Psychodynamics of the Individuals with Probabilistic Orientation

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Probabilistic Orientation purports a commitment to a unique and distinct set of constructs. Being aware of the metaphysical nature of one's being, avoiding of assigning attributes, indulging in mental mechanisms and games, unfailing commitment to probabilistic orientation constructs are the hall mark of this orientation. The psychodynamics of the individuals with probabilistic orientation has been investigated in this study. Probabilistic Orientation Questionnaire and the Verbal Projection Test were administered to 300 university students. Criterion groups on high and low levels of probabilistic orientation were constructed using median of the distribution of score of the subjects on POQ. The psychodynamics of the criterion groups were compared using critical ratios. The findings of the study showed that the probabilistic orientation contributes to accentuating the needs for belongingness and security, influences the perception of environment in a positive way, and contributes to have favorable reaction to the environment and adequacy of personality.

Personality dynamics is related to unconscious. The underlying force of unconsciousness of personality determines human thoughts, feelings and behaviour. The id, ego and superego are in constant struggle to maintain balance. The forces exist in the unconscious parts of personality are the source of conflicts. These conflicts center around impulses that are not acceptable, such as impulses to seek sexual pleasure or to express aggressive feelings (Freud, 1923). Other theorists have expanded the list to include interpersonal attachments, such as love and caring. The unconscious may not primarily be sexual. Motivations which have spiritual content are also present in unconscious mind (Jung, 1969).

Probabilistic Orientation purports a commitment to a unique and distinct set of constructs that may influence the behaviour and the level of conscience of the individual (Narayanan, 1979). Commitment to the following set of constructs in thinking; willing and feeling of the being construe probabilistic orientation (Narayanan, 2002).

There is a supreme order pervading for ever. Our life on earth is ordered by evolution. Therefore, every happening in life in the process of evolution is a random event and not directed specifically against or for any one in particular. There is nothing to be labeled 'good' or 'bad' and 'luck' or 'odd-luck' knowing the nature and life in their total perspective, one will neither find reasons to rejoice life as sweet or despise it. The factors construing the probabilistic orientation are unbounded expectancy, sensing unlimited possibility, insight into bias, healthy skepticism, unconditional acceptance, and appreciation of chance and awareness of probability.

A few researches have been made to study the psychodynamics of individuals with high and low probabilistic orientation. An investigation

comprising of one hundred TAT protocols of adults reveals that highly probabilistically oriented individuals are having high achievement, aggression and passivity when compared to the low probabilistically oriented individuals. On the other hand low probabilistically oriented individuals have high abasement, dominance, introgression, nurturance, sex and succorance compared to high probabilistically oriented individuals (Natarajan, 1983).

Another study involving one hundred Rorschach protocols of male adults reveals that individuals having high probabilistic orientation have high ego or thinking operation, emotional control, intelligence, interest, control impairment, aggressive acts, sexual interest, perception of reality and the ability to perceive the commonplace. The findings of the study also show that individuals having a low probabilistic orientation are higher in denial, detachment from the real and fantasy (Ganesan, 1986). The present study attempts to examine the psychodynamic of personality of individuals with high and low levels of probabilistic orientation.

Method

Sample:

The purposive sample used in this study consisted of 300 Post Graduate students studying in various departments of the Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. The sample included both male and female students in equal number. The age group of the subjects ranged from 20 to 25 years. The Ss were from the faculties of science, humanities, social sciences, educational technology and commerce.

Instrument:

Probabilistic Orientation Questionnaire (POQ – Narayanan, 1980) as used to ascertain the probabilistic orientation of the subjects and the Verbal Projection Test (VPT – Shanmugam, 1975) was used to assess the psychodynamics of the individuals. The POQ consisted of 70 –

items in the form of statements. The respondent is required to endorse or reject if each item is applicable to him/her or not. The response indicative of probabilistic orientation is given a score of one. The score of the subject on this questionnaire is the sum of the scores obtained by him on the 70 items. The maximum score possible for the questionnaire is 70. The greater the score on the POQ greater the probabilistic orientation of the respondent.

