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Research Paper

The Relationship Between Sensation Seeking, Impulsivity and

Personality Trait of Male Off-Road Racers

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ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on finding the levels of impulsivity and sensation-seeking among the off-road motorsport racers and also will shed light on the personality traits of the racer. This study is concerned with the influence of sensation seeking and impulsivity on personality traits and to examine the predictive role of sensation seeking, impulsivity, and personality trait among off-road racers. The sample consisted of all individuals who are offroad racer from the southern part of India particularly from Karnataka and Kerala (N=33). The statistical techniques that are applied in the study are descriptive statistics-mean and standard deviation, Pearson's Correlation. The study revealed that Off-roaders are highly sensation seekers. They are found to have high experience-seeking, adventure, and thrillseeking. High extraversion, openness and conscientiousness, and a moderate level of agreeableness were found as personality traits. There is a positive correlation between sensation seeking, extraversion, and openness to experience. A negative correlation was found between impulsivity, agreeableness, and conscientiousness.

Keywords: Off-road Racers, Sensation Seeking, Impulsivity, Personality Traits

otorsports is a term used for sporting competitions featuring motor vehicles for racing or non-racing events. This concept is also used to describe 2-wheel racing and off-road sports events. In India, motorsports have existed for more than 6 decades, but it has increased in popularity and interest throughout the country over the last few years. With rising participation in international rallies and road racing competitions, the role of India in the global motorsport arena has never been greater.

Off-road riding or driving a car over unsupervised paths or roadways, consisting of sand, gravel, riverbeds, mud, snow, rocks, and other natural ground. Forms of off-road driving vary in intensity, from the recreation with unmodified cars to competitions with specialized vehicles and experienced drivers. Off-roading is a niche outdoor sport for Indians – intended mostly for those who are willing to afford their machinery.

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Motor racing involves high-speed driving and dangerous moves. Sensation-seeking is the inclination to seek fresh, thrilling, or exciting and unfamiliar experiences, sensations. According to Zuckerman, 1994, p. 27, "Sensation seeking is a trait defined by the seeking of varied, novel, complex, and intense sensations and experiences, and the willingness to take physical, social, legal, and financial risks for the sake of such experience" (Zuckerman & Aluja, 2015) Zuckerman acknowledged that a high-sensation-seeking personality is dynamic. It consists of four individual components, each of which leads to an individual's particular way of finding or resisting sensations. Thrill and adventure-seeking: This aspect encourages the enjoyment of events that are at least mildly frightening. Many who pursue excitement and adventure search for sporting experiences that are exciting and adventurous. In comparison, those that don't seek excitement and adventure might avoid things that appear to be challenging or dangerous. Experience seeking: This element involves new sensations and experiences, including stimulating music, art, and travel. It also encompasses social non-compliance, in particular associated with belonging to communities on the fringes of traditional society. Disinhibition: This encompasses the context of social life, such as gatherings and parties, clubs, gambling, illegal drugs, and sex. Boredom Susceptibility: Any form of repetitive experience, including tedious work and dull people, will not be accepted by individuals who score high on this factor. The sensation-seeking ought not to be confused with being irresponsible. Individuals who are high-sensation searchers, for instance, are bound to have different sexual encounters, however, are not bound to quit utilizing condoms. They might be more inclined to drive rapidly; however, their safety belts are not more averse to be utilized. Also, before any ride, rock climbers take great utilization of wellbeing gear, learn self-salvage strategies, and altogether check their stuff. According to Steinberg, 2007 Youth, nonetheless, might be a particularly unsafe age, since there is a transient distinction between the beginning of adolescence at which young people are extremely energized and the slow development of the intellectual control systems that manage such grown-up movement (Kelland, 2010). A study on Sensation seeking and peer passenger influence on risky driving among novice drivers in Udupi Taluk, India by (Grace, Sumit, & Chakraborty, 2020) indicates that most respondents demonstrate a high proportion of thrill and adventure-seeking relative to the other three sub-scales. According to Wilson and Scarpa, 2011, sensation-seeking has been recognized as a source of violent actions (Pérez Fuentes María Del Carmen, 2016). Jonah (1997) showed a strong connection between sensation seeking levels and a variety of risk-taking indicators (e.g. drink driving, driving speed, undesirable behaviour, red-light breaking or failure to stop signs) (Gianfranchi Evelyn, 2017).

