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Research Article

IMPACT OF EARLY COLLEGE EDUCATION AMONG POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Emotional Quotient (EQ) and Personality plays a vital role in every one's life and paves way for a successful future. Emotional quotient and Personality assessment were conducted among polytechnic students through questionnaires and subjects with psychiatric problem were excluded. **Method:** A study was done in a polytechnic college from melmaruvathur, kanchipuram district among 423 students of age ranging from 16 to 21 years. **Results:** There was a significant difference among personality of the polytechnic students when they reach final year and their emotional quotient remains the same till final year.

Key words: Emotional intelligence, Personality.

INTRODUCTION

Since many years there have been studies going on through emotional intelligence (the measurement of which is known as emotional quotient) because an individual with high emotional intelligence can have a better personality. Many researchers have been working on it till the date from 1930s. In 1930s Edward Thorndike, 1940s David Wechsler, 1950s Abraham Maslow, 1975 Howard Gardner, 1985 Wayne Payne, 1987 Keith Beasley, 1990 Peter Salovey and John Mayer and the concept of emotional intelligence have been popularised by Daniel Goleman in 1995¹. Emotional quotient is the measure of one's own emotional intelligence. As the name suggest emotional intelligence means applying our intelligence towards our

emotions at a perfect time, place and with a respective person.

Personality is the uniqueness of a person which comprises one's own pattern of thoughts, feelings and behaviours². Gordon Willard Allport, American psychologist was one of the first people to focus the study on personality. A study conducted by Paul.T.Costa³ and McCrae (1987) says personality has five major domains namely (NEO 5 FACTOR or BIG 5 PERSONALITY, Neuroticism Extroversion Openness Agreeableness Conscientiousness)³
N- Negative emotional stability like sadness, depression, E- Sociable, lively, active, friendly and excitable, O- Imaginative, independent and has a preference for variety, A- Good-natured,

helpful, cooperative and trusting, C- Organized, self-disciplined, careful and responsible.

High Emotional Intelligence signifies that the person is good enough in having control over their emotions. Among the five dimensions of personality only neuroticism convey negative emotional stability so when its value increases it implies low emotional intelligence. When EOAC value is higher it denotes the person is friendly, independent, good-natured and responsible towards their work, whereas when it is low it express the individual is reserved, dependant, harsh and careless towards their work.

In this study Emotional Quotient and Personality were studied because both play a major role in career which goes hand in hand. A person with high emotional intelligence can be a better personality and a person with good personality would be high in emotional intelligence. This study was targeted among polytechnic college students so as to make out any difference among their emotional intelligence and personality as they start their college life two years earlier⁴. Normally one enters into college when they are 18years after completing 12th standard whereas polytechnic students enter into college by 16years after completing 10th standard.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table.1: Outcome of their personality level (first year of academic year)

	Neuroticism	Extroversion	Openness	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness
High	63.97%	57.51%	14.51%	18.27%	12.36%
Average	31.18%	31.18%	51.61%	23.65%	38.70%
Low	4.83%	11.28%	33.86%	58.05%	48.91%

Table.2: Outcome of their personality level (final year of academic year)

	Neuroticism	Extroversion	Openness	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness
High	64.22%	65.68%	28.45%	16.04%	21.88%
Average	29.19%	24.81%	48.17%	25.54%	38.68%
Low	6.56%	9.47%	23.34%	58.38%	39.40%

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Schutte et al scale (1998) was used for measuring emotional intelligence which has 33 questions and comprises score of 1 to 5 for each question⁵. NEO 5 FACTOR by Paul.T.Costa and McCrae (1992)³ revised comprised of 60 questions was used to measure personality. Raw scores were calculated for the 5 dimensions of personality and converted to T-scores based on the normal data for male and female population. T-scores are often categorized into one of five categories to summarize an individual's personality on each dimension⁶.

A study was done among 423 polytechnic students after getting ethical clearance and it was ethically approved out of which 100 were drop outs. Study was conducted in polytechnic college in Melmaruvathur, Kanchipuram district by the month of June to July 2012. Only normal subjects were included in the study whereas an individual with any psychiatry problems were excluded.

Study results were analyzed using SPSS, CHI SQUARE the test for significance was applied to know the sequel of the study (p value less than 0.05 considered as significance).

Table.3: Outcome of emotional quotient

	First year	Final year
High	87.63%	90.51%
Moderate	12.37%	9.49%

(All the values are in percentage. Significant value of openness 0.005, agreeableness 0.001, conscientiousness 0.004)

There was a significant difference among openness, conscientiousness and agreeableness of personality with respect to their higher academic year. Study result showed that there was increase in openness and conscientiousness as they go on to final year. Likely the reason would be, until school one's life is very concise, it's just made up of family, school, and friends and is always under the care of parents. But in contrast, college life is where they get chance to interact with more people which in turn provides them to experience many things. Here age and exposure plays a major role for change in personality.

Also the sequel of the study showed there was decrease in agreeableness as they reach final year. As they interact with more people, they keenly observe everyone and start reflecting according to that, without knowing what is right and wrong more over students are left free after coming to college and it became a starting point for change in character and behaviour which makes them less disagreeable person.

In the previous study done by Paul.T.Costa³ and McCrae says that personality doesn't change, it is unique for every person and remains constant throughout one's life, only the situation makes us to change but in depth our personality is same but the study conducted by Sanjay Srivastava says that personality changes with age and the present study supports Sanjay Srivastava⁷.

CONCLUSION

Generally agreeableness increases with age and experience⁸. In this fast paced world youngsters are provided with vast exposure and gets opportunity to interact with more people at

different age groups which make them to understand different things. As a result they face rewards and punishments out of which they learn new things and try to correct their negatives. Once when an individual undergoes this phase their activities and thoughts become mature in the future.

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