The VPT, like TAT, is a projective test of personality dynamics. It consists of 20 armatures or the description of various situations. As in the case of TAT, the respondent to VPT is required to write stories in response to each armature presented. The instructor orally presents the armature which is in written form to the respondent one by one. The respondent writes the story to each armature immediately after hearing it. A scheme for scoring of the stories evolved by Shanmugam (1975) is made use of in scoring the stories given by the respondent to each armature. Each story was content analyzed and the frequency of expression of various needs in the stories was counted. The theme of the story was identified. More than one theme was present sometimes in the story given in response to single Armature.

The influence of the environment of the individual as expressed in the content of the story was sorted into three categories namely, viz., frustrating, helpful and natural. The reaction of individual to environment expressing the content of the story was sorted into two categories, viz., favorable and unfavorable. The principal character of the story was identified and the adequacy level of the principal character was sorted into two categories, viz., adequate – adjusted or non adequate – maladjusted. The ending of the story was sorted into two categories namely, satisfactory to the society and unsatisfactory to the society. Besides the above scheme, stories were also scored for manifestation of

conflict. Conflict is a situation that arises when two or more motives drive behaviour toward incompatible goals (Morgan, King, Weiz & Schopler, 1986). The conflict of the individual as expressed in the content of the story was sorted into three categories, viz., high conflict, moderate conflict and low conflict.

Construction of Criterion Groups

Criterion groups on high and low levels of probabilistic orientation were constructed using median of the distribution of score of the subjects on POQ. The POQ scores of the subjects ranged from 48 to 70. The median was 61. All the subjects in sample who had a score which is higher than the median score was grouped into one group, labeled High Probabilistic Orientation Group. All the other subjects in the sample who had a score equal to or less than the median score were grouped into another group, labeled Low Probabilistic Orientation Group. There were 151 subjects in the high group and 149 subjects in the low group.

Comparison of the Groups on Psychodynamics

The high and low groups on probabilistic orientation were compared on the various measures of psychodynamics obtained on the VPT stories. As already stated the frequency of the specific needs expressed on each protocol by the subject was counted and averaged over the twenty protocols to obtain measure of needs expressed by the subjects. Similarly, the frequency of responses falling under various categories of responses constructed with reference to the influence of the environment, reaction of the individual to the environment, adequacy level of the principal character, ending of the armature story and conflict was counted for each story given by the subject and averaged over the twenty stories given by him/her to obtain various scores relating to his psychodynamics. The high group on probabilistic orientation and the low group on probabilistic orientation were compared on each one of the scores above mentioned using percentage critical ratios.

Results and Discussion

Patterns of Needs

The comparison between the high and low probabilistic orientation groups with reference to 12 needs are presented in table-1.

Table 1: Critical Ratios for the Differences in Percentage of the Subjects Expressing the 12 Needs in High and Low Probabilistic Orientation Groups.

Sl.No Needs	% of individuals expressing the need in			P	Q	%SD	CR
	High Group (151)	Low Group (144)	% Diff				
1. Achievement	13.91	10.06	3.85	12	88	4.6	0.84*
2. Acquisition	10.59	5.37	5.22	8	92	3.83	1.36*
3. Affiliation	13.24	9.36	3.88	11.31	88.69	4.55	0.85*
4. Aggression	1.32	9,39	8.07	5.3	94.67	3.18	2.54**
5. Autonomy	9.93	4.69	5.24	7.33	92.67	3.69	1.42*
6. Belongingness	15.23	7.38	9.85	9.85	84.66	4.31	2.29**
7. Dominance	1.99	9.38	7.39	7.39	94.34	3.27	2.25**
8. Excitance	8.01	6.04	2.57	7.33	92.67	3.69	0.68*
9. Security	13.92	6.71	7.21	3.33	96.67	2.54	2.84**
10. Succorance	2.65	10.07	7.42	6.34	93.66	3.45	2.15**
11. Sentience	2	2	6.06	4.98	95.62	3.08	1.96**
12. Play	6.62	15.43	8.81	10.98	89.02	4.42	2.00**

