THE PERSONALITY FACTORS OF THE PARENT OF (MALE AND FEMALE) SCHIZOPHRENICS

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SUMMARY

It was hypothesised that there exists significant difference between the parents of male and of female schizophrenics and those of the corresponding control group in the personality factors. The experimental group consisted of 62 pairs of parents of 62 male and 38 pairs of parents of 38 female schizophrenics. A control group of 100 pairs of parents of mentally and physically healthy off-springs were taken. Subjects were matched for intelligence level, age level, sex, level of education, religion and per capita income and all of them were free from mental illness at any time during their life. The Bengali version of Cattell's 16 PF (C Form) (excluding Factor B) was used. The parents of schizophrenics were found to be significantly different from the corresponding control group in certain personality factors. The results substantiate the hypotheses.

It has been mentioned by several workers (Goldfarb, 1961; Jourard, 1961; Klein, 1949; Sullivan, 1953) that the development of an offspring's personality is considerably influenced by the parents, through their filial relationship. The personality of the parents determines their influence on the child to a great extent (Golbiner, 1963; Lagford and Wichman, 1948; Smith, 1961). It was also conceived by some researchers that this influence when adverse may have schizophrenogenic effect (Arieti, 1955; Chatterjee, 1963; Lidz, 1958; Tietze, 1949).

Fromm-Reichmann (1948), an early associate of Sullivan found the existence of typical "schizophrenogenic mother" who are domineering, cold, rejecting, possessive and guilt-producing. The mothers together with a passive, detached and intellectual father induced in their male children confusion, helplessness and inadequacy to deal with the life's stresses. Prout and White (1950) observed slight difference between the life histories and Rorschach responses of the mothers of male schizophrenics and those of non-schizophrenic males and concluded these mothers tend to live through their sons to fulfil their own unfulfilled wishes. Lidz and Lidz (1958) have characterised the fathers as insecure in their masculinity and the mothers as impervious to the feeling and needs of others. They have concluded that because of insecurity as a husband and father, the father is unable to present the necessary masculine image for his son and can interfere with the daughter's identity as a woman. Chatterjee (1963) studied the parents of 25 schizophrenics with a battery of projective techniques and found that the mothers of schizophrenics were frustrated, insecure and maladjusted and had unconscious tendency to deny their rage complex. Unlike other observers (Arieti, 1955; Hajdu Givens, 1940; Schofield and Balon, 1959; Tietze, 1949), he did not find dominant personality in them but the attitude of possessiveness and a desire to control their children was seen to be consistently present. The fathers of schizophrenics were lacking in masculinity and were emotionally immature. They possess aggressive impulses which they wish to project on to their children. Previously very little attention has been given to the characteristics of the fathers of schizophrenics.

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and most of the workers in the field disregarded the sex of the patient while studying the parental characteristics. So an attempt has been made where the personality characteristics of both the parents would be studied with due regard to the sex of the parents as well as sex of the schizophrenics. For the present investigation, the following hypotheses were formulated:

1) That there exist significant differences between the fathers of schizophrenics and those of normals in the personality factors;
2) That there exist significant differences between the fathers of male schizophrenics and those of male normals in personality factors;
3) That there exist significant differences between the fathers of female schizophrenics and those of female normals in personality factors;
4) That there exist significant differences between the mothers of schizophrenics and those of normals in personality factors;
5) That there exist significant differences between the mothers of male schizophrenics and those of male normals in personality factors;
6) That there exist significant differences between the mothers of female schizophrenics and those of female normals in personality factors;

METHODOLOGY

For the present investigation the experimental group consisted of 62 pairs of parents of 62 male and of 38 pairs of parents of 38 female schizophrenics. A control group of 100 pairs of parents of mentally and physically healthy offsprings were taken. The patients as well as the normal control subjects whose parents were included in the control group, and all the parents were examined by two psychiatrists. Only those cases where agreement in diagnosis could be reached were included. The degree of agreement between the psychiatrists was high (92%). Following were the criteria for selection of the subjects (both experimental and control (i) Must speak Bengali, (ii) Must have both parents living, (iii) Must possess level of education between class VI and class X, with average intelligence as determined by Progressive Matrices (iv) Must be free from mental illness at any time during their life, (v) With an age range between 35 to 54 yrs., (vi) With per capita income of the family be at Rs. 50 to 60 per month, and (vii) Hindu by religion.

