

ABSTRACT

The present dissertation sought to investigate the extent to which students of differing academic orientations - Arts, Business, and Science - display seven selected personality traits:

1. Field Independence/Dependence (FI/D)
2. Neuroticism/Stability (NEU)
3. Extraversion/Introversion (EXT)
4. Sociability (SOC)
5. Dominance (DOM)
6. Personal Identity (IDEN)
7. Locus of Control (LOC)

Differences related to Gender (Variable 9) and School Type (Variable 10) were also explored in terms of:

- (a) Personality measures
- (b) Academic orientation
- (c) Career choice

Data were obtained from Sixth Form students and these were analysed using various statistical procedures.

Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) emerged as a result of one-way Analysis of Variance and Scheffé post hoc tests. These were as follows:

1. Science students were significantly more field independent than their Business and Arts counterparts, and
2. Arts students significantly more neurotic than the other two groups.
3. Single Sex school girls (SSGs) were more neurotic than both their coeducational (COED) and Single Sex school boy (SSB) counterparts.

4. COEDs were significantly more sociable than SSGs.

Significant gender differences were identified using Student's "t" tests.

Males were significantly more field independent, less neurotic, more sociable and scored significantly lower on the Personal Identity measure than their female counterparts.

Stepwise Discriminant Function Analysis was used to determine the extent to which academic groups were homogenous in terms of the variables being explored. The results indicated that the Arts group was the most well defined, with a majority (60%) scoring as representative of the group. The Business group was the least well defined.

Pearson Correlation Coefficients were computed to determine relationships among the personality variables by Gender. In all cases, whether Gender was considered generally or by school type, main indications for both males and females were:

1. Positive Correlations between related personality traits.
2. Negative correlations between neuroticism and the other personality measures.

The pattern of career choices by gender was described. General trends were:

1. The emergence of Medicine and Law as popular female choices for Science and Arts students respectively.
2. Male dominance in Business subjects with the choices of Accountancy and Management as careers, and with Engineering being the most popular male Science choice.