Personality Traits among Adolescents Living in Deprived Conditions

SAJAD HUSSAIN¹ AND AMRA AHSAN²
¹Ph.D. Scholar and ²Assistant Professor
Amity Institute of Behavioral and Allied Sciences, Jaipur (Rajasthan) India

ABSTRACT

Objective: The present study is aimed to compare the difference in various measures of personality traits among adolescents living in deprived and non-deprived conditions. Method:Between groupresearch design was designed to conduct the study.The sample selected for the study comprised of (N=100) respondents aged between (10-19) years. The sample was divided into two groups based on the scores obtained on Prolonged Deprivation Scale.Both the groups comprised of (n=50) deprived and non-deprived adolescents. Prolonged deprivation scale developed by Mishra and Tripathi (1978) was used to evaluate the level of deprivation among adolescents. Likewise,HEXACO-PI developed by Ashton and Lee (2009) was administered to assess the personality traits in the said sample.Independent sample t-test was used to analyze the obtained data. Results: The findings of the study revealed that the adolescents living in deprived conditions obtained higher Mean score on Honesty/Humility. On the Contrary, non-deprived adolescents scored higher Mean score on Extraversion and Openness to Experience. Conclusion: Therefore, it may be inferred from the outcome of the study that the Deprivation status of the adolescents showed a profound effect in the development of the personality.

Key Words : Adolescents, Personality traits, Deprived status

INTRODUCTION

The term adolescents has been taken from the Latin word adolescere meaning to "grow" or " to grow to maturity". According to World Health Organization (WHO) the age of adolescents ranges from 10-19 years. Piaget (1969) states that, Psychologically, "adolescence is the age when the individual becomes integrated into the society of adults, the age when the child no longer feels that he is below the level of his elders but equal, at least in rights. This integration into adult society has affective aspects, more or less linked with puberty. It also includes very profound intellectual changes. These intellectual transformation typical of the adolescent's thinking enable him not only to achieve his integration into the social relationship of adults, which is, in fact, the most general characteristics of this period of development" (p.22-26). Allport (1961) defines personality as the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine characteristic behavior and thought."Keith and Keith (1968) described deprivation as "insufficient satisfaction of basic psychological needs" (p.45-52-98). Hart *et al.* (2008) researched a close relationship between deprived conditions and personality changes. The findings of the study showed that factors like type of neighborhood financial disadvantage have an immediate link with unfavorable personality variations. The factors such as family income, maternal education, and maternal trust in the family, and cognitive and emotional support in the home environment for children had little contribution in the changing the personality pattern among children. Matheny and Phillips (2001) found an association between type of neighborhood and personality traits. The findings of the study unveiled that there exists a change in personality boys residing in calm environment and boys

living in noisy, crowded, clumsy and disorganized neighborhood. A study conducted by Halverson and Deal (2001) investigated that children residing in low socioeconomic conditions showed a change in the personality changes. The findings of the study revealed that the variables like poor family functioning, low parental education and low work satisfaction results in the change in personality among children aging from 4-7 years. Furthermore, the outcomes of the research also uncovered that the children from deprived conditions experience stress which lead to change in personality trait among children. In an investigation, DelVecchio and Kapatral (2000) found an association between personality traits and age. The outcomes of the research revealed that there occurs minor change in personality traits with age. Results showed a moderate correlation of 0.31 in childhood to 0.54 during the college years, 0.64 at age 30, and then reached a plateau level around 0.74 between ages 50 and 70 when time interval was held constant at 6.7 years. In a study, Kaur (2014) discovered a profound link between socioeconomic strata and personality type. The findings of the study showed no significant gender difference on the level of neuroticism and extraversion dimension of personality type among different level of socio-economic strata. Mean scores on extraversion showed a significant difference among students. The outcomes of the study further unveiled a statistically significant difference on extraversion and the students from middle class and low middle class families. There existed no statistically significant difference among students from middleclass and upper middle class background. Furthermore, no statistically significance difference exited among the students from low middle class and upper middle class background. Furthermore, Hart *et al.* (2003) researched a profound change in personality pattern among children living in low socio-economic status. The findings of the study unveiled that factor many siblings, low family income, unhealthy family environment all contribute to the personality variation during childhood. Effect of stress also played a major role in the modification in personality among children. The outcomes of the study also showed that children from deprived conditions at the age of (3-4) years get were more likely to convert from the resilient personality to uncontrolled type of personality at age (5-6) years.