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01

As may be seen in table-1, the critical ratio relating to the comparison between the high and low probabilistic orientation groups on needs of Aggression, Belongingness, Dominance, Security, Succorance, Sentience, and Play are highly significant. The critical ratio relating to the comparison between the high and low probabilistic orientation groups on needs of Achievement, Acquisition, Affiliation, Autonomy and Excitance are not significant. There is significant difference between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups on needs of Aggression, Belongingness, Dominance, Security, Succorance, Sentience and Play. The percentage of the needs of Belongingness and Security of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the needs of Aggression, Dominance, Succorance, Sentience and Play of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. As may be seen in Table- I

there is no significant difference between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups on needs of Achievements, Acquisition, Autonomy and Excitance. However, the percentage of the needs of Achievement, Affiliation, Autonomy and Excitance of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The findings just cited above show that the percentage of the needs of belongingness and security of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the needs of aggression, dominance, succorance, sentience and play of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group.

Influence of the Environment

The comparison between the high and low probabilistic orientation groups with reference to their influence of the Environment is presented in table-2.

Table 2: The Critical Ratios for the Differences in Percentage of the Subjects with Reference to their Influence of the Environment in High and Low Probabilistic Orientation Groups

Sl. No	Influence of the environment	% of the individuals expressing the influence of the environment		% Diff	P	Q	%SD	CR
		High Group (151)	Low Group (149)					
1	Frustrating	4.11	20.36	16.25	12.21	87.79	0.84	19.34**
2	Neutral	44.03	50.16	6.13	47.88	59.92	1.28	4.79**
3	Helpful	51.86	29.53	22.33	40.73	59.23	1.20	18.60**

** p < 0.01

As may be seen in table-2, the critical ratio relating to the comparison between high and low probabilistic orientation groups on the influence of environment, frustrating, neutral and helpful are highly significant. There is significant difference between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups on the influence of environment, frustrating, neutral and helpful. As may be seen in Table-2 the percentage of influence on environment of

frustrating and neutral of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the influence on environment of helpful of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The findings thus show that the percentage of the influence on environment of frustrating and neutral of the high

probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of influence on environment of helpful of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group.

Reaction of the Individual.

The comparison between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups with reference to their reaction of the individual is presented in table 3.

Table 3: The Critical Ration for the Difference in Percentage of the Subjects with Reference to their Reaction of the Environment in High and Low Probabilistic Orientation Groups.

S.No	Reaction of the individual	% of the individual expressing the reaction of the individual		% Diff	P	Q	%SD	CR
		High Group (151)	Low Group (149)					
1	Unfavorable	9.47	48.66	39.19	32.27	67.73	1.12	34.99**
2	Self sufficient and emotionally stable	89.21	79.21	9.93	84.85	65.15	0.91	10.91**

** $p < 0.01$

As may be seen in the table-3, the critical ratios relating to the comparison between high and low probabilistic orientation groups on the reaction of the individual unfavorable and self sufficient and emotionally stable are highly significant. There is significant difference between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups on the reaction of individual, unfavorable and self sufficient and emotionally stable. As it is seen in Table-3 the percentage of the reaction of the individual, unfavorable of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the reaction of the individual self-sufficient and emotionally stable of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. Thus the findings show that the percentage of the reaction of the individual, unfavorable of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the reaction of the individual self-sufficient and emotionally stable of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group.

Adequacy of the Principal Character

The comparison between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups with reference to their adequacy of the principal character is presented in table 4.

Table 4: The Critical Ratio for the Differences in Percentage of the Subject with Reference to their Adequacy of the Principal Character in High and Low Probabilistic Orientation Groups.

