

Personality Trait and Family Environment of Criminal

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ABSTRACT

Female criminality is one of the important phenomena in popular media and also in academic discourse of contemporary scholastic arena like sociology, criminology, psychology and anthropology. The changing nature of female's roles in capitalist system instigate female more to involve in violent and property crimes. Feminist's waves may have brought greater liberation to women, but have not changed their pattern of crime. This was carried out to identify the Personality trait and family environment of criminal and non criminal women. The research approach adopted here was field study. Purposive sampling technique has been employed. A total of 50 participants were selected among which 25 were criminal women and other 25 were non-criminal women. This is a field study in which purposive sampling technique was used for selecting 25 criminal females and the other 25 non -criminal females were randomly selected. The tools used for data collection were 16 PF research by Raymond B. Cattell (1949) and Family Environment Scale revised by Professor Mohan Chandra Joshi and Dr. Om Prakash R Vyas (1987) Hindi version. T-test was used as statistical technique to analyze the data. The findings reveal that there is statistically significant difference between the 16 Personality factors of criminal and non-criminal females. On the measures of 16 PF significance difference was found among factors as Warmth, Emotional stability, Dominance, Liveliness, Rule-Consciousness, Social boldness, Vigilance, Privatness, Apprehension, Self-Reliance, Perfectionism and Tension. On the measures of family environment and its subscales significance difference was found on Conflict, Moral Religious Emphasis and Organization. The finding on correlation between 16 personality factors and family environment indicate that there was a positive association. Thus, it can be concluded that 16PF and family environment affect behaviour of criminal females.

Keywords: Criminal and Non-Criminal women, Personality Factors, Family Environment

Introduction

Crime and violence are social perpetual problem and their impacts and consequences are devastating. Crime and violence are extremely detrimental to the moral order and relationships within society. Crime rates, either violent or property crime; are often used as a barometer in reflecting the safety level of a nation.

Crime which is perceived as social mirror constitutes one of biggest social ills and poses a great challenge to eradicate. The fluctuating criminogenic factors include environmental, social, familial aspect, genetic, psychological traits, and many more. In relation to this, the role of criminal psychological traits of an individual has been receiving growing recognition as one of the most credible criminogenic factor among criminology and psychology scholars worldwide.

Personality has to do with individual differences among people in behavior patterns, cognition and emotion. Different personality theorists present their own definitions of the word based on their theoretical positions. Individual differences in personality have many real life consequences. The term "personality trait" refers to enduring personal characteristics that are revealed in a particular pattern of behavior in a variety of situations.

Personality is usually broken into components called the Big Five, which are openness to experience, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism (or emotionality). These components are generally stable over time, and about half of the variance appears to be attributable to a person's genetics rather than the effects of one's environment.

Because children's lives are centred initially within their families, the family environment becomes the primary agent of socialization. The family environment "involves the circumstances and social climate conditions within families. Since each family is made up of different individuals in a different setting, each family environment is unique".

Improvised physical social and family environments have long been considered to be the family determinants of the development of criminal behaviour. Living in poverty, isolation from social support and being raised in a violent family are examples of these types of environmental risk factor. A lack of community cohesion in once neighbourhood, poor economic conditions in society and conflict-ridden cultural and political environment are also potential risk factors for crime – both for offending and victimization.

