

Comparison of Personality Traits of Drug Addicts and Non-Drug Addicts of Patna District

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ABSTRACT

Background: Drug dependency, sometimes referred to as substance dependence, is an adaptive condition that arises through regular drug administration and causes withdrawal when drug usage is stopped. Substance dependency may be diagnosed when a person continues to use alcohol or other substances despite issues associated to their usage. **Aim:** To study the personality traits of drug addicts compare to non-drug addicts. **Method:** Total sample (N= 100) would be comprising 50 drug addicts person (n1= 50) and 50 comparative non-drug addicts person (n2= 50) Age range from 15 to 30 years. The samples were collected from different districts of Patna in Bihar state. Eysenck Personality Questionnaire - Revised (EPQ-R) was used for this study. **Result:** Psychoticism score is significantly higher in addicts than that of non-addicts. Neuroticism score is found to be significantly higher in addicts as compared to non-addicts. Extraversion score is found to be significantly higher in the addicts as compared to non-addicts. **Conclusion:** The personality developments are better in non addicts than that of in addicts.

Keywords: Personality, Drug addicts, Non-drug addicts

Drug dependency, sometimes referred to as substance dependence, is an adaptive condition that arises through regular drug administration and causes withdrawal when drug usage is stopped. Substance dependency may be diagnosed when a person continues to use alcohol or other substances despite issues associated to their usage. Substance abuse and drug dependence have been combined into the category of substance use disorders in the DSM-5 (published in 2013), and they are no longer recognised as separate diagnoses. Addiction may have a harmful effect on both the families and the addicts themselves.

The 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) found that 21.5 million adults aged 12 and older had a substance use problem, including addiction to drugs or alcohol. Addiction and substance misuse have a significant negative effect on the family.

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An addiction may lead to conflict, misunderstandings, and more frequent disputes in a family, which increases stress and unhappiness for everyone who lives there. A family member who uses drugs or alcohol compulsively might be unpredictable, resulting in worry, emotional distress, stress, and a lack of trust.

There are a number of interactional patterns in families where drug misuse is prevalent, regardless of whether the abuser is a kid, according to the National Library of Medicine. The family may communicate negatively, and the mood is frequently sad.

Furthermore, the majority of people under 35 either live with their parents or have regular contact with them on a weekly basis (Stanton & Shadish, 1997). As a result, it's crucial to think about how family and relationships with family affect the prevalence and occurrence of substance misuse. Conflict between parents and their children has been closely linked to children's use of alcohol and other drugs (Baer et al. 1987; Hops, Tildesley, Lichstein, Ary, & Sherman, 1990). Teenagers use alcohol and other substances to defuse domestic conflict or to rebel against their parents (Thompson & Wilsnack, 1987).

Objective

To study the personality traits of drug addicts, compare to non-drug addicts.

METHOD OF STUDY

Hypothesis

There would be significant difference between Drug addicts when compare to non-Drug addicts with regard to their personality dimensions, i.e., Neuroticism Psychoticism and Extraversion.

Research Design

It would be a comparative study with between group design

Sample

Using the random sampling approach, a total sample of 100 people was obtained, of whom 50 were drug addicts (n1=50) and 50 were comparably non-drug addicts (n2=50). The age range of the drug addicts and non-drug addicts was 15 to 30 years. The research covered individuals without a significant clinical history (chronic illness). The samples were from different Patna districts in the state of Bihar (India).

Participants

The participants were selected from various rehabilitation centres in Bihar. First, the list of rehabilitation centres and the number of clients residing in those centres were obtained. The number of individuals meeting the inclusion criteria in those centres was selected for the study.

Tools:

- 1. Socio Demographic Data Sheet:** This would be developed to investigate the socio demographic variables for this study purpose only the following socio-demographic variables would be investigated: age, religion, residential area, education, family annual income.
- 2. Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Revised (EPQ-R):** The EPQ-R developed by Eysenck & Eysenck (1975) was applied. There are 90 item total, and each has two other solutions. Developed to measure psychoticism, neuroticism, and extraversion,

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as personality qualities. The instrument also has a Lie scale for gauging dissimulation. One EPQ-P scale item, "would you use substances which may have odd or harmful effects?" was not scored because it clearly asks about drug usage. The scale's test-retest reliability ranged from .80 to .90.

Procedure

For the current investigation, data were gathered in two stages. After obtaining participants' informed consent and selecting 50 drug users in accordance with the inclusion and exclusion criteria, the chosen instrument was applied to them. Data were gathered in the second phase of the study from a comparison sample group of non-drug addicts in accordance with the APA's ethical standards, which were scrupulously adhered to when dealing with the study's human participants. Following data gathering, a statistical package for social science-20 was used to analyse the data (SPSS -20).

