

Do Personality Feature Influence Our Attitude Towards Crime: A Study Among Youth

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to find out the relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among the youth. Through various literatures available there has been an in depth study done for understanding personality and criminal behaviour. The tool used in this study for interpretation are big five personality trait for identifying individual personality and for the criminal behaviour we have used the criminal propensity scale and further through Pearson's Correlation Coefficient we calculated the correlation between them and according to the hypothesis and objectives of this study there was no significant relationship found between personality and criminal behaviour. The study also focuses on the factors which influence criminal behaviour and does personality play a key component in the determination of criminal tendencies. according to the current statistical data by the national crime records bureau it was found that the average criminal age is from 17-30 which means a high rate of youth is involved in such antisocial behaviour and hence this study has chosen there sample population as the youth aged from 17-27 for the research. Youth are considered as the future of the country and India has the largest youth population. This study will help us to understand the increasing influence of criminal behaviour on the youth and the causes as well. How this behaviour originates or is formed? This study will be able to answer many question regarding criminal behaviour as along with personality traits there is a brief description about criminal behaviour and the its propensity rate.

Keywords: *Conscientiousness, Openness, Neuroticism, Agreeableness, Extraversion, Criminal Behaviour*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY PERSONALITY?

When we hear the word personality the first few assumptions created by our mind regarding the person are about his characteristics such as body language, body posture, the way in which the person speaks and his overall appearance. This is the most basic definition or the very basic way to describe personality.

When we take a closer look at this term we get to know about its different dimensions and how these together form personality feature as whole. In psychology personality plays a very crucial role in interpreting, understanding and analysing one's behaviour.

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Personality comprises of both kind of behavioural characteristics inherent as well as acquired. When we talk about inherent characteristics, they are defined as the characteristics which are present in the personality since birth. They differ from individual to individual as they are influenced by genetic and biological factors.

The acquired characteristics are those which are obtained from the external environment and are not genetic in nature. These characteristics are developed by the environment the person lives in, his or her social world according to which he or she has different norms and values which altogether create a person's personality.

HOW PERSONALITY IS FORMED?

Personality is formed with both psychological factors as well with physiological factor. Both of them have huge impact in the development of personality. Another characteristic that contributes in Personality are known as multiple expression where we consider personality as composition of many behaviour rather than any one kind of behaviour. It also suggests that we can see personality in feelings, emotions, and even our social interactions.

There are many factors that contribute in the formation of personality. Different traits and theories suggest different ways in which personalities are formed every approach focuses on a separate way in which personality is perceived. When we learn about different perspective we come to know that personality is very dynamic in nature including both internal characteristics as well as external characteristics.

BIG FIVE PERSONALITY TRAITS:

- *Openness* is a quality that involves imagination and insight.
- *Conscientiousness* describes a person's ability to adjust their impulse control to take goal-directed actions.
- *Extraversion* reflects a propensity and strength to seek interaction with the environment, especially from a social perspective.
- *Agreeableness* refers to how people tend to treat their relationships with others.
- *Neuroticism* is considered by sadness, moodiness, and emotional instability.

WHAT EXACTLY IS CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR?

When we talk about criminal behaviour it comprises of many kinds of behaviour that come under the criteria of crime or offense. Criminal behaviour specifically means that any behaviour which is irrational and defies the law or violates the legal system is considered as offensive and comes under the category of criminal behaviour.

While studying about the nature of criminal behaviour we are also able to understand that how does this behaviour originate and what can be the causes of such offensive behaviour. According to ANDREWS AND BONTA (1998) any act or behaviour that comes under these four categories is considered as crime. The following are the areas:

1. It is restricted by the law and is punished by the state themselves.
2. If the act violates any religious sentiments or moral values then is punished by the supreme spiritual being.
3. If the act violates any societal norms or customs then is considered as a punishable offense.
4. Any act causing any type of psychological stress or discomfort in any form is referred to as psychological criminal behaviour.

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From this we can conclude that any kind of antisocial behaviour that is punishable by the law, community or the society comes under the category of crime and therefore the person committing it is considered as a criminal by the law. Criminal behaviour can be complex to understand so the two factors which play a very major role in its formation are genetics and environment. These two characteristics define criminal behaviour in a very precise manner.

TYPES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

There are many types of criminal behaviour according to the law. Some of them are listed below which are common in nature and happen on a very frequent basis. They are as follows:

1. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:** It is referred to as the kind of behaviour done by a person that is unacceptable by the society or is considered harassing or offensive.
2. **ARSON:** It refers to a type of crime where a person intentionally sets fire to someone else's property to damage them.
3. **BURGLARY:** A type of crime where someone breaks into another's property to steal valuable items.
4. **CYBER CRIME AND ONLINE FRAUD:** Crime done through internet or on any social media platform.
5. **HATE CRIME:** This type of crime is specially done to create a threat to someone's identity or harm to their reputation.
6. **MODERN SLAVERY:** It consists of severe crimes like human trafficking or illegal transfer of labour.
7. **MURDER:** It is a type of crime where a person brutally kills the other person.
8. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** In this the harassment is done in sexual ways violating a person's privacy.
9. **ROBBERY:** In this a person intentionally takes others belongings with violence.
10. **STALKING:** Keeping an eye on someone, having attention towards their every action without them knowing is also considered as crime.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology is scientific research at its best. However, the word can also refer to the method itself or the discussion of background thoughts. A method is a systematic process to achieve a particular goal. In the context of research, this goal is usually to find new knowledge or use existing knowledge. This usually involves several steps such as selecting a model, collecting data from that model, and interpreting that data.

