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A STUDY OF PERSONALITY AMONG NORMAL AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ADOLESCENTS WITH REFERENCE TO AGE AND GENDER

Home Science

A.N.Rajkumari Department of Postgraduate Studies and Research Studies in Human Science, Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women (Autonomous), Chennai.

Fathima Kauser Department of Postgraduate Studies and Research Studies in Human Science, Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women (Autonomous), Chennai.

ABSTRACT

The present study strives to examine the influence of age and gender on the personality among Normal and Visually impaired adolescents.A stratified random sample of 240 subjects between age fifteen to seventeen years were selected. 120 subjects were normal adolescents and 120 subjects were visually impaired adolescents. Out of 120 samples 60 were female and 60 sample were males. To access the personality JEPI- Junior Eysenck Personality Inventory was used. The statistical tests of mean, standard deviation, "t"test and karl pearson correlation coefficient were used to analyze the data. And it was observed that visually impairment influences the personality of adolescents.It is also found to have influence on the personality of visually impaired adolescents.In normal adolescents gender was not found to have any influence on their personality.In visually impaired adolescents gender was found to have partial influence.

KEYWORDS

Personality Normal adolecents Visually Impaired adolescents

Introduction

Adolescence is the stage of transition from the life of the child to the life of the adult. It is marked by significant physical changes that culminate in sexual maturity. But adolescence is more than a period of physical change, it is a period of cognitive change as well, The adolescent moves from thinking about the concrete here and now to thinking about abstraction and possibilities for the future.

The impressive gains in physical and physiological development that take place during adolescence are accompanied by equally impressive gains in intellectual and cognitive development Indeed, it is during the years between the puberty and adulthood "that the Capacity to acquire and to utilize knowledge reaches its peak efficiency",

The gains that occur during this period are both "Quantitative" and "Qualitative". Qualitative in the sense that the adolescent becomes capable for accomplishing more easily, more quickly and effectively, intellectual tasks that as a child or pre adolescent, he was able to accomplish only slowly and inefficiently. Qualitative in the sense those significant changes also occur in the nature of the adolescents mental Processes, in the way in which he is able to define problem and reason about them.

The word "personality" probably comes from two Latin words "per" and "sonae". the word personal originally meant an actor's mask through which the sound of his voice was projected. The term personality connotes, various physical attractiveness, charm good nature, ease of manner. "outgoingness" or any other form of behaviour or attitude that induces a favourable impression. Personality development during adolescence can be expected to continue from the childhood year but it will be conditioned by more and more of the social influences that help the individual attain status in his peer group **Brembeek and Cole (1995)**

"Personality is the dynamic organization with in the individual of those psychological system that determines the characteristic behaviour and thought" Allport.G.M. (1961). The term "personality" in the present investigation is used in the Eysenckian sense. Therefore, the major dimensions of personality as found by Eysenck, namely Extroversion – Introversion and Neuroticism are taken for this study. The first Dimension of personality is Extraversion, it closely resembles descriptions which have been variously called participation – withdrawal, sociable-isolated, approach-withdrawal, active-inactive. The second Eysenckian dimension namely neuroticism as mentioned earlier, would seem to resemble the descriptions of ego–weakness, emotionally and so forth. Yenck (1947) used the term "neuroticism" to refer exclusively to those who occupy the low end of the distribution of general adaptedness or personality organization or whatever contributes to the essence of this trait.

Jung (1923)defines extroverts as having an sensation directed outward to the objective work of thing and events as primarily interested in social activities and practical affairs–as tough minded and realistic. The introvert was described as subjective in sensation as primarily interested in ideas, imagination and inner life as tender minded and idealistic.

Visually impaired is the condition of lacking visual perception due to psychological or neurological factors. Visually impaired children are one of the categories of exceptional children and essential members of society, like others. There is not much difference between them and the normal ones in their psychological makeup. According to Bal Govind Tewari, "Being handicapped is such situations in which a person's normal behavior, movement and routine work are affected and it creates physical, mental, social, emotional disorders in their behaviour which makes them different from a normal man" Cruickshank. W.H and John .G.O (1967)

Objective

The present study is carried out to find whether there is any difference in personality among normal and visually impaired adolescents.

Methodology

Hence the study was undertaken with the objective of comparing the personality of normal versus visually impaired adolescents with reference to age and gender. The samples were selected from within the city of Chennai. A stratified random sample of 240 subjects between age fifteen to seventeen years were selected. 120 subjects were normal adolescents and 120 subjects were visually impaired adolescents. Out of 120 samples 60 were females and 60 samples were males. The three age groups were 15, 16 and 17 years old adolescents boys and girls.