Objectives:
1) To explore the various measures of personality

traits among deprived and non-deprived adolescents.

Hypotheses:
H1:There will be a statistically significant differences among deprived and non-deprived adolescents in the various measures of personality traits.

METHODOLOGY

Research design:
In order to fulfill the objectives of the study, Between-group design was framed.

Sample:
Non-Probability (Purposive Sampling) technique was carried to collect the data. The total sample of the study was comprised of (N=100) adolescents aged between (13-19 years) from Kashmir region. The sample was divided into two categories on the basis of scores obtained on the prolonged deprivation scale. The respondents scored 75th percentile (above 286 score), were considered deprived while the respondents scored 25th percentile (below 224 score) percentile were considered as non- deprived. Each of the two group comprised of an equal number of deprived (n=50) and non-deprived adolescents (n=50).

Inclusion criteria:
Adolescents aged (13-19) years were selected.

Exclusion criteria:
Adolescents from psychological illness were excluded.
Participants who did not give informed consent were not included in the study.

Tools used:
In order to assess the deprivation status of the respondents, the Prolonged Deprivation Scale (PDS) developed by Mishra and Tripathi (1978) was employed. The Prolonged Deprivation scale contains 96 items to identify and measure the degree of deprivation on 15 domains : Housing conditions, home environment, economic sufficiency, food, clothing, educational experiences, childhood experiences, rearing experiences, parental experiences, interactions with parents, motivational experiences, emotional experiences, religious experiences, travel and recreation and miscellaneous quasi-cultural experiences. Five-point rating scale, for

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each item independently was used. In this system each item was divided into five categories ranging from scale values of 1 to 5 in which high score indicated high deprivation and vice-versa. All of the items of the Prolonged Deprivation Scale (PDS) were conceived as units of prolonged deprivation. The sample chosen for the entire study ranged from 15-25 years of age. There is no time limit for the completion of the test. The Inter-rater reliabilities are quite high. The average of the correlation based on Fisher's Z score was .91 and the index of reliability was .95, indicating high inter-rater reliability of the scale. The test-re-test reliability from the two sets of scores was .59 and the index of reliability was .77. The split-half reliability after computing coefficient of correlation between the two of scores on odd and even items Spearman-Brown prophecy formula was used and a reliability coefficient .91 was obtained. The index of reliability was .95. Internal consistency of the scale determined by Kuder-Richardson formula-20 was found to be .92 which again provides a high degree of internal consistency of the scale. As far as validity of the scale is concerned, the content validity, the intrinsic validity, the predictive validity and the construct validity of the scale was also found appropriate as the item used in the test assessed different degree of deprivation. Similarly, HEXACO- 60 PI developed by Ashton and Lee (2009) was used to assess the various measures of personality traits. The HEXACO personality Inventory consisted of 60 items. It has six domains namely: Honesty/Humility, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience. Each of the sub-scale comprised of 10 items each. Five-point rating scale, for each item independently was used. In this system each item was divided into five categories ranging from scale values of 1 to 5 indicating from strongly

disagree to strongly agree. The test can easily administered on adolescents and adult population. The maximum time take for the completion of the test is 10 minutes. The Inter-item correlation of the test for college students ranged from r =.25 to .29 and from .21 to .28 in the community sample. The internal consistency reliabilities ranged from .77 to .80 in the college students and .73 to .80 in the community sample. The correlation among sub-scales varied from .91 to .94 in the college sample and .89 to .93 in the community sample.

Statistical analysis:
Independent sample t- test was employed to analyze the obtained data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results table 1 shows that the deprived adolescents scored higher Mean score on Honesty/Humility (M=31.02, SD=6.71) when compared to non-deprived counterparts (M=19.40, SD=6.94), t (98) =8.50, p<0.001.

The result table further illustrates that the Mean scores obtained on Emotionality by deprived (M= 27.60; SD=4.44) and non-deprived adolescents (M= 26.66; SD= 26.66), is more or less similar, t (98) = 1.90, p> 0.05

It may be seen from the result table 1 that the Mean score on level of Extraversion is higher among non-deprived adolescents (M=20.14, SD=3.22) when differentiated with deprived adolescents (M=14.98, SD = 3.22), t (98) =5.66, p <0.001.

