

Gender Differences in Personality among Tribal Adolescents of Nandurbar District

Bharat V. Khairnar^{1*}, Sateesh R. Surye²

ABSTRACT

This study explores gender differences in personality traits among tribal adolescents in the Nandurbar District, focusing on five key personality traits: Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness to Experience (O), Agreeableness (A), and Conscientiousness (C). A sample of 120 adolescents, comprising 60 males and 60 females, was assessed. They were administered NEO FFI 3.0, 60 item version in a group of 10 to 15 participants at one time. The obtained data then processed with the help of SPSS window. The findings reveal significant gender differences in Extraversion, Openness to Experience, and Agreeableness, while no significant differences were observed in Neuroticism and Conscientiousness.

Keywords: *Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness to Experience (O), Agreeableness (A), and Conscientiousness (C), Gender differences*

The Nandurbar District in Maharashtra, India, is home to a significant tribal population, with adolescents representing a crucial developmental stage. Adolescence is a period of significant psychological and social development, where personality traits become more stable and begin to shape future behavior and life outcomes (Roberts, Walton, & Viechtbauer, 2006). Therefore, exploring personality traits in this age group within a tribal context is essential for understanding how cultural and environmental factors influence personality development.

Mujumdar D.N. (1961) defines “the tribe as a collection of families or common groups bearing a common name, the members of which occupy the same territory, speak the same language and observe certain taboos, regarding marriage, profession, or occupation and have developed a well assured system of reciprocity and mutuality of obligation”.

Personality is defined as the characteristic set of behaviors, cognition's, and emotional patterns that evolve from biological and environmental factors (Corr, 2009). While there is no generally agreed upon definition of personality, most theories focus on motivation and psychological interactions with one's environment (Sadock, 2017). Trait based personality theories, such as those defined by Raymond Cattell define personality as the traits that predict a person's behavior. On the other hand, more behaviorally based approaches define

¹Research Scholar, Department of Psychology & Research Center, Gajmal Tulshiram Patil College, Nandurbar

²Asso. Professor & Head, Department of Psychology & Research Center, Gajmal Tulshiram Patil College, Nandurbar

*Corresponding Author

Received: August 02, 2024; Revision Received: August 10, 2024; Accepted: August 13, 2024

Gender Differences in Personality among Tribal Adolescents of Nandurbar District

personality through learning and habits. Nevertheless, most theories view personality as relatively stable.

Personality traits are enduring patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that differentiate individuals and influence how they interact with the world around them. The Five-Factor Model (FFM) of personality, also known as the Big Five, identifies five broad dimensions: Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experience, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness (McCrae & John, 1992). These traits have been extensively studied across different cultures, age groups, and gender, revealing consistent patterns of personality across various populations.

The five factors are:

1. Openness to experience (inventive/curious vs. consistent/cautious)
2. Conscientiousness (efficient/organized vs. easy-going/careless)
3. Extroversion (outgoing/energetic vs. solitary/reserved)
4. Agreeableness (friendly/compassionate vs. challenging/detached)
5. Neuroticism (sensitive/nervous vs. secure/confident)

The five factors are represented by the acronym OCEAN or CANOE. Beneath each proposed global factor, there are a number of correlated and more specific primary factors. For example, extroversion is said to include such related qualities as gregariousness, assertiveness, excitement seeking, warmth, activity, and positive emotions.

Gender differences in personality traits have long been a subject of interest in psychology. Research has consistently shown that males and females differ in specific personality traits, with women generally scoring higher in Neuroticism and Agreeableness, while men tend to score higher in Extraversion and Openness to Experience (Costa et al., 2001; Feingold, 1994). These differences are often attributed to a combination of biological, psychological, and social factors. Biological theories suggest that hormonal differences influence personality traits, while social theories emphasize the role of gender socialization in shaping personality.

Lakshmi, (1999) explored the effect of gender difference on some personality traits in a sample of 25 male and 25 female officers. Male respondents were superior in traits like decisiveness, emotional stability, masculinity and ego straight. Female officers were superior in traits like responsibility, friendliness and curiosity.