Impulsivity or impulsive behavior is broadly characterized as unintentional, untimely, unreasonably dangerous, and improper measures without foresight. Impulsiveness is correlated with unnecessary and not beneficial effects. Motorsports include a variety of diverse forms of auto racing (e.g., stock car, truck), All-terrain ATV (ATV) driving, trail bike motorcycling, and four-wheeling events. Moeller et al., 2001 study mentions impulsivity in young and/or beginner drivers is especially important for self-reports of reckless driving. Impulse represents the propensity of people to behave instinctively, without premeditation or anticipation to react to environmental issues or other stimuli, and to benefit from short and immediate pleasure over long-term and deferred incentives (Poulter Damian R., 2019). Zuckerman, 1979; Dickman, 1993; Arnett, 1994; Whiteside & Lynam, 2001 suggested that sensation seeking and impulsivity is dynamic and multidimensional characteristics. Zuckerman, 1979 and Schalling, 1978 defined sensation seeking as a strong need for different, unique, and stimulating experiences, and a willingness to explore for the

sake of such life experience, on the other hand, impulsivity was described as a lack of reflectivity and doubts, quick decision-making and response and irresponsibility, respectively. Sensation seeking and impulsiveness are associated, which causes some researchers to merge them into one construct (e.g., Zuckerman, 1996). Other scholars conclude impulsivity and sensation-seeking are distinct features (e.g., Schalling, 1978) (Magid, MacLean, & Colder, 2007)

Personality is one of the most distinctive characteristics of the human species. Personality refers to the long-standing attributes and patterns that drive people to think act and speak consistently in particular ways. Our individuality makes us special beings. Each individual has a special, resilient, long-lasting pattern of how they communicate with other people and the world around them. It is considered that our personalities are long-term, constant, and not easily modified. The Big 5, the five major personality traits have become widely accepted by personality researchers. These five traits are Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism. Five-Factor Model analyses confirm the effectiveness of extraversion, neuroticism, and (FFM) conscientiousness in forecasting performance and actions relevant to driving. First, motor vehicle injuries, road deaths, traffic offenses, and driving under the influence have been linked with extraversion (Eysenck, 1970; Good, 1963; Lajunen, 2001; Renner & Anderle, 2000; Smith& Kirkham, 1981; Martin & Boomsma, 1989). Next, neuroticism is associated with car injuries, deaths, driving violence, and driving hate (Kirkcaldy & Furnham, 2000; Matthews, Dorn, & Glendon, 1991). Furthermore, conscientiousness is inversely correlated to collisions at fault, absolute crashes, and tickets for driving offenses (Arthur & Doverspike, 2001; Arthur & Graziano, 1996). As several experiments have failed to establish connections with driving results or actions (e.g., Miles & Johnson, 2003), the predictive importance of accuracy and transparency is less apparent. Exceptions include the Cellar, Nelson, and Yorke (2000) analysis which found the consent to the inverse use of road quotation and the results of Arthur and Graziano (1996) that the opening up of a case contribute to fault accidents (Dahlen & White, 2006)

A study on the relationship between the big five personality traits, impulsivity, and anabolic steroid use regression analysis revealed that AAS use was significantly predicted by neuroticism, impulsivity, and delaying gratification. In the relation between neurotics and AAS, impulsivity also served as a partial mediator (Garcia-Argibay, 2019). The comparison of sensation seeking and five big factors of personality between internet dependents and non-dependents revealed that internet dependence was shown to be very distinct (P<0.001), relative to non-dependent individuals. Internet addicts were noticeably higher in thrill and adventure-seeking subscales (P<0.05), disinhibition, and boredom susceptibility (P<0.001) than addicts (Soudeh Rahmani, 2011).

