

STUDY OF PERSONALITY TRAITS AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR LOCALE

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Abstract

The study was undertaken to compare the personality traits of rural and urban adolescents. A sample of 1000 adolescents studying in class 12th was raised from three districts of Punjab viz. Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Moga. The results showed that rural and urban adolescents differ significantly on some personality traits and differ insignificantly on other traits.

Key Words : Personality traits, locale, adolescents, senior secondary schools

Personality is the complete and unified outcome of all the developmental processes through which an individual passes. It includes everything about the person i.e., physical, emotional, social, mental, spiritual and character make up. Philosophically, the meaning of personality has been interpreted in the sense of self. But psychologically, personality is neither the external appearance nor it is the self but it includes both and much more. Personality is an all-inclusive concept. It is the distinctive pattern of an individual's qualities. Every human being has some characteristics which are shown in one's typical way of treating to common situations. It covers the nature of interaction between internal organization of these characteristics and the external world. Thus, personality refers to our attempts to capture or summarize an individual's essence. Larson and Buss (2005) viewed personality as "the set of psychological traits and mechanisms within the individual that are organized and relatively enduring and influence his or her interactions with and adaptation's to the intra psychic, physical and social environments." According to Mayer (2001) Personality is the organized developing system within the individual that represents the collective action of that individual's major psychological subsystems.

Characteristics of Personality

The characteristics of personality are :

1. It is unique and specific. No two individuals are alike and everyone has one's own specific characteristics for making adjustments.
2. It exhibits self consciousness. Man is described as a person or having a personality when the idea of 'self' enters into one's consciousness.
3. It includes all the behavior patterns of a person i.e. cognitive, affective and conative.
4. It is not only the collection of different traits but the organization of traits as a unified whole.
5. It is dynamic and remains ever in the process of change and modification.
6. It is the product of both heredity and environment.
7. It can be judged through the life style of an individual or by study and interpretations of the goals one has set to achieve and the approaches one makes to the problems of life.
8. It is the end product of the process of learning and the acquisition of experiences.

Personality Traits

The personality pattern is composed of traits which refer to any characteristics in which an individual differs from another in relatively permanent and consistent way. A trait is a readiness to think or act in a similar fashion in response to a variety of different stimuli or situations. According to Woodworth (1947), "a trait is some particular quality of behavior which characterizes the individual in a wide range of his activities and which is fairly consistent over a period of time. Traits activity creates situations within which they themselves become operable. The integration of various traits is found differently in different persons and the peculiar form of integration in a particular individual are one's

personality traits. There are three basic factors in personality traits:

1. Internal aspects of the individual i.e. the basic drives, covert feelings, the physiological systems, glands and one's inherently determined physical features.
2. Several stimuli or situations exterior to the individual. The reactions or behavior or conduct which results from the interaction of the individual and the stimuli.
3. Traits are the frames of reference for integrated purpose, the various aspects of the individual's internal organization which should organize themselves into a general frame of reference and through this frame of reference, one should judge one's own acts, words, thoughts etc.

Properties of Personality Traits

The properties of personality traits are:

1. **Scalability:** Traits can be measured and scaled quantitatively.
2. **Inference from behavior:** Traits can be inferred from the behavior of an individual.
3. **Flexibility:** Traits change from time to time.
4. **Universality:** There are certain traits which are universal in nature as height and weight.
5. **Higher over habits:** A trait is a higher order habit which recurs in the behavior frequently.
6. **Mental set:** It is a readiness to respond to any variety of situations in a consistent way.
7. **Frame of reference:** Personality of an individual is an organized whole of beliefs, emotions etc. about environment. In this reference traits are organized frames of references.
8. **Learned:** Traits are learned in the interaction with the environmental stimuli.

Thus, the traits, characteristics and tendencies (inherited as well as acquired) although stable to a large extent are subject to change and modification according to the needs of the time and the environmental situation for making one adjusted to one's self as well as to the

environment. Kumar and Singh (2005) while studying personality adjustment of urban and rural adolescents found that male and female adolescent students of rural areas have lower mean scores than the corresponding mean scores of male and female adolescent of urban areas in all the areas of personality adjustment viz. health, home, social, emotional and economic. Chaudhary (2007) made a comparative study of 500 urban and rural boys and girls in relation to their personality characteristics urban boys showed higher score in favour of factors A, B, C, E, F, G, H, Q₂ and Q₃ and revealed that they tended to be good natured, ready to co-operate, showing higher scholastic mental capacities, solving emotional problems, demanding in their work, more cheerful, talkative, responsive, socially bold, ready to try new things, preferred their own decisions, socially aware and careful. Rural boys showed higher scores on factors I and O (tender minded and depended to others). Urban girls showed more scores in factors A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H and thus found to be good natured, ready to co-operate, showing higher scholastic mental capacities, solving emotional problems, demanding in their work, more cheerful, talkative, responsive and socially bold. Rural girls showed higher scores on factors I, Q₂, Q₃, and Q₄ and were found to be tender minded, socially aware, careful and tense. Keeping in mind the above literature following objectives were framed:

Objectives

1. To study the personality traits of adolescents.
2. To compare the personality traits of rural and urban adolescents.

Method

Sample of the study

The sample of present study consists of 1000 adolescents studying in class XII and was raised from three districts of Punjab viz. Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Moga.

Tool used

Dimensional Personality Inventory by Bhargava (2002).

Statistical Techniques Used

Statistical techniques like mean, median, standard deviation and t- test were applied.

Table1 :

Showing t-ratios between mean scores of rural and urban adolescents on different dimensions of personality.