Costa, Terracciano & McCrae (2001) examined gender differences in personality across 26 cultures. The result suggests that gender differences are small relative to individual variation with gender difference for both male and female. The result showed that women were higher on Neuroticism, agreeableness warmth & openness to feelings while men were higher on assertiveness and openness to ideas.

In a study by Robinson (2009), women scored higher in neuroticism than Men, women also reported higher agreeableness than men. In extroversion women reported higher for situations with parents or friends.

A study was investigate that women scored slightly highest in implicit neuroticism and agreeableness and whereas men scored slightly higher in implicit openness & extroversion. (Vianello, Michelangelo et.al. 2013).

Gender Differences in Personality among Tribal Adolescents of Nandurbar District

Fagot and Hogan (2005) found that girls of engineering would be found to be more neurotic, openness, agreeable and conscientious and less extroverted than boys.

Understanding personality traits in tribal adolescents is not only academically significant but also crucial for the design of culturally sensitive educational programs, mental health services, and social interventions. By identifying gender-specific personality traits, stakeholders can better address the unique needs of tribal adolescents, fostering their psychological well-being and aiding in their overall development. This study, therefore, aims to contribute to the limited body of knowledge on gender differences in personality traits within tribal populations, offering new perspectives and laying the groundwork for future research in this area.

Statement of the Problem:

Gender Differences in terms of Personality among Tribal Adolescents of Nandurbar District.

Objectives of the study:

To compare tribal male and female adolescents on five dimensions of personality namely Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to experience, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness.

Hypotheses:

- Female tribal adolescents would have high level of Neuroticism dimension of personality than male tribal adolescents.
- Male tribal adolescents would score high on Extraversion dimension of personality than female tribal adolescents.
- Female tribal adolescents would have high level of Openness to experience dimension of personality than male tribal adolescents.
- Female tribal adolescents would have high level of Agreeableness dimension of personality than male tribal adolescents.
- Male tribal adolescents would score high on Conscientiousness dimension of personality than female tribal adolescents.

Participants

For the present study 120 college students were selected by accidental sampling method. In these 120, male and female both were 60-60. They all belonged to scheduled tribe community of Nandurbar district and had the age range of 16-19 years. They were administered NEO FFI 3.0, 60 item version in a group of 10 to 15 participants at one time. The obtained data then processed with the help of SPSS window.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics along with independent samples t-tests were conducted to examine the differences in personality traits between male and female adolescents.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table: 1 showing Mean, SD and t Value on Personality Dimension

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	't'
N	Female	60	24.63	4.871	.629	1.41
	Male	60	23.32	5.325	.687	
E	Female	60	27.05	5.649	.729	-2.68**
	Male	60	29.78	5.487	.708	
O	Female	60	23.42	4.416	.570	-2.85**
	Male	60	25.93	5.223	.674	
A	Female	60	29.17	5.831	.753	3.15**
	Male	60	25.65	6.380	.824	
C	Female	60	29.45	6.144	.793	-0.69
	Male	60	30.20	5.602	.723	

** t value significant at 0.01 level at df 118

(Note: N=Neuroticism, E=Extraversion, O= Openness to Experience, A=Agreeableness, C=Conscientiousness)