Focus of the study

In India, the off-roading and 4x4 motorsports community are like an infant, kicking and rising alive. There have been quite a few events, and as new tracks are being constructed across the country, even more, are underway. The adventure sports industry has a lot of promise as an uncharted market and is gaining prominence. However, as can be seen in numerous successful events held in the near times. in this area, only a few active members are present who try all in their capability to make it expand. The present study focuses on finding the levels of impulsivity and sensation-seeking among the off-road motorsport racers and also will shed light on the personality traits of the racers

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METHODOLOGY

This is a non-experimental study with a quantitative approach

Statement of the problem

This study is concerned with the influence of sensation seeking and impulsivity on the personality trait. Secondly, to examine the predictive role of sensation seeking, impulsivity, and personality trait among off-road racers. Finally, the study aims to find the level of sensation seeking and impulsivity among off-road racers.

Variable

This research study is about three variables – sensation seeking, impulsivity, and personality trait

Objectives

- To find the level of impulsivity among the off-road racers
- To find the level of sensation seeking among off-road racers
- To find the big five personality traits of off-road racers
- To find the correlation between sensation seeking, impulsivity, and personality trait

Objectives

H1. There is no significant correlation between sensation seeking and personality traits

H2. There is no significant correlation between impulsivity and personality traits

H3. There is no significant correlation between impulsivity and sensation seeking.

Samples and sampling techniques

The sample consisted of all individuals who are off-road racer from southern part of India particularly from Karnataka and Kerala (N=33). Other type of motorsport racers were excluded in the study. This study uses non-probability sampling method with purposive sampling technique for the collection of data. The reason for choosing this sampling technique is to select particular characteristics from a population to create a sample. Participants' ages ranged from 20 to 50.

Instruments

Three measures were used in this study,

- The Brief Sensation Seeking Scale BSSS: The eight-item BSSS-8 was used to assess sensation seeking. Responses were indicated on five-point scales labelled 'strongly disagree', 'disagree', 'neither disagree nor agree', 'agree' and 'strongly agree'. The BSSS is an 8-item scale developed by Hoyle et al. (2002). In its original form (Hoyle et al., 2002), its Chinese adaptation (Chen et al., 2013), and its Italian adaptation (Chen et al., 2013), the scale has proper reliability and validity evidence (Primi et al., 2011) (Saletti, Chang, Pérez-Aranibar, & Campos, 2017).
- The BIS-11: The BIS-11 is a 30-item self-report measure designed to assess general impulsiveness. The items are scored on a 4-point scale (1 rarely/never, 2 occasionally, 3 often, 4 almost always/ always). Published reliability coefficients for the BIS-11 total score (Cronbach's) range from 0.72 to 0.83 (Steinberg, Sharp, Stanford, & Tharp, 2013)
- **Ten Item Personality Measure (Tipi):** The TIPI is a 10-item measure of the Big Five (or Five-Factor Model) dimensions. The Ten-Item Personality Inventory (TIPI)

is a brief assessment of the Big Five personality dimensions: (1) Extraversion, (2) Agreeableness, (3) Conscientiousness, (4) Emotional Stability, and (5) Openness to Experience. Items are rated on a scale from 1, disagree strongly, to 7, agree strongly. Example items include, "I see myself as extraverted, enthusiastic" (Extraversion) and "I see myself as dependable, self-disciplined" (Conscientiousness). The Big Five personality measurements were measured using a ten-item scale, with two items representing each dimension. Every item is scored on a seven-point scale ranging from one to seven, with one being the most highly disagreed with. Though it lacks some of the efficiency and validity seen in longer measurements of the Big Five personality metrics, the test was designed to be completed in under a minute.