Dimensions of Personality	Group	N	Mean	SD	SED	t-ratio
Dimension-I	Rural	500	13.158	3.420	0.207	2.432*
(Activity-Passivity trait)	Urban	500	13.662	3.128		
Dimension-II	Rural	500	12.584	3.526	0.213	6.068**
(Enthusiastic-Non enthusiastic traits)	Urban	500	13.874	3.188		
Dimension-III	Rural	500	11.144	3.361	0.212	2.402*
(Assertive-Submissive traits)	Urban	500	11.652	3.328		
Dimension-IV	Rural	500	9.004	4.325	0.274	0.613
(Suspicious-Trusting traits)	Urban	500	9.172	4.338		
Dimension-V	Rural	500	10.104	4.154	0.260	1.546
(Depressive-Non depressive traits)	Urban	500	10.506	4.070		
Dimension-VI (Emotional instability	Rural	500	10.586	4.588	0.291	1.340
-Emotional stability traits)	Urban	500	10.976	4.618		

* Significant at .05 level, ** Significant at .01 level

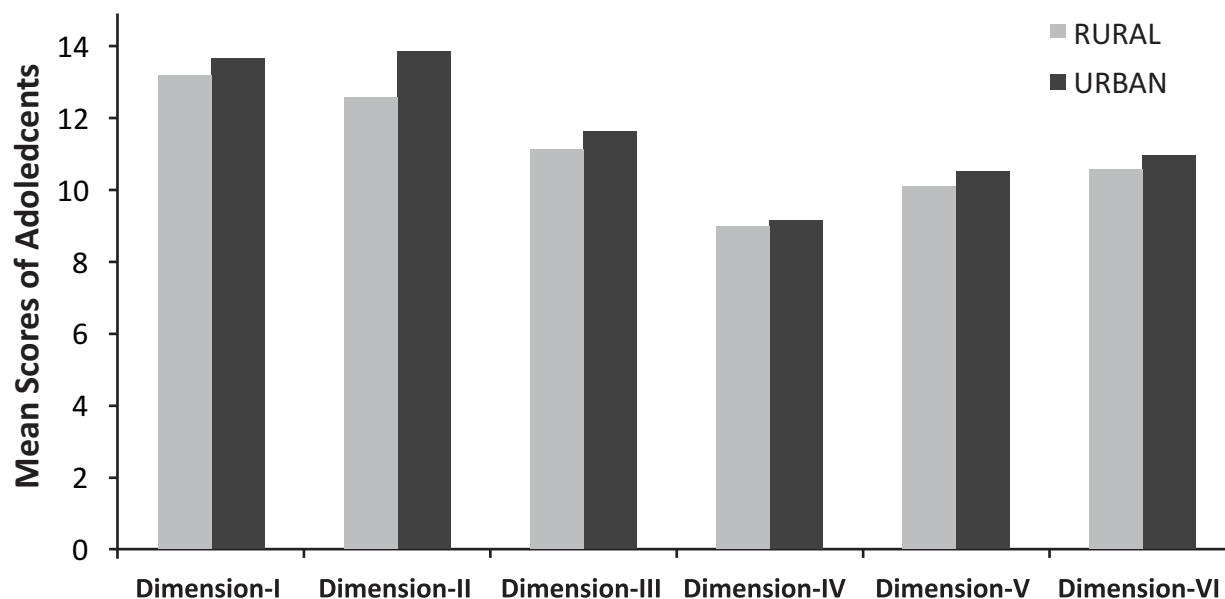


Table-1 and figure-1 shows difference between the mean scores of rural and urban adolescents on different dimensions of personality. The t-ratios between the mean scores of rural and urban adolescents on dimension-I (activity- passivity trait), dimension-II (enthusiastic-non enthusiastic traits) and dimension-III (assertive-submissive traits) were found to be significant at 0.05, 0.01 & 0.05 level respectively. Thus, the hypotheses (H_1 , H_2 , & H_3)

H1 : Significant mean differences exist between rural and

urban adolescents on dimension-I (activity- passivity trait) of personality was accepted.

H2 : Significant mean differences exist between rural and urban adolescent son dimension-II (enthusiastic- non enthusiastic traits) of personality was accepted.

H3 : Significant mean differences exist between rural and urban adolescents on dimension-III (assertive-submissive traits) of personality was accepted.

The t- ratios between the mean scores of rural and urban adolescents on dimension-IV (suspicious-trusting traits), dimension-V (depressive- non depressive traits) and dimension-VI (emotional instability- emotional stability traits) are found to be non significant. Thus, the hypothesis (H_4 , H_5 , & H_6)

H4 : Significant mean differences exist between rural and urban adolescents on dimension-IV (suspicious trusting traits) of personality was rejected.

H5 : Significant mean differences exist between rural and urban adolescents on dimension-V (depressive- non depressive traits) of personality was rejected.

H6 : Significant mean differences exist between rural and urban adolescents on dimension-VI (emotional instability- emotional stability traits) of personality was rejected.

Conclusions :

On dimension-I (activity-passivity trait), dimension-II (enthusiastic- non enthusiastic traits) and dimension-III (assertive-submissive traits) of personality, rural and urban adolescents differ significantly. The mean scores of urban adolescents are higher than rural adolescents in these three dimensions which show that the urban adolescents are more active, enthusiastic, courageous, bold and social than their rural counterparts. But on dimension-IV (suspicious trusting traits), dimension-V (depressive- non depressive traits) and dimension-VI (emotional instability- emotional stability traits) of personality rural and urban adolescents are almost equal in their personality traits. Thus the study revealed that rural adolescents studying in schools needs educational intervention programme to make them more active, bold ,

courageous, social and enthusiastic. Personality development of rural youth needs to be taken care of. Only then, the rural youth will contribute equally in national development at large.

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