Above table 1 shows Mean, SD and 't' Value on Personality Dimension. The mean Neuroticism score was slightly higher for females (M = 24.63, SD = 4.871) compared to males (M = 23.32, SD = 5.325). However, the difference was not statistically significant (t = 1.41, p > .05). Our hypothesis 'Female tribal adolescents would have high level of Neuroticism dimension of personality than male tribal adolescents' is rejected. They do not differ neuroticism dimension. Females scored significantly lower on Extraversion (M = 27.05, SD = 5.649) than males (M = 29.78, SD = 5.487), with a t-value of -2.68 (p < .01), indicating that males are generally more extroverted than females in this sample. So, our hypothesis 'Male tribal adolescents would score high on Extraversion dimension of personality than female tribal adolescents' is accepted. Females scored lower (M = 23.42, SD = 4.416) on Openness to Experience compared to males (M = 25.93, SD = 5.223). This difference was statistically significant (t = -2.85, p < .01). Hence the hypothesis 'Female tribal adolescents would have high level of Openness to experience dimension of personality than male tribal adolescents' is rejected. Male scored higher than females on openness to experience dimension. The results indicated a significant difference in Agreeableness, with females scoring higher (M = 29.17, SD = 5.831) than males (M = 25.65, SD = 6.380). The t-value was 3.15 (p < .01). Hence 'Female tribal adolescents would have high level of Agreeableness dimension of personality than male tribal adolescents' hypothesis is accepted. There was no significant difference in Conscientiousness between females (M = 29.45, SD = 6.144) and males (M = 30.20, SD = 5.602), with a t-value of -0.69 (p > .05). Here our hypothesis 'Male tribal adolescents would score high on Conscientiousness dimension of personality than female tribal adolescents' is rejected.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study reveal gender differences in personality traits among tribal adolescents. Males were found to be more extroverted and open to experience, while females scored higher in agreeableness. These findings are consistent with previous research (Schmitt et al., 2008; Weisberg, DeYoung, & Hirsh, 2011), which suggests that gender differences in personality traits are universal but may vary in magnitude across cultures.

The lack of significant differences in Neuroticism and Conscientiousness aligns with the findings of Costa et al. (2001), who reported that these traits tend to show smaller gender differences compared to other personality dimensions. The higher agreeableness scores

Gender Differences in Personality among Tribal Adolescents of Nandurbar District

among females may be attributed to socialization processes that encourage nurturing and cooperative behavior in girls (Maccoby & Jacklin, 1974).

CONCLUSION

Male adolescents were found to be higher on Extraversion and Openness to experience dimension of personality while female adolescents scored higher than males on agreeableness dimension. These findings contribute to the understanding of gender differences in personality traits among tribal adolescents in the Nandurbar District. The findings highlight the need for culturally sensitive approaches in psychological research and interventions targeting this population. Further research is needed to explore the underlying factors contributing to these gender differences and their implications for the mental health and development of tribal adolescents.

REFERENCES

- Corr, P. J. (2010). Automatic and controlled processes in behavioural control: Implications for personality psychology. *European Journal of Personality*, 24(5), 376-403.
- Costa, P. T., Jr., Terracciano, A., & McCrae, R. R. (2001). Gender differences in personality traits across cultures: Robust and surprising findings. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 81(2), 322-331. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.81.2.322>
- Feingold, A. (1994). Gender differences in personality: A meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 116(3), 429-456. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.116.3.429>
- Feingold, A. (1994). Gender differences in personality: a meta-analysis. *Psychological bulletin*, 116(3), 429.
- Maccoby, E. E., & Jacklin, C. N. (1974). *The psychology of sex differences*. Stanford University Press.
- McCrae, R.R. and John, O.P. (1992) An introduction to the five-factor model and its applications. *Journal of Personality*, 60, 175-215. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6494.1992.tb00970.x>
- Roberts, B. W., Walton, K. E., & Viechtbauer, W. (2006). Personality traits change in adulthood: reply to Costa and McCrae (2006).
- Schmitt, D. P., Realo, A., Voracek, M., & Allik, J. (2008). Why can't a man be more like a woman? Sex differences in Big Five personality traits across 55 cultures. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 94(1), 168-182. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.94.1.168>
- Vianello, M., Schnabel, K., Sriram, N., & Nosek, B. (2013). Gender differences in implicit and explicit personality traits. *Personality and individual differences*, 55(8), 994-999.
- Weisberg, Y. J., DeYoung, C. G., & Hirsh, J. B. (2011). Gender differences in personality across the ten aspects of the Big Five. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2, 178. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2011.00178>

Acknowledgment

The author(s) appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

How to cite this article: Khairnar, B.V. & Surye, S.R. (2024). Gender Differences in Personality among Tribal Adolescents of Nandurbar District. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 12(3), 1601-1605. DIP:18.01.157.20241203, DOI:10.25215/1203.157