

Exploration of Big Five Personality Factors among Undergraduate Female Students of Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Personality is how one think, feel and behave which makes an individual unique from others. The present study is intended to explore the Big Five Factors of Personality among Undergraduate Female Students of Rama Devi Women's University. The size of sample was 70 UG Female students selected through stratified simple random sampling technique. In the present research, the researcher has used Descriptive Survey design to assess the five dimensions of personality traits of undergraduate female students. A dichotomous inventory named "BIG FIVE PERSONALITY INVENTORY (BFPI-SAKA)" by Dr. Arun Kumar Singh and Dr. Ashok Kumar from Patna University (Bihar) published by National Psychological Corporation, Agra was administered upon the samples to collect the data on the basis of Five Dimensions. The present research was analyzed by using Descriptive Statistics and Inferential Statistics method to get the findings. The Finding of the Study revealed that the Undergraduate Female Students of Rama Devi Women's University belonging to three different streams overall possess a Moderate level of personality.

Keywords: *Personality, Big Five Personality Traits, Undergraduate Students, Stream*

The term "personality" originates from the Latin word *persona*, meaning "mask." It generally refers to how an individual responds to external demands. Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine characteristic behaviors and thoughts (Allport, 1961). Psychologists differentiate between type and trait approaches to personality. The type approach seeks to understand human personality by identifying broad patterns in observable behaviors. In contrast, the trait approach focuses on specific psychological attributes that consistently and stably distinguish individuals from one another (Karmakar, 2017). A personality trait is an enduring personal characteristic revealed through consistent behavior across various situations and a person's feelings, ideas, and behavioral inclinations are all combined to form their personality. In this regard The Big Five personality traits provide a well-known framework for understanding the main facets of human personality. This model lists five major areas that cover important facets of individual variability in personality. The Big Five

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personality model has been extensively studied and is thought to be one of the most accurate and legitimate personality test. It provides a comprehensive framework for comprehending the ways in which personality affects relationships, behavior, and mental health. The five traits in this model are Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism.

Rationale of the Study

The purpose of this study is to obtain a practical understanding of the personality variations among female undergraduate students. Understanding how personality traits appear in female undergraduate students might shed light on their psychological growth, preferences, and goal-directed conduct. This study will be helpful in this regard. The purpose of this study was to understand how personality traits connect to stress, coping strategies, and mental health outcomes in order to promote well-being among female undergraduates. Students at the university level face a complex, transformative environment that shape their personalities and actions. These influences have the power to improve a student's personality and aid in future decision-making. Understanding individual variances in personality can help teachers personalize instructions, manage classrooms effectively and foster positive student-teacher relationship which could enhance their academic performance and level of happiness. Gayray and Kalita (2024) conducted a study on Big Five Personality Traits and its relation to Academic Achievement of Post-graduate Students and revealed that gender does not influence BFPTs, but science stream students are more extraverted than arts stream students. Additionally, traits such as neuroticism and agreeableness have a significant impact on students' academic achievement. Tiwari & Ojha (2024) conducted a study on big five personality factors in adolescents and the result of study indicates that there were no significant differences found on the basis of Socio-demographic status as well as big five personality traits. Patel, D.N (2019) investigated on personality among higher secondary school students and revealed that there is no significant difference in personality with regard to gender and rural area group is having high personality. Patel, S.H. (2019) conducted a study on personality traits of primary school teachers of Ahmadabad and found out that male teachers having more personality traits than the female teachers. Also, the researcher revealed that personality of east zone teachers is more than that of west zone. Tripathy (2018) conducted a comparative study on personality traits of students belonging to ICSE & CBSE Board and the study revealed that there was significant difference between students belonging to ICSE and CBSE Board on Introversion-Extraversion trait. Dumnar (2018) investigated on personality characteristics of college students and revealed that subjects from male and female college students differ significantly on personality characteristics. Karmakar, R. (2017) investigated on big five factor traits of college going adolescents and revealed that medical science students are significantly higher on neuroticism trait whereas psychology students are higher on openness to experience and extraversion trait of Big Five Factor. Zaved and Ahamad (2016) conducted a comparative study on personality traits between professional and non-professional graduate level students and the result was found to be non-significant. A thorough analysis of earlier researches has only examined coeducational settings where the personalities of male and female students are assessed and many of these studies contrasted personality with other factors based on gender. Majority of studies on academic performance, mental health, career stages, or as a tool for employment have been conducted among adolescents, students with a range of technical backgrounds, young people who could become leaders or workers, etc. Hence the various findings of women on the personality difference in a purely women centric institution must be examined in order to make a significant contribution to this field of study. Comparably, studying the

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personalities of women from various non-technical backgrounds should help us comprehend their true selves, their level of self-worth, and whether or not these factors influence their daily lives.

Objectives

- To find out the level of Big Five Personality Traits (BFPTs) of the undergraduate female students.
- To investigate the difference in Big five Personality Traits among the undergraduate female students of RDWU based on their academic stream.
- To examine the overall personality level of the undergraduate female students of RDWU.

