

Personality Traits and Emotional Intelligence in Criminals after the Period of Incarceration.

L.N.Bunker¹ & Garima Mathur²

¹Professor, Department of Psychology, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, India

²Ph.D.Scholar, Department of Psychology, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, India.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Personality is defined as the set of habitual behaviors, cognitions and emotional patterns that evolve from biological and environmental factors. Everyone holds a unique personality and because of this uniqueness, every individual behaves differently in different situations. These individual differences become the basis of personality. Similarly, different personalities adjust themselves differently in varied situations of life. Emotional intelligence is a social intelligence that enables people to recognize their own and other persons' emotions. Moreover, it enables people to differentiate those emotions, and to make appropriate choices for thinking and action. It is an intelligence that may be learned, developed and improved. **Objective:** Present study attempts to identify the personality factors and the level of emotional intelligence which occur in criminals after the period of incarceration and to explore the relationship between personality factors and emotional intelligence of criminals after incarceration. **Method:** A total of 60 subjects were selected using purposive sampling technique out of which 30 were male and 30 were female. The tools used for data collection were 16P.F. (Form B) by R.B.Cattell and Emotional intelligence was measured by using Emotional Intelligence Test by N.K.Chadha and Dalip Singh. *t*-test and correlation were used as statistical technique to analyze the data. **Results:** The result so obtained revealed that there was statistically significant difference between male and female criminals after imprisonment on the lines of personality traits and the level of emotional intelligence. **Conclusion:** On the basis of research findings, it can be concluded that the prison settings and atmosphere prevailing in there, may often effect the prisoner on personality and emotional front even after he/she is set free.

Keywords: Personality Traits, Emotional Intelligence, Criminal, Incarceration.

Introduction

The term personality has been derived from the Latin word “**persona**” which means “mask” used by the actors to change their appearance. It is the combination of an individual thoughts, characteristics, behaviors, attitude, idea and habits

Acc to **Watson** (1930)¹ the father of behaviorism taking clues from his behavioral studies, tried to conclude that “Personality is the sum of activities that can be discovered by actual observations over a long enough period of time to give reliable information”.

Personality refers to individual differences in characteristic patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving. The study of personality focuses on two broad areas: One is understanding individual differences in particular personality characteristics, such as sociability or irritability. The other is understanding how the various parts of a person come together as a whole.

According to **Allport** (1948)² “Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his characteristics behavior and thoughts

. Personality is the product of social interaction in group life. In society every person has different traits such as skin, color, height and weight. They have different types of personalities because individuals are not alike. It refers to the habits, attitudes as well as physical traits of a person which are not same but have vary from group to group and society to society, everyone has personality, which may be good or bad, impressive or unimpressive. It develops during the process of socialization in a culture of a specific group or society. One cannot determine it of an individual exactly because it varies from culture to culture and time to time. For example, a killer is considered criminal in peace time and hero in war. The feeling and actions of an individual during interaction moulds the personality. It is the sum of total behaviors of the individual and covers both overt and covert behaviors, interests, mentality and intelligence. It is the sum of physical and mental abilities and capabilities.

People who rise to the top of their field whether it is management, Psychology, Law, Medicine, Engineering or Banking are not just good at their jobs but they are easy going, flexible and optimistic as well. In other words, it takes more than traditional cognitive intelligence to be successful at work. It also take ‘ Emotional Intelligence’, the ability to restrain negative feelings such as anger, self-doubt, stress, anxiety and instead focus on positive ones such as confidence, empathy and congeniality. According to **Salovey and Mayer**,

(1990) “ Emotional intelligence includes an ‘ability to monitor ones’ own and others’ feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and to use this information to guide ones’ thinking and actions.”³ Personal or emotional intelligence has been found to vary by age or developmental level and gender (Gardner, 1999)⁴. The five main components of EI given by Daniel Goleman are:⁵

1. Self Awareness
2. Self Regulation
3. Interpersonal Motivation
4. Empathy
5. Social Skills.

A research by Callow and May suggests that female offenders show significant emotional literacy deficits compared to the normal population especially in areas of empathy, social responsibility and interpersonal relationships.⁶

Sundhita Sinha (2016)⁷ examined the relation between personality traits and criminal behavior, and to determine whether such factors are predictive of future recidivism. Results 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.

