

Correlation between Personality Traits and Expression of Hostility in Adolescents

Psych. Ema Stroe

FPSE, University of Bucharest, Romania

Dr. Simona Trifu

University of Medicine and Pharmacie "Carol Davila" Bucharest, Romania

Introduction

- **The present research** follows a topic which is controversial for a long period of time, namely the association of personality disorders with the expression of hostility in adolescents. Adolescence represents a very important period in the life of the youth, a period full of both physical and psychological changes enriching the inclusion of adult behaviours, offering a conceptual character.
- **The objectives** of this paper are the identification of the association between hostility with clinical factors such as agitation, psychological inadequacy and psychopathic deviation, the examination of correlation between hostility and the scales of conformism, dominance, self-discipline and tension.
- **The scope** of this research was to identify and prove the existence of a relation between the personality traits and the various aspects of human personality.

Methodology

- The lots selected to test the hypotheses are formed of **30 subjects**. As regards the questionnaire, the first questionnaire applied to the lot of subjects was the **Clinical Analysis Questionnaire**, which followed **eight scales**, among which the last three are the clinical factors: **dominance, impulsivity, conformism, tension, self-discipline, agitation, psychological inadequacy and psychopathic deviation**.
- The **second questionnaire** offered to the same lot of subjects was **the hostility one**.

Research hypotheses

General hypothesis: There is a statistically significant correlation between personality traits and hostility in adolescents with ages between 17 and 20 years old.

The particular hypotheses deriving from the general hypothesis are:

- **H1:** There is a negative correlation between hostility level and personality traits, dominance and conformism.
- **H2:** There is a statistically significant difference between the clinical factors and hostility.
- **H3:** There is a positive correlation between the self-discipline level and the hostility level in adolescents.
- **H4:** There is a negative correlation between the high profile of acquired scores on hostility scale and the profile of low scores on the dominance and conformism scale.
- **H5:** There is a statistically significant difference between tension and agitation scale with hostility scale.

Results

- For the test of **H1 hypothesis**, the Pearson correlation test was carried out, because there was followed the negative correlation between dominance and conformism scales with hostility. From table number 2, it results that from the correlation of the scale called hostility and conformism, there appears a negative correlation, because between hostility and conformism, $r = -0.27$ and $p = 0.136$ where $p > 0.05$. From the perspective of the correlation of the scale called dominance with the conformism scale, one can notice $r = -0.28$ and $p = 0.122$, where $p > 0.05$. In conclusion, H1 is not confirmed, the correlation being statistically insignificant.

Results

Correlations				
		Hostility	Dominance	Conformism
Hostility	Pearson Correlation	1	.280	-.279
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.134	.136
	N	30	30	30
Dominance	Pearson Correlation	.280	1	-.289
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.134		.122
	N	30	30	30
Conformism	Pearson Correlation	-.279	-.289	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.136	.122	
	N	30	30	30

Results

- **Hypothesis H2** testing was also achieved by means of Pearson linear correlation test, aiming at highlighting a negative correlation between hostility scale with the clinical factors, namely the scales: agitation, psychological inadequacy and psychopathic deviation. From table number 3, it results that from the correlation of the scale called hostility and agitation and psychological inadequacy and psychopathic deviation, there can be noticed a positive correlation because between hostility and psychopathic deviation, the value of $r = 0.05$ and $p = 0.794$. From the perspective of the correlation between agitation scale with psychopathic deviation scale, a positive correlation results, the value of $r = 0.11$ and $p = 0.543$, but it is statistically insignificant because $p > 0.05$. From the penultimate correlation, namely the correlation between psychological inadequacy and psychopathic deviation, a negative correlation results, where $r = -0.01$ and $p = 0.92$, but which is statistically insignificant because $p > 0.05$. From the last correlation, namely the correlation between hostility and psychological inadequacy, it results that $r = -0.688$ and $p < 0.0005$, more precisely a negative linear and statistically significant correlation. In conclusion, the data attest the existence of a statistically significant association between hostility and psychological inadequacy, allowing the confirmation of H2 hypothesis, the correlation being significant at 0.01.

Results

Correlations		Hostility	Agitation	Psychological inadequacy	Psychopathic deviation
Hostility	Pearson Correlation	1	.325	-.688**	.050
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.079	.000	.794
	N	30	30	30	30
Agitation	Pearson Correlation	.325	1	-.179	.116
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.079		.343	.543
	N	30	30	30	30
Psychological inadequacy	Pearson Correlation	-.688**	-.179	1	-.017
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.343		.927
	N	30	30	30	30
Psychopathic deviation	Pearson Correlation	.050	.116	-.017	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.794	.543	.927	
	N	30	30	30	30

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results

- **H3 hypothesis** testing was also achieved by means of Pearson linear correlation test, searching to monitor a positive correlation between the scale of personality, self-discipline, and hostility. From the table number four, it results a positive correlation between self-discipline and hostility, but which is statistically insignificant, because $r=0.227$ and $p=0.227$. In conclusion, according to the table, H3 hypothesis is rejected, being statistically insignificant.