Tools

The Bengali adaptation of the Cattell's 16 Personality Factor Questionnaire (C Form) (Cattell, 1957; Pain, 1976) was selected for the study of the personality factors of the parents. Raven's (1960) Progressive Matrices Test was used to study their intelligence. Cattell's Personality Factor C-Form in Bengali Version:

The original 16 PF C-Form (4) contains 105 items in total; amongst them, the items 3, 20, 37, 54, 71, 88, 104 and 105, were of the factor B (intelligence). For the present investigation, intelligence was assessed by other instrument, so these items were excluded. Bengali version of the remaining items adapted by the present investigator (Pain, 1976) were used. The personality factors and their symbols are given in Appendix.

Procedure

The tests were administered on the experimental as well as the control groups. At first the investigator was introduced to the parents of the patients by the authorities of the hospital or clinic. Then the appointments were made with the parents to meet the investigator in the Girindra Sekhar Clinic, Calcutta. When the parents met the investigator with a prior appointment, they were explained the purpose of the interview.
The test administration was carried out in the following manner:

Preliminary questions regarding the development of the disease of the patient were asked. Rapport was established. Then Standard Progressive Matrices (Raven, 1960) were administered on the parents of the patients according to the standard procedure and responses were scored immediately (when the score lies between the 25th percentile and 75th percentile (Raven, 1960), the parent was considered as intellectually average). Then Bengali version of the Cattell's Personality Factor Questionnaire was applied and standard method of test administration and instructions (Cattell, 1957) were followed.

The mean and standard deviation for each of the Cattell's Personality Factor (C-Form) in Bengali version with respect to different groups viz., the father of male schizophrenics and of male normals, the mothers of male schizophrenics and of male normals, the fathers of female schizophrenics and of female normals and the mothers of female schizophrenics and of female normals were calculated. t-test was applied to determine the significant difference between the above mentioned groups in each of the Personality Factors.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It appeared from the analysis of data (vide Table I) that the mean scores of the fathers of schizophrenics were significantly higher (p < .01) in Factor L, Factor M and lower (p < .05) in Factors: A, E, Q_1 than those of the fathers of normals. So it could be said that the fathers of schizophrenics tended to be more suspicious and doubtful (Factor L); careless of practical matters and unconventional (Factor M);

| TABLE-I—Showing Means and S.D.s. of Fathers of Schizophrenics and Control Group subjects in 16 PF test |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Factors    | Schizophrenics   |          | Normals          |          | Schizophrenics   |          | Normals          |          | Schizophrenics   |          | Normals          |          |
|            | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. | Mean | S.D. |
| A          | 6.06 | 2.39 | 6.82 | 2.02 | 6.30 | 2.25 | 6.66 | 1.97 | 5.65 | 2.56 | 7.08 | 2.15 |
| C          | 5.49 | 2.91 | 6.82 | 1.78 | 6.54 | 3.08 | 6.66 | 2.50 | 6.39 | 2.70 | 7.08 | 2.02 |
| E          | 4.46 | 2.02 | 5.02 | 1.87 | 4.47 | 2.01 | 5.04 | 2.01 | 4.44 | 2.03 | 4.97 | 1.62 |
| F          | 6.18 | 2.44 | 6.39 | 2.49 | 6.35 | 2.32 | 6.06 | 2.69 | 5.89 | 2.60 | 6.92 | 1.99 |
| G          | 8.74 | 2.17 | 8.76 | 1.92 | 8.91 | 2.32 | 9.17 | 1.96 | 8.44 | 1.87 | 8.18 | 1.84 |
| H          | 7.54 | 2.21 | 7.55 | 2.17 | 7.49 | 2.25 | 7.51 | 2.10 | 7.23 | 2.15 | 7.60 | 2.29 |
| I          | 6.07 | 2.28 | 5.95 | 2.61 | 6.35 | 2.22 | 5.75 | 2.47 | 5.63 | 2.29 | 6.26 | 2.60 |
| L          | 8.26 | 2.66 | 7.22 | 2.36 | 7.82 | 2.13 | 6.82 | 2.49 | 8.07 | 2.54 | 7.86 | 1.99 |
| M          | 6.03 | 2.64 | 5.09 | 2.45 | 6.27 | 2.59 | 4.19 | 2.57 | 5.63 | 2.67 | 4.92 | 2.24 |
| N          | 5.38 | 2.16 | 5.14 | 2.19 | 5.46 | 2.19 | 5.21 | 2.17 | 5.23 | 2.10 | 5.02 | 2.22 |
| O          | 7.16 | 2.48 | 7.18 | 2.67 | 6.82 | 2.45 | 7.30 | 2.82 | 7.71 | 2.41 | 6.97 | 2.41 |
| Q_1        | 6.04 | 2.44 | 6.58 | 2.46 | 6.59 | 2.23 | 6.50 | 2.26 | 5.13 | 2.50 | 6.81 | 2.11 |
| Q_2        | 7.50 | 2.00 | 8.06 | 1.99 | 7.43 | 2.09 | 8.14 | 1.82 | 7.60 | 1.84 | 7.92 | 2.22 |
| Q_3        | 8.18 | 2.26 | 6.34 | 2.45 | 6.21 | 2.30 | 6.79 | 2.24 | 6.13 | 2.20 | 5.60 | 2.59 |
| Q_4        | 4.84 | 2.60 | 5.30 | 2.59 | 5.04 | 2.61 | 5.67 | 2.71 | 4.44 | 2.54 | 4.68 | 2.26 |

