



GENDER DIFFERENCE ON BIG FIVE FACTORS OF PERSONALITY AMONG ELDERLY OF ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to understand the gender difference on big five factors of personality among elderly during 2016-17 in Cuttack district of Odisha. The sample comprised 70 elderly; 35 were male and 35 were female in the age of 60 or above years. The background information of the elderly was collected with the help of self-structured questionnaire. Big Five Inventory was used to identify the big five factors of personality among elderly. The results revealed that male and female were similar in their big five factors of personality but only in agreeableness factor female elderly were better than male elderly.

Keywords: Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Emotional stability, Extraversion, Openness to experience.

INTRODUCTION

Personality is a dynamic and organized set of characteristics developed by an individual that uniquely influences their psychological processes and behavior in various situations. Allport (1961) defined personality as the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychological systems that determines his characteristics behavior and

thought. Personality is “specific characteristics of individuals which may be open or hidden and which may be determining either commonality or differences in behaviors” (Boyce *et al.*, 2008). Our personality traits determine how we adjust to our environment and how we react in specific situations. There are several factors that significantly impact personality such as age, gender, education, socio-economic



status of family, quality of interrelationships, rural and urban background. Assessment of personality is most complex and a precise assessment is essential because of its multi-factors and multidimensional nature. The big five factors of personality has predictably gained popularity in 21st century. It comprises of extraversion, agreeableness, openness to experience, conscientiousness and emotional stability. Studies have shown that these factors of personality significantly vary between male and female. Recent studies shown the positive trend of maturation and saturation of big five factors in their developmental process, such differences have been shown in various cross-cultural populations (Lehmann *et al.*, 2013, Costa *et al.*, 1986 and Steunenberg *et al.*, 2005). A psychometric meta-analysis of adult gender differences in self-reported personality was conducted based on each of the personality factors in which result showed that

women scored significantly higher in neuroticism and agreeableness (Shuqin, Wang, & Rocklin, 1995). Costa, Terracciano, and McCrae (2001) found that the magnitude of gender differences varied across cultures and mentioned that gender differences were most pronounced in prosperous, healthy, and egalitarian cultures-European and American cultures- in which traditional gender roles are minimized and women have more equal opportunities with men. Moreover, it appears that a difference exist between men and women on some specific aspects of personality. Personality of elderly becomes more saturated and differentiated completely.

There are few studies on gender differences on big five factors of personality among elderly, hence, the present study was undertaken with the objectives to identify the gender difference in the development of big five factors of personality among elderly.



MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Cuttack district of Odisha during the year 2016-17. The sample comprised of 70 elderly aged of 60 or above, among which 35 elderly were male and 35 elderly were female from rural and urban area of Cuttack randomly. The schedule consisted of back ground information and Big five factors personality inventory (John *et al.*, 1991). The data were subjected to frequency, percentages, chi-square analysis was used to measure association between levels of five factors of personality and t-test was applied to make comparison between male and female.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender differences in big five factors of personality among elderly

The results of (Table- 1) revealed that, In case of extraversion in Cuttack male elderly, around 23 per cent in average level and 77 per cent were in high level, whereas; in female, most of them i.e. 80 per cent were in high level and only 21 per

cent were in average level respectively. The male and female elderly of Cuttack were almost similar in their extraversion.

In case of agreeableness, around 29 per cent and 71 per cent of male elderly were average and high on their agreeableness, respectively, but only 10 per cent and most of them i.e. 90 per cent of the elderly from female of Cuttack were average and high in their agreeableness, respectively. The male and female elderly of Cuttack were significantly differ in their agreeableness. And female were significantly better in agreeableness than male.

In case of openness to experience, about 48 per cent and 52 per cent of male elderly were average and high level in openness to experience, respectively, whereas 33 per cent and more than half i.e. 67 per cent of female elderly were average and high in openness to experience, respectively. The male and female elderly of Cuttack were



almost similar in their openness to experience.

In case of conscientiousness, about 23 per cent of the male elderly were average and 77 per cent were high in conscientiousness, whereas only 15 per cent and nearly 85 per cent of female elderly were average and high level in conscientiousness, respectively. The male and female elderly were almost similar in their conscientiousness.

With respect to emotional stability, around 8 per cent, 67 per cent and 26 per cent of male elderly were in low, average and high in emotional stability, respectively; whereas around 10 per cent, 77 per cent and 13 per cent of female elderly were in low, average and high in emotional stability, respectively. The male and female elderly were almost similar in their emotional stability.

This reason may be due that the male and female elderly of Cuttack were same in all personality factors except agreeableness. Female elderly were more agreeable than male elderly as they so

humble, cooperative and friendly with others and well-tempered than male elderly.

