

Personality As A Determinant Of College Going Youth

Abstract

The study was conducted to explore personality as determinant in male and female college going youth in Dehradun district. Simple random sampling was used and total 100 respondents constituted the sample of the study. They were equally divided into male and female college youth. They were administered Big Five Personality Inventory developed by Dr. Arun Kumar Singh & Dr. Ashok Kumar for the purpose of data collection. It includes five aspects : neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness. The obtained data were analysed with the help of mean, S.D. & t-test. It was found that urban female college youth is significantly better in openness to experience and agreeableness than urban male college youth. Similar results were shown for urban female college youth on comparing with their rural counterparts. Rural male college youth found to be more neurotic than urban male college youth. Finally no significant difference was found in rural male and rural female college youth.

Keywords: Personality, Big Five Personality Traits, College Youth.

Introduction

Youth is the period of life or more assertively it is a phase of life, marked as young, energetic and youthful well known for their risk taking or loving behavior, highly motivated and treasure of hidden potential. However, sometimes they demonstrate and also indulge into violent and unappreciable activities, become aggressive and thus bear negative image in the society. These characteristics show psychological traits which are thought to be similar to adolescence period. Because, the category youth is not defined in the developmental stage of human being in psychology, rather it is more a social category that draw its characteristics defined in psychology. In this sense, youth has got some peculiar personality traits that segregate them in the society.

United Nations defined youth as person of age group 15–24 years. That means age is the basic and fundamental parameter of youth. In India 15–29 age group person are known as youth (National Youth Policy, 2014). Most of the college going youth fall under this continuum. Familial, career and societal pressure lead youth under constant struggle and reformation of their personality. At this stage they have to face many challenges as identity crisis, gender discrimination, lack of family support, personal problems, employment problem and securing good job.

Why Study Personality of Youth ?

For centuries personality has been considered as the most important determinant in human life. Personality is that pattern of characteristics, thoughts, feelings and behaviors that distinguishes one person from another and that persists over time and situation (Phares, 1991 : 4). According to Jung personality can be cleaved as extrovert and introvert. Extrovert persons are more successful than introverts. Besides this, personality has been described and measured by a range of theories and models. Trait theory has in recent years become more and more popular. Traits can be described as tendencies to behave and react in specific way (Phares, 1991 : 254). First Allport was able to give 4541 psychological traits to define personality of an individual. After five decades of research, personality theorists have come to a common agreement in traits called as *five basic dimensions or big five personality traits*. The five dimensions are usually described in the following order : *neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness* (Costa & Mcrae, 1992).

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Review of Literature

Literature review suggested that personality study is one of the vital and building block of capabilities and potentialities of youth. Hueon-Gyeong Yoo, Sung – Joo Park (2019) studied the effect of narcissistic personality traits of university students on their social problem solving ability and interpersonal relationship and found it significant in both areas. Personality traits play a significant role in students' academic self-concept and thus students with different personality traits have different behaviors and thinking process and proficiency in achieving academic goals (Ruquaiya Javed & Mahmood Subuktageen Khad, 2018). Shibani Julka (2018) identified varied level of internet usage among adolescents which could serve as a crucial factor in understanding its effect on their personality. Further personality, assessment methods and academic performance (AP) were studied collectively by Adrian Furnham, Sarah Nuygards & Tomas Charmorro-Premuzic (2013) and came to the conclusion that conscientiousness and agreeableness of university students were the strongest predictors of AP. In similar line of study R. Kannappan & M. Hariharan (2011) found significant correlation between personality and academic motivation of female college students.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective is to study the personality traits of college going youth. And secondly it is to determine difference of big five personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) of college going youth in terms of gender and locale.

Hypotheses of the Study

On the basis of objectives, following hypotheses were framed ;

H₁

There will be no significant difference of big five personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) between urban male and urban female college going youth.

H₂

There will be no significant difference of big five personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) between rural male and rural female college going youth.

H₃

There will be no significant difference of big five personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) between urban male and rural male college going youth.

H₄

There will be no significant difference of big five personality traits (neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and

conscientiousness) between urban female and rural female college going youth.