Review of literature

Personality traits and personal values are important psychological characteristics, serving as important predictors of many outcomes. Yet, they are frequently studied separately, leaving the field with a limited understanding of their relationships. We review existing perspectives regarding the nature of the relationships between traits and values and provide a conceptual underpinning for understanding the strength of these relationships. Findings suggest that controlling for personal scale-use tendencies in values is advisable. ([Laura Parks-Leduc](#), [Gilad Feldman](#), [Anat Bardi](#), 2014). Sinha (2016), research shows that personality is a major factor in many kinds of behavior, one of which is criminal behavior. To determine what makes a criminal “a criminal,” we must understand his/her personality. This study tries to identify different personality traits which link criminals to their personality. Findings indicated high scores on intelligence, impulsiveness, suspicion, self-sufficient, spontaneity, self-concept control factors, and very low scores on emotionally less stable on Cattell's 16 PFs scale in criminals as compared with normal. Criminals differ from general population or non criminals in terms of personality traits. The study investigates that gender differences are small relative to individual variation within genders; differences are replicated across cultures for both college-age and adult samples, and differences are broadly consistent with gender stereotypes: Women reported themselves to be higher in Neuroticism, Agreeableness, Warmth, and Openness to Feelings, whereas men were higher in Assertiveness and Openness to Ideas. Possible explanations for this surprising finding are discussed, including the attribution of masculine and feminine behaviors to roles rather than traits in traditional cultures. ([Costa PT](#), [Terracciano A](#), [McCrae RR](#), 2001). [Hojdahl T](#), [Magnus JH](#), [Mdala I](#), [Hagen R](#), [Langeland E](#) (2015), the study indicates that enhancing woman's coping resources and providing income alternatives to crime is fundamental to their capacity to desist from criminal behavior. Luta V, [Pasca V](#), [Enache A](#), [Ciopec F](#), [Ursachi G](#), [Radu D](#), [Stratul S](#), [Zarie G](#), [Mutiu F](#)(2009) stated the distribution of various types of criminal offences in correlation with the level of education, the relevance of a stable family environment and monthly income. The history of criminality, substance abuse and interpersonal violence in the families of origin is also taken into account. [Mioara Zoutewelle-Terovan](#), [Victor van der Geest](#), [Aart Liefbroer](#), [Catrien Bijleveld](#) (2012) found that female offending patterns were not significantly influenced by marital status or motherhood. Wright, Kevin N.; Wright, Karen E (1994) research shows that children with parents who are negatively involved or uninvolved in their lives are at a greater risk of becoming delinquents. Marital discord, conflict, and child abuse correlate with delinquency. Single-parent families produce more delinquent children than two-parent families. Although most juvenile delinquents do not commit crimes as adults, the important association between family life and criminal activity continues for adults.

Objectives:

The purpose of the study was to:

1. Assessing the Personality trait of criminal and non-criminal women.
2. Measuring the perception of family environment of criminal and non-criminal female.
3. Investigate the relationship between personality trait and family environment of criminal and non-criminal female.

Problem:

The present study investigates the personality traits and family environment of criminal females.

Hypotheses:

H₀1: There will be no significant difference between personality traits of criminal and non-criminal females.

H₀2: There will be no significance difference between perception of family environment of criminal and non-criminal females.

H₀3: There will be no association between personality traits and family environment of female criminals.

Method

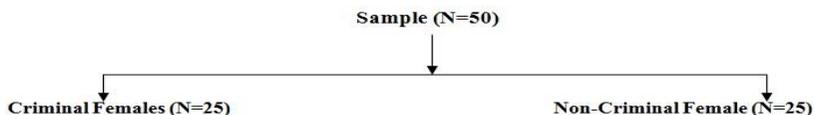
Variables

The present research is a field study in which personality traits and family environment of criminal and non-criminal females were assessed. Independent variables were criminal and non-criminal females and dependent variables were personality traits and family environment.

Sample

In the present research, purposive sampling technique (for female criminal group) and random sampling technique (for non criminal female group) was employed. Total numbers of participants included in the study were 50, among which 25 were female criminals and other 25 were non-criminal female. Sample was collected from Jail of Jodhpur in Rajasthan. The participants of both the groups were within the age range of

20 years to 50 years and their minimum educational status of the sample of 10th standard. Sample was collected from both convicted and under-trial criminals.



Tools

The tools used for gathering the relevant data were:

