

RESEARCH PAPER

The Importance of IPIP Five Factor Personality Traits in Prediction of University Students' Emotional Intelligence

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PAPER INFO	ABSTRACT
Received:	Personality as a construct defines individuals into different
February 17, 2021	types or categories on the base of traits they exhibit or the ways
Accepted:	they behave. Personality knowledge can predict human
May 01, 2021	responses in a variety of contexts. In this regard, researchers
Online:	have limited the wide range of personality traits into five traits.
May 15, 2021	Personality researchers have agreed on this five factors
Keywords: Academic	personality model for use in personality research. These five
Performance,	traits are significant in the prediction of students' academic
Agreeableness,	behaviour and academic performance. Emotional intelligence
Emotional	constructs overlaps with certain aspects of these five traits of
Intelligence,	personality. Hence, the current study estimated the importance
Extraversion,	of Five factor personality traits model in the prediction of
IPIP Personality	emotional intelligence. Four hundred and twenty eight students
Items,	who were conveniently available provided information about
Neuroticism,	their emotional intelligence and personality traits. Linear
University	regression revealed that all personality traits can significantly
Students	predict students' emotional intelligence. The Extraversion trait
*Corresponding	appeared as the most important trait as compared to the
Author	Neuroticism trait, which showed the least importance in the
rafaquatiub@yah	prediction of emotional intelligence. Based on results and
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Introduction

The human quest is to identify and comprehend stable explicit differences in humans resides in human instinct. Therefore, individuals identify routine human responses to different social, emotional and cognitive stimuli and label them to distinct traits and categories. The drives for these distinct labelling are; to describe themselves and others in routine life and to predict human behaviour (ChamorroPremuzic & Furnham, 2005b). In this way, the concept of human personality is developed. Accordingly, personality consists distinctive stable traits that force an individual to behave in specific and more or less consistent way (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005b).

In human history, philosophers and academicians have proposed different theories and models to study the personality. As a result, there was a plethora of disjointed, and disintegrated personality theories that lack empirical evidence (John et al., 2008). In that chaotic state of affairs in personality research, there were diverse rating scales, alternative terms for different personality traits, or even for similar personality traits (McCrae & Costa, 2008). However, that problem has been resolved in recent years and academicians have almost agreed that there are five basic factors or traits of human personality (Crozier, 1997). The Five factor model of personality has appeared as the most agreed model to understand the personality of humans (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005c). This five factor model has engrossed all traits of human personality into five universal traits and enabled personality researchers to use this integrated systematic model to measure and explain the construct of personality (McCrae & Costa, 2008). This consensus to reduce different personality traits into five basic traits was a breakthrough and a milestone in history of personality research (Crozier, 1997). Nowadays, researchers can use standardised vocabulary, terms and concepts of personality (John et al., 2008).

In five factors personality approach, the personality construct is broken down into five traits namely; Openness, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism and Extraversion (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005c). Maltby et al. (2017) described these traits in operational form. According to them, Openness means that a person has intellectual curiosity, is able to think many perspectives of an issue or problem, accepts new ideas, imagine actively and welcomes new experiences. The high scorers are usually independent thinkers. The Agreeableness trait measures how well an individual is trusting, helpful and sympathetic. It measures the positive social interactions with others in the society. The conscientiousness factor specifies that someone is disciplined and able to regulate his or her life activities. He/she plans events in life, and remain focused on the plan and targets. The Neuroticism factor is related to emotional stability. High scorers in this trait are usually emotionally unstable, volatile and unpredictable in their emotional expressions. On the other hand, extraversion trait estimates an individuals' sociability. It measures the social, friendly, and optimistic traits. The opposite of extravert is introvert. Introvert people are unfriendly and unsocial.