Results

Correlations			
		Hostility	Self-discipline
Hostility	Pearson Correlation	1	.227
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.227
	N	30	30
Self-discipline	Pearson Correlation	.227	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.227	
	N	30	30

Results

- **Hypothesis H4** was also tested by Pearson linear correlation test, between the personality scales called conformism and dominance with hostility. The hypothesis aims at confirming the negative correlation between the three scales. According to the table, it results that between hostility and dominance scales, Pearson linear correlation is a positive one, where $r=0.28$ and $p=0.13$, the correlation being statistically significant because $p>0.05$. Pearson linear correlation between conformism and dominance scales is a negative one, but it is statistically insignificant, where $r= -0.28$ and $p=0.122$, $p>0.05$. In conclusion, H4 is rejected.

Results

Correlations

		Hostility	Conformism	Dominance
Hostility	Pearson Correlation	1	-.279	.280
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.136	.134
	N	30	30	30
Conformism	Pearson Correlation	-.279	1	-.289
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.136		.122
	N	30	30	30
Dominance	Pearson Correlation	.280	-.289	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.134	.122	
	N	30	30	30

Results

- **H5 hypothesis** was also tested by Pearson linear correlation test, aiming at removing from the forefront the positive correlation between hostility and personality tension scale. From the following table (table 6), from the correlation between hostility and tension scales, it results that $r=0.556$ and $p= 0.001$. In the conditions where $p < 0.05$, it is attested the existence of positive and statistically important correlation between hostility and tension. Their bilateral testing has a significance threshold of $\alpha = 0.05$. The index of effect measure ($r = 0.55$) suggests, according to Davis, a substantial association between the variables. The research data for the sample of 30 subjects emphasized a significant correlation with hostility ($p < 0.05$, 99%). Also from the table, one can notice the positive linear correlation between agitation and hostility, where $r=0.325$ and $p=0.079$, but which is statistically insignificant because $p > 0.079$. In conclusion, H5 is confirmed, being significant at 0.01.

Results

Correlations		Tension	Agitation	Hostility
Tension	Pearson Correlation	1	.049	.556**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.798	.001
	N	30	30	30
Agitation	Pearson Correlation	.049	1	.325
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.798		.079
	N	30	30	30
Hostility	Pearson Correlation	.556**	.325	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.079	
	N	30	30	30

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Implications for policy / Practice

- As a result of drawing up the present work, having as object the correlation between the structures of personality traits, having as scales: the dominance, impulsivity, conformism, tension, self-discipline and the clinical factors: psychopathic deviation, agitation and psychological inadequacy, with expression of hostility in adolescents, by means of statistical data obtained following the examination of adolescents with ages between 17 and 20 years old, it was noticed that hostility negatively correlates with dominance and conformism. The youths with high scores on the dominance and conformism scale obtained a profile with low scores of hostility, reflecting the negative association between the targeted scales.
- Following the application of r test of Pearson linear correlation, for the second hypothesis having as object a negative correlation between the clinical factors (agitation, psychopathic deviation and psychological inadequacy) and hostility, it was showed that the adolescents with a high profile of psychological inadequacy obtain a low profile on hostility scale. From a psychological point of view, the results obtained indicate the fact that hostility is not associated with all scales, correlating only with the psychological inadequacy among the clinical factors, where the adolescents obtained a profile with low scores.

Conclusion

- The other working hypotheses were not confirmed, as regards the positive correlation between hostility and self-discipline, considering the fact that adolescents with a high hostility profile obtained a high profile as regards self-discipline. Psychologically, self-disciplined adolescents, those who impose their own discipline, have a very high degree of hostility, being characterized by negativism, resentment, verbal violence, suspicion, irritability and physical violence. Specialty literature confirms that the self-disciplined youths have an inclination toward radicalism and do not involve into an indirect hostile behaviour. Indirect hostility involves behaviours directing hostility against somebody deviously. Other indirect behaviours as door slamming, losing temper, allow to an individual to discharge his / her general hostility feelings that cannot be directed against a certain person.

Conclusion

- From those described above, the relations between clinical factors and personality traits of CAQ questionnaire and hostility with its scales of hostility inventory are obvious. In this context, one must mention that questionnaires do not allow the formulation of any clinical diagnosis. By means of questionnaires, we can grasp the individual tendencies toward one of the 9 dimensions assessed. When tendencies are more outlined, this tendency is present at the assessed person and the focus of attention will be directed toward the measure in which this tendency can affect his/her personal and professional life.
- It was previously noticed the correlation between hostility and psychological inadequacy clinical factor, the correlation between hostility and tension being statistically significant at 0.01, where $p < 0.05$.

Correlation between Personality Traits and Expression of Hostility in Adolescents

Psych. Ema Stroe

FPSE, University of Bucharest, Romania

Dr. Simona Trifu

University of Medicine and Pharmacie “Carol Davila” Bucharest, Romania