- 16 PF:** 16 P.F. also known as 16 Personality Factor was originally developed by Cattell (1949) whose Hindi adaptation was prepared by S.D. Kapoor (1970). Sixteen Personality Factor test is a self-report personality test which is a developed over several decades of empirical research. The 16PF questionnaire is an objectively scorable test devised by basic research in psychology to give the most complete in a brief time. The test was designed for use with individuals age 16 and above. Form A, B, C and D which are the subject of this manual, are most appropriate for individuals whose educational level is roughly equivalent to that of the normal high school student. Form E is designed for individuals with marked educational and/or reading deficits. This test measures 16 primary traits constructs, with a version of the Big five secondary traits at secondary level. These higher-level factors emerged from factor-analyzing the 16x16 intercorrelational matrix for the 16 primary factors themselves. The 16PF yields scores on primary and second-order “Global traits”, thereby allowing a multi level description of each individuals unique personality profile.
- Family Environment Scale:** FES is revised by Professor Mohan Chandra Joshi and Dr. Om Prakash R Vyas (1987) Hindi version. FES is used to measure the social-environmental characteristics of family. The scale is a 79 item inventory that has 10 subscales measuring Relational Dimensions, The Personal Growth and The System Maintenance. It is categorized into 5 parts as Always, Frequently, Generally, Some time and never. The reliability was measured using internal consistency which varies between 0.622-0.89. The validity was measured using convergent and divergent validity, factorial and predictive validity which were found to be high.

Results:

Table-1. Emotional Maturity as measured by Emotional Maturity Scale among Non-Criminal Female and Criminal Female using t-test

Factors	Criminal Female			Non-Criminal Female			't' value
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	
<i>Warmth</i>	25	6.72	2.18937	25	10.32	2.19317	5.808**
<i>Reasoning</i>	25	6.2	2.51661	25	6.64	2.05913	0.677
<i>Emotional Stability</i>	25	8.68	5.65479	25	11.84	2.30362	2.588*
<i>Dominance</i>	25	5.8	4.68152	25	11.8	2.64575	5.579**
<i>Liveliness</i>	25	6.64	3.03974	25	9.64	3.53412	3.218**
<i>Rule-Consciousness</i>	25	8.56	4.40719	25	12.96	2.7	4.257**
<i>Social Boldness</i>	25	9.4	5.3929	25	12.36	2.9844	2.401*
<i>Sensitivity</i>	25	8.56	4.36921	25	10.52	2.81543	1.885
<i>Vigilance</i>	25	4.96	2.90803	25	8.4	1.63299	5.157**
<i>Abstractedness</i>	25	8.36	4.2903	25	10	3.13581	1.543
<i>Privateness</i>	25	6.32	3.59073	25	10.2	2.78388	4.27**
<i>Apprehension</i>	25	7.76	5.96713	25	11.8	3.43996	2.933**
<i>Openness to change</i>	25	6.24	3.8	25	7.68	2.01494	1.674
<i>Self-Reliance</i>	25	7.4	5.11534	25	10.88	2.84781	2.972**
<i>Perfectionism</i>	25	9.12	4.64866	25	11.44	1.89473	2.311*
<i>Tension</i>	25	6.52	5.05899	25	14.2	3.55903	6.208**

** P<0.01 *P<0.05

Table 1 shows comparison of 16PF between criminal female group and non-criminal female group, statistically significant difference was found among criminal female and non-criminal female on the following factors as below:

1. Warmth - Criminal female (M=6.72, SD= 2.189) and Non-criminal female (M=10.32, SD=2.193); t=5.808.
2. Emotional stability - Criminal female (M=8.68, SD=5.654) and Non-criminal female (M=11.84, SD=2.303); t=2.588.
3. Dominance - Criminal female (M=5.80, SD=4.681) and Non-criminal female (M=11.80, SD=2.645); t=5.579.
4. Liveliness - Criminal female (M=6.64, SD=3.03) and Non-criminal female (M=9.64, SD=3.534); t=3.218.
5. Rule-Consciousness - Criminal female (M=8.56, SD=4.40) and Non-criminal female (M=12.96, SD=2.70); t=4.257.
6. Social boldness - Criminal female (M=9.40, SD=5.39) and Non-criminal female (M=12.36, SD=2.98); t=2.401.
7. Vigilance - Criminal female (M=4.96, SD=2.90) and Non-criminal female (M=8.40, SD=1.63); t=5.157.
8. Privatness - Criminal female (M=6.32, SD=3.59) and Non-criminal female (M=10.20, SD=2.78); t=4.270.
9. Apprehension - Criminal female (M=7.76, SD=5.96) and Non-criminal female (M=11.80, SD=3.43); t=2.933.
10. Self-Reliance - Criminal female (M=7.40, SD=5.11) and Non-criminal female (M=10.88, SD=2.84); t=2.972.
11. Perfectionism - Criminal female (M=9.12, SD=4.64) and Non-criminal female (M=11.44, SD=1.89); t=2.311.
12. Tension - Criminal female (M=6.52, SD=5.05) and Non-criminal female (M=14.20, SD=3.55); t=6.208.

