.07997	0.71842
	2.00	50	29.1600	4.20573	0.59478

GP= General population

CP= Convicted Population

Table No. 2 Showing t test for Big Five Factors

Independent Samples Test								
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				95% Confidence Interval of the Difference
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
									Lower
NEO_NE	Equal variances assumed	13.213	0.000	-20.832	98	0.000	-10.94000	0.52516	-11.98217
NEO_EX	Equal variances assumed	0.017	0.896	2.327	98	0.022	1.68000	0.72187	0.24748
NEO_AG	Equal variances assumed	1.698	0.196	9.927	98	0.000	10.66000	1.07385	8.52898
NEO_CO	Equal variances assumed	7.600	0.007	11.122	98	0.000	8.70000	0.78222	7.14772
NEO_OP	Equal variances assumed	4.121	0.045	6.798	98	0.000	6.34000	0.93268	4.48913

H_{01} -: There is a significant difference between the General population and the Convicted prisoners on Personality Factors (Neuroticism, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness to experience). Our hypothesis stands proven with the mean value and hypothesis accepted.

The result showed that the convicted prisoners scored higher on Neuroticism than the general population and showed lower mean scores on Extraversion, Agreeableness, Openness to experience, and Conscientiousness in this research as shown in Table No.1 indicating slightly different associations as compared to previous studies that focus on the personality characteristics of criminals (According to Chinmayee D., and Dr. Maheshbabu (2020), This study concludes that prisoners have a higher level of neuroticism, extraversion, agreeableness, and conscientiousness than non-prisoners and that prisoners have lower levels of self-concept than non-prisoners. This research also showed that there exists a significant relationship between personality traits neuroticism, extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and self-concept.

CONCLUSION

The results support the view that criminals have different personality traits from the general population. These traits have also discriminant and predictive validity for future recidivism. However, there is a dearth of literature in this field. Hence, there is a considerable gap in this area, and it is suggested that more research is needed.

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