C H A P T E R   VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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6.1. Summary

The problem of studying personality perception

relationship or personality through perception has been

examined by a number of psychologists using a variety of

tools under different contexts and from various approaches.

The results have been very instructive as well as interesting,

and still some controversial issues have not been

satisfactorily settled. The present undertaking has been

one more attempt to investigate the problem of personality-

perception relationship.

In the first chapter, the problem is introduced and a

number of personality theories as well as attempts for

personality assessment have been explained, and the relation

between personality and perception has been pointed out.

Next, the relevant past studies that have examined this relationship as well as different approaches have been respectively reviewed in the second and third chapters, emphasizing the need for the present study. The fourth chapter explains specifically the nature of the problem and objectives of the present study and described the methodology and the tools used as well as the procedure of scoring and analysis.

In order to study the problem of personality-perception relationship, a sample of 400 subjects, both boys and girls, studying in schools and colleges, from both rural and urban areas - all forming a 2 x 2 x 2 factorial design - were tested experimentally and individually in the psychological laboratory on six perceptual tasks viz. (i) length discrimination, (ii) size constancy, (iii) reversible figure test, (iv) emotionally toned words test, (v) form-colour dominance test, and (vi) embedded figure test, - all giving in all eight types of scores on varied perceptual processes. Further, the same subjects were administered the Personality Assessment Scale (PAS) standardized in Gujarati by Dr.A.S.Patel, the Scale consisting of fourteen sub-tests assessing different personality traits and yielding in all nineteen different types of scores. All these scores have been analysed with the

help of adequate statistical techniques, such as analysis of variance techniques to study the contribution of various factors manipulated, the main as well as interaction effects of sex, level of education and habitation with respect to the perceptual processes, and also correlational technique (Pearson's product-moment method) to examine the relation between different perceptual processes and different personality traits of the whole sample as well as of sub-groups formed by sex, education and habitation.

The final fifth chapter is devoted to the discussion of results in two parts, one part discussing the contribution of three variables of sex, education and habitation perceptual tasks, and the second part examining the relation of these perceptual tasks to various personality traits. The statistical analysis of data obtained warranted the following inferences or conclusions :

6.2. CONCLUSIONS

A : Perceptual Differences :

(1) As far as the size constancy effect was concerned, the
    sex was the only significant factor; girls scored
    higher (discripancy score) than boys, i.e. girls were
    poorer in maintaining size constancy, while boys
    exhibited more constancy effect (lower discrepancy
    score indicating less difference between the standard
    and the variable and therefore more size constancy).

(2) At the same time, in this case of size constancy
    effect, sex interacted significantly with education
    and there was also significant second order interaction
    of sex, education and habitation. Though generally girls
    scored higher than boys in most of the cases, and
    particularly urban college girls scored far more than
    urban college boys. Urban school boys scored higher
    (poorer constancy) than urban school girls.

(3.) In no other perceptual tasks, any of the three factors,
    viz. sex, education or habitation, was found to have
    played any significant role.

B : Perception - Personality Relation :

(4.) (a) On the whole, there was significant positive
        correlation between length discrimination task
        (Müller-Lyer Illusion extent) and suggestibility,
        i.e. letter discriminators or less illusioned
        persons were less suggestible.

(b) As far as some sub-groups were concerned, the less illusioned better discriminators were in some cases tended to be less self-sufficient, emotionally less stable and less interested in sex (are these having positive correlation), and in some cases more inwardly hostile (SC) - (lacking in self-confidence), and having more impunitive hostility (IH) (Condoning type).

(5) (a) There was on the whole significant positive correlation between size-constancy effect traits of dominance while negative significant correlation between size constancy effect and traits of self-sufficiency, i.e. those more illusioned with constancy (lower discrepancy score) phenomenon emerged to be less dominant (or more submissive) (lower score showing positive relation) and more self sufficient (higher score showing negative correlation).

(b) In case of some sub-groups, those showing more constancy effect (lower score) tended to have more leadership qualities, more paranoid hostility, and more suggestible, (all these negative correlation), and in some cases both more as well as less radical (with both positive and negative correlation).

(6) (a) In case of Reversible Figure Test (positive attitude), there was significantly positive correlation with traits of dominance, rigidity and suggestibility on the whole, i.e. subjects with positive attitude towards shifting often) were more dominant, rigid and suggestible.

