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NEUROTIC TENDENCY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

This research paper is an attempt to find out the neurotic tendency among college students in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. This study is based on 120 samples selected through random sampling method. Neurotic personality inventory designed by Prof. Ramanath Kundu Department of Psychology, University of Calcutta was used for data colection. ANOVA & t-test were applied for hypotheses testing. Results revealed that college students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of demographic variables.

KEY WORDS: *Neurotic tendency, age, gender, birth order, family pattern and income.*

INTRODUCTION

A person with neurotic personality exhibits characteristics of excessive worry and anxiety over normal life events. Symptoms can include depression, unrealistic fears, obsessions and repetitive, compulsive behaviors, as well as low self-esteem and being tense or irritable. One of the great psychologist, Sigmund Freud believed that normal and neurotic behaviour form a continuum, with isolated neurotic patterns occurring in most 'normal' individuals.

Neurosis differs from a psychosis which involves only a portion of mental functioning and does not lead to major disturbances in perceptions (hallucinations), in thinking (paranoid delusions), or in the basic mental ability to distinguish reality from imagination (reality testing) all of which are characteristics of psychotic disorders.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

The present research is concerned with the influence of the neurotic tendencies among college students. Each students have unique type of personality. They come from different environments, different families, socio-economic status etc. So they face different problems in their life will lead to some personality disorder. In this study an attempt has been made to find out the neurotic tendency among the college students.

PROBLEM

To find out the neurotic tendency among college students in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the neurotic tendencies among the college students.
2. To explore the influence of age, sex, educational qualification, birth order, residential area, and monthly income on the neurotic tendencies among the college students.

HYPOTHESES

Following alternative hypothesis were formulated in the present study.

1. Students with the age of 22 and below have more neurotic tendencies than the students with the age of 23 and above.
2. Female students have more neurotic tendencies than male students.
3. First born children have more neurotic tendencies than the later born children.
4. Students those who are from urban background tends to have more neurotic tendencies than students from rural background.
5. Students whose monthly income is low have got more neurotic tendencies than the students having low income.

VARIABLES

Independent variables:-

Independent variables in the present study are age, sex, birth order, rural or urban, background, education and income .

Dependent variable:-

Dependent variables in the present study are the neurotic tendency of the college students.

Interviewing variables:-

In the present study, the interviewing variables are students interest, motivation in answering the questionnaire, genuineness of feelings etc.

SAMPLE

In the present study 120 samples were selected through random sampling method in three different colleges in Cuddalore district in each college 40 students both male and female with different age

groups were selected. Selected samples differ on the basis of birth order, educational levels, and monthly income.

MEASURING TOOL

In the present study the neurotic personality inventory scale designed by Prof. Ramanath Kundu Department of Psychology, University of Calcutta. The scale consist of 66 items .

RESULTS

The main purpose of the present study was to find out the neurotic tendency among college students in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. The whole data was obtained by using the neurotic personality inventory scale. The scores were assigned for different responses according to the item. The scores were arranged in tabular form and then mean, ANOVA and t- test was applied to calculate the data. Results are given in tables.

Table-1

Showing Mean, SD and F-ratio of college students on the basis of age.

Age	N	Mean	SD	F-value
19 – 20	30	207.95	31.57	6.22**
21 – 22	36	234.16	31.84	
23 – 24	34	253.49	45.88	
25 & above	20	231.89	43.00	
Total	120	235.41	40.81	

** Significant at 0.01 level

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of age.

The result in table 1 shows that the age group between 23-24 years show more neurotic tendency while the age group of 19-20 years has the least neurotic tendency. Obtained F-value (6.22) is

found significant at 0.01 level, on the basis of our findings we may say that age is significant factor of neurotic tendency.

Table-2

Showing Mean, SD and t-ratio of college students on the basis of gender.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Male	62	236.02	41.34	5.20**
Female	58	212.67	40.40	

** Significant at 0.01 level

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of gender.

The results in table 2 shows that the gender group male show more neurotic tendency while the gender group of female has the least neurotic

tendency. Obtained t-value (5.20) is found significant at 0.01 level, on the basis of our findings we may say that gender is significant factor of neurotic tendency.

Table-3

Showing Mean, SD and F-ratio for college students on the basis of birth order.

Birth order	N	Mean	SD	F-value
1st	46	234.98	31.73	1.31
2nd	37	226.33	41.54	
3rd & above	37	245.40	49.71	
Total	120	235.41	40.81	

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of birth order.

The results in table 3 shows that the birth order group 3rd & above birth order show more neurotic tendency while the 2nd birth order group of has the least neurotic tendency. Obtained F-value

(1.31) is found less than tabulation value at 0.05 level, on the basis of our findings we may say that birth order is not significant factor of neurotic tendency.