The Five factors model of personality has performed as an important predictor of human development and learning at schools. The Ericson's psychosocial development theory comprises eight stages of psychosocial developed across human life span, and this theory has predicted the development of five factors of personality (Zhang, 2013). Furthermore, it is evident in recent studies that personality plays an important role in learning at educational institutions. The impact of personality on

school achievements can be in two ways: direct impact and indirect impact. Although, cognitive intelligence is an important predictor of students' performance at schools. However, the predictor role of cognitive intelligence decreases with progression from primary schooling to university education, as compared to personality traits whose predictor power increases along with this progression (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005d). For the reason, intelligence predicts what an individual can do, whereas personality traits define what an individual is likely to do. Therefore, personality construct acts as a more convincing tool for the prediction of students' future achievements, behaviours and knowledge required to be successful at schools (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005d).

There are certain factors and constructs that directly impact students' academic achievements, such as regulation of learning (Pintrich & Zusho, 2007; Zimmerman, 1990), learning strategies, learning patterns (Vermunt & Vermetten, 2004), and learning approaches (Biggs, 1987). However, personality literature affirms that these constructs are strongly associated with certain traits of five factors personality construct. The strategies of self-regulation of learning are associated with five personality traits. For example, help seeking is associated with extroversion trait, time management, and effort regulation are associated with Agreeableness, metacognition, effort regulation, time management, elaboration strategies and critical thinking are linked with conscientiousness (Bidjerano & Dai, 2007). However, the Intellect trait is associated to almost all strategies of self-regulation of learning (Bidjerano & Dai, 2007). Furthermore, students' personality traits are associated with the use of elaboration, and organisation learning strategies or the use of memorization strategies. Students' conscientiousness trait of personality is associated with rehearsal and regulation strategies, whereas openness to experience trait can predict the use of elaboration strategies (Blickle, 1996).

Based on students' cognitive processing strategies, regulation of learning, learning motives and conceptions of learning, Vermunt and Vermetten (2004) theorised four learning patterns; meaning directed, application directed, reproduction directed and undirected learning patterns. These patterns are also found to be related to students' personality traits (Busato *et al.*, 1998). By integration of students' learning strategies, and intentions to read textbook knowledge, Biggs (1987) proposed three learning approaches: the surface, deep and achieving learning approaches. There is an evidence that openness to experience personality trait has direct positive relationship with deep learning approach (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2008).

Apart from indirect impacts of personality traits on students' academic achievements, these have direct impacts on students' academic performance. The Neuroticism personality trait has negative impact on students' academic performance (Homayouni, 2011). Likewise, Openness to experience trait has positive impact on students' academic performance as compared to the Extraversion trait that sometimes do not have positive impact on students' academic performance (O'Connor & Paunonen, 2007). Both Agreeableness and conscientiousness traits have

positive connections with educational outcomes (Bidjerano & Dai, 2007; Busato *et al.*, 2000). However, most of the times, the relationships between personality traits and academic attainments are mediated by learning strategies (Blickle, 1996) and learning approaches (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2009).

From above discussion, it is clear that personality traits are better predictors of students' academic accomplishments because these personality traits can also predict all important predictors of students' performance at schools. Nowadays, alternative approaches of intelligence such as emotional and social intelligence are in focus because there are doubts about the role of general intelligence in success in routine life situations and at schools (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005a). Emotional intelligence is the measure of human ability to recognise, regulate and use of his/her and others' emotions in different contexts (Barrett & Salovey, 2002). Furthermore, it can provide the foundations of social intelligence (Salovey & Mayer, 1990). Therefore, it is the most important among alternative intelligence approaches. However, this alternative approach to intelligence appears to be overlapping with items of the big five factors of personality. In this way, these forms of intelligence appear to be a subsection of personality (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005b). Though, items of different personality traits and some emotional intelligence measures overlap (Avsec et al., 2009), but the purpose to asses is different in both (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005b).