Schizophrenics and of Male Normals, the mothers of Male schizophrenics and of Male normals, the fathers of Female schizophrenics and of Female normals and the mothers of Female schizophrenics and of Female normals.
schizothymic and detached (Factor A); submissive and passive (Factor E); and lacking in self-sufficiency (Factor $Q_2$) than those of normals.

The schizothymic tendency of the fathers of schizophrenics was also found in the studies of Waring and Ricks (1965), Hajdu-Givnes (1940), Jackson et al. (1958), Kanner (1948), Kanner and Eisenberg (1955), Despert (1951), Rank (1955), Nuffield (1954), Fromm-Reichmann (1948) and Rosen (1953). The submissive tendency of the fathers of schizophrenics was also noticed by Tietz (1949), Jackson (1958), Hajdu-Givnes (1940) and Fromm-Reichmann (1948).

The mean scores of the fathers of male schizophrenics were found to be significantly $(p < 0.05)$ higher than those of the fathers of male normals in Factors : L and M and lower in Factor $Q_2$. So the fathers of male schizophrenics tended to be more suspicious (L), absentminded (M) and lacking in self-sufficiency ($Q_2$).

The mean scores of the fathers of female schizophrenics were found to be significantly higher in Factor L $(p < 0.05)$ and lower in Factors : A, G, F $(p < 0.05)$ and $Q_1$ $(p < 0.01)$ than those of control group.

Now it could be said that the fathers of female schizophrenics tended to be more schizothymic (A), emotionally unstable and annoyed (C), taciturn (F), suspicious (L) and conservative ($Q_1$) than those of female normals.

It was evident from an analysis of data (vide Table II) that the mean scores of the mothers of schizophrenics were significantly lower $(p < 0.01)$ in Factors : A and E and higher $(p < 0.05)$ in Factors : M and $Q_1$. From this result it could be stated that the mothers of schizophrenics tended to be more

\[\text{TABLE-II—Showing Means and S.D. of Mothers of Schizophrenics and Control Group subjects in 16 PF test}\]

| Factors | Schizophrenics | Normal | Schizophrenics | Normals | Schizophrenics | Normals |
|---------|----------------|--------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| A       | 5.41 2.11 6.26 1.56 | 6.30 2.25 6.66 1.97 | 5.47 2.12 5.97 1.54 |
| B       | 6.22 2.30 5.74 2.48 | 6.54 3.03 6.66 2.50 | 6.55 2.37 5.92 2.57 |
| C       | 3.98 2.04 5.20 2.04 | 4.47 2.01 5.04 2.01 | 4.44 2.28 5.50 1.83 |
| D       | 5.22 2.17 4.96 2.13 | 6.35 2.32 6.06 2.69 | 5.13 2.33 4.44 2.13 |
| E       | 8.08 2.21 8.44 1.84 | 8.91 2.32 9.11 1.88 | 8.65 2.03 8.55 1.81 |
| F       | 5.71 2.06 6.10 2.23 | 7.40 2.25 7.51 2.10 | 5.97 2.12 5.65 1.00 |
| G       | 7.34 1.75 6.96 1.99 | 6.83 2.22 5.75 2.47 | 7.28 1.96 6.86 1.20 |
| H       | 7.70 2.28 7.63 2.37 | 7.82 2.13 6.82 2.49 | 7.50 2.23 7.34 2.18 |
| I       | 6.52 2.11 5.00 2.30 | 6.27 2.59 5.19 2.57 | 5.92 2.07 5.71 3.83 |
| J       | 5.82 1.80 5.45 2.29 | 5.46 2.19 5.21 2.17 | 5.65 1.95 5.00 1.94 |
| K       | 7.98 2.29 7.68 2.24 | 8.82 2.45 7.30 2.82 | 7.44 1.80 7.92 2.38 |
| L       | 6.48 2.22 6.42 2.23 | 6.59 2.23 6.50 2.26 | 5.83 2.17 6.13 2.05 |
| M       | 6.84 2.02 7.25 1.84 | 7.43 2.09 8.14 1.82 | 5.34 2.27 7.02 1.67 |
| N       | 5.50 2.35 5.90 2.36 | 6.21 2.30 6.79 2.24 | 5.28 2.07 6.23 2.23 |
| O       | 6.14 2.69 5.42 2.69 | 5.04 2.61 5.67 2.71 | 6.18 2.07 5.44 2.80 |
schizothymic, detached (A), submissive and passive (E), and unconventional (M) and tense and frustrated ($Q_4$). Two of these findings supported the previous works such as: (i) schizothymic, detached characteristics of the mothers were also observed by Waring and Ricks (1965), Kanner (1948), Kanner and Eisenberg (1955), Despert (1951), Rank (1955), Nuffield (1954), Rosen (1953) and Cheek (1964). (ii) Tietze (1949) obtained over-anxious, obsessional characteristics as Factor E in the mothers of Schizophrenics.

