

Relationship between Personality Types and Family Income and Courses of Study of College Students

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Abstract: This paper attempts to find out the relationship between personality types (Type A, Type B, and Type AB) and monthly family income and courses of study (general and professional) of college students in Manipur. Data were collected from a sample of 534 Meitei students in the age group 18-24, studying in both general and professional government colleges in the four (4) valley districts of Manipur. Data were statistically analysed using Chi-square test and percentage. Results indicated that courses of study- whether general or professional have influence on the determination of personality types. On the other hand, no significant relationship has been found between the monthly income of the family and personality types.

Key Words: Personality, Type A, Type B, Type AB, Meitei

I. Introduction

Personality is one of our most important assets and helps in determining the limits of success, happiness, and fulfilment in our life. It is one of the most frequently used words and at the same time not easily definable. Personality is derived from the Latin word *persona*, which refers to a mask used by actors in a play. It can be referred to outward appearance, the public face we display to the people around us. Personality refers to our external and visible characteristics, those aspects of us that people can see us. It is the impression we make on others-that is, what we appear to be (Schultz and Schultz, 2007). The personality of an individual has also been seen to consist of the most outstanding or salient impression that he or she has created in others. A person may thus be said to have an “aggressive personality” or a “fearful personality”. In other words, it is an attribute or quality that is highly typical of the subject and that is presumably an important part of the over-all impression created in others and the person’s personality has been identified by this term (Hall, Lindzey, & Campbell, 1998). So personality can be defined as the characteristic patterns of behaviour and modes of thinking that determine a person’s adjustment to the environment. In this definition, the term characteristic implies some consistency in behaviour- that people have tendencies to act or think in certain ways regardless of the situation. Behaviour is the result of interaction between personality characteristics and the social and physical conditions of the situation. Thus a complete description of an individual’s personality would include many factors: intellectual abilities, motives acquired in the process of growing up, emotional reactivity, attitudes, beliefs, and moral values (Hilgard, Atkinson, & Atkinson, 1975).

As there is a taxonomy of the many species of plant and animal life proposed by the biologists, some students of human nature have also proposed various type theories of personality that sort people into separate personality categories or types (Hassett, & White, 1989). In 1974, two cardiologists, Meyer Friedman and Ray Rosenman had described a pattern of behaviour linked to coronary heart disease. They suggested that virtually all individuals could be classified into what they referred to as “Type A” or “Type B” behaviour patterns (Smither, 1994).

They have identified the following Type A characteristics:

1) Possessing the habit of explosively accentuating various key words in ordinary speech without real need and tending to utter the last few words of sentences far more rapidly than the opening words. This reflects underlying aggression or hostility and mirrors one’s underlying importance with spending even the time required for one’s own (Type A) speech.

2) Always moving, walking and eating rapidly.

3) Feeling or revealing to others an impatience with the rate at which most events take place. Often finishing the sentences of others.

4) Often attempting to do two or more things at the same time, such as thinking about an irrelevant subject when listening to someone else speak. This ‘polyphasic’ activity is one of the most common traits of Type A individuals.

5) Finding it always difficult to refrain from talking about or turning any conversation to themes that have personal interest. At times when this manoeuvre fails, pretending to listen but really remaining preoccupied with these personal thoughts.

- 6) Almost always feeling guilty when attempting to relax or do nothing for even just a few hours.
 - 7) No longer noticing the more interesting or beautiful things encountered during the day.
 - 8) Not having any time to spare, because they are so preoccupied with getting things worth having.
 - 9) Attempting to schedule more and more in less and less time. Making fewer allowances for unforeseen events that might disrupt the schedule. Also, having a chronic sense of time urgency- a core aspect of Type A personality.
 - 10) Having aggressive, hostile feelings to all Type A individuals.
 - 11) Resorting to certain characteristic gestures or nervous tics, such as clenching fists or banging a hand upon a table for emphasis.
 - 12) Becoming increasingly committed to translating and evaluating personal activities and the activities of other in terms of numbers (Furnham, 2005).
- Other Type A qualities include:
- a) A tendency to use numbers a great deal when thinking and talking.
 - b) Failure to use imagery, metaphors, and similes.
 - c) Love of competition.
 - d) Intense concern and alertness.
 - e) Perfectionism (Schafer, 2004).
- Rosenman and Friedman (1974) have also outlined the following characteristics of a Type B Personality:
- 1) Being completely free of all of the habits and inhibiting none of the traits of the Type A personality.
 - 2) Never suffering from time urgency and impatience.
 - 3) Harboring no free-floating hostility and feeling no need to impress others with one's achievements or accomplishments unless the situation demands.
 - 4) Playing in order to find relaxation and fun, not to demonstrate achievement at any cost.
 - 5) Being able to work without agitation and to relax without guilt. (Furnham, 2005)
- It is also possible to have a characteristics of Type A and Type B personalities (Munaf et al., 2009; Raza, 2007). They can be grouped in Type AB personality. These type of people cannot be clearly categorized (Emotion, n.d.).