Hypotheses

- H₀₁: There exists no significant difference in Big Five Personality Traits of the undergraduate female students with regard to their stream.
- H₀₂: Majority of students depict moderate level of personality.

Delimitation of the Study

The present study has been delimited by following aspects

- The study will be restricted to the 70 undergraduate female Students of Rama Devi Women's University.
- The present study will be confined to three academic streams (Arts, Science, and Commerce).

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Research Method: To achieve the objectives of the present study the descriptive survey method was found suitable for examining the personality of the students.

Population: In the present study, the population comprised of all the female undergraduate students belonging to three different streams of Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Sample of the Study: The current study involves 70 undergraduate female students from Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar. The sample includes distribution of students from three academic disciplines, with 24 students from the Arts stream, 23 from the Science and 23 from Commerce by following stratified simple random sampling method.

Tool Used: In the present study, the investigator has used a standardized tool to collect the primary data from the taken sample of undergraduate female students of Rama Devi Women's University. Hence, the researcher has used a dichotomous inventory named BIG FIVE Personality Inventory (BFPI-SAKA) to collect the data on the basis of Five Dimension such as Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness to experience (O), Agreeableness (A) and Conscientiousness (C) and these five dimensions have five sub-factors each.

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Table-1

Dimension	Sub-factor with number of items in bracket
Neuroticism(N) = 36	Anxiety(9), Anger Hostility(7), Impulsiveness(7), Depression(7), Self-consciousness(6)
Extraversion(E) = 36	Activity level(7), Assertiveness(7), Excitement seeking(7), Positive emotion(8), Gregariousness(7)
Openness to Experience(O) = 36	Aesthetics(8), Action(9), Ideas(7), Fantasy(6), Value(6)
Agreeableness(A) = 36	Altruism(9), Compliance(8), Tender mindedness(6), Straightforwardness(7), Trust(6)
Conscientiousness (C) = 36	Competence(7), Order(7), Dutifulness(7), Self- discipline(8), Deliberations(7)
Grand Total of Items = 180	

Techniques of Data Analysis and Interpretation

In the present study the researcher has conducted a Descriptive Statistics Analysis such as mean, standard deviation and percentage as well as inferential statistics ANOVA to assess the personality level of students.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. To find out the level of Big Five Personality Traits (BFPTs) of the undergraduate female students.

Under this objective, five major dimensions of Big Five personality traits of the sample taken are being analyzed. The following table shows the mean score and standard deviation of 70 students of RDWU with the percentage of qualitative interpretation of these scores in each dimension of Big Five Factors.

Table-2: Level of Big Five Personality Traits among undergraduate students

Dimension	N	Mean	SD	Percentage of Qualitative Interpretation (No. of Students)		
				Low	Moderate	High
Openness to Experience	70	59.19	4.06	0	18.57% (13)	81.43% (57)
Conscientiousness		60.77	4.59	0	21.43% (15)	78.57% (55)
Extraversion		58.59	4.65	2.86% (2)	11.43% (8)	85.71% (55)
Agreeableness		59.97	3.78	1.43% (1)	11.43% (8)	87.14% (61)
Neuroticism		54.76	5.39	2.86% (2)	55.71% (39)	41.43% (29)

Majority of students are at high level of openness to experience (81.43 %), conscientiousness (78.57%), Extraversion (85.71%), Agreeableness (87.14%). according to Big Five Personality Traits. However, in Neuroticism majority of students are at moderate level (55.71%).

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2. To investigate the difference in Big five Personality Traits among the undergraduate female students of RDWU based on their academic stream.

To test the hypothesis that there exists no significant difference in Big Five Personality Traits of the undergraduate female students with regard to their stream the mean scores obtained were subjected to F-test and the result obtained there in presented in the below table.

Table-3: Stream wise difference in BFPTs of undergraduate female students

Variable	Stream	N	Mean	SD	F-value	df (between Group)	df (within group)	P-value	Remarks
Openness to experience	Arts	24	59.58	4.2315	0.5160	2	67	0.5992	NS
	Commerce	23	58.48	3.1023					
	Science	23	59.48	4.7565					
Conscientiousness	Arts	24	61.42	5.0640	0.5584	2	67	0.5747	NS
	Commerce	23	60.87	4.0034					
	Science	23	60	4.7193					
Extraversion	Arts	24	59.25	4.8923	0.6324	2	67	0.5344	NS
	Commerce	23	58.74	5.0291					
	Science	23	57.74	4.0138					
Agreeableness	Arts	24	61.08	4.0315	2.8195	2	67	0.0667	NS
	Commerce	23	60.22	3.0741					
	Science	23	58.56	3.8591					
Neuroticism	Arts	24	55.25	5.8178	0.1670	2	67	0.8466	NS
	Commerce	23	54.65	5.0776					
	Science	23	54.35	5.4406					

It can be observed from the table that with regards to stream in all the five dimensions of Big Five Personality Traits such as Openness to Experience, Agreeableness Conscientiousness and Neuroticism the P- value in each greater than the standard significance level of 0.05. Hence the hypothesis reads as that there exists no significant difference in Big Five Personality Traits of the undergraduate female students with regard to their stream is accepted.