The mean scores of the mothers of male schizophrenics were found to be significantly lower than those of control group in Factors: A and E ($p < 0.01$) and F, G, and H ($p < 0.05$). Now it could be said that the mothers of male schizophrenics tended to be more schizothymic (A), submissive (E), taciturn (F), unsteady in purposes (G), and timid (H). The mean scores of the mothers of female schizophrenics were found to be significantly lower in Factors: $Q_2$ ($p < 0.01$), E and $Q_3$ ($p < 0.05$). So from the above results, the mothers of female schizophrenics were found to be more submissive (E), lacking in self-sufficiency ($Q_4$), maladjusted, inconsiderate ($Q_5$) that those of female normals.

From the present findings, certain peculiar features of the personality of the parents of schizophrenics could be noticed. (Vide table I and table II). Both the parents of schizophrenics (irrespective of sex) were found to be more schizothymic, aloof, cool, detached (A), submissive, humble, docile (E), absentminded and imaginative (M).

Fathers of schizophrenics (when both sexes taken together) were found as more suspicious and doubtful. Mothers of schizophrenics (sex was considered or not) and fathers of schizophrenics (irrespective of sex of the patient) were noticed as submissive and docile (E). Tietze (1949), Jackson (1958), Reichard and Tillman (1950) and Hajdu-Givnes (1940) had obtained submissive, docile and passive fathers and Tietze (1949) had observed that type of mothers in the schizophrenics.

Another interesting finding was that some schizophrenic features were found in the case of the opposite sex parents of the patients. Fathers of schizophrenic daughters and mothers of schizophrenic sons were found to be more schizothymic, cool, aloof, detached type of fathers of schizophrenics was found by Hajdu-Givenes (1940) and Jackson (1958) and that type of mothers was obtained by Cheek (1964). Abraham and Varon (1953) had observed it in the mothers of only female schizophrenics. Moschner and Bajavonsky (1968) and Chatterjee (1963) had indicated that the fathers of schizophrenics were taciturn. Schizophrenics' same sex parents i.e., fathers of male schizophrenics and mothers of female schizophrenics were found to be lacking in self sufficiency ($Q_5$). Gerard and Siegel (1958) and Chatterjee (1963) had noticed that the fathers of schizophrenics were emotionally immature but here the fathers of only female were emotionally immature. McAndrews and Gurtsmer (1961) and Cheek (1964) and observed the mothers of Schizophrenics as timid. This finding was supported here only for the mothers of male schizophrenics. Fisher et al. (1959) and Chatterjee (1963) had obtained maladjustment in the mothers of schizophrenics but in the present work only the mothers of female schizophrenics were found to be more maladjusted ($Q_9$).

In conclusion, it could be said that in the present investigation, it has been possible to discern certain personality attributes in which the parents of the schizophrenics were found to be significantly different from the parents of the normals.
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APPENDIX

Capsule description of the 16 Personality Factor Questionnaire (C-Form) in Bengali Version is given below:

**Factor A (Cyclothyme -vs- Schizothyme):**
The person who scores low on Factor A tends to be stiff, cool, detached, reserved, critical, aloof and rigid in his way of doing things.
The person who scores high on Factor A tends to be good natured, easy going, warm hearted, participating and emotionally expressive.