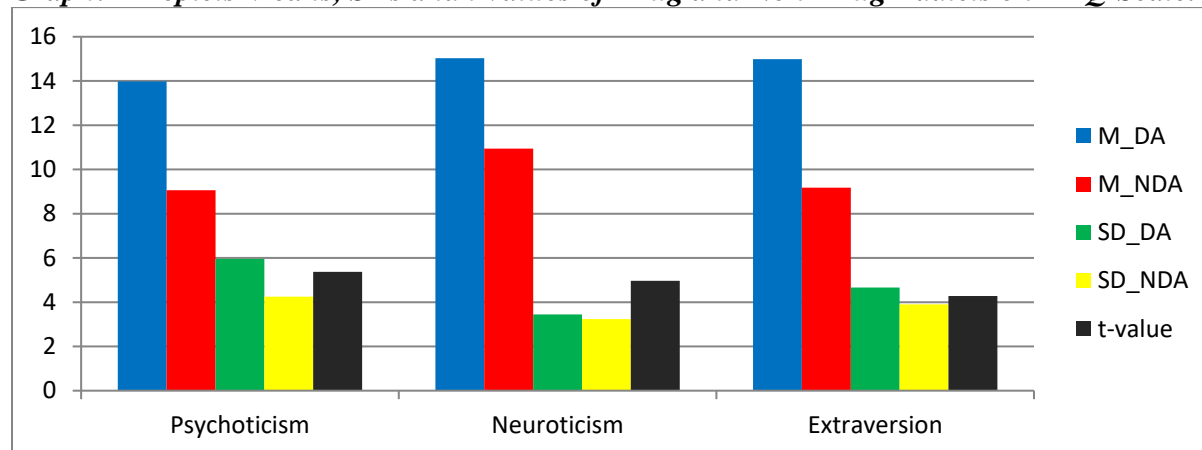
RESULTS

Table 1 Mean, SD and t-value of Drug Addicts (DA) and Non- Drug Addicts (NDA) on EPQ- R Scale.

Personality Dimensions	Drug addicts (N=50)		Non-drug addicts (N=50)		t-value
	M	SD	M	SD	
Psychoticism	13.98	5.96	9.06	4.25	5.37
Neuroticism	15.03	3.45	10.94	3.24	4.97
Extraversion	14.99	4.66	9.18	3.90	4.28

** $p < 0.01$

Graph: 1 Depicts Means, SDs and t-values of Drug and Non-Drug Addicts on EPQ-Scale.



DISCUSSION

According to the study's findings, the Psychoticism, Neuroticism, and Extraversion scales of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire considerably varied between drug users and non-addicts in the Patna District. Psychoticism was found to have a mean of 13.98 in drug addicts and 9.06 in non-drug addicts. The Psychoticism dimension was discovered to significantly differ between Drug Addicts and Non-Drug Addicts, it was determined. indicating that drug addicts have a greater level of the psychoticism feature than non-addicts In context of Neuroticism, the mean of data collected was found to be 15.04 in Drug addicts and 10.94 in Non- Drug Addicts, thus showing significant difference between Drug and Non- Drug Addicts for the Neuroticism trait.

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These results are consistent with past studies that found drug users to have greater neuroticism and psychoticism trait scores than non-addicts (Charu et.al 2010; Cohen et.al 2004). The degree of emotional adjustment and instability is reflected in neuroticism. Those who score highly on the neuroticism attribute tend to have illogical thoughts, poor impulse control, and poor stress management (Costa & McCrae, 1992).

The mean of the data for the extraversion dimension was found to be 14.99 in drug addicts and 9.18 in non-drug addicts, indicating a substantial difference between the two groups in terms of extraversion. The findings showed that drug addicts had greater levels of extraversion than non-addicts do. In the context of the extraversion dimension, previous studies have also discovered significant personality differences between drug addicts and non-addicts, finding that the former are more forceful, thrill-seekers, and group-oriented (Sher et.al, 2000). Extraversion is largely an interpersonal trait that has been linked to friendliness, impulsivity, activity, and risk-taking (Costa & McCrae, 1992). According to traditional cultural norms, using and abusing drugs are harmful behaviours since they are illegal.

CONCLUSION

The personality developments are better in non addicts than that of in addicts. Drug addicts and non-addicts have very different personalities and mental health practitioners should take this into account when evaluating drug addicts' personality types and creating DE addiction strategies for them.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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