Objectives of Study

- O1. To study the relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among youth.
- O2. To study the relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among male aged from 17-20.

Hypotheses

- H1. There is no significant correlation between personality traits and criminal behaviour among youth.
- H2. There is no significant correlation between personality trait and criminal behaviour among male aged from 17-20.

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Variables

- **Independent Variable:** Personality traits
- **Dependent Variable:** Criminal behaviour

Sample Size – 25

Representation of Sample

TOTAL NO. OF BOYS	URBAN	METRO
25	20	5

Tools Utilized

To collect data, The Five Personality Trait Inventory by K. S. Mishra and Criminal Propensity Scale by A. Singh and Dr. N. Sharma were used.

Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using SPSS Version 29.0 and Pearson's Correlation Coefficient was used to test the hypotheses.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

After conducting data analysis the following results were found. Results for each hypothesis are given separately.

1. **For the first hypothesis,** Pearson's Correlation was performed and the following table was obtained:
 - O1. To study the relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among youth.
 - H1. There is no significant correlation between personality traits and criminal behaviour among youth.

		Correlations					
		Conscientiousness Score	Openness Score	Neuroticism Score	Agreeableness Score	Extraversion Score	CPS Score
Conscientiousness Score	Pearson Correlation	1	.513*	-.209	.201	.259	-.098
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.010	.328	.346	.222	.647
	N	24	24	24	24	24	24
Openness Score	Pearson Correlation	.513*	1	-.040	.614**	.469*	-.053
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.010		.854	.001	.021	.805
	N	24	24	24	24	24	24
Neuroticism Score	Pearson Correlation	-.209	-.040	1	-.131	.034	.178
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.328	.854		.541	.874	.405
	N	24	24	24	24	24	24
Agreeableness Score	Pearson Correlation	.201	.614**	-.131	1	.336	.083
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.346	.001	.541		.108	.701
	N	24	24	24	24	24	24
Extraversion Score	Pearson Correlation	.259	.469*	.034	.336	1	.056
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.222	.021	.874	.108		.794
	N	24	24	24	24	24	24
CPS Score	Pearson Correlation	-.098	-.053	.178	.083	.056	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.647	.805	.405	.701	.794	
	N	24	24	24	24	24	24

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**.. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

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Using Pearson's Correlation, the following values were obtained for each trait:

PERSONALITY TRAITS	CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS (CPS SCORE)
CONSCIENTIOUSNESS SCORE	-0.98
OPENNESS SCORE	-0.53
NEUROTICISM SCORE	.178
AGREEABLENESS SCORE	.083
EXTRAVERSION SCORE	.056

None of the values were found to be significant.

2. For the second hypothesis, Pearson's Correlation was performed and the following table was obtained:

- O2. To study the relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among male aged from 17-20.
- H2. There is no significant correlation between personality trait and criminal behaviour among male aged from 17-20.

		Correlations					
		Conscientiousness Score	Openness Score	Neuroticism Score	Agreeableness Score	Extraversion Score	CPS Score
Conscientiousness Score	Pearson Correlation	1	.589*	.065	.226	.182	-.115
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.044	.842	.480	.571	.722
	N	12	12	12	12	12	12
Openness Score	Pearson Correlation	.589*	1	.162	.465	.710**	-.098
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.044		.615	.128	.010	.761
	N	12	12	12	12	12	12
Neuroticism Score	Pearson Correlation	.065	.162	1	.014	.011	.457
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.842	.615		.965	.972	.135
	N	12	12	12	12	12	12
Agreeableness Score	Pearson Correlation	.226	.465	.014	1	.556	.371
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.480	.128	.965		.060	.236
	N	12	12	12	12	12	12
Extraversion Score	Pearson Correlation	.182	.710**	.011	.556	1	.241
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.571	.010	.972	.060		.451
	N	12	12	12	12	12	12
CPS Score	Pearson Correlation	-.115	-.098	.457	.371	.241	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.722	.761	.135	.236	.451	
	N	12	12	12	12	12	12

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Using Pearson's Correlation, the following values were obtained for each trait:

PERSONALITY TRAITS	CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS (CPS SCORE)
CONSCIENTIOUSNESS SCORE	-.115
OPENNESS SCORE	-.098
NEUROTICISM SCORE	.457
AGREEABLENESS SCORE	.371
EXTRAVERSION SCORE	.241

None of the values were found to be significant.

DISCUSSION

The first hypothesis tries to find out if there is any relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among youth. For this hypothesis it was found that there is no significant relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour.

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The second hypothesis tries to find out if there is any significant relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among youth male aged from 17-20. For this hypothesis it was found that there is no significant relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour among youth aged from 17-20.

CONCLUSION

After all the research and analysis it was found that there is no significant relationship between personality traits and criminal behaviour. Both of the hypotheses were proved and justified. The main of this study was to find the reason for criminal behaviour in relation with individual personality. In this study we came across many new criteria for the development of criminal tendencies and it was also found that environment and parenting style are one of major factor influencing individual personality towards criminal behaviour.

The results of this study show that individual criminal behaviour or their criminal propensity is not influenced by their personality trait rather than it is developed or it develops because of the environmental factors or we can say that criminal behaviour depends on individual it neither fully comes from personality nor it fully depends on the environment and parental relationship but a significant relation of both creates criminal tendency.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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