

PREVALENCE OF PSYCHOPATHIC PERSONALITY TRAITS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SELECTED FACTORS AMONG ADOLESCENTS OF SELECTED HIGH SCHOOLS OF RURAL AND URBAN AREA OF WEST BENGAL

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Abstract

Taking risks, testing limits and pushing boundaries are often part of adolescent life. Sometimes this can involve antisocial behaviour. If we take a very broad definition, virtually everyone does something that could be described as antisocial at some point in their lives, and this point is often within the second decade between the ages of 10 and 20 years.[3]. Hence a comparative survey was undertaken to assess prevalence of psychopathic personality traits and its relationship with selected factors among adolescents of selected high schools of rural and urban area of West Bengal. The study was based on non experimental survey approach and comparative survey design. Total 228 participants were selected by – non-probability consecutive sampling technique. Validated and standardized tool were used i.e. semi-structured questionnaire for demographic variable and for assessment of psychopathic personality trait Youth Psychopathic Inventory(YPI) by Prof. Henrik Andershed, which is self report instrument. On the basis of the findings of the present study it can be concluded that the prevalence of Psychopathic personality trait in rural area is 44.9% and in urban area is 50%. The traits are significantly higher in urban areas than rural areas. There is also association found between several demographic factors like age, sex, monthly pocket money, family type, relationship of parent, relationship with parent, presence of addiction in family and psychopathic trait in rural and urban areas. Association found between psychopathic trait and mothers occupation in urban area.

Keywords: Adolescents, Psychopathic Personality Trait, Youth Psychopathic Inventory.

INTRODUCTION

Psychopathy is traditionally defined as a personality disorder characterized by enduring antisocial behavior, diminished empathy and remorse, and disinhibited or bold behavior. It may also be defined as a continuous aspect of personality, representing scores on different personality dimensions found throughout the population in varying combinations.[1]

Psychopathy is a personality disorder characterised by a constellation of interpersonal, affective and behavioural characteristics (Hare, 1998). The early literature suggested that it was a uni-dimensional phenomenon, but subsequent studies revealed that measures of psychopathy had at least a two-factor structure, comprising an interpersonal/affective element (factor 1) and a social deviance component (factor 2). More recently, a three-factor structure has been proposed, which includes

- an arrogant, deceitful interpersonal style, involving dishonesty, manipulation, grandiosity and glibness;
- defective emotional experience, involving lack of remorse, poor empathy, shallow emotions and a lack of responsibility for one's own actions;
- behavioural manifestations of impulsiveness, irresponsibility and sensation-seeking.[2]

The Times of India a leading newspaper in Jul 15, 2014 reported in an article about the Grave crisis: 158%

rise in rapes by juveniles. The release of some disturbing figures by NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau). The involvement of juveniles in cases of rape in the capital shot up by 158% in 2013 (163 cases) as against 2012 (63). And there was a 30% increase in overall crimes committed by juveniles during the same period. One hundred and sixty three juveniles were apprehended on rape charges and 76 in murder cases last year. [4]

Citing National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the minister said the percentage of crimes committed by children in the 16-18 years age group had also increased in relation to the total crimes committed by children across all ages. This percentage rose from 48.7% in 2002 to 66.3% in 2013.[3]

By the time the adolescents reach their 30s or 40s, one third of them have a criminal record for something. If we ask them, between 50-90% of young men and around a third of young men claim to have broken the law in some way; clearly not all are caught. Figures from the 2003 Crime and Justice Survey (nationally representative self-report offending survey including around 4,300 young people aged 11-25 years) reported that one third of young men and one fifth of young women had committed acts of antisocial behaviour (including nuisance behaviours as well as more serious crimes) in the last 12 months. This went up to about 40% of the 14-16 year old.[5]

Therefore, this study focused on assessing the prevalence of psychopathic personality traits among adolescents with following objectives

1. To assess the prevalence of psychopathic personality traits among adolescents.
2. To compare the prevalence of psychopathic personality traits among adolescents of selected high schools of rural and urban area.
3. To find out the association between selected factors and psychopathic personality trait among adolescents of selected high school of rural and urban area of West Bengal.