Statistical techniques

The statistical techniques that are applied in the study are Descriptive Statistics-mean and standard deviation, Pearsons Correlation. SPSS (Statistical Product and Service Solutions) 21 was employed to analyse the data.

Procedure

- The participants were contacted through social media.
- Google forms with the questionnaire were created and were sent to the participants.
- A good rapport was established and the purpose of the study was explained to each participants.
- Consent was taken from the participant.
- Confidentiality was maintained
- Later the data were entered in the Microsoft excel sheet

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Objectives 1: To find the level of impulsivity among the off-road racers.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Error	Std. Deviation
Non-planning	33	11.000	.61	3.52
Motor impulsivity	33	11.303	.47	2.75
Attention impulsivity	33	11.909	.28	1.66
Total	33	54.787	1.99	11.48

Table 1: Descriptive of impulsivity

Participants scored an overall score of 11.000 in the non-planning subscale. Non- planning is defined as p resent-moment focus regardless of future implications. The cut-off for that subscale is 11.2, meaning that the participants in general have high degree of non-planning, indicating t that they focus more on the present and less on the future consequences. The mean scores of motor impulsivity and attention impulsivity are 11.303 and 11.909 respectively. Motor impulsivity can be defined as acting out without thinking or acting spur at the moment. Unable to concentrate or focus is known as attentional impulsivity. The results suggest that the sample has high level in both the subscales- motor impulsivity and attention impulsivity is 54.787, which suggest that the participants as a whole are highly impulsive in nature.

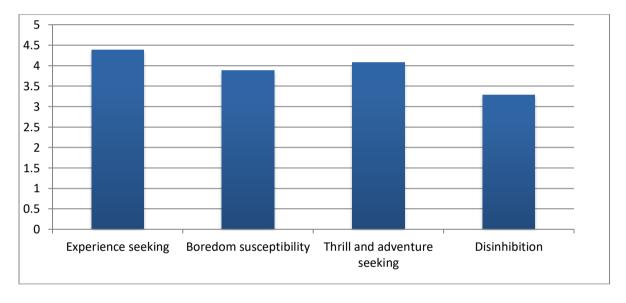
Previous researches has indicated that habits of risk-taking, impulsive and thrilling quest for action are appropriate and appealing reflecting conformity theories, social acceptance, group identification, group values, encouragement and awards within that particular cultural group (Hughes, 2018).

Objectives 2: To find the level of sensation seeking among off-road racers

Table 2: Descriptive of	of sensation seeking
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1 able 2: Descriptive of sensation seeking						
Variables	Ν	Mean	Std. Error	Std. Deviation		
Sensation seeking	33	3.905	.108	.624		

The total mean scores of 31.424 were attained by the off-road racers for sensation seeking including all the subscales of brief sensation seeking scale, which interprets that the samples as a whole are high sensation seekers.



The above table depicts the mean score of each subscales of sensation seeking. The total mean score of experience seeking, boredom susceptibility, thrill and adventure seeking and disinhibition are 4.378, 3.878, 4.075, and 3.287 respectively. This shows that the off-road racers are more into experience seeking, thrill and adventure seeking and they have score a less mean score in disinhibition. People with low levels of disinhibition manage their actions more closely and consider about more of the implications and they don't act spontaneously. People with high boredom susceptibility tends to dislike repeated activities, they want to explore new things. That with very high thrill and adventure seeking tends to search for exciting and dangerous physical activities. According to Zuckerman (2001, 2015) Thrill seeking was another influential predictor for motorsports, sporting attitudes and accelerated violations. As a subcategory of sensation seeking, higher levels of thrill seeking are considered to be synonymous with engaging in risky sports and activities (Yenier, Vingilis, Wiesenthal, Mann, & Seeley, Relationships between thrill seeking, speeding attitudes, and driving violations among a sample of motorsports spectators and drivers, 2016).Amit, Rozmi, Norhayat, Said & Shazli, 2016 focused on the personal characteristics of racers, researching the principles of street racing, identifying them as people with strong sensation seeking. It may be that people enter car clubs not only to socialise, but also to feel excitement to satisfy sensation seeking (Hughes, 2018).