Participants and Procedure

Population of this study comprised of all undergraduate students of government and aided degree colleges of students of rural and urban areas of district dehradun. Sample was identified by simple random technique. 120 questionnaires were distributed to undergraduate college youth. Out of 120, only 100 questionnaires were found to be completely filled. The distribution of students as per gender and locale were as follows ;

Table No. 1

Distribution of Sample Drawn from the Government & Aided Degree Colleges on The Basis of Gender and Locale

Gender / Locale	College		Total
	Urban	Rural	
MALE	25	25	50
FEMALE	25	25	50
TOTAL	50	50	100

Statistical Tool / Instrument Used

In order to study personality of college going youth, Big Five Personality Inventory (BFPI) developed by Dr. Arun Kumar Singh & Dr. Ashok Kumar was used. In BFPI five dimensions are included as follows ;

Neuroticism (N)

High scores in this dimension means nervous, insecure, emotional, hypochondriacal and inadequate. Low scores are characterized by relaxed, calm, hardy, unemotional, self-satisfied and secure.

Extraversion (E)

High scores infer by active, social, talkative, optimistic, affectionate and fun-loving. Low scores depict aloof, reserved, task-oriented, quiet, sober and retiring.

Openness to Experience (O)

Curious, creative, imaginative, original and untraditional are the characteristics of high scorers whereas low scorers hold conventional, unartistic, unanalytical and showing narrow interest.

Agreeableness (A)

This dimension contains characteristics as helpful, good nature, forgiving, soft-hearted, gullible and compassionate of high scorers. Low scores indicate person as rude, cynical, unhelpful and ruthless, irritable, vengeful and manipulative.

Conscientiousness (C)

High scores define person as organized, hardworking, self-disciplined, punctual, ambitious and persevering. Low scores show unreliable, aimless, careless, negligent, weak-willed and hedonistic personality.

This inventory contains 180 items, distributed among all the five dimensions equally. All the responses given by respondents can be scored easily with the help of scoring key that awarded 2 for tallied score and 1 for un-tallied score.

Results and Discussions

Table No.2

Summary showing dimension-wise and total mean scores, standard deviation and significant mean difference ('t' value) of big five personality traits between urban male & urban female college going youth

Dimensions of personality	Male (Urban)			Female (Urban)			't' value
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.	
Neuroticism (N)	25	51.16	6.32	25	52.84	7.03	0.89
Extraversion (E)	25	54.72	7.26	25	57	5.45	1.25
Openness to Experience (O)	25	55.64	4.29	25	58.56	3.48	2.64*
Agreeableness (A)	25	57.4	6.51	25	64.32	3.17	4.78**
Conscientiousness (C)	25	55.52	7.78	25	58.2	6.52	1.32
Total	25	274.44	23.52	25	290.92	11.82	3.13

*=Significant at 0.05 level of significant

df=48

**= Significant at 0.01 level of significant

From table 2, we can see the 5 dimensions of personality with their mean for urban male and urban female groups are 51.16, 54.72, 55.64, 57.4, 55.52 and 52.84, 57, 58.56, 64.32, 58.2 respectively. The statistically significant difference by 't' test registered for neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness is 0.89, 1.25, 2.64, 4.78, 1.32 out of which 0.89, 1.25 & 1.32 are less than the table values 2.02 at 0.05 & 2.69 at 0.01 level of significance. This means that no significant difference are found between urban male and urban female college students in terms of neuroticism, extraversion and

conscientiousness. 't' values 2.64 & 4.78 are more than table values at 0.05 and 0.05 & 0.01 respectively, which indicate that there is a significant difference between urban male and urban female college students for openness to experience and agreeableness.

In total, 274.44 and 290.92 are the mean of urban male and female college students respectively. Calculated 't' value is 3.13 which is more than the table value 2.02 at 0.05 & 2.69 at 0.01. Null hypothesis is rejected. It showed that there is a significant difference between urban male and urban female college students. It further stated that urban female college youth have better personality than urban male college youth.