Table-4

Showing Mean, SD and t-ratio for college students on the basis of type of family.

Type of family	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Nuclear	84	229.08	42.03	2.36*
Joint	36	247.59	39.76	

* Significant at 0.05 level

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of type of family.

The result in table 4 shows that the joint family show more neurotic tendency while the nuclear family has the least neurotic tendency. Obtained t-value (2.36) is found more than tabulation value at 0.05 level, on the basis of our findings we may say that family type is significant factor of neurotic tendency.

Table-5

Showing Mean, SD and F-ratio for college students on the basis of income.

Income	N	Mean	SD	F-value
Upto 4000	50	229.21	32.22	2.03
4001 to 5000	17	211.29	17.09	
5000 & above	53	239.56	44.01	
Total	120	235.41	40.81	

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of Income.

The results in table 5 shows that the income group Rs. 5000 & above show more neurotic tendency while the Rs.4001 to Rs.5000 income of has the least neurotic tendency. Since the F-ratio is not significant at 0.05 level. The difference among the groups is real, and therefore we can say that the income level groups do not differ in their neurotic tendency.

Table-6

Showing Mean, SD and F-ratio for college students on the basis of parents occupation.

Parents occupation	N	Mean	SD	F-value
Business	21	213.04	32.98	3.98**
Teachers	5	205.40	8.20	
Govt. Staff	22	205.00	7.21	
Private Staff	9	213.00	6.11	
Others	63	243.72	41.13	
Total	120	235.41	40.81	

** significant at 0.01 level

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of parent's occupation.

The results in table 6 shows that the parents occupation group others occupation show more neurotic tendency while the government staff occupation has the least neurotic tendency. Obtained F-value (3.98) is found more than tabulation value at 0.01 level, on the basis of our findings we may say that parents occupation is significant factor of neurotic tendency.

Table-7

Showing Mean, SD and t-ratio for college students on the basis of area of living.

Area	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Urban	55	224.74	35.92	2.85**
Rural	65	246.23	43.26	

** significant at 0.01 level

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of area of living.

The result in table 7 shows that the rural group show more neurotic tendency while the urban group of has the least neurotic tendency. Obtained t-value (2.85) is found more than tabulation value at 0.01 level, on the basis of our findings we may say that area of living is significant factor of neurotic tendency.

Table-8

Showing Mean, SD and F-ratio for college students on the basis of siblings.

Siblings	N	Mean	SD	F-value
1-2	77	229.64	35.74	2.77*
3-4	25	254.60	48.64	
4 & above	12	251.55	43.28	
Nil	6	221.07	37.47	
Total	119	235.82	40.74	

** significant at 0.01 level

Ho: College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of parents Siblings.

The result in table 8 shows that the 3-4 siblings group show more neurotic tendency while the nil group of has the least neurotic tendency. Obtained F-value (2.77) is found more than tabulation value at 0.05 level, on the basis of our findings we may say that the area level groups differ significantly in their neurotic tendency.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The present investigation is an attempt to study the neurotic tendencies among the college students. The main objective of the study is to find out whether any level of neurotic tendency is present among the students. In addition, it also tries to find out whether the students age, sex, educational qualification, birth order, residential area and monthly income influences the neurotic tendencies. The mean and standard deviation of the above areas shows that there is a significant relationship between the college student’s life and the neurotic tendency. The present study has been designed to analyse the college student’s age, sex, type of family, birth order, residential area, and siblings influences the neurotic tendency. The mean and standard deviation shows that there is a significant difference between the male and female students, 22 and below and above 23 years in age, Type of family, Govt. staff and other, rural and urban, first born and latter born except birth order and income. This shows that the most of the college students suffer from neurotic tendency.

CONCLUSION

The present investigation has dealt with the neurotic tendencies among the college students. The study has yielded the following conclusions.

1. Most of the students, who have taken up for this study, suffer from neurotic tendencies.
2. Most of the students possess moderately neurotic tendencies.

3. Few students possess slightly neurotic and highly neurotic tendencies.
4. Age of the college students has an influence over their neurotic tendencies. The students of age 23-24 have more neurotic tendencies than other age groups.
5. The male students tend to possess more neurotic tendency than the females.
6. The students those who are from rural background tend to have more neurotic tendency than the students from urban background.
7. College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of parent's siblings.
8. College students differ in their neurotic tendency on the basis of parent's occupation.
9. The level of income has no significant influence in the neurotic tendency of the students.
10. The order of birth has no significant influence in the neurotic tendency of the students.

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