

INFLUENCE OF PERSONALITY ON CONDUCT DISORDER AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT: *The study aimed at investigating the influence of personality on conduct disorder among adolescents in Secondary School. The design for this study is ex-post facto. The sample size for this study was 316 (three hundred and sixteen) adolescents Students drawn by purposive sampling techniques Two instruments were used to collect data for this study. The instruments are the Revised Neo-Personality Inventory (NEO-PI-R and the Conduct Disorder Inventory It was guided by two research questions and two hypotheses, Data was collected using two instruments tagged the Revised Neo-personality inventory and Crime Behavior Batter. The reliability of the instrument is 0.72 and 0.90 respectively. Obtained by test re-test method. Two hypotheses were tested with an independent t-test. After data analysis, it was found that, neuroticism and extraversion were significant to the development of conduct disorder behavior. A further analysis showed that, openness to experience was not significant in the development of conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents. SES was also implicated in the development of conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents. Based on the findings, it was recommended among all that; educational programmes should be organized which may help young people learn how to engage in positive self-appraisal, deal with conflict, and control aggression. Thereafter, conclusion was drawn.*

KEYWORDS: Personality factors (Neuroticism Extraversion and Openness to experience) conduct disorder.

INTRODUCTION

Conduct disorders is clinically significant behaviour that interrupts the adolescents' behaviour and manifest some form of abnormality. Adolescents who display conduct behaviour have not acquired the ability to self-regulate, affect behaviour, a prerequisite to social adaptation. This deficit in self-regulation is shaped by biological vulnerability (e.g. temperament) and by the behaviour which could be influenced by family. It has been observed that the families have both been implicated in the development of conduct disorder. Adolescents seem to be at an increased risk of delinquency and antisocial behaviours. The conduct disorders constitute problems for the entire family and those outside the family such as schoolmates and teachers. Hence, the study intends to examine the influence of personality and the family type on secondary school adolescents conduct disorders.

Heinstrom (2000) maintained that, Conduct disorders is a recurring phenomenon in schools and has continued to increase. Student's misbehaviour creates problems for teachers and themselves when they begin to occur frequently and pervade many areas of activities. These misbehaviours can cause suffering and concern to others, the student themselves and the society at large. As a result of increase in the frequency and intensity of conduct disorders in school, the teacher (who sometimes fall victim) is how confronted with the arduous task of not only teaching the students but also devising suitable means of curbing their acts of conduct

disorders. This taxes the teacher's resourcefulness and in an effort to achieve both aims, he may end up achieving none. These distractions may lead to poor work output, the students learning nothing and of course conduct disorders may lead to poor performance in both internal/external examinations and increase behaviour problems in the society. From the foregoing therefore, it is important to examine the influence of personality and family types on conduct disorders among secondary school adolescents.

The main aim of schooling is to effect desirable behaviour among the students. It is also for the development of self and that of the society. These desirable behaviour and self-development are in their totality covering the affective, cognitive and the psychomotor domains of the educational objectives. This undesirable behaviour boil down to conduct disorder. People with conduct disorder are irritable, have low self-esteem, exhibit aggressive behaviors, destructive, deceitful and violation of rules (Dunham, 2003). Conduct disorders of adolescents refers to serious and frequent antisocial behaviours among young people. Conduct disorders describes behaviours such as aggression or bullying threat to security, physical fight, using weapons, destroying property, arson, lying, stealing and manifesting of truancy. Adolescents with conduct disorders may act alone or in groups

Conduct disorders has been identified with the phenomenon of mobbing described by animal ethnologist. Gunlicks, & Weissman, (2008) stated that, conduct disorder is a form of students protest against over-authoritarian discipline approach by schools. It could be found to be prevalent in many adolescents of school age. Sometimes, conduct disorders may be caused by teacher's disruptive and aggressive behaviour towards the students and so the students react to protect the authorities' high handedness by engaging in conduct disorders which then cause unnecessary stress to the teachers. Dunham (2003) provides evidence that such stress can lead to lack of confidence, depression and various psychosomatic conditions.

Personality can be defined as a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influence his or her cognitions, motivations and behaviorus in various situations (Santrock, 2001). According to trait theories, for example, introverts and extroverts are two fundamentally different categories of people. According to trait theories, introversion and extraversion are part of a continuous dimension with many people in the middle. Neuroticism is a long-term tendency to be in a negative emotional state. People with neuroticism tend to have more depressed moods — they suffer from feelings of guilt, envy, anger and anxiety, more frequently and more severely than other individuals. Neuroticism is the state of being neurotic. An individual with neuroticism is typically self—conscious and shy. Extraversion is associated with leadership behaviour. Extraverts are more likely to assert themselves in groups; it makes sense that these individuals often takes on leadership roles when working with other people. Research has also shown that extraverts are less likely to experience anxiety over negative feedback. Those high in extraversion are often described as having a very positive outlook on life as well as being friendly, energetic and highly adaptable, Howard, & Howard, (1998).

Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study is to examine the influence of personality on conduct disorders among secondary school adolescents. But in specific terms, the study is set to find out:

1. Examine whether personality factors (neuroticism extraversion and openness to experience) jointly influence conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents

- Investigate whether personality factors (neuroticism extraversion and openness to experience) independently influence conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents.

Hypotheses

- Personality factors of neuroticism, extraversion, and openness to experience do not jointly have a significant influence on conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents
- personality factors of neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience do not independently influence conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents

RESEARCH METHOD AND PROCEDURES

This study involved 316 adolescents Students from senior secondary School. They were selected using purposive sampling techniques. Two adopted instruments were used to collect data for the study. They include: Revised Neo-Personality Inventory (NEO-PI-R and the Conduct Disorder Inventory. The test had the following reliability

Revised Neo-Personality Inventory (NEO-PI-R) was 0.72.and Conduct Disorder Inventory (CDI) was 0.90.

Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed of variance and t-test associated with multiple regression were used for hypotheses 1 and 2 respectively.

Ho1: Personality factors of neuroticism, extraversion, and openness to experience do not jointly have a significant influence on conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents

Table 1: Showing the Correlation Matrix and Multiple regressions on the Influence of the combination of Neuroticism, Extraversion and Openness to Experience on Conduct Disorder

	Conduct disorder	Neuro.	Extra	Openness to experience	R	R ²	Adj. R ²
Conduct Disorder	1.000				0.390	0.152	0.144
Neuroticism	0.346*	1.000					
Extraversion	0.171*	0.010	1.000	1.000			
Openness to Experience	0.080	-045	0.205*				

*means Significant at 0.05 level

The table above showed that the correlation between conduct disorder and neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience are 0.346, 0.171, and 0.080. And only that, between conduct disorder and openness to experience is significant while others were not significant. Furthermore, table 1 also revealed that the combination of neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience yielded a multiple regression coefficient of 0.390, R-Square of 0.152, and the Adjusted R² of 0.144. Based on the R-square (R²) it is deduced that, the combination of neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience can explain about 15.2% variations in adolescents conduct disorder while the remaining 84.8% can be explained by the variations in the other factors.

- Ho2:** Personality factors of Neuroticism, Extraversion and Openness to experience do not independently influence conduct disorder among secondary school adolescents.

Table2: Showing the Relative influence of Neuroticism, Extraversion and Openness to experience on conduct disorder

Model	Unstandardised coefficient		Standardised coefficient Beta	T	Sig
	B	Std. Error			
(Constant)	21.63	4.148		5.215	.000
Neuroticism	0.311	0.047	0.348	6.664	.000
Extraversion	0.263	0.090	0.155	2.908	.004
Openness to Experience	0.075	0.063	0.064	1.192	.234

The result revealed that, the beta values obtained are 0.348, 0.155 and 0.064 respectively. Neuroticism had the highest influence followed by extraversion and then openness to experience. The table also revealed that the t-calculated values obtained are 6.664, 2.980 and 1.192 respectively for neuroticism, extraversion, and openness to experience. A critical look at the table proved that only the t-value for openness to experience was not significant because the calculated t-value of 1.192 was significant at 0.234 level which is greater than the chosen 0.05 level of probability. On the other hand, the t-values of neuroticism and extraversion which are 6.664 and 0.004 are lower than the chosen 0.05 level of probability. Hence, neuroticism and extraversion independently have significant influence on conduct disorder.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study showed that openness to experience had a positive and significant relationship with conduct disorder. This finding of the present study is not in line with that of Farsides & Wood-field (2003), they found that openness to experience was significantly and positively related to conduct disorder. The disparity between the two findings lies on the fact that the previous study was on only openness to experience while the present study considers the joint influence of neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience. Farsides & Wood-field (2003) also found that openness to experience had a positive and significant relationship with conduct disorder. The disparity between the present and previous findings emanated from the fact that the previous finding was an independent relationship between openness to experience and conduct disorder while the present deals with the joint influence of neuroticism extraversion and openness to experience on conduct disorder. However this finding is to some extent similar to that of Howard & Howard (1998), they found that a person with a tendency towards neuroticism are more worried, temperamental and prone to sadness while those who scores low in neuroticism are less easily upset and are less emotionally reactive. This finding is not in line with that of Pervin & John (1999), who found that extraverts show less anxiety negative feedback. The disparity between the two findings lies in the fact that the present study focused on how extraversion can influence conduct disorder while the previous focused on the extraverts reacts to negative feedback. This finding is expected and not surprising because individuals that possess this trait are intellectually curious appreciative of art and sensitive to beauty. However this finding is not in line with that of Farsides & Woodfield (2003), who found that openness to experience, had a significant and positive relationship with conduct disorder. The disparity between the two findings is that the previous one was a significant relationship while the present finding was an insignificant influence on conduct. Well, to some

extent the two findings are in line for have both positive relationship or influence as the case may be.

Based on the findings of this study the researcher concluded that neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience are joint contributors to conduct disorder among adolescents. And that neuroticism had the strongest influence on conduct disorders.

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