Table No.3

Summary showing Dimension-Wise And Total Mean Scores, Standard Deviation And Significant Mean Difference ('t' value) Of Big Five Personality Traits Between Rural Male & Rural Female College Going Youth

Dimensions of personality	Male (Rural)			Female(Rural)			't' value
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.	
Neuroticism (N)	25	54.96	5.99	25	54.4	4.79	0.37
Extraversion (E)	25	57.6	5.96	25	56.2	3.95	0.98
Openness to Experience (O)	25	55.36	3.34	25	55.96	3.02	0.67
Agreeableness (A)	25	58.4	4.20	25	59.92	4.38	1.25
Conscientiousness (C)	25	55.36	3.38	25	56	4.79	0.55
Total	25	280.6	12.82	25	282.48	11.04	3.38**

**= Significant at 0.01 level of significant

df=48

From table 3, results showed mean for rural male and rural female groups are 54.96, 57.6, 55.36, 58.4, 55.36 and 54.4, 56.2, 55.96, 55.92, 56 respectively for five dimensions of personality. The statistically significant difference by 't' test registered for neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness is 0.37, 0.98, 0.67, 1.25, 0.55, all calculated 't' values are less than the table values 2.02 at 0.05 & 2.69 at 0.01 level of significance. This means that no significant difference are found between rural male and rural female college students in terms of neuroticism, extraversion, openness

to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness.

Regarding overall values of personality, 280.6 and 282.48 are the mean of rural male and rural female college students respectively. Calculated 't' value is 3.38 which is more than the table value 2.02 at 0.05 & 2.69 at 0.01. Hence null hypothesis is rejected. It showed that there is a significant difference between rural male and rural female college students. It further stated that rural female college students have better personality than rural male college students.

Table No.4

Summary showing Dimension-Wise And Total Mean Scores, Standard Deviation And Significant Mean Difference ('t' value) Of Big Five Personality Traits Between Urban Male & Rural Male College Going Youth.

Dimensions of personality	Urban(Male)			Rural(Male)			't' value
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.	
Neuroticism (N)	25	51.16	6.32	25	54.96	5.99	2.18*
Extraversion (E)	25	54.72	7.26	25	57.6	5.96	1.53
Openness to Experience (O)	25	55.64	4.29	25	55.36	3.34	0.26
Agreeableness (A)	25	57.4	6.51	25	58.4	4.20	0.65
Conscientiousness (C)	25	55.52	7.78	25	55.36	3.38	0.094
Total	25	274.44	23.52	25	280.6	12.82	1.15

*=Significant at 0.05 level of significant

df=48

As shown in table 4, mean of 5 dimensions of personality for urban male and rural male groups 51.16, 54.72, 55.64, 57.4, 55.52 and 54.96, 57.6, 55.36, 58.4, 55.36 are given respectively. Calculated 't' values registered for neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness are 2.18, 1.53, 0.26, 0.65, 0.094 respectively, out of these values only 2.18 is more than the table value 2.02 at 0.05 level of significance indicating significant difference between urban male and rural male group in case of neuroticism. 1.53, 0.26, 0.65 and 0.094 all calculated 't' values are less than the table values 2.02 at 0.05 & 2.69 at 0.01 level of significance. This means that no

significant difference are found between urban male and rural male college youth in terms of extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness.

In total, 274.44 and 280.92 are the mean of urban male and female college students respectively. Calculated 't' value is 1.15 which is less than the table value 2.02 at 0.05 & 2.69 at 0.01. Null hypothesis is accepted. It showed that there is no significant difference between urban male and rural male college youth. It can be further explained that there is no difference in the personality of urban male and rural male college youth.

Table No.5

Summary showing dimension-wise and total mean scores, standard deviation and significant mean difference ('t' value) of big five personality traits between urban female & rural female college going youth.