NEED OF THE STUDY

There are very few researches conducted in this area in India. And this area needs further exploration because in order to reduce unwanted and socially inappropriate and unwanted behaviours among adolescents, we need to know the root causes and factors associated with these behaviours. If the modification can be done early in the developmental stage may be it will be possible to help the adolescent boys and girls to reach their manhood or womanhood in a much more mentally healthy and stable status which will ultimately need to social growth. As because the youth and adolescents, they are the future of the society. In order to build a healthy and crime free nation we have to emphasis on building its people who will be healthy, diligent and who will follow morality principles. Therefore, the investigator felt the need of assessing the psychopathic personality traits among adolescent boys and girls of rural and urban area. So that the personality traits can be assessed and the associated factors can be identified and it can be compared to rural and urban school going adolescents. The effect of urbanization is evident in many spheres of socio-cultural development and learning. But no data is available regarding the impact of urbanization on the psychopathic personality trait of adolescents.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was based on non experimental survey approach and comparative survey design. It was undertaken in Madarat Popular Academy, Baruipur, and Ramnagar Highschool, Ramnagar, under South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal. Out of total 228 adolescents, 118 were from Ramnagar High School, rural area and 110 were from Madarat Popular Academy, urban area. The participants were selected by – non-probability consecutive sampling technique. The adolescents who were studying in class XI and XII,

available during the data collection and who understand and read Bengali were included and those with physical or mental illness were excluded. Prior to data collection formal administrative permission were taken from the concerned authorities. Informed consent from the guardians was also taken. Data were collected from 19/10/2015 to 28/11/2015. Several tools were used to collect information i.e. semi structured questionnaire for demographic variable and for assessment of psychopathic personality trait Youth Psychopathic Inventory (YPI) by Prof. Henrik Andershed were used. The reliability of the demographic tool was established by inter-rater method, which was 0.99. The demographic tool contained 15 items. Youth Psychopathic Inventory is a self report instrument developed by Prof. Henrik Andershed. The responses are to be obtained in a four point scale and this structured questionnaire contains a set of 50 statements. Permission to use the tool for the study was taken.

RESULTS

Majority of adolescents of urban area were of 16 years age (77.3%). More adolescents of rural were of 17 years age (42.4%). 22% samples of rural area and 4.5% of urban area were of 18 years age. Majority of adolescents of rural area were male (66.1%) and of urban were also male (61.8%). Maximum adolescents were Hindu in both rural and urban area and Percentage of Muslim adolescents were relatively higher in rural area (24.6%). Maximum adolescent's monthly per capita income was less than Rs. 924/-, in rural area it was 78.68% and in urban area it was 55.5% belongs. The more number of relatively higher income families were from urban area. More number of adolescent's monthly pocket money was less than Rs. 200/- in rural area (44.1%), whereas, in urban area, majority of adolescent's monthly pocket money was relatively higher. Illiterate fathers were more in rural areas (11%). More number of fathers had primary education in rural areas (51.7%). Number of fathers with higher studies were more in urban area. Illiterate mothers were more in rural areas (17.8%). More number of mothers had primary education in urban area (49.2%). Number of mothers with higher studies were more in urban area. In father's occupation, percentage of labours were high in urban area (31.8%). Agricultural workers were only in rural area (47.5%). More number of fathers were into business (36.4%) and service (31.8%) in urban area. In mother's occupation, percentage of housewives were maximum in rural area (89.8%) and high in urban area (65.5%) also. From urban area 9.1% was in business and 12.7% was in service. 12.7% from urban area was daily wage labourer. In urban area majority of adolescents belonged to nuclear family (61.8%) and in rural also majority belonged to nuclear family (52.5%). 10% of urban family and 8.5% of rural was single parent type. The percentage of joint family was relatively high in rural area (34.7%). In urban area 60% adolescents denoted that their parents have good relationship and in rural area 49.2% adolescents denoted that their parents have good relationship. 18.6% of rural area reported their parents have very good relationship. 8.2% from urban area reported their parents have poor relationship. Both in urban and rural area 44.5% and 42.4% adolescents denoted that their relationship with parents is good. 20.3% rural adolescents denoted it to be very good. 31.4% and 39.1% denoted as fair. Few of them reported that their relationship with parents is average or poor. 12.7% in rural and 33.6% in urban area, adolescents had no siblings. 62.7% of rural samples and 52.7% of urban samples had only one sibling. 24.6% rural and 13.6% urban samples had more than one sibling. In urban area 51.8% and in rural area 40.7% addiction was present in the family.

The overall result showed higher prevalence of psychopathic personality trait in urban areas compared to rural areas. The prevalence rates found during the study were mentioned in figure-1 and figure-2.

It was concluded that there was significant statistical difference in scores obtained in Dishonest charm domain, Grandiosity domain, Lying domain, Manipulation domain, Remorselessness domain, Unemotionality Domain, Callousness Domain, Thrill-seeking domain, Impulsiveness domain and irresponsibility domain between rural and urban area. The urban area showed higher scores than the rural

area (table-1). Altogether, the mean difference of total scores obtained on YPI in rural and urban area was 10.1, in which the mean score was higher in urban area. The calculated t-value was 5.53 which was more than the table value at df (226), $p < 0.05$. So, the difference of score was not by chance and it was evident that there was significant statistical difference between rural and urban area in total scores obtained on YPI. The urban area showed significantly higher psychopathic scores than the rural area (table-2).

