



RESEARCH ARTICLE

AGREEABLENESS AS A DIMENSION OF PERSONALITY AMONG MONOZYGOTIC TWINS

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ABSTRACT

This multicultural twin study examined the structure and sources of individual differences in agreeableness. This study assessed cultural influences on the agreeableness component of the personality. A pair of 90 twins in the age group of 3-6 years from five cultural zones of state Haryana was taken. The data were analyzed for agreeableness culture wise and yield new insight into the trait. The results revealed that there was a significant cultural difference in agreeableness trait of personality in monozygotic twins. The respondents of Ahirwal zone had better personality traits against their counterparts.

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INTRODUCTION

Agreeableness trait of personality is shaped by both genetic and environmental factors; among the most important of the latter are cultural influences. However, culture does not have a deterministic influence or rather, its influence is probabilistic (Stryker & Burke, 2000). Culture is a key determinant of what it means to be a person (Church, 2000; Diener, Oishi, & Lucas, 2003; and Triandis & Suh, 2002). Monozygotic or identical twins are the only people in the world who have the same genotype because they share (nearly) 100% of their genes. The Monozygotic twins have be more similarity to each other than fraternal twins (Herin, 2006). Despite common genotype persons, it is quite hard to describe individual differences in agreeableness trait. Agreeableness is characterized by trust, compassion, and modesty; Conscientiousness is seen in organization, punctuality, and Purposefulness (McCrae *et al.*, 2008). Research has yielded little evidence for significant shared environmental influence, that is, similarity due to having trait-relevant environmental influences in common (Bouchard & McGue, 2003). Identical twins possess the same genetic makeup, they may go through different experiences throughout their lives that shape their personality, behaviour, and psychopathology in ways that make them unique relative to each other (Hughes *et al.*, 2005).

Objective

The current study aimed to investigate difference level of agreeableness in monozygotic or identical twins and the contributions of possible cultural predictors. The aim was not only to examine the structure of agreeableness and its correlates but also to gain a better insight into the underlying cultural environmental sources of individual differences in agreeableness through five cultural zones.

Methodology

The various methodological research procedures adopted in the study have been described along with the relevant details under following subheadings:

Locale of the study

The study was conducted in five cultural zones of Haryana state namely Khadar, Bagar, Nardak, Mewat and Ahirwal. A total number of -- district depending upon the availability of the twins were identified from five cultural of the state.

Selection of sample

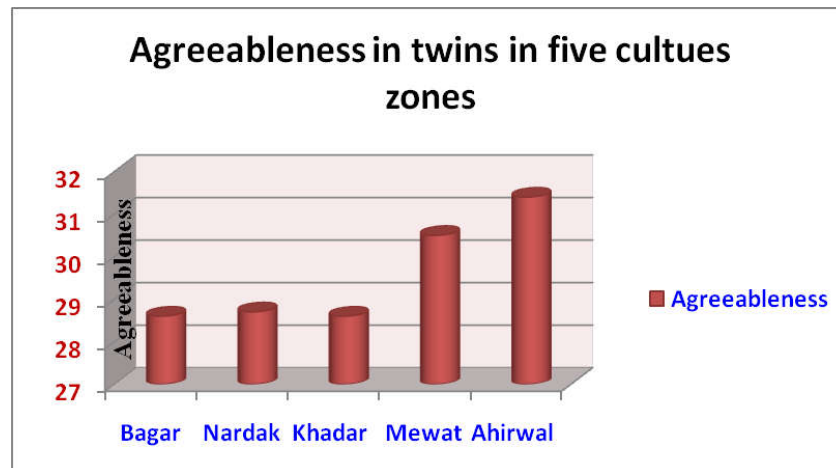
A sample of 90 a pair of twins in the age group of 3-6 years identified from different villages was assessed.

Variables:

1. **Dependent variable:** Agreeableness trait of twins.

Table 1. Cultural zone-wise comparison of agreeableness among monozygotic twins (N=180)

Sub-scales of personality traits	Agreeableness		F-value
	Mean	SD	
Bagar	28.6	3.4	3.47*
Nardak	28.7	2.9	
Khadar	28.6	3.8	
Mewat	30.5	4.9	
Ahirwal	31.4	4.7	



Tools

1. A Five Factor Personality Questionnaire for preschool children will be used for assessing the personality traits of preschool twins (Cathy L. Grist (revised), 2011).

Statistical analysis

Means, standard deviations and ANOVA were carried out.

RESULTS

This study on agreeableness trait of personality has given us a useful set of information regarding cross cultural individual differences in monozygotic twins. Cultural influences through current data showed the comparison of the mean levels of agreeableness in monozygotic twins. The trait agreeableness across five cultures shown systematic patterns, but significant difference. The highest mean value on agreeableness was found in monozygotic twins of zone Ahirwal (31.4) followed by Mewat (30.5) then Nardak (28.7). Two zone namely; Khadar and Bagar were having least and equal mean value on agreeable trait for the monozygotic (28.6) as depicted through Table 1. It is concluded that the respondents of Ahirwal zone had best agreeableness among their counterparts and monozygotic twins of Khadar and Bagar zone had lowest and equal level of agreeableness.

DISCUSSION

This study provided strong evidence those differences between twins on agreeableness trait were partly determined by genetic but more by cultural factors. Result indicated that agreeableness in monozygotic twins showed significance differences over five cultural zones. Agreeableness was associated with cultural environment as people tend to be pleasant and accommodating in social situations (Peterson, et.al. 2003). The expression of agreeableness tends to be external in nature, in that they are both associated with

prosocial behavior (Carlo *et al.*, 2005) and tend to be more accurately perceived by externally (Gosling *et al.*, 2009). Adolescents acquire new values and attitude from culture therefore more frequent changes occur in personality (McAdams and Olson, 2010). But McCrae and colleagues (2002) found stability in traits namely; agreeableness. and Conscientiousness. Donnellan *et al.* (2007) suggested that differences in agreeableness, conscientiousness, and extraversion may also be a function of family and social experiences.

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