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A STUDY ON RISK TAKING BEHAVIOUR AND PERSONALITY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS



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ABSTRACT:

The present study is on risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students. Risk-taking behaviours also refer to unconscious motivations when adolescents feel that meaning is crushed, that their life is worthless, that they can't expect anything from anyone any more, etc., and this is resolved in a tension releasing act. The act replaces the impossibility of putting the feeling into words. Personality has to do with individual differences among people in behaviour patterns, cognition and emotion. This study was conducted in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu and survey method was employed for the present investigation 800 students were selected as sample by adopting simple random sampling technique,

Out of these 800, 391 were boys and 409 were girls, 304 students belonging to arts subject, 280 students belonging to science subject and 216 students belonging to vocational subject, 440 students from rural and 360 students from urban colleges. The investigator has found that the risk taking behaviour of graduate students is average level. Neurotism and extraversion personality of graduate students is normal. Also it reveals that there is a significant correlation exists between risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students.

KEYWORDS

Risk taking behaviour, Personality, graduate students, sten scores, Pearson's product moment coefficient.

1.INTRODUCTION:

Rudiger Trimpop (1994) defines risk-taking behaviour as any consciously or non-consciously controlled behaviour with a perceived uncertainty about its outcome, and/or about its possible benefits or costs for the physical, economic or psycho-social well being of one or others. Risk taking involves the implementation of options that could lead to negative consequences. We know the need achievement is one of the key factors, which decide one's behaviour. People take risks in every way of life. The spirit of adventure is obviously present in every one. The risk taking is an entrepreneurial behaviour or role. Innovations in any walk of life are the result of risk taking by making wise decisions. All of us calculate the chances of success and then take 'calculated risks'. It is this very class of entrepreneurs taking moderate risks who play a key role in successful social innovation and economic development.

In general, there exist a number of factors that increase the likelihood of risk taking activity among adolescents. These include: coming from a disorganized or unstable family, having above average conflicts with parents, poor parental monitoring, and living in a high-risk, inner city neighborhood, spending a lot of time with a peer group that regularly engages in deviant behaviour, school failure, and low self esteem.

Personality cannot be taken as an outward appearance and behaviour, it is the totality of everything about a person—his emotional; mental, social spiritual ethical and physical make-up of an individual. Character is, just one aspect of personality. Personality plays a major role in an individual's propensity for risk-taking behaviour. It might seem that those who worry excessively don't make for ideal risk-takers, some studies indicate that people who score high on neuroticism – a combination of anxiety, moodiness, and worry – are more likely to become risk-takers. Some studies have found that risk-takers actually score lower on measures of neuroticism than the general population. Hence the investigator felt that to investigate risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Michael et al., (2007) investigated the associations of social and affective factors with risk-taking of male and female adolescents. A sample of 269 Israeli adolescents completed questionnaires measuring frequency of involvement in risk-taking behaviours, relationships with parents, orientation towards peer group, depressive mood, and aggressive behaviour. Correlations and multiple regression analyses showed that risk behaviour among male adolescents was mainly related to orientation towards peer group, while for female adolescents relationships with parents was the prominent factor in risk behaviour. The parental factor also contributed to the depressive mood of both genders in the sample. However, depressive mood showed only a weak association with risk taking. ShaikhAzimuddin, Zaved Ahmad., (2014), aimed to study the Personality traits among graduate students. The findings of this study showed that students belong to nuclear and joint families have same level of personality traits. No significant difference is found between male and female in nuclear families. Gender is not an indicator among students on Personality traits in joint families.

OBJECTIVES

To find out the level of risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students.

To find out the significant relationship between risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students.

HYPOTHESES

The level of risk taking behaviour of graduate students is high.

The level of personality of graduate students is high.

There is no significant relationship between risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students.

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE

The study was conducted in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu and survey method was employed. The sample was divided into different categories on the basis of gender and subject and location of college. From 19 colleges 800 samples were selected. Out of these 800, 391 were boys and 409 were girls, 304 students belonging to arts subject, 280 students belonging to science subject and 216 students belonging to vocational subject, 440 students from rural and 360 students from urban colleges, were selected by simple random sampling technique.