There was significant association between psychopathic score and age, gender, monthly pocket money spent, family type, relationship between parents, relationship of adolescents with parents and presence of addiction in the family, both in rural and urban area. There was no association between psychopathic score and mother's occupation in rural area but in urban area there was significant association between psychopathic score and mother's occupation indicating adolescents with working mothers had higher psychopathic trait than adolescents who had mothers, who were housewives (table – 3 and 4).

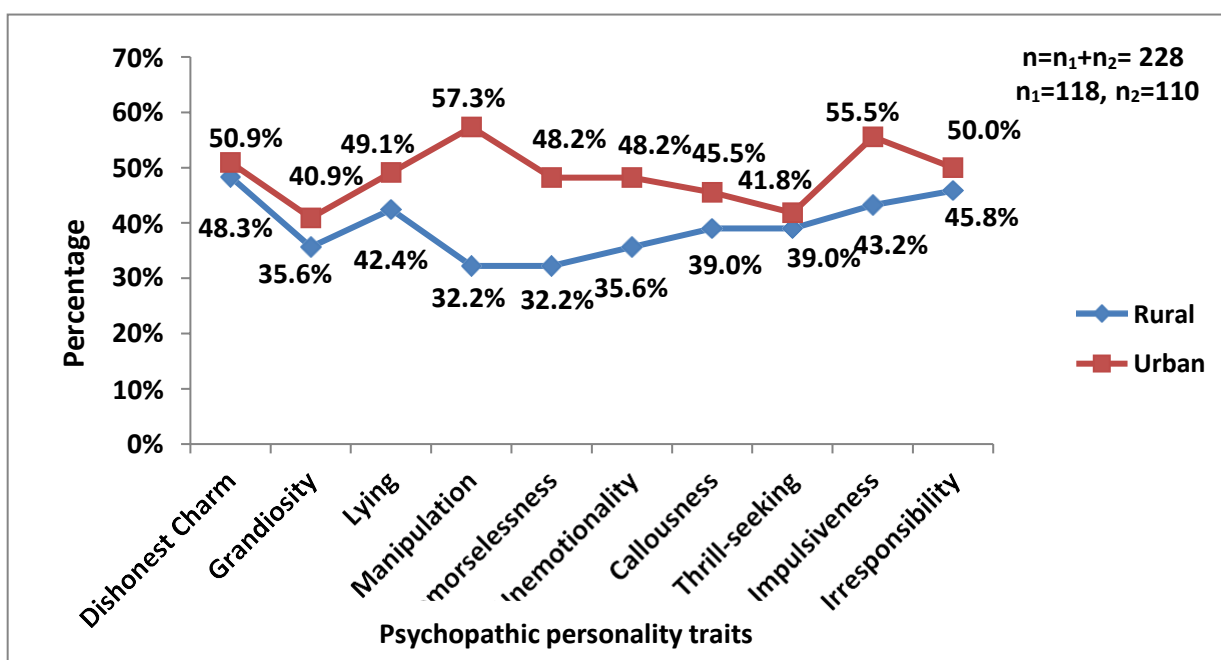


Figure 1: Line graph showing the prevalence of psychopathic personality traits calculated on the basis of mean score on YPI* among adolescents of rural and urban area (*YPI-Youth Psychopathic Inventory)