**Factor C (Emotional Stability -vs- Instability):**
The person who scores low on Factor C tends to be low in frustration tolerance for unsatisfactory condition, affected by feelings, emotionally less stable, neurotically fatigued, fruitful, easily emotional and annoyed.
The person who scores high on Factor C tends to be emotionally stable, faces reality, calm, mature and possessing ego-strength.

**Factor E (Dominance -vs- Submission):**
The person who scores low on Factor E tends to be docile, mild, humble, submissive and anxious for obsessional correctness. This passivity is a part of many neurotic syndromes.
The person who scores high on Factor E is assertive, stubborn, independent and self-assured.

**Factor F (Enthusiasm -vs- Glum):**
The person who scores low on Factor F tends to be serious, taciturn, glum, restrained and pessimistic.
The person who scores high on this trait tends to be cheerful, active, talkative, frank, expressive and carefree.

**Factor G (Ego Strength -vs- Lack of Control):**
The person who scores low on Factor G tends to be unsteady in purpose and expedient. He is often casual and lacking in effort for group undertaking and cultural demands.
The person who scores high on Factor G tends to be exacting in nature, dominated by sense of duty, persevering, responsible and planful.

**Factor H (Adventurous -vs- Timid):**
The person who scores low on Factor H tends to be shy, restrained, diffident, timid. He usually has inferiority feelings. He tends to be withdrawing, slow and impeded in speech and in expressing himself.
The person who scores high on Factor H is sociable, bold, ready to try new things, uninhibited and spontaneous.

**Factor I (Sensitives -vs- Toughness):**
The person who scores low on Factor I tends to be practical, realistic, toughminded, independent, selfreliant and masculine.
The person who scores high on Factor I tends to be tenderminded, dependent, overprotected, sensitive and day-dreaming. He is sometimes demanding of attention and help, impatient, dependent and impractical.

**Factor L (Suspicious -vs- Acceptable):**
The person who scores low on Factor L tends to be free of jealous tendencies, trusting, adaptable, cheerful, uncompetitive, concerned about other people and a good worker.
The person who scores high on Factor L tends to be mistrusting and doubtful. He is often involved in his own ego, is self-opinionated and interested in internal mental life.

**Factor M (Absentminded -vs- Practical):**
The person who scores low on Factor M tends to be practical, careful, conventional, proper and regulated by external realities.
The person who scores high on Factor M tends to be imaginative, unconventional, careless of practical matters and Bohemian. His inner directed interests sometimes lead to unrealistic situations accompanied by expressive outbursts.

Factor M (Shrewdness - vs- Simplicity):
- The person who scores low on Factor M tends to be unsophisticated, artless and sentimental.
- The person who scores high on Factor M tends to be polished, experienced, worldly and shrewd.

Factor O (Insecure - vs- Secure):
- The person who scores low on Factor O tends to be placid with unshakable nerve, self-assured and confident.
- The person who scores high on Factor O tends to be apprehensive, a worrier, depressive, troubled and full of foreboding and brooding.

Factor Q (Radicalism - vs- Conservatism):
- The person who scores low on Factor Q tends to be conservative, respecting established ideas, tolerant of traditional difficulties.
- The person who scores high on Factor Q tends to be experimenting, critical, liberal, analytical and free thinking.

Factor Q (Self-sufficiency - vs- Group dependency):
- The person who scores low on Factor Q prefers to work and decide with other people, likes and depends on social approval and admiration. He tends to go along with the group and may be lacking in individual resolution. He is not necessarily gregarious by choice rather he needs group support.
- The person who scores high on Factor Q is temperamentally independent, accustomed to go in his own way, self-sufficient, resourceful and prefers own decisions. He does not dislike people and simply does not need their agreement on support.

Factor Q (Self control - vs- Laxity):
- The person who scores low on Factor Q will not be bothered with will control and regard for social demands. He is not overly considerate, careful or painstaking. He may feel maladjusted.
- The person who scores high on Factor Q tends to have strong control of his emotions and general behaviour is inclined to be socially aware and careful and evidences what is commonly termed self-respect and regard for social reputation.

Factor Q (Tense -vs- Relaxed):
- The person who scores low on Factor Q tends to be sedate, relaxed, composed, satisfied, unfrustrated tranquil and torpid.
- The person who scores high on Factor Q tends to be tense, frustrated, restless, fretful, impatient, excitable. In groups he takes a poor view of the degree of unity, orderliness and leadership.