JEPI-Junior Eysenck personality inventory [Eysenck & Eysenck, 1965] was used to measure the extroversion and neuroticism. The test consisted of 60 items, 24 items yield a measure of extroversion, 24 items yield a measure of neuroticism and 12 items provide a lie scale. The same was translated into Tamil for use with the tamil medium students. For visually impaired adolescents each question was read out one by one and their response was noted accordingly. Scoring was done with key provided by the author of the inventory. The statistical tests of mean, standard deviation, "t" test and Karl Pearson correlation coefficient were used to analyze the data.

Results and discussion

A. Personality of the normal and visually impaired adolescents in relation to the age and selected variables

The finding of the study on personality of normal and visually impaired adolescents boys with reference to their age and selected variables are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 MEAN EXTROVERSION AND NEUROTICISM SCORES OF NORMAL AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ADOLESCENT BOYS.

Age in years	Varia bles	Croups	Mean	Standard Deviation	't' Value
15	Extrov ersion	Normal Visually Impaired	15.00 11.00	1.82 2.19	6.13**
	Neurot icism	Normal Visually Impaired	14.30 15.20	4.01 2.36	1.55NS
16	Extrov ersion	Normal Visually Impaired	15.30 10.50	1.55 1.12	11.02**
	Neurot icism	Normal Visually Impaired	14.20 12.65	2.06 1.56	2.59**
17	Extrov ersion	Normal Visually Impaired	15.50 12.60	2.18 2.33	3.95**
	Neurot icism	Normal Visually Impaired	12.35 16.25	2.06 2.53	5.21**

Note : ** -Significant at 1% level. NS -Not Significant.

Table 1 Clearly indicates that in 15 and 17 age group the normal adolescents boys were more extroverted than the visually impaired boys. In 16 years Old boys both the extraversion and neuroticism scores are higher in normal than visually impaired boys. This results is in par with another study. Sethi. M and Sen .A (1981) which found out that physical handicap may in some situations act as a stimulus and a challenge and call forth all the resources of personalities.

Table 2
MEAN EXTROVERSION AND NEUROTICISM SCORES OF NORMAL AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ADOLESCENTS GIRLS

Age in years	Variables	Croups	Mean	Standard Deviation	't' Value
15	Extroversion	Normal Visually Impaired	14.50 14.25	1.20 1.34	0.06 NS
	Neuroticism	Normal Visually Impaired	13.85 14.45	1.68 1.43	0.49 NS
16	Extroversion	Normal Visually Impaired	16.70 15.05	2.97 1.91	2.04*
	Neuroticism	Normal Visually Impaired	14.00 14.80	1.67 1.89	1.38 NS
17	Extroversion	Normal Visually Impaired	16.20 14.80	2.32 2.00	1.99**
	Neuroticism	Normal Visually Impaired	13.90 16.25	2.79 2.36	2.80*

Note ** - Significant at 1% level.NS - Not Significant.

From the table 2 it is evident that there is no significance of difference between the 15 years old normal and visually impaired girls. The means of extroversion scores of 16 years old normal girls is higher than visually impaired girls, but no significant difference was found in neuroticism scores. This shows that 16 years normal girls are more extroversion than visually impaired girls. The table also shows that 17 years old girls are more extroverted than visually impaired girls.

B. Personality and age in visually impaired adolescents.
In this section, the personality variables namely extroversion and neuroticism were compared between the three age group namely 15,16 and 1 7years.

Table 3
MEAN EXTROVERSION SCORES OF 15 & 16, 16 & 17 AND 15 & 17 YEARS OLD VISUALLY IMPAIRED ADOLESCENTS BOYS.

Variables	Age in Years	Mean	Standard Deviation	"t" Value
Extrovers ion	15	11.00	2.19	0.89 NS
	16	10.50	1.12	
	16	10.50	1.12	3.53**
	17	12.60	2.33	
	15	11.00	2.19	2.18*
	17	12.60	2.33	

Note ** Significant at 1%level. * Significant at 5%level N S - N o t significant.

Results indicated that among visually impaired boys no significant difference was found to exist between the extroversion scores of 15 and 16 years olds but significant difference was found between 16 & 17 and 15 & 17 years old visually impaired boys. With respect to neuroticism aspect of persona l ity 15 years old are more neurotic than 16 years old visually impaired boys. This showed that 16 year old are less neurotic than 17 years old visually impaired boys. But no significance difference was found between 15 and 17 years old visually impaired boys. Among the girls, no significant difference were found between all the three age group with reference to extroversion scores. With reference to neuroticism aspect of personality there exists a significance of difference between I 6&17 and I 5& 7 years old visually impaired girls. The 17 years old visually impaired adolescents girls are more neurotic than the 15 or 16 years old.

C. Personality and age in normal adolescents.
In this section, the personality variable namely extroversion and neuroticism were compared between the three age group namely 15, 16 and 17 years.

