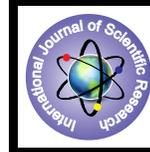


Personality Profile of Medical Students



psychology

KEYWORDS : medical students, personality type.

Dr. SUHINA CHATTERJEE GANAPAT NAGAR, GANAPAT PALACE,

ABSTRACT

The present investigation has been designed to study the personality type of medical students of Kolkata. A sample of 50 (25 male & 25 female) first year medical students were selected through stratified random sampling technique. Maudsley personality inventory was administered. The result were tested for significance of difference using t test. The result revealed that most of the medical students were stable-extrovert personality type and there was no significance difference between male and female medical students in extrovert and neuroticism dimension. Socio-economic status has no significant effect on personality type.

Introduction-

Personality is all about the most essential psychological aspects of a person's life-our thoughts, feelings, motives, skills and behavior. The term is coined from the Latin word 'persona' meaning 'mask'.

According to Allport 'Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that his characteristics behavior and thought.

When we speak of personality we pertain to the person's character, wholeness or totality involving behavior, attitudes, qualities and traits of an individual. Personality is dynamic, growing and changing throughout one's life span. It forms an organized pattern in a healthy person; it involves the inseparable union of physical and mental functions. Personality is a complex system of variously interacting elements and motivates or determines everything that we do.

Personality characteristics are necessary for people to be successful in medical studies and eventually in the medical profession. Medical students are receiving increasing attention, as it is perceived that their personality will have a significant effect on their ability to handle the high levels of stress and other demands.

Medical professionalism is a behavior that is predicated on person's personal beliefs and their ideas. It is greatly influenced by person's contemporaneous social values and norms. The father of medicine proposed that doctors should have natural skills, culture, and disposition for studying, a strong background and perseverance.

According to Taylor, Clark and Sinclair (1990) personality factors play a key role in the process of choosing one's life work.

The terms 'Introvert' and 'Extrovert' personality characteristics were first used by Sigmund Freud, and the context of these terms was extended by Carl Jung. Extroversion-Introversion is an inborn tendency and often can be observed in every very young child.

Extraversion-Introversion preference tells us how people are energized. Introverts focus on the inner world of ideas and impressions; they find energy in the inner world of ideas, concepts and abstractions. extrovert person prefer interaction with others and are action oriented (Vincent & Ross, 2001)

Myers (1980) defined extroverts are the after thinkers they cannot understand life until they have lived it. Their attitude is relaxed and confident. Their real world therefore is the outer world of people and things.

Neuroticism refers to the degree to which a person is anxious, ir-

ritable, temperamental and moody. Neurotic people have a tendency to have emotional adjustment problems and habitually experience stress and depression. People very high in neuroticism experience a number of problems at work. According to G. Matthews and Ian J. Deary (1998). Individuals who score high on neuroticism are more likely than the average to experience such feelings as anxiety, anger, envy, guilt and depressed mood.

At the other hand individual who score low in neuroticism are less easily upset and less emotionally stable and free from persistent negative feelings.

Eysenck's (1975) showed that females had higher scores on the neuroticism and Lie scales and lower mean scores of extroversion and psychotics. According to Archibald O. Haller and Shatter Thomas, Michigan State University (1957) SES may affect a number of the personality factors of adolescent males.

Personality is made up the characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings and behaviors that make a person unique. Its arises from within the individual and remains fairly consistent throughout life.

Objective:-

The objectives are as follows:-

- To study the personality types of medical students of Kolkata.
- To compare the personality types of male and female medical students.
- To compare the personality type of High and Low Socio-economic group of medical students.

Sample:-

Fifty (25 male and 25 female) first year medical students were selected as a sample of the study. These students were taken from SSKM medical college Kolkata. Stratified random sampling technique has been used for the selection of the sample.

Tools:-

The Maudsley Personality Inventory (MPI) by H.J Eysenck was used to measure the personality type. Its measure the Neuroticism-Stability and Introversion-Extroversion dimensions of personality. The total number can be used for persons of ages 18 to 20 years and above. This Inventory was highly reliable and valid.

Procedure:-

First of all personal data questionnaire was applied on those selected students who fulfilled the criteria. Maudsley personality Inventory was applied on selected sample of students. The obtained data were tabulated and analyzed with the help of percentage, means and 't'.

Result and Discussion:-

Table-1

Number and percentage of total medical students in extrovert-neurotic dimension.

	Dimensions			
	Extrovert-introvert		Neuroticism-Stability	
	High (E)	Low (I)	High (N)	Low (S)
No of Students	8	4	5	14
Percentage	16%	8%	10%	28%

Table 1 showed that 16% medical students were extrovert and 8 % students were introvert. Whereas 10% medical students were neurotic and 28% students were stable personality type.

Table-2

Means scores, SDs and t value for Male and Female medical students.

Type	Gender	Number	Mean	SD	't'
Extrovert	Male	25	49.68	9.75	0.75NS
	Female	25	51.92	10.81	
Neuroticism	Male	25	46.76	7.67	0.12NS
	Female	25	46.48	10.12	

NS- Not significant

Result indicated in table 3 that the female medical students have higher mean (51.92) score in extrovert scale than male medical students (49.68),where as male medical students have higher mean(46.76) score in Neuroticism scale than female medical students but their difference is not statistically significant ('t'=0.75 and 0.12 respectively).

Table-3

Mean scores, SDs and t values for High and Low socio-economic group of medical students.

Type	Gender	Number	Mean	SD	't'
Extrovert	High SES	15	53.6	6.71	1.42NS
	Low SES	15	48.4	12.06	
Neuroticism	High SES	15	46.33	11.32	0.52NS
	Low SES	15	44.53	6.44	

NS- Not significant

Mean differences shown in table 3 that high socio-economic group of students are more extrovert (mean=53.6) and neurotic (mean 46.33) than low socio-economic group of students (mean= 48.4 and 44.53 respectively) but there difference is not statistically significant.

Conclusion:-

Most of the medical students were stable-extrovert personality type.

Female (51.92) medical students were more extrovert than male (49.68) students whereas male (46.76) medical students were more neurotic than female (46.48) students, but the difference is not significant.

High socio-economic group of medical students were more extrovert and neurotic than low socio-economic group of medical students.

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