Table 2. Family Environment as measured by Family Environment Scale among Non-Criminal Female and Criminal Female using t-test

Factors	Non-Criminal Female			Criminal Female			t' Value
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	
Cohesion	25	24.36	3.65011	25	26.16	3.00943	1.902
Expressiveness	25	16.84	6.2695	25	17.52	4.24382	0.449
Conflict	25	14.32	3.44867	25	12.24	3.25679	2.193*
Independence	25	24.84	5.60268	25	26.92	5.49939	1.325
Achievement Orientation	25	21.72	3.65741	25	20.76	2.94788	1.022
Intellectual Cultural Organization	25	16.08	4.35813	25	15.68	5.57315	0.283
Active Recreational Orientation	25	15.12	4.18649	25	15.44	3.3674	0.298
Moral Religious Emphasis	25	18.2	3.78594	25	20.84	4.06899	2.375*
Organization	25	19.68	3.50856	25	23.84	2.79404	4.638**
Control	25	18.08	3.85054	25	16.88	4.63069	0.996

** P<0.01 *P<0.05

Table 2 shows comparison of family environment between non-criminal female group and criminal female group statistically significant difference was found among non-criminal female on the following factors as below:

1. Conflict factor - Non-criminal female (M=14.32, SD=3.448) and Criminal female (M=12.24, SD=3.256); t=2.193.
2. Moral Religious Emphasis - Non-criminal female (M=18.20, SD=3.785) and Criminal female (M=20.84, SD=4.068); t=2.375.
3. Organization - Non-criminal female (M=19.68, SD=3.508) and Criminal female (M=23.84, SD=2.794); t=4.638.

Table-3: Show interrelationship between 16PF and Family Environment among criminal and non-criminal female using correlation

<i>Factors</i>	<i>Coh</i>	<i>Exp</i>	<i>Co</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>A.O</i>	<i>I.C.O</i>	<i>A.R.O</i>	<i>M.R.E</i>	<i>Org</i>	<i>Con</i>
<i>Warmth</i>	-0.113	0.102	0.184	-0.099	0.097	.336*	0.088	0.185	.400**	0.201
<i>Reasoning</i>	0.072	0.094	-0.028	0.105	-0.099	.332*	0.038	-0.349**	-0.052	-0.392**
<i>Emotional Stability</i>	-0.135	-0.014	0.233	-0.071	-0.07	0.165	0.034	-0.233	-0.16	-0.265
<i>Dominance</i>	-0.334*	-0.017	0.282*	0.108	-0.141	0.174	-0.96	-0.46**	-0.434**	-0.176
<i>Liveliness</i>	-0.279*	0.065	0.003	0.032	-0.126	0.007	0.118	-0.151	-0.319*	-0.127
<i>Rule-Consciousness</i>	-0.311*	-0.055	0.198	0.227	0.113	0.102	-0.129	-0.389**	-0.224	-0.172
<i>Social Boldness</i>	0.107	0.114	0.274	0.091	-0.139	0.149	-0.069	-0.08	-0.128	-0.511**
<i>Sensitivity</i>	0.022	-0.096	0.015	0.002	-0.125	0.182	-0.155	-0.398**	-0.27	-0.356**
<i>Vigilance</i>	-0.186	-0.122	.279*	0.088	0.071	0.212	0.197	-0.344*	-0.367**	-0.205
<i>Abstractedness</i>	-0.263	-0.108	0.068	0.05	-0.173	0.141	0.08	-0.285*	-0.218	-0.344**
<i>Privatness</i>	-0.402**	-0.047	0.241	0.051	-0.073	0.183	-0.06	-0.447**	-0.304*	-0.167
<i>Apprehension</i>	-0.159	0.014	0.218	-0.035	-0.364**	-0.136	-0.012	-0.217	-0.305*	-0.328*
<i>Openness to change</i>	-0.039	0.105	0.007	0.149	-0.326*	0.215	-0.08	-0.328*	-0.112	-0.327*
<i>Self-Reliance</i>	0.122	0.066	.288*	0.014	-0.224	0.25	-0.016	-0.263	-0.239	-0.369**
<i>Perfectionism</i>	0.051	-0.031	0.234	-0.072	-0.07	0.124	0.012	-0.23	-0.281*	-0.354*
<i>Tension</i>	-0.159	-0.09	0.259	0.138	0.032	0.136	0.025	-0.415**	-0.373**	-0.109