Emotional intelligence has positive impacts on students' self-regulation of learning (Mabekoje, 2010), and self-efficacy (Wen *et al.*, 2020). Likewise, emotional intelligence directly impact students' academic performance (Akram *et al.*, 2016). It can also define students' drives and perseverance to learn different task at school (Afolabi *et al.*, 2009). Moreover, academicians have questioned students' social and emotional learnings at schools (Keefer *et al.*, 2018). These reasons demand further investigations about relationships of emotional intelligence with different factors important in pedagogical, social and personal contexts.

Hypothesis

The above discussion underlines the importance of the personality and emotional intelligence in students learning at schools. However, there requires an understanding of their interrelationships. Hence, this study answers the research question that how different traits of five factors personality model predict university students' emotional intelligence? This study examined the hypothesis that different traits of five factors personality model can significantly predict students' emotional intelligence. Therefore following was the null hypothesis of this study:

University students' personality traits will not significantly predict their emotional intelligence.

Material and Methods

The researchers used survey research approach and convenience sampling (Gay et al., 2012) in this study. The sample consisted students from different departments of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. Due to Covid19 pandemic, it was not safe and possible to manually collect data from students through printed questionnaires. Therefore, data were collected online. As a result of it, 428 students' online responses were selected for data analysis. The online questionnaire interface consisted information about students' demographic backgrounds, personality and emotional intelligence. The personality section of the online questionnaire consisted 60 items. These 60 items represent 15 subscales of five personality traits. These items were selected from the International Personality Item Pool website. These items measured five traits of personality. Each personality trait has further three sub-trait measures of personality (Table 1). The emotional intelligence section of this online questionnaire consisted 33 items taken from a uni-dimensional measure of Schutte et al. (1998).

Table 1							
Sub-scale in Five Factor Traits							
Personality Trait	sonality Traits	Subscales					
Conscientiousness	Cautiousness	Self- discipline	Achievement Striving				
Agreeableness	Trust	Altruism	Sympathy				
Neuroticism	Depression	Anxiety	Anger				
Extraversion	Assertiveness	Friendliness	Excitement Seeking				
Openness	Emotionality	Intellect	Artistic Interests				
C_{autras} , I_{a} because (2014)							

Table 1

Source : Johnson (2014)

SPSS software was used in data analysis. The chosen statistical test to test the hypothesis was linear regression. The five personality types were independent variables, whereas, emotional intelligence was the depended variable.

Results and Discussion

The relationships of different personality traits with emotional intelligence are displayed in Table 2. All personality traits except Neuroticism have significant correlation with emotional intelligence. Among different personality traits, the agreeableness trait has the highest significant correlation with emotional intelligence. Whereas, the Conscientiousness personality trait has the lowest significant relationship with emotional intelligence. Although, the correlation of the Neuroticism trait and emotional intelligence is negative but it is insignificant.

Table 2 Personality Traits and Emotional Intelligence Correlations					
Personality Traits Emotional Intelligence Significance					
Neuroticism	048	.162			

Extraversion	.401	.000
Openness	.371	.000
Agreeableness	.433	.000
Conscientiousness	.310	.000

Table 3 and Table 4 show statistics about model fit and the null hypothesis. The statistics in Table 3 and Table 4 show that regression null hypothesis, "University students' personality traits will not significantly predict their emotional intelligence" is rejected (F (5, 422) =45.515, p=0.0000). It is evident from Table No. 03 and Table No. 04 that different personality traits significantly explained 34.3 percent variance in students' emotional intelligence. The value of adjusted R² indicates that it is good model fit.