TOOLS

Risk taking behaviour scale constructed and validated by the investigator was used in the present investigation. It consists of 28 statements with the alternatives given were 'always', 'sometimes', 'undecided', 'rarely' and 'never'. Each item is assigned a weightage from 5 to 1 scores. The range of scores for risk taking behaviour is from 28 to 140 with the higher score indicates high risk taking behaviour. H.J. Eysenck's Maudsley personality inventory was used for the present study to measure two important personality dimensions namely neuroticism or emotionality and extraversion of the graduate students. Each of these two traits is measured by means of 48 questions. The items answerable in category 'yes' are assigned with a weightage of '2' scores (except for item nos – 14,16,18,22,24,30,36 and 40 – which belong to extraversion dimension and reassigned '2' scores only when answered in category 'no'). all the '?' responses are assigned with '1' score when the subject marks them in the middle category. The raw scores are then converted into standard scores to compare the degree of neuroticism and extraversion with the norms.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE

For analysing data, mean and standard deviation, and Pearson product moment correlation were computed.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

The mean and standard deviation values of risk taking behaviour scores were calculated for the entire sample. On the basis of mean and standard deviation, the students were divided into different groups namely very low, low, average, high and very high level risk taking behaviour by using normal probability curve method. The score range and interpretations are given below.

The various levels of risk taking behaviour of graduate students were categorized by using $M \pm 1$ and it is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1
VARIOUS LEVELS OF RISK TAKING BEHAVIOUR OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

S. No	Score range	N	Percentage	Level
1.	Above 133	0	0	Very high
2.	126-133	144	18	High
3.	113-125	572	71	Average
4.	105-112	73	9	Low
5.	Below 104	11	2	Very low

It is clear from Table 1 that among the total 800 graduate students, 144 (18 percent) have obtained high level risk taking behaviour, 572 (71 percent) have obtained average level risk taking behaviour, 73 (9 percent) have found low level risk taking behaviour and 11 (2 percent) have found very low level risk taking behaviour.

To find out the category of neurotism personality the total scores obtained for the entire sample was converted into sten scores. Based on the sten scores, the neurotism personality was classified into three categories i.e., weak, moderate or normal and strong and is presented in the Table 2.

Table 2
CLASSIFICATION OF NEUROTISM PERSONALITY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Scores	Sten score	Category	N/%
Below 41	1	Weak	240(30%)
42-44	2		
45-47	3		
48-50	4		
51-55	5	Moderate and normal	276(35%)
56-57	6		
58-61	7	Strong	238(30%)
62-64	8		
65-69	9		
Above 70	10		

From the Table 2 it is clear that 240 (30%) students have obtained weak neurotism, 276(35%) students have obtained normal, and 238(30%) students have obtained strong neurotism.

To find out the category of extraversion personality the total scores obtained for the entire sample was converted into sten scores. Based on the sten scores, the extraversion personality was classified into three categories i.e., weak, moderate or normal and strong and is presented in the Table 3

Table 3
CLASSIFICATION OF EXTRAVERSION PERSONALITY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Scores	Sten score	Category	N/%
Below 8	1	Weak	281(35%)
9	2		
10	3		
11	4		
12	5	Moderate and normal	396(49.5%)
13	6		
14	7	Strong	123(15.5%)
15	8		
16	9		

From the Table 3 it is clear that 281 (35%) students have obtained weak extraversion, 396(49.5%) students have obtained normal, and 123 (15.5%) students have obtained strong extraversion.

CORRELATION ANALYSIS

Risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students were correlated and the results are presented in Table 4

Table 4
Correlation Co-Efficient for risk taking behaviour and personality

Variables	r- value	Report
Risk taking behaviour	0.144	Significant at 0.05
Personality		

Table 4 revealed that there is a significant correlation exists between risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 1.Risk taking behaviour of graduate students is average.
- 2.Neurotism personality of graduate students is normal.

3. Extraversion personality of graduate students is normal.

4. There is a significant correlation exists between risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from this investigation that the risk taking behaviour of graduate students is average level. Neurotism and extraversion personality of graduate students is normal. Also it reveals that there is a significant correlation exists between risk taking behaviour and personality of graduate students. Some risky behaviours might not be worth of their potential consequences. Risk-taking in small doses is almost universally beneficial for brain and mental health. Novel experiences can help to ward off depression and reinvigorate a stale relationship. Risk-taking is often a necessary prerequisite for starting a new business or launching a new career, and the excitement associated with uncertainty can be a powerful antidote to boredom and even depression. Therefore students should recognise that risk-taking is a behaviour, not a process, job or department. They can learn to get better at it.

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