Table 5: Descriptive of personality trans of off-roda racers						
Traits	Ν	Mean	Std. Deviation			
Extraversion	33	7.90	1.87			
Agreeableness	33	6.50	1.77			
Conscientiousness	33	8.25	1.78			
Emotional stability	33	6.76	2.06			
Openness to experience	33	8.57	4.51			
TOTAL	33	38.00	6.23			

Objectives 3: To find the big five personality traits of off-road racers

Table 3: Descriptive	nersonality traits a	of off-road racers
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The results reveals that the off roaders as a whole obtained a mean score of 7.90 in extraversion, 6.50 in agreeableness, 8.25 in conscientiousness, 6.76 in emotional stability and 8.57 in openness to experience which interprets that they have a high level of extraversion, conscientiousness and openness to experiences and a slightly high level of agreeableness and emotional stability.

Off-road racers are highly assertive, sociable, fun-loving, outgoing. They succeed in social situations and feel confident speaking their mind. They are planned, focused, systematic, diligent, and thoughtful. They embrace freedom. They're curious about their surroundings and love exploring and discovering new things.

Arguelles (2008) contrasts amateur car drivers on the five big characteristics The studies recorded slightly higher levels of agreeableness, high scores on conscientiousness and low scores on neuroticism. Johnsgard and Ogilvie (1968), described a competitor's fundamental personality traits that seem socially stable, autonomous, trustworthy, and competitive to a need for superiority and to accomplish difficult tasks. They also displayed high leadership ability (Morgan, 2013).

Objective 4: To find the correlation between sensation seeking, impulsivity, and personality trait

H1. There is no significant correlation between sensation seeking and personality traits

H2. There is no significant correlation between impulsivity and personality traits

H3. There is no significant correlation between impulsivity and sensation seeking

Variable		Extraversion	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness	Emotional stability	Openness to experience
Sensation seeking	Pearson Correlation	0.507**	065	033	.032	.409*
	Sig. (2 tailed)	.003	.713	.854	.860	.018
	N	33	33	33	33	33

Table 4: (a) Correlation between sensation seeking and personality trait	Table 4: (a)	Correlation between	n sensation seeking a	and personality trait
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The Pearson correlation score of 0.507 was obtained for the relationship between sensation seeking and extraversion and a score of .409 was obtained between openness to experience and sensation seeking, which indicated a positive correlation between sensation seeking,

extraversion and openness to experience. When sensation seeking increases both extraversion and openness to experience all increase among the sample. Thus, it accepts the null hypothesis

Sensation-seeking was positively correlated with the traits of extraversion (Eysenck & Zuckerman, 1978) and The Sensation seeking was related to openness to new experiences (Zuckerman M. B., 1972). High sensation seekers perceive a risk sport-specific stressor as less stressful (Frenkel, et al., 2019)

Variable		Extraversion	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness	Emotional stability	Openness to experience
Impulsivity	Pearson Correlation	.182	345*	452**	075	158
	Sig. (2tailed)	.310	0.49	.008	.678	.380
	N	33	33	33	33	33

Table 5 (b) Correlation between impulsivity and personality traits

A Pearson correlation score of -.345 was obtained for the relationship between impulsivity and agreeableness which indicates that when impulsivity increases people tend to be less agreeable. A negative score of -.452 of correlation was found between Conscientiousness and impulsivity which can be interpreted as when impulsivity increases conscientiousness decreases. The result accepts the null hypothesis.