Results of this study are in line with the results of Rahmani and Lavasani (2012), reported that female showed significantly higher scores on openness to experience and agreeableness compared with male. Budaev (2000) showed that women scored higher than men on agreeableness and neuroticism.

CONCLUSION

The present study indicated that male and female were similar in their big five factors of personality expect agreeableness. As modern societies have become more egalitarian, again, it may be that innate sex differences are no longer constrained and hence manifest more fully than in less-developed cultures. Women are agreeable than men as men are more competitive; women are more cooperative. Developing all personality traits from early stage of life and providing basic facilities and developing proper designing of the welfare

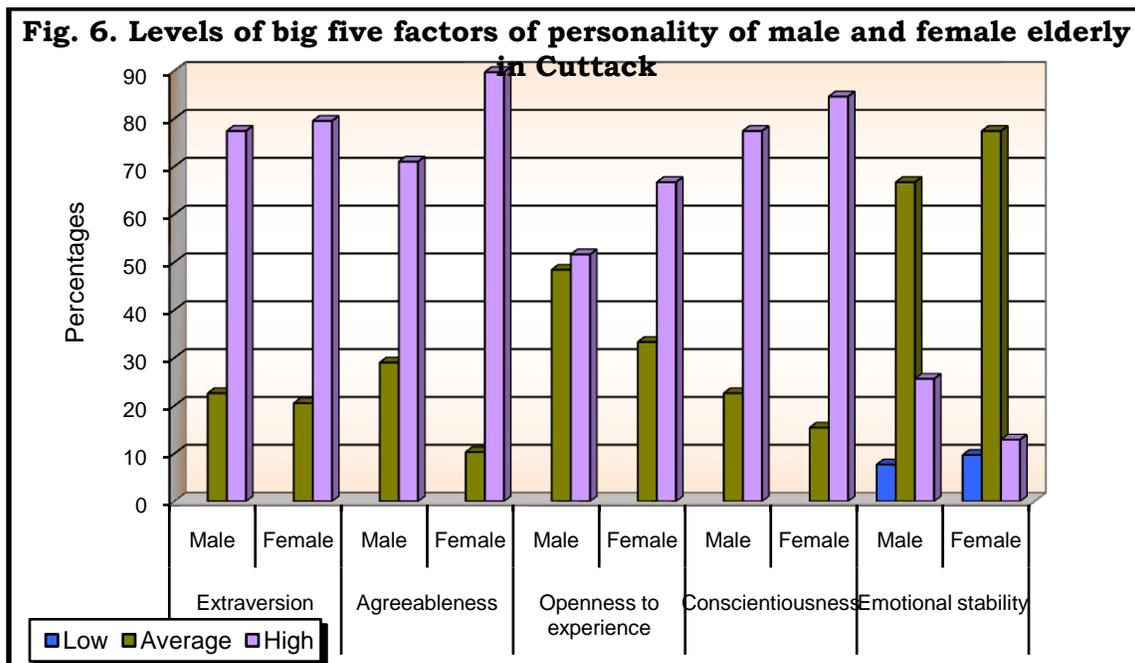


programs, policies and regulations for elderly are very important since it is considered as a critical psychological factors for enhancing

life satisfaction among elderly. A longitudinal study regarding this issue can provide a base for a deeper investigation in life span.

Table 1: Gender differences in big five factors of personality among elderly N=70 (Male=35) (Female=35)

Gender	Big five factors of personality					
	Low	Average	High	χ^2	Mean \pm SD	t-value
Extraversion						
Male	-	7(22.60)	24(77.40)	0.04^{NS}	34.70 \pm 3.70	0.11^{NS}
Female	-	8(20.50)	31(79.50)		34.79 \pm 2.88	
Agreeableness						
Male	-	9(29.00)	22(71.00)	4.03*	34.93 \pm 5.63	3.16**
Female	-	4(10.30)	35(89.70)		38.89 \pm 4.86	
Openness to experience						
Male	-	15(48.40)	16(51.60)	1.63^{NS}	68.29 \pm 7.08	0.78^{NS}
Female	-	13(33.30)	26(66.70)		69.53 \pm 6.20	
Conscientiousness						
Male	-	7(22.60)	24(77.40)	0.59^{NS}	35.83 \pm 4.96	1.25^{NS}
Female	-	6(15.40)	33(84.60)		37.38 \pm 5.25	
Emotional stability						
Male	3(7.70)	26(66.70)	10(25.60)	1.76^{NS}	27.58 \pm 6.11	1.77^{NS}
Female	3(9.70)	24(77.40)	4(12.90)		30.10 \pm 5.75	



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