** P<0.01 *P<0.05

Table 3 shows correlation between 16 personality factors and family environment among criminal and non-criminal female. The data revealed is shown as follows:

1. Warmth correlates with Intellectual Cultural Organization (Pearson 'r'=.336)
2. Warmth correlates with Organization (Pearson 'r'=.400)
3. Reasoning correlates with Intellectual Cultural Organization(Pearson 'r'=.332)
4. Reasoning correlates with Moral Religious Emphasis (Pearson 'r'=.349)
5. Reasoning correlates with Control (Pearson 'r'=.392)
6. Dominance correlates with Cohesion (Pearson 'r'=.334)
7. Dominance correlates with Conflict (Pearson 'r'=.282)
8. Dominance correlates with Moral Religious Emphasis (Pearson 'r'=.460)
9. Dominance correlates with Organization (Pearson 'r'=.434)
10. Liveliness correlates with Cohesion (Pearson 'r'=.279)
11. Liveliness correlates with Organization (Pearson 'r'=.319)
12. Rule-Consciousness correlates with Cohesion (Pearson 'r'=.311)
13. Rule- Consciousness correlates with Moral Religious Emphases (Pearson 'r'=.389)
14. Social Boldness correlates with Control (Pearson 'r'=.511)
15. Sensitivity correlates with Moral Religious Emphases (Pearson 'r'=.398)
16. Sensitivity correlates with Control (Pearson 'r'=.356)
17. Vigilance correlates with Conflict (Pearson 'r'=.279)
18. Vigilance correlates with Moral Religious Emphases (Pearson 'r'=.344)
19. Vigilance correlates with Organization(Pearson 'r'=.367)
20. Abstractedness correlates with Moral Religious Emphases (Pearson 'r'=.285)
21. Abstractedness correlates with Control (Pearson 'r'=.344)
22. Privatness correlates with Cohesion (Pearson 'r'=.402)
23. Privatness correlates with Moral Religious Emphases (Pearson 'r'=.447)
24. Privatness correlates with Organization (Pearson 'r'=.304)
25. Apprehension correlates with Achievement Orientation (Pearson 'r'=.364)
26. Apprehension correlates with Organization (Pearson 'r'=.305)

27. Apprehension correlates with Control (Pearson $r'=.328$)
28. Openness to change correlates with Achievement Orientation (Pearson $r'=.326$)
29. Openness to change correlates with Moral Religious Emphases (Pearson $r'=.328$)
30. Openness to change correlates with Control (Pearson $r'=.327$)
31. Self-Reliance correlates with Conflict (Pearson $r'=.288$)
32. Self-Reliance correlates with Control (Pearson $r'=.369$)
33. Perfectionism correlates with Organization (Pearson $r'=.281$)
34. Perfectionism correlates with Control (Pearson $r'=.354$)
35. Tension correlates with Moral Religious Emphases (Pearson $r'=.415$)
36. Tension correlates with Organization (Pearson $r'=.373$)

Discussion: The present study aims to compare 16 PF and family environment and its sub scales among non-criminal female and criminal female.

The first objective was to assess the 16 Personality factors of criminal and non-criminal women, the finding indicate that out of 16 personality factors significant difference was found on Warmth, Emotional stability, Dominance, Liveliness, Rule-Consciousness, Social boldness, Vigilance, Privatness, Apprehension, Self-Reliance, Perfectionism and Tension. This reveals that criminals also possess such personality as Caring, Adaptive, Assertive, Spontaneous, Dutiful, Non-disclosing, tense etc. Research shows that environmental, social factors and psychological traits are largely linked with criminal and delinquent behavior. The purpose of the study was to review four critical psychological traits of individuals that may lead to criminal behavior. It was crucial to understand the role of these traits and in-depth understanding of each psychological trait with relation of criminal behavior offers an opportunity to the public at large to expand their knowledge on the importance of practicing and equipping oneself with healthy psychological traits to hinder from criminal and delinquent acts. (Mohammad Rahim Kamaluddin, Nadiyah Syariani Md Shariff, Azizah Othman, Khaidzir Hj Ismail, Geshina Ayu Mat Saat, 2015).