	Table 3					
			Model Summary			
Mod	el R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	e Std. Error	of the Estimate	
1	0.592 ^a	0.350	0.343	12	.95009	
a.	Predictors:	(Constant),	Conscientiousness,	Extraversion,	Agreeableness,	
	Neuroticisn	n, Openness				

b. Dependent variable: Emotional Intelligence

			Table 4				
	Regression Model ANOVA ^a Table						
	Model	Sum of	df	Mean	F	Sig.	
	model	Squares	Square		016.		
	Regression	38165.230	5	7633.046	45.515	0.000	
1	Residual	70771.425	422	167.705			
	Total	108936.654	427				

a. Dependent Variable: Emotional Intelligence

b. Predictors: (Constant), Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness,

Neuroticism, Openness

The Table 5 shows that the beta slope values of all independent variables included in this regression model are significant. The beta value (regression slope) of the constant is significant (17.769, p=0.031). The values of regression slopes of different personality traits and emotional intelligence are significant; Neuroticism (0.212, p=0.031), Extraversion (0.860, p=0.000), Openness (0.347, p=0.003), Agreeableness (0.530, p=0.000), Conscientiousness (0.626, p=0.000). The statistics of Table No. 05 shows that the least important personality trait in the prediction of emotional intelligence is Neuroticism. One unit increase in Neuroticism scores cause only an increase of 0.212 units in emotional intelligence. On the other hand, the most important personality trait in the prediction of emotional intelligence is Extraversion. One unit increase in emotional intelligence is Extraversion. One unit increase in emotional intelligence. It is obvious from Table No. 05 that all personality traits significantly

	Table 5						
			Coefficient	Table			
	Model		ndardized fficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	
			Std. Error	Beta			
	(Constant)	17.769	8.226		2.160	.031	
1	Neuroticism	.212	.098	.099	2.165	.031	
	Extraversion	.860	.117	.310	7.383	.000	
	Openness	.347	.116	.140	2.988	.003	
	Agreeableness	.530	.106	.224	5.002	.000	
	Conscientiousness	.626	.117	.263	5.357	.000	

predict emotional intelligence, although their contribution to cause a change in emotional intelligence varies.

Dependent variable: Emotional Intelligence

The regression equation derived from above Table No. 05 to calculate students' emotional intelligence is as below:

$$EI = a + b_{\rm N}X_{\rm N} + b_{\rm E}X_E + b_{\rm O}X_0 + b_{\rm A}X_{\rm A} + b_{\rm C}X_{\rm C}$$

EI= Emotional intelligence

a = constant

*b*_{N=} Beta slope Neuroticism personality trait

 b_E = Beta slope Extraversion personality trait

 b_0 = Beta slope Openness personality trait

 b_A = Beta slope Agreeableness personality trait

 b_{C} = Beta slope Conscientiousness personality trait

X means the scores in the relevant personality trait: X_N = Neuroticism Score, X_E = Extraversion scores, X_0 =Openness Score, X_A =Agreeableness Score, X_C = Conscientious Score.

The students' emotional intelligence can be calculated by putting relevant beta values and scores of personality traits in the model equation. If the students' score is 01 in each personality trait, then the students' emotional intelligence on scale used in this study will be:

 $EI = a + b_{\rm N}X_{\rm N} + b_{\rm E}X_{\rm E} + b_{\rm O}X_0 + b_{\rm A}X_{\rm A} + b_{\rm C}X_{\rm C}$ EI = 17.769 + 0.212(1) + 0.860(1) + 0.347(1) + 0.530(1) + 0.626(1)

EI=17.769+0.212+0.860+0,347+0.530+0.626

EI=20.344

Based on above model parameters, the calculated importance of different personality traits in the prediction of emotional intelligence is displayed in Figure 1. The Extraversion personality trait is most important player in the prediction of students' emotional intelligence. Whereas, the role of the Neuroticism personality trait is the least important in the prediction of students' emotional intelligence in this study.