Results indicated that the means of extroversion scores of 15 and 16 years old normal boy were 15.00 and 15.30 respectively. The mean of extroversion scores of 16 and 17 years old normal boy were 15.30 and 15.50 respectively. And the means of extroversion scores of 15 and l7 years old normal boys were 15.00 and 15.50 respectively. But no significant difference was found between all the three age group normal boys.

Table 4
MEAN NEUROTICISM SCORES OF 15 & 16, 16 & 17 AND 15 & 17 YEARS OLD NORMAL ADOLESCENT BOYS

Variables	Age in Years	Mean	Standard Deviation	"t" Value
Neuroticism	15	14.30	4.01	**0.15 NS**
	16	14.20	2.06	
	16	14.20	2.06	**2.77****
	17	12.35	2.06	
	15	14.30	4.01	**2.96***
	17	12.35	2.06	

Note ** Significant at 1%level. NS - Not significant.

Table 4 Clearly indicates that there is no Significance of difference between 15 and 16 year old normal boys. But significance of difference was found between 16 & 17and 15 & 17 years old normal boys. The l7 years old normal boys are more neurotic than l6 and l5years old normal boys. In other words, neuroticism decreases as age decreases. Among girls, the means of extroversion score of 15 and 16 years old normal girls were 14.50 and 16.70 respectively. The means of extroversion scores of 16 and 17 years old normal girls were 16.70 and 16.20 respectively.

These values showed that the 16 years old normal girls are more extroverted when compared to the 15 and 17 years old normal girls. But Significant Difference were not found between the 15 and 17 years old normal girls as their mean value were 14.50 and 16.20 respectively, the neuroticism scores of l5 and 16 years

old normal girls were 13.50 and 14.00 respectively. The means of neuroticism scores of 16 and 17 years old normal girls were 14.00 and 13.90 respectively. The means of neuroticism scores of 15 and 17 years old normal girls were 13.85 and 13.90 respectively. But these values are found to be not significant

D. Personality and gender in visually impaired adolescents.

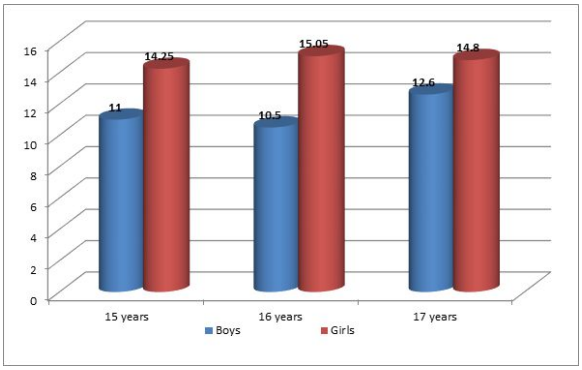
In this section, the personality variable namely Extroversion and neuroticism were compared between visually impaired boys arid girls.

Table 5 MEAN EXTROVERSION SCORES OF 15 & 16, 16 & 17 AND 15 & 17 YEARS VISUALLY IMPAIRED ADOLESCENTS.

Variables	Age in Years	Gender	Mean	Standard Deviation	"t" Value
Neuroticism	15	Male	11.00	2.19	5.52**
		Female	14.25	1.34	
	16	Male	10.50	1.12	8.93**
		Female	15.05	1.91	
	17	Male	12.60	2.33	3.12**
		Female	14.80	2.00	

Note: ** significant at 1% level.

FIGURE 9 : SHOWING THE MEAN OF EXTROVERSION SCORES OF 15, 16 & 17 YEARS OLD VISUALLY IMPAIRED BOYS & GIRLS



Among the visually impaired girls are more Extroverted than boys. The means of neuroticism scores of 15 years old visually impaired boys and girls were 15.20 and 14.45 respectively. The means of neuroticism scores of 17 years old visually impaired boys and girls were 16.25and 16.25 respectively. But significant difference was not found between 15 and l7years old visually impaired boys and girls. The means of neuroticism scores of 16 years old visually impaired boys and girls were 12.65 and 14.80 respectively. The 16 years old girls are found to be more neurotic than 16 years old visually impaired boys.

E. Personality and gender in normal boys and girls.

Results indicated that the means of Extroversion scores of 15 years old normal boys and girls were 15.00 and 14.50 and neuroticism scores were 14.30 and 13.85 respectively. The means of extroversion scores of 16 years old normal boys and girls were 15.30 and 16.70 and neuroticism scores were l4.20 and l4.00 respectively. The means of extroversion scores of 17 years old normal boys and girls were 15.50 and 16.20 and neuroticism scores were 12.25 and 13.90 respectively. But no significant difference was found between the 15, 16 and 17 years old normal boys and girls.

Conclusion

From the results obtained it was obtained it was observed that visual impairment influences the personality of adolescents. It is also found to have influence on the personality of visually impaired adolescents. In normal adolescents gender was not found to have any influence on their personality. In visually impaired adolescents gender was found to have partial influence.

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