Second objective was to assess family environment and its dimensions among criminal women and non-criminal women findings of table 2 reveals that there was statistically significant difference among both the groups on the subscales of Family Environment Scale on the dimensions of Conflict, Moral Religious Emphases and Organization where as no significant difference was found on Cohesion, Expressiveness, Independence, Achievement Orientation, Intellectual-Cultural Orientation, Active-Recreational Orientation and Control. Thus, the finding reveals that significant difference on conflict is the amount of openly expressed anger and conflict among family members among criminal women. This finding correlate with previous study done by Gorman, Tolan, Loeber, Henry (1998). They reported that patterns of family problems were also identified and differentially related to delinquency groups. Members of the group involved in serious chronic offending were more likely to have families characterized by multiple problems including disruption, conflict, and lack of parental involvement, sometimes so extreme as to meet the legal requirement of neglect. Another significance difference was found on Moral Religious Emphasis, this implies that families of female criminal and non-criminal differ with each other in terms of ethical and religious issues and values. This finding is in the line of Wikstrom (2009) who reported that people with high criminal propensity (as measured by morality and self control) and higher exposure to criminogenic setting (e.g. Peer delinquency, time spent in area with poor collective efficacy) tended to commit more crime. A statistically significant difference was also found on the organization dimension of family environment. The finding on organization showed that criminal and non-criminal females differ in terms of giving in terms of structuring the family activities, family planning and clarity in regard to family rules and regulation. The result obtained correlate with study by Gorman, Tolan, Zelli, and Huesmann, (1996) who found that families in violent delinquent group reported poor discipline, and less involvement than the other two groups (i.e. non offenders and non violent offenders)

The third objective of the present study was to explore the relationship of personality factor and family environment of criminal and non-criminal females. For this purpose, data was correlated and it was noted that among the 16 factors of personality traits significant correlation was found on the following sub-scales of family environment.

The factor which shows correlation with personality traits and family environment are as below:

- 1) Warmth with Intellectual cultural organization and Organization.
- 2) Reasoning with Intellectual cultural organization, Moral religious emphasis and Control.
- 3) Dominance with Cohesion, Conflict, Moral religious emphases and Organization.
- 4) Liveliness with Cohesion and Organization.

- 5) Rule-Consciousness with Cohesion and Moral religious emphases.
- 6) Social Boldness with Control.
- 7) Sensitivity with Moral religious emphases and Control.
- 8) Vigilance with Conflict, Moral religious emphases and Organization.
- 9) Abstractedness with Moral religious emphases and Control.
- 10) Privatness with Cohesion, Moral religious emphases and Organization.
- 11) Apprehension with Achievement orientation, Organization and Control.
- 12) Openness to change with Achievement orientation, Moral religious emphases and Control.
- 13) Self-Reliance with Conflict and Control.
- 14) Perfectionism with Organization and Control.
- 15) Tension with Moral religious emphases and Organization.

Therefore, 15 factors of personality traits were found significantly correlated with the dimension of family environment.

Limitation

Generalisations from this study should be considered in the light of certain limitations. The sample included a limited age range, was small in number, and was drawn from one city only. In addition, the sample group was not large enough to generalise to the population. Nonetheless, given the heuristic nature of this study, the findings could lead to new hypotheses for future studies.

Conclusion

Findings of the study revealed that there was a significant difference between 16 PF of criminal and non criminal females. There was also significant difference found in dimension of family environment scale. Therefore, female crime should arouse our attention in today's society. Female crime rate is one of the landmarks to measure social moral standards. It has very important significance to study the reasons, the characteristics that measure the 16 PF and Family environment of the female crime. By so doing we can reduce and inhibit female crime, and promote the healthy development of individual, family and society. Criminals differ from general population or non criminals in terms of personality traits.

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