II. Objectives of the study

To find out whether there are relationships between:

- 1) Type A, Type B, and Type AB personality and monthly income of the family.
- 2) Type A, Type B, and Type AB personality and courses of study.

Hypotheses of the study

- 1) There is no significant relationship between the types of personality (A, B, AB) and the monthly income of the family.
- 2) There exists no significant relationship between the types of personality (A, B, AB) and courses of study.

Methodology

The survey approach under the descriptive research method was adopted in the present investigation.

Population

As per List of Affiliated Government Colleges issued by the College Development Council (CDC), Manipur University, there are twenty-seven (27) government colleges under Manipur University situated in the four (4) valley districts of Manipur. Out of this, eighteen (18) colleges are providing general education and nine (9) colleges are providing professional education. The Meitei students studying in the 27 colleges formed the universe of the study.

Sample

Incidental Sampling was adopted in the selection of the sample to be studied. And 534 Meitei students participated in the study as sample of the study

Statistical tools used

Chi-square and percentage were used to analyse the data.

Results and Discussion

- 1) The courses of study and personality types of the students.

Table 1:

Relationship between courses of study and student's personality types

Courses of Study	Type of Personality			Total
	A	B	AB	
General Education	28 (9.6)	106 (36.3)	158 (54.1)	292 (100.0)
Professional Education	8 (3.3)	88 (36.4)	146 (60.3)	242 (100.0)
Total	36 (6.7)	194 (36.3)	304 (56.9)	534 (100.0)

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage) N = 534

$\chi^2 = 8.649$, with p-value 0.013

An examination of Table 1.1 shows that 9.6% respondents from general education belonged to Type A personality as against 3.3% respondents in the professional education in this category. 36.3% and 36.4% respondents from general and professional education respectively fell under Type B personality, while 54.1% from general education and 60.3% from professional education were in the category of Type AB. In both the courses, majority of the respondents belonged to Type AB personality, followed by Type B and Type A personality.

In order to examine the relation between courses of study and personality types, a chi-square test of independence was performed. The relation between these variables was found to be significant as $\chi^2 = 8.649$, with p-value 0.013 which is less than 5% level of significance. It may, therefore, be inferred that courses of study, whether general or professional, have influence on determination of personality types. This finding is not in agreement with that of the finding of Srivastava and Katyal (2005) in which no significant relationship had been found among the primary and secondary school teachers with regard to personality types.

2) Monthly income of the family and the personality types of the students.

Table II:

Relationship between the monthly family income and personality types

Monthly income of the family	Type of Personality			Total
	A	B	AB	
Upto Rs. 10,000	8 (5.1)	64 (40.5)	86 (54.4)	158 (100.0)
Above Rs. 10,000	28 (7.4)	130 (34.6)	218 (58)	376 (100.0)
Total	36 (6.7)	194 (36.3)	304 (56.9)	534 (100.0)

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage) N = 534

$\chi^2 = 2.26$, with p-value 0.323

An observation of Table 1.2 indicates that a small proportion of the respondents in the two income categories fall under Type A personality, while higher rates of them under Type B and Type AB personality.

After performing chi-square test of independence, the relation between monthly income of the family and personality types was found to be not significant as $\chi^2 = 2.26$, with p-value 0.323 which is greater than 0.05.

The results showed that there is no significant relationship between the monthly income of the family and personality types. In a study conducted by Bilquis and Mayuri (2000), a significant influence of occupational status of parents on the personality development of children was found. Similarly, Yadav and Yadav (2010) also found out that socio-economic status affects the personality of high school failed students. The results of the two studies reported the relationship between personality and economic factor which were inconsistent with the current findings.

III. Main Findings

In both the courses of study, majority of the respondents belonged to Type AB personality, followed by Type B and Type A personality. A small proportion of the respondents in the two income categories fall under Type A personality, while higher rates of them under Type B and Type AB personality. Relationship between the courses of study and the student's personality types has been found while the monthly income of the family has no influence in the determination of student's personality types.

IV. Conclusion

Relationship between the courses of study and the student's personality types has been found. And the monthly income of the family has no influence in the determination of student's personality types.

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