The result table further reveals that the Mean score obtained by the deprived and non-deprived adolescents on Agreeableness is more or less similar (M= 25.54, SD=10.98 vs M=26.90, SD=5.81), t(98)=1.34, p>0.05.

Table 1 : Mean difference in various measures of personality traits among deprived and non-deprived adolescents				
	Deprivation status (N=100)		t	p
Measures	Deprived (n=50) Mean (SD)	Non-deprived (n=50) Mean (SD)	(df=98)	
H/H	31.02 (6.71)	19.40 (6.94)	8.50***	.00
EM	27.60 (4.44)	26.66 (4.11)	1.90(n.s)	.27
EXT	14.98 (3.22)	20.14 (5.57)	5.66***	.00
AGR	24.54 (10.98)	26.90 (5.81)	1.34(n.s)	.18
CON	29.2 (4.18)	28.06 (4.94)	1.28(n.s)	.20
OPE	20.24 (8.28)	29.78 (5.52)	6.77***	.00

Note : H/H : Honesty/Humility, EM : Emotionality, EXT : Extraversion, AGR : Agreeableness, CON : Conscientiousness, OPE : Openness to Experience
*p<.05 ,** p < .01,***p< 0.001,n.s (not significant)

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Likewise, the Mean score obtained on Conscientiousness is also seen more or less similar among deprived (M =29.2; SD=4.18) and non-deprived adolescents (M=28.06; SD=1.28), t (98) =1.28, p> 0.05

As far as Openness to Experience is concerned, the Mean score of non-deprived adolescents is higher (M=29.78, SD =5.52) when equated with adolescents living in deprived conditions (M= 20.24, SD=8.28), t (98)=6.77, p<0.001.

Discussion:

The present study was intended at providing an in-depth into the various dimensions of personality traits among deprived and non-deprived adolescents.

The findings of the present study demonstrated a statistically significant differences in various measures of personality traits among deprived and non-deprived adolescents. The results of the study further revealed that deprived adolescents scored higher Mean scores on Honesty/Humility which indicates that adolescents living in deprived conditions avoid employing others for personal gain. They are less attracted in lavish wealth and luxuries life. They feel little tempted to break rules and regulations. This shows that the deprived adolescents avoid employing others for personal gain. They are less attracted in lavish wealth and luxuries life. They feel little tempted to break rules and regulations. In a study, Halverson and Deal (2001) investigated that children residing in low socioeconomic conditions showed a change in the personality changes. The findings of the study revealed that the variables like poor family functioning, low parental education and low work satisfaction results in the change in personality among children aging from 4-7 years. Roberts and DelVecchio (2000) also found an association between personality traits and age. The outcomes of the research revealed that there occurs minor change in personality traits with age.

The result of the study demonstrates that the Mean scores obtained by non-deprived adolescents were higher on Extraversion and Openness to Experience when compared with deprived adolescents. The finding of the present further illustrates that the adolescents living in privileged families feel confident when leading or addressing group of people. They experience positive feelings of enthusiasm. They feel energetic. They enjoy social gatherings and interactions. The non-deprived adolescents are inquisitive about various spheres of information. They get easily fascinated in the beauty of art nature. They use their imaginative ability to deal their day to day life issues. They also take an interest in unusual ideas and people. In a study, Kaur (2014) discovered a statistically significant difference on extraversion and the students from middle class and low middle class families. There existed no statistically significant difference among students from middleclass and upper middle class background. Furthermore, no statistically significance difference exited among the students from low middle class and upper middle class background. In another research Hart, Atkins and Matsuba (2008) researched a close relationship between deprived conditions and personality changes. The findings of the study showed that factors like type of neighborhood financial disadvantage have an immediate link with unfavorable personality variations. Furthermore, Matheny and Phillips (2001) found a change in personality among males residing in calm environment and male living in noisy, crowded, clumsy and disorganized neighborhood.

Conclusion:

It may be inferred from the findings of the study that there exists a statistically significant difference in the various dimensions of personality traits. This clearly illustrates that deprivation status (deprived and non-deprived) showed a significant impact on the various personality traits among adolescents. Further research is needed to be done to have a better understanding of the circumstances encountered by the adolescents due to non-availability of the basic necessities of life.

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