According to Kimberley and Covey, Being a criminalized person means much more than just being convicted of a criminal offence. It also signifies that moving forward, this person will be labeled as an untrustworthy individual. The vast majority of offenders are generally ordinary people who may have made bad decisions during a difficult time in their lives. Statistics shows that the majority of criminalized folks come from a background of poverty, inadequate education, abuse, trauma, and addiction/alcoholism.⁸

The type of damage that a person goes through after incarceration includes is the social rejection and the stigma attached which harms his/her life and self-esteem. It often results in low level of emotional intelligence and anti-social personality traits as it is a vicious cycle.

A research by Sharma, Prakash and Singh shows that a group of convicted offenders obtained significantly lowers scores on all domains of MEII such as intrapersonal awareness (own emotions), interpersonal awareness (others emotions), intrapersonal management , interpersonal management and aggregate emotional quotient in comparison to their normal counterparts.⁹

Objectives:

The purpose of the study was to

1. Compare the degree of divergence between different personality traits as they arise in male and female ex-criminals as a result of captivity.
2. Find out the level contrast on the dimensions of EI among male and female ex-criminals.
3. Study the interrelationship between personality traits and emotional intelligence.

Hypotheses:

H₀1 – There will be no significant gender difference on the measures of personality traits.

H₀2 – There will be no significant gender difference on the measures of emotional intelligence.

H₀3- There will be no association between personality traits and emotional intelligence in criminals after the period of incarceration.

Method:

Variables:

The present study is a field study in which personality and emotional intelligence of male and female ex-criminals were assessed. Following variables were taken as independent and dependent variables respectively:

Independent Variable – Gender

Dependent Variable – Personality Traits , and Emotional Intelligence.

Sample & Design

60 Ex- Criminals	
Male Ex-Criminals	Female Ex-Criminal
30	30

A sample of 60 ex-criminals were selected by employing purposive sampling technique out of which 30 were male and 30 were female. The participants of both the genders were within the age-range of 25-35 years.

Tools Used:

Following tools were used for the collection of the relevant data:

1. 16 P.F.¹⁰: 16 P.F. (Form-B) also known as 16 Personality Factor was originally developed by Cattell (1949) whose Hindi adaptation was prepared by S.D. Kapoor (1970). It is widely used forced-choice test which is available in five separate forms. Each form consists of declarative items that force the tester to respond to a specific situation by choosing from among two or three forced-choice options. It yields 16 scores separately on 16 traits of personality, each of which is bipolar. Short-term test-retest reliability coefficient for the 16 source traits range from.65 to.93 with a median coefficient of .83.
2. Emotional Quotient Scale ¹¹: Emotional Quotient Scale developed by Dr.Dalip Singh and Dr. N.K.Chadda measures three dimensions viz.. emotional sensitivity, emotional maturity and emotional competency. The test contains 22 items.

The test has a test-retest reliability, split-half reliability sample size of N=150 was taken and found to be 0.94 and 0.89 respectively. Test was correlated with the test designed by Daniel Goleman and Chadda ,(2001) the test was administered to N=60 and the validity index was found to be 0.92 and 0.78 respectively . The overall validity was found to be 0.89.

Statistical Analysis

t-test was used for comparing scores of personality traits and emotional intelligence among criminals (male and female). For studying relationship between personality traits and emotional intelligence, correlation was applied.

Table No.1 shows Mean, SD and t-values among Male and Female on 16 P.F.