Dimensions of personality	Urban (Female)			Rural (Female)			't' value
	N	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean	S.D.	
Neuroticism (N)	25	52.84	7.03	25	54.4	4.79	0.917
Extraversion (E)	25	57	5.45	25	56.2	3.95	0.594
Openness to Experience (O)	25	58.56	3.48	25	55.96	3.02	2.821**
Agreeableness (A)	25	64.32	3.17	25	59.92	4.38	4.068**
Conscientiousness (C)	25	58.2	6.52	25	56	4.79	1.359
Total	25	290.92	11.82	25	282.48	11.04	2.609*

*=Significant at 0.05 level of significant

df=48

**= Significant at 0.01 level of significant

Table 5, contained mean values for urban female and rural female groups, which are 52.84, 57, 55.64, 58.56, 64.32, 58.2 and 54.4, 56.2, 55.96, 59.92, 56 respectively for five dimensions of big five personality traits. The statistically significant difference by 't' test registered for neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness is 0.917, 0.594, 2.821, 4.068, 1.359 out of which 0.179, 0.594 & 1.359 are less than the table values 2.02 at 0.05 & 2.69 at 0.01 level of significance. This means that no significant difference are found between urban female and rural female college students in terms of neuroticism, extraversion and conscientiousness. Calculated 't' values 2.821 & 4.068 are more than table values 2.02 at 0.05 and 2.69 at 0.01 respectively, indicating that there is a significant difference between urban female and rural female college youth in the area of openness to experience and agreeableness.

extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness. The analysis of our result has reported that our first, second and fourth hypotheses are rejected whereas third null hypothesis is accepted.

In first hypothesis, it was said that there is no significant difference between big five personality traits of urban male and urban female college going youth. The analysis reported that urban college going females have significantly better personality than urban college going males. Urban college going females are significantly better in openness to experience and agreeableness than urban college going males. In present scenario, with the development of positive attitude and motivation towards girls education, females are continuously proving themselves ahead in every field of life. That is why such type of results are in favor of females. However no difference was found in the dimensions of neuroticism, extraversion and conscientiousness between two groups.

In total, 290.92 and 282.48 are the mean of urban female and rural female college students respectively. Calculated 't' value is 2.609, which is more than the table value 2.02 at 0.05 & equal to 2.69 at 0.01. Therefore, null hypothesis is not accepted. It showed that there is a significant difference between urban female and rural female college students. It further implied that urban female college students have better personality than rural female college youth.

In the second hypothesis it was said that there will be no significant difference between big five personality traits of rural male and rural female college going youth. The analysis shows that rural female college going youth possesses good personality than rural male college going youth. But these results are about the total dimensions of big five personality traits. If we observe dimensions separately, it was found that no significant difference existed in neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness between the two groups. This was due to the reason that personality development is a continuous process and it requires various beneficial activities to be conducted for rural youth of college. They need exposure to co-curricular activities, which they, most

Discussion and Conclusion

In the present study an attempt was made to theoretically substantiate and empirically test the differences in the personality on the basis of gender and locale across the five dimensions of big five personality traits that stretches from neuroticism,

often do not get this type of opportunities in their locality in comparison to their urban counterparts.

In third hypothesis, it was hypothesised that no significant difference is there between big five personality traits of urban male and rural male college going youth. After analysis, it was found no significant difference in the personality of urban male and rural male college youth. It is meant that none of the group exhibit better personality traits. However, significant difference was found for the dimension neuroticism between the group. Rural male college youth are more neurotic than urban male college youth. In real life setting, lack of facilities in rural areas move rural youth towards unhealthy development of personality. They have to face more problems in the field of education, which make them sometimes nervous, insecure and inadequate than their urban counterparts. No significant difference was found in rest of the dimensions.

Last hypothesis claimed that there will be no significant difference between big five personality traits of urban female and rural female college going youth. Analysis of empirical data suggested that urban female college youth possess better personality traits than rural female college youth. It may be due to the fact that rural female get lesser opportunity to get education at higher level, which hamper their personality development. More often they are forced by their parents/guardians to discontinue their education upto school level only. Dimension-wise, urban female are more agreeable and open to experience than their rural counterparts. Whereas in other dimensions viz. neuroticism, extraversion and conscientiousness, no significant difference was found between the two groups.

Further prospects of this promising research presuppose extending the sample and continue testing the major hypotheses in the samples of male and female college youth of urban and rural background. Effect of big five personality dimensions can be explored on college youth of different academic background as science, commerce, arts, humanities. Potential steps should be taken by the

higher education institutions to bridge the gaps in personality development of youth belonging to urban and rural areas.

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