(b) However, in case of some sub-groups, those with
positive attitude towards shifting tended to be
having more leadership qualities, more introvert,
more hostile (impunitive or condoning type),
more masculine, (all these showing positive
correlation), while in some cases being both more
as well as *less* radical and also having both more as
well as less sex interest.

(7) (a) Again in case of Reversible Figure Test (negative
attitude), there was significantly positive
correlation with traits of happy-go-lucky nature
and impunitive hostility and negative correlation
with the traits of honesty on the whole; i.e.
those resisting to shift (lower score) were less
happy-go-lucky (more serious), less hostile (IH
type) and more honest.

(b) As far as some sub-groups were concerned, those
resisting to shift or the less fluctuating were
less dominant, less of a leader, less hostile
(PH type), less stable emotionally, less
masculine (all having positive correlations),
and more self-sufficient, more radical, more
honest and more rigid (all these having negative
correlations); in one case, they are both having
as well as lacking self-confidence (SC type
hostility) (both positive and negative correlation).

(8) (a) In case of Emotional Toned Words Test, there was no
significant correlation with any personality trait.

(b) However, in case of some sub-groups, those
emotionally stable on this test (lower score
of emotionally toned words) were less happy-go-
lucky (more serious), less introvert (more
extravert), and less self-reproaching (all
positive correlation); and more acutely hostile
(AH type) (negative correlation); while in
some cases they were showing both tendencies,
viz. to be more as well as less neurotic, hostile
(PH type) and suggestible. (both positive and
negative correlation).

(9) (a) On the Form Dominance Test, there was negative
correlation with the trait of dominance on the
whole; i.e. the form-dominant individuals were
less dominant in nature.

(b) However, in case of some sub-groups, the form-
dominant tended to be more lacking in self-
confidence (less self-confident) or less self-
critical),more emotionally stable and more masculine
(all these positive correlation), and less happy-
go-lucky (more serious) less of a leader, less
introvert (more extravert), less self-remorseful,
(all these negative correlation); while in a few
cases, the form dominant were found to be both
more as well as less self-sufficient and having
more as well as less sex interests (both positive
and negative correlation).

(10) (a) In case of Colour-Dominant Test, there was not
significant correlation with any personality trait
on the whole.

(b) However, in case of some sub-groups, the
colour-dominant were more self-sufficient, and
more lacking in self-confidence (i.e. more
self-diffident or self-critical), more self-
abasing, more-remorseful and more suggestible
(all positive correlation), less radical, less
masculine, and less rigid (all negative
correlation); while in some cases, the colour
dominant were both more as well as less dominant,
acute hostile (AH type) and honest (both positive
and negative relation).

(11) (a) With reference to the Embedded Figure Test, there
was not a single significant correlation with any
personality trait.

(b) However, in case of some sub-groups, the field
independent individuals (with lower score) tended
to be less of a leader, less radical, less self-
critical (more self-confident), having less
paranoid hostility (PH type), (all these positive
correlation); while in most cases they exhibited
both more as well as less traits, i.e. they were
both more and also less dominant, self-abasing,
emotionally stable,honest, masculine, suggestible
and having more and also less sex interests (both
positive and negative correlation).

6.3.   SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP WORK

As far as the present study is concerned, the findings
have been summarized above, with all limitations of time, tools
and sample available. The investigator admits that much can be
improved and more can be added yet. However, instead of going
into ideal conditions and all-round improvements, the author
would restrict himself at least to the few following
suggestions for the follow-up work.

The author feels that just as alongwith the study of
the main problem of personality-perception relation, the
contribution of factors of sex, education and habitation has
been studied, the study can be extended to investigate also
the role of same factors in different personality traits. The
data are already available, and it remains only to arrange
and analyse the data so as to reveal the contribution of these
factors if any, to the development of these personality traits.

Next equally important suggestion is that when the scores
of a number of subjects on different personality traits are
available, the scores on all these sub-tests should be
correlated and these correlations should be subjected to the
factor analysis; this would shed more light on the factors
involved in the Personality Assessment Scale, and also help
further in testing the validity of the Scale already tested,
and thereby either strengthen the test or enable the
constructor of the test to improve or revise the test as the

need be.

Lastly, in view of the experiences and difficulties faced during the work and in view of the results obtained, there are possibilities to add some specific perceptual tasks and correlate with specific personality traits studied by different methods. Such approach will perhaps reveal more important findings.