Factors	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t
Warmth	Female	30	5.16	1.66	0.41
	Male	30	5.40	2.63	0.41
Intelligence	Female	30	4.23	2.2	-1.178
	Male	30	4.93	2.39	-1.178
Ego-Strength	Female	30	3.46	1.07	2.35
	Male	30	4.53	2.23	2.35
Dominance	Female	30	6.80	1.84	-3.49**
	Male	30	4.93	2.27	-3.49**
Impulsivity	Female	30	4.86	1.94	0.17
	Male	30	4.98	2.55	0.17
Conformity	Female	30	3.93	1.46	1.18
	Male	30	4.60	2.71	1.18
Boldness	Female	30	4.43	1.61	2.28
	Male	30	5.66	2.48	2.28
Sensitivity	Female	30	6.23	1.40	-2.68*
	Male	30	4.60	3.02	-2.68*
Suspicion	Female	30	7.63	1.90	-4.40**
	Male	30	5.20	2.34	-4.40**
Imagination	Female	30	5.90	1.56	-2.23
	Male	30	4.73	2.39	-2.23
Shrewdness	Female	30	5.23	1.61	-0.37
	Male	30	5.03	2.45	-0.37
Insecurity	Female	30	7.86	1.43	-5.30**

	Male	30	5.30	2.30	-5.30**
Radicalism	Female	30	5.93	1.61	0.35
	Male	30	6.13	2.59	0.35
Self-Sufficiency	Female	30	7.23	1.79	-6.12**
	Male	30	4.10	2.15	6.12**
Self-Discipline	Female	30	3.73	1.65	0.88
	Male	30	4.23	2.59	0.88
Tension	Female	30	7.50	1.40	-4.64**
	Male	30	4.73	2.94	-4.64**

***p Significant at .05 level; **p Significant at .01 level (2-tailed)**

Table No.1 shows comparison of male and female criminals on the measure of personality and its factors. On the factor of Dominance, female criminals scored more (6.80±1.84) in comparison to the obtained mean score of male criminals (4.93±2.27) and the t-value was 3.49. On the factor of Sensitivity, significant difference was found among male and female criminals where obtained mean score of male criminals was found to be lower (4.60±3.02) in comparison to the obtained means score of female criminals (6.23±1.40) and the t-value was 2.68. Similarly, statistical significant difference was observed between male and female criminals on the factor of Suspiciousness, where obtained mean value of female criminals (7.63±1.90) was found to be higher in comparison to the obtained mean value of male criminals (5.20±2.34) and the t-value was 4.40. Significant difference was found between male and female criminals on the factor of Insecurity where the obtained mean score of male criminals (5.30±2.30) was found to be lower in comparison to the obtained mean score of female criminals (7.86±1.43) and the t-value was 5.30. Another factor on which statistical significant difference was found was Self- Sufficiency where female criminals scored more (7.23±1.79) in contrast to the mean scores of male criminals (4.10±2.15). The obtained t-value was 6.12. Tension was one more factor on which statistically significant difference was found among female and male criminals where the obtained mean value of male criminals (4.73±2.94) was found to be lower in comparison to the mean score of female criminals (7.50±1.40) and the t-value was 4.64

Table-2: shows Mean SD and t-values among Male and Female on Emotional Intelligence Scale

Sub Scale	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t
Sensitivity	Female	30	30.83	6.31	-1.19
	Male	30	33	7.72	-1.19
Maturity	Female	30	59.83	10.13	-2.44*
	Male	30	66.17	9.97	-2.44*
Competency	Female	30	113.17	15.23	-1.69
	Male	30	120.17	16.89	-1.69
Total EI	Female	30	203.83	24.62	-2.56*
	Male	30	219.33	22.16	-2.56*

***p Significant at .05 level; **p Significant at .01 level (2-tailed)**

Table No. 2 shows comparison of male and female criminals on the measures of Emotional Intelligence and on its sub-scales. On the sub- scale of Maturity, which is reflected in the behavioural pattern while dealing with the inner self and the immediate environment, it was observed that significant difference exists among males and female where mean of males (66.17 ± 9.97) was higher in comparison to the mean of females (59.83 ± 10.13) and the t-value was 2.44. A total of EI shows that there exists significant difference among male and female criminals and mean of males (219.33 ± 22.16) was higher than mean of females (203.83) and value of t was 2.56. The scores so obtained reveals that male criminals are more stable in terms of emotions and are mature enough to deal with the current situations whether internal or external in comparison to female criminals after imprisonment.