Sl. No	Adequacy of the principal character	% of the individuals expressing the adequacy of the principal character		%Diff	P	Q	%SD	CR
		High Group (151)	Low Group (149)					
1.	Not Adequate	10.86	20.79	9.93	15.45	84.55	0.93	10.68**
2.	Adequate	89.21	79.21	9.93	84.85	15.15	0.91	10.91**

** $p < 0.01$

As may be seen in the table-4, the critical ratio relating to the comparison between high and low probabilistic orientation groups on the adequacy of the principal character not adequate and adequate are highly significant. There is significant difference between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups on the adequacy of the principal character, not adequate and adequate. As it is seen in the Table-4 the percentage of the adequacy of the principal character, not adequate of the higher probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the adequacy of the principal character, adequate of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. Thus, the findings show the percentage of the adequacy of the principal character not adequate of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the adequacy of the principal character, adequate of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group.

Ending of the Armature

The comparison between the high and low probabilistic orientation groups with reference to their ending of the Armature is presented in table 5.

Table 5: The Critical Ratio for the Differences in Percentage of the Subjects with Reference to their Ending of the Armature in High and Low Probabilistic Orientation Groups.

| S.No | Ending of the Armature | % of the individual expressing the ending of the armature. | | | | | | |
		High Group (151)	Low Group (149)	% Diff	P	Q	%SD	CR
1	Unsatisfactory to the society	11.5	36.61	25.09	23.97	76.03	1.10	22.81**
2	Satisfactory to the society	88.48	25.09	25.09	76.03	23.97	1.10	22.81**

** p < 0.01

As may be seen in table 5, the critical ratio relating to the comparison between high and low probabilistic orientation groups on the ending of the armature, unsatisfactory to the society and satisfactory to the society are highly significant. There is significant difference between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups on the ending of the armature unsatisfactory to the society and satisfactory to the society. As it is seen in Table–5 the percentage of the ending of the armature, unsatisfactory to the society of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the ending of the Armature, satisfactory to the society of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The findings thus show that the percentage of the ending of armature, unsatisfactory to the society of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the ending of armature satisfactory to the society of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group.

Conflict

The comparison between the high and low probabilistic orientation groups with reference to their conflict is presented in table-6.

Table 6: The Critical Ratio for the Differences in Percentage of the Subjects with Reference to their Conflict in High and Low Probabilistic Orientation Group.

S.No Levels of conflict	% of the individuals expressing conflicts in high & low probabilistic orientation groups						
	High group (151)	Low group (149)	%Diff	P	Q	%SD	CR
1. Severe conflict	5.12	25.93	20.83	15.46	84.54	3.6	5.79**
2 . Moderate conflict	18.37	24.32	5.95	21.33	78.67	1.81	3.29**
3 . Low conflict	45.98	10.81	35.17	21.85	78.15	4.53	7.76**

** $p < 0.01$

As may be seen in table-6, the critical ratios relating to the comparison between high and low probabilistic orientations groups on different levels of conflicts are significant. There is significant difference between the high and the low probabilistic orientation groups on the different levels of conflict, severe conflict, moderate conflict and low conflict. As it is seen in Table-6 the percentage of different levels of conflict of severe conflict and neutral of the high probabilistic orientation group is lesser than percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The percentage of the different levels of conflict of low conflict of the high probabilistic orientation group is higher than the percentage of the low probabilistic orientation group. The findings show that the high probabilistic orientation group has lesser conflict than the low probabilistic orientation group has lesser conflict than the low probabilistic orientation group.

The findings of the study taken as a whole show that the probabilistic orientation contributes to accentuating the needs for belongingness and security, influences the perception of environment in a positive way, contributes to have favorable reaction to the environment and adequacy of personality. It also encourages adoption perspectives that are satisfactory to the society at large and the probabilistic orientation contributes to lessening the conflict. Thus the probabilistic orientation style of life seems to hold promise to the mankind.

Conclusion

The findings of the study suggest that the psychodynamics of high probabilistic orientation could be identified and delineated. Probabilistic orientation seems to accentuate the needs for belongingness and security. Probabilistic orientation influences the perception of environment in a positive way. It facilitates a positive perception of the environment and having a favorable reaction