A low level of agreeableness results in Sceptical, demanding, insults and belittles others, stubborn, show-off, unsympathetic, doesn't care about how other people feel. A decreased level of conscientiousness will show the characteristics of incompetence, disorganized, careless, procrastinates, indiscipline, impulsive.

According to Andrei, Mancini, Trombini, Baldaro, & Russo, 2014; Bazzy, Woehr, & Borns, 2017; Green, O'Connor, Gartland, & Roberts, 2016; Schlegel, Grandjean, & Scherer,2013; Vries & Gelder, 2013 stated in their studies that Self-control was found to be significantly positively associated with agreeableness and conscientiousness (Maoa, et al., 2018). Personality characteristics can affect an individual's impulsivity to some degree. There is no doubt that the ability to make decisions and act quickly and effectively can come in handy in a variety of situations. When impulsive decisions and behaviours are consistently communicated, they are perceived as risky, maladaptive, and symptomatic (Maoa, et al., 2018). There must be two components of an act of impulses: 1. the compulsion to act in some way — the drive, incentive or desire — and 2. the lack of discipline, constraint or regulation of that impulsive behavior (DeYoung & Rueter, 2016). Impulsive people are more likely to consume, exaggerate, misuse drugs and drink, disrupt, clash, violate the rules, partake in playing games, engage in dangerous sexual activity, say things they regret, hurt themselves etc (DeYoung & Rueter, 2016). According to Meier, Robinson, & Wilkowski, 2006 The propensity to limit violent impulses is predicted by agreeableness.

Variable		Sensation Seeking
Impulsivity	Pearson Correlation	.055
	Sig.(2tailed)	.759
	Ν	33

Table 6 (c) Correlation	between	impulsivity	and ser	nsation	seeking
	<i>c) correlation</i>		in paror i vy			Seeming

The above table suggests that there is no correlation between impulsivity and sensation seeking hence it accepts the null hypotheses which states that 'There is no significant correlation between impulsivity and sensation seeking'.

Findings:

- The participants have scored a high score in the subscale non-planning.
- High degree of motor impulsivity and attentional impulsivity was found
- The participants as a whole was found to be highly impulsive
- Off-roaders are highly sensation seekers
- The sample of the study scored less in disinhibition
- They are found to have high experience seeking, adventure and thrill seeking
- High extraversion, openness and conscientiousness and a moderate level of agreeableness were found as a personality traits
- There is a positive correlation between sensation seeking, extraversion and openness to experience
- A negative correlation was found between impulsivity, agreeableness and conscientiousness

Limitations

This research does have certain drawbacks. This research used purposive sample, making it difficult to generalize the findings to the population. However, we selected people who are off-roaders and have participated in off-road events (Yenier, Vingilis, & Wiesenthal, Relationships between thrill seeking, speeding attitudes, and driving violations among a sample of motorsports spectators and drivers, 2016). A bigger sample size might have provided different or more meaningful results. Despite the limited sample size, the research yielded some relevant insights that confirm the current study. Although the sample of the study is generally adequate, still it prevented from drawing firm conclusions on disparities in gender because the female samples were not included. Future research should also study the presence of gender differences.

CONCLUSION

Apart from the drawbacks already discussed, this analysis is consistent with other evidence. Off-racers are people with strong sensation seeking. The individual traits of racers, researching the norms of road racing, identifying them as persons with solid sensation seeking. People join car clubs not only to socialize but also to experience and to satisfy sensation seeking. The participants in general have a high degree of non-planning, suggesting that they focus more on the current and less on long-term results. The findings suggest a high degree of evaluation for both motor impulsivity and attention impulsivity. The participants as a whole are very imprudent; off-road racers are more interested in thrills and experiences, and they have a lower score in disinhibition. Individuals with low levels of disinhibition monitor their actions more carefully, consider generally more of the guidelines,

and do not act irrationally. Individuals with a high level of boredom susceptibility dislike repeated activities and like to try new things.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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