Table No.3 shows correlation between personality traits and emotional intelligence:

Factors	Sensitivity	Maturity	Competency	Total EI
Warmth	0.11	0.72	0.88	0.144
Intelligence	-0.096	-0.195	-0.025	-0.154
Ego-Strength	0.121	-0.17	-0.132	-0.152
Dominance	0.152	0.175	0.032	0.17
Impulsivity	-0.164	0.099	0.071	0.05
Conformity	0.186	-0.054	0.09	0.115
Boldness	0.007	-0.17	0.065	0.048
Sensitivity	-0.009	0.175	0.73	0.146
Suspicious	0.009	-0.038	-0.054	-0.06
Imagination	0.075	0.059	0.043	0.093
Shrewdness	-0.167	-0.118	-0.194	-0.282*
Insecurity	0.048	-0.195	0.041	-0.047
Radicalism	0.092	-0.046	-0.021	-0.007
Self-Sufficiency	-0.025	0.012	-0.036	-0.033
Self Discipline	-0.008	0.352**	0.046	0.213
Tension	0.059	0.041	0.107	0.131

*p Significant at .05 level; **p Significant at .01 level (2-tailed)

Table No.3 shows the degree of association between personality traits and emotional intelligence in male and female criminals. Based on the computed scores, it was observed that out of sixteen factors of personality, two factors showed interrelationship with two sub-scales of emotional intelligence. Shrewdness showed a negative and significant correlation with total mental health (Pearson-'r'= -.282) and self-discipline showed positive and statistically highly significant association ship with emotional maturity (Pearson 'r'= .352)

Discussion

The present study aims to assess the personality traits and the level of emotional intelligence in criminals after imprisonment.

The first objective was to compare the degree of divergence between different personality traits as they arise in male and female ex-criminals as a result of captivity, the findings indicate that out of 16 personality traits, highly significant difference was found on dominance, suspiciousness, insecurity, self-sufficiency and tension. Comparison of the obtained scores between male and female criminals revealed that female criminals were more prone to recidivism, going against etc. This finding is supported by the study done by Sundhita Sinha (2016) examined the relation between personality traits and criminal behavior, and to determine whether such factors are predictive of future recidivism. Results indicated high scores on intelligence, impulsiveness, suspicion, self-sufficient, spontaneity, self-concept control factors.

The second objective of the present study was to find out the level contrast on the sub-scales of EI among male and female ex-criminals. Comparison between the scores of male and female criminals after imprisonment revealed that there exists a highly significant difference on the sub-scale of emotional maturity and total EI among both the genders. The male criminals scored more in comparison to female criminals which indicate that males are emotionally more stable than female criminals. The finding is supported by the study done by Callow and May (2008) according to which female offenders showed significant emotional literacy deficits compared to the normal population especially in areas of empathy, social responsibility and interpersonal relationships.

The third objective to the study was to Study the interrelationship between personality traits and emotional intelligence. Based on the findings of associationship between personality traits and emotional intelligence, it was observed that those male and female criminals who have who have a trait of shrewdness i.e. those who are polished and experienced, their approach to people and problems is usually perceptive, hard-headed, and efficient---an unsentimental approach to situations which takes into account all the three

dimension of emotional intelligence viz.. emotional sensitivity, emotional maturity and emotional competency respectively.

The findings also revealed that those male and female criminals who scored higher on the factor of self-discipline tend to have a strong self-control of their emotions and general behaviour, are inclined to be socially aware and careful. They are mature enough to channelize their energies in constructive manner and are able to rightly interpret and express their emotions in need of hour.

Limitations

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 was not large enough to generalize to the population. Future research can be carried out in order to find out way and means of how former criminals can desist crime in future. This may prove to be helpful in diminishing the rate of crime in the country.

Conclusion

Findings of the study revealed that there was a significant difference between the personality traits and level of emotional intelligence in criminals after imprisonment. As a preventive measure, it is suggested that after the period of detention gets over, strategy of rigorous interventions should be planned in order to reduce the rate of recidivism as well as the stigma attached to the identity of the criminal can be curbed to a certain extent so that they can also contribute their best in the development of the society and the country as a responsible citizen.

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