3. To examine the overall personality level of the undergraduate female students of RDWU.

Under this objective, overall scores of the sample is being calculated. Then an overall mean and an overall standard deviation are taken out from those overall scores. After that using this overall mean and overall standard deviation, a standard range is constructed to analyze the central tendency of the database. This range is constructed with the help of $M+1SD$, $M\pm 1SD$ and $M-1SD$ where students with overall scores above 307 have good personality, students with overall scores in between 306 - 280 have Moderate personality and students with overall scores below 279 have Poor personality

Table-4: Overall Personality level of Undergraduate Female Students

Total no. of students	Mean	SD	No. of students with percentage		
			High (307 and above)	Moderate between (280-306)	Low (279 and below)
70	293	14	13 (18.57%)	48(68.57%)	9(12.86%)

Table 4 reveals that out of 70 student teachers 18.57% of students are having high level of personality and 12.86% of students are at low level of Personality but majority of them that is around 68.57% who possesses moderate level of Personality. Hence the hypothesis i.e. majority of students depict moderate level of Personality is accepted.

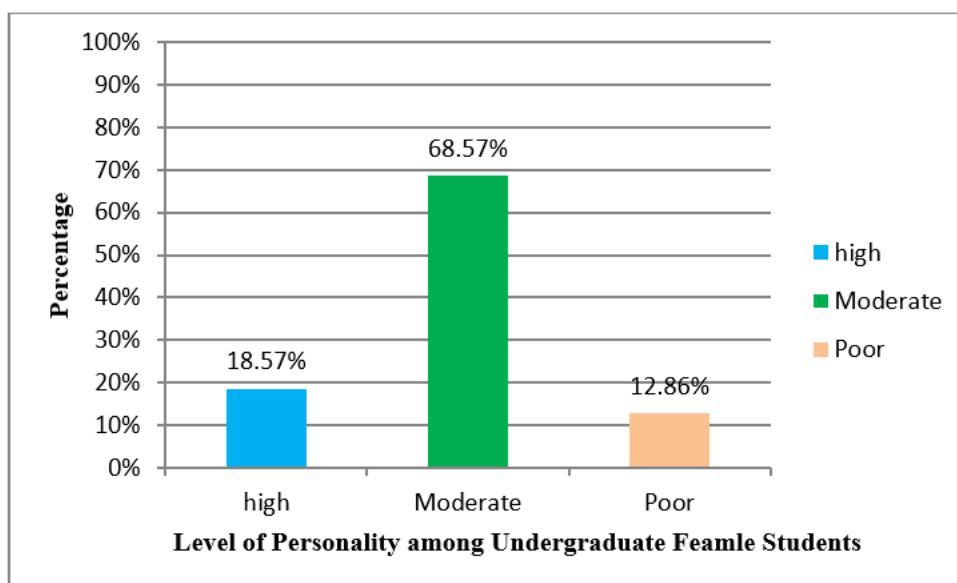


Fig-1: Overall Personality Level of Undergraduate Female Students of RDWU

MAJOR FINDINGS

The Findings of the study are as follows:

- According to the Big Five Personality Traits, the majority of students have high levels of extraversion (85.71%), conscientiousness (78.57%) which represents the presence of sociability, assertiveness positive degree of organization, persistence and motivation in goal directed behavior of these students and agreeableness (87.14%), openness to new experiences (81.43%) which represents Kindness, Cooperation, Trust, Creativity, willingness to try new things among students. However, 55.71% of students have a moderate level of neuroticism.

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- In the current study, no difference has been found in big five personality traits of undergraduate female students with respect to their stream. The result of the study is in line with the previous work of Malika and Sima (2024). However, in their study only in extraversion dimension significant difference has been found.
- Majority of Under Graduate students of RDWU possess moderate level of personality that is of 68.57%.

CONCLUSION

A person's enduring traits, interests, motivations, values, self-concept, skills, and emotional patterns are all part of their personality. Research on personality variations among female undergraduate students provides important new information about the various attributes and features that influence students' experiences and performance in higher education. This study emphasizes how multifaceted individual differences are and how they affect personal growth, and academic achievement. Universities can create a lively and dynamic learning environment that enables students to flourish and realize their full potential by embracing and utilizing this diversity.

Suggestion for Further Study

- This study can be extended to students of Teacher Education Institutions and a comparative study can be carried out by taking more no of samples with regard to different variables such as Gender, Pedagogy Subject, etc.
- A correlational study can be conducted in between personality difference and academic achievement of students.
- A study can be conducted to examine the personality of Teacher Educators working in different TEIs.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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