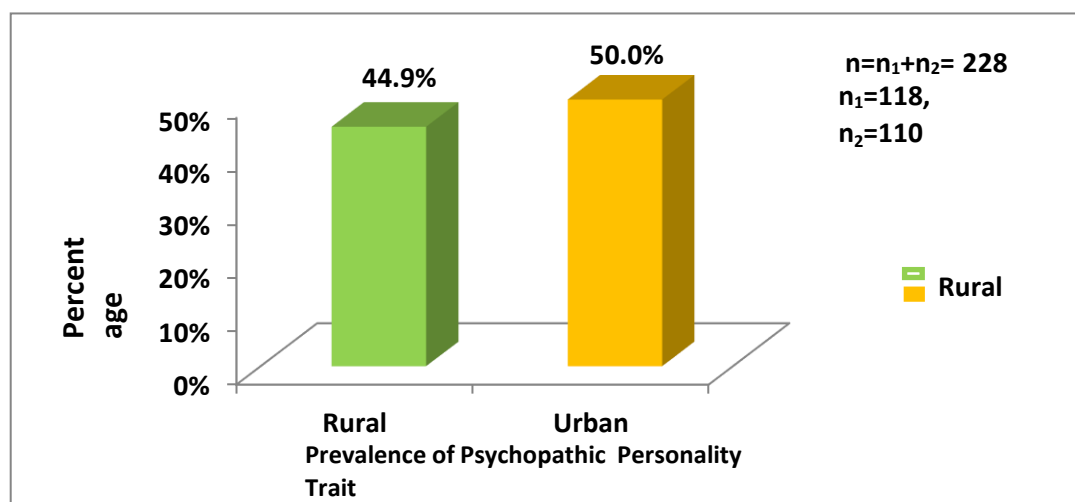


Figure 2: Bar diagram showing prevalence of psychopathic personality calculated on the basis of mean

score on YPI* among adolescents of rural and urban area (*YPI-Youth Psychopathic Inventory)

Table 1: Comparison of psychopathic personality traits among adolescents of rural and urban area in terms of difference of mean score on YPI in individual domain

n=228
n1+n2 =118+ 110

Variable	Mean		MD	SD	SE	t- value
	Rural	Urban				
Dishonest Charm	10.2	11.4	0.6	3.1	0.406	2.96*
Grandiosity	11.8	12.9	1.1	3.3	0.437	2.52*
Lying	9.8	10.9	1.1	3.2	0.426	2.58*
Manipulation	9.5	10.9	1.4	2.7	0.359	3.9*
Remorselessness	11.5	12.5	1	2.4	0.314	3.18*
Unemotionality	12.6	13.4	0.8	2.7	0.359	2.23*
Callousness	11.9	12.5	0.6	2.2	0.298	2.01*
Thrill-seeking	12.7	13.8	1.1	2.8	0.378	2.91*
Impulsiveness	11.4	12.4	1	3.1	0.407	2.46*
Irresponsibility	8.4	9.2	0.8	2.4	0.316	2.53*

Table 2: Comparison of psychopathic personality traits among adolescents of rural and urban area in terms of difference of mean score on YPI

n=228
n1+n2 =118+ 110

Variable	Mean	MD	SD	SE	t- value
Total score on YPI	Urban- 120	10.1	13.7	1.825	5.53*
	Rural-109.9				

Table 3: Association between YPI Score in Rural area and selected demographic variables

n1 =118

Variables	YPI-Score Rural		χ^2	df	Table value
	Above Mean	At or below mean			
Age					
16 years	11	31	9.87*	2	5.991
17 years	26	24			
18 years	16	10			
Gender					
Male	43	35	9.70*	1	3.841
Female	10	30			
Monthly pocket money					
Less than ₹ 200	16	36	13*	3	7.815
₹ 201 - 400	10	15			
₹ 401- 600	14	10			
More than ₹ 600	13	4			

Any Addiction in Family					
Yes	31	17	12.7*	1	3.841
No	22	48			
Family Type					
Single Parent	9	1			
Nuclear	30	32	12.7*	3	7.815
Extended Nuclear	1	4			
Joint	13	28			
Relationship of Parents					
Very good	5	17			
Good	22	36			
Fair	11	10	19.7*	4	9.488
Average	7	2			
Poor	8	0			
Relationship with Parents					
Very good	2	22			
Good	18	32	32.8*	3	7.815
Fair	26	11			
Average	7	0			

DISCUSSION

According to the present study boys scored higher in the total score which is consistent with the findings of the study of Jeremy C et al. which was conducted in 2009 in Great Britain aiming to measure the prevalence and correlates of psychopathic personality traits, using Psychopathic Checklist: Screening Version (PCL:SV).

According to this study higher score was found among adolescents with a history of addiction present in their families which is consistent with the findings of the study of Neumann CS et al. which was conducted in 2008 among large community sample in Kansas to find out the link of psychopathic personality traits with alcohol use.

LIMITATION

The study findings may differ in case of other areas where there is different socio-cultural context. Sampling technique (non-probability consecutive sampling) and sample size(228) was not very large. Psychopathic personality trait includes only ten domains of psychopathic characteristics. Several other domains of psychopathy remained untouched. Adolescent age group is represented by only class XI and XII students. The study result is calculated on the basis of self-report only. So accuracy of data is not ensured.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that adolescents group, both in rural and urban area possess high psychopathic trait which can be regarded as the precursor of conduct disorder, behavioural problem, social adjustment

Problem and also antisocial personality deviance. This can ultimately lead to delinquent behavior in future. So, if these traits along with the demographic risk factors can be identified at early stage, the risk of future occurrence of behavioral deviations will be less.

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