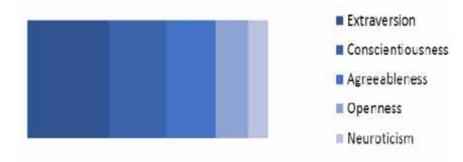


Figure 1: Predictor Importance of Different Personality Traits

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that it is possible to predict students' emotional intelligence from their personality scores. The prediction of emotional intelligence by personality traits is understandable because most of the measures used in both constructs overlap (Avsec *et al.*, 2009). The correlation co-efficient shows that Neuroticism is negatively associated with emotional intelligence. In prediction of emotional intelligence, there is a minimum role of Neuroticism. It is a measure of emotional stability and higher scores of Neuroticism means emotional instability and unpredictability (Maltby *et al.*, 2017). The moderate relationships among five personality traits and emotional intelligence are compatible with the contemporary literature (Andrei *et al.*, 2015). The most important role of Extraversion trait in prediction of emotional intelligence is matching with findings of other studies (Avsec *et al.*, 2009; Dehghanan *et al.*, 2014; van der Zee *et al.*, 2002).

The second most important predictor in this study in prediction of emotional intelligence is conscientiousness trait. There is inconclusive literature about the second most important predictor in prediction of emotional intelligence. Avsec *et al.* (2009) found Conscientiousness, whereas, Alghamdi *et al.* (2017), Dehghanan *et al.* (2014) found Agreeableness, and van der Zee *et al.* (2002) found Emotional stability/Neuroticism as the second most important predictor of emotional intelligence. However the difference in the impact of conscientiousness and

agreeableness on emotional intelligence is smaller in this study. The different findings about personality traits and their importance in prediction of emotional intelligence in different studies may be because of different underlying facets of personality traits, different measures of emotional intelligence and different populations.

This study confirmed the point of view of personality researchers. Personality researchers argue that although, different facets and subscales of personality traits overlap with emotional intelligence measures, and personality traits and emotional intelligence constructs look similar, but both are used and theorised for different purposes (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005b). Neuroticism personality trait and measures of emotional intelligence have almost similar scales. But there is no significant relationship between these two factors in this study and the prediction role of Neuroticism in prediction of emotional intelligence is minimum. It is understandable because Neuroticism trait describes what person usually is likely to do but emotional intelligence measures what it is (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005b). Most of the times, individuals avoid to express what they are rather they do what is socially acceptable.

The relationships of different personality traits with emotional intelligence revealed in this study are different forms in relationship of different personality traits with students' academic performance and academic achievements. The personality traits significantly related to success in academic tasks at schools are different from the personality traits related significantly with emotional intelligence. For example, Chamorro-Premuzic and Furnham (2005d), and Busato *et al.* (2000) found conscientiousness trait as the most important personality trait that impacts students' academic achievements. However extraversion trait is the most important trait in prediction of emotional intelligence (Avsec *et al.*, 2009; Dehghanan *et al.*, 2014; van der Zee *et al.*, 2002). Nonetheless, there is an evidence that predictor importance of different personality traits in academic achievements depend on nature of subjects (Homayouni, 2011) and educational levels (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2005d).

Likewise, the personality traits associated with regulation of learning are conscientiousness and openness to experience (Blickle, 1996). Furthermore, openness to experience is associated with learning approaches (Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2008). In this way, personality traits strongly associated with regulation of learning and learning approaches are different than those significantly associated with emotional intelligence.

It seems from findings of this study that emotional intelligence has different nature than the nature of attributes required for success in examinations. The relationships of different personality traits to different intelligence measures and academic achievements depend on the underlying dimensions or facets of personality traits. These underlying facets sometimes become more important in impacting the personality traits relationships with other factors (O'Connor & Paunonen, 2007). Although, Neuroticism trait is least important predictor in prediction of emotional intelligence. However, it has negative impact on students' academic achievement and positive association with undirected learning patterns (Busato *et al.*, 1998). Among five factors of personality, the negative impact of Neuroticism on students' learning is well acknowledged (O'Connor & Paunonen, 2007). Therefore, students with high Neuroticism scores can have emotional and learning problems.

Recommendations

Students' personality traits should be examined while treating their academic problems at educational institutions because these traits may help us to choose suitable frameworks to help emotionally disturb and academically suffering students. Researchers should use other personality trait facts not explored in this study while examining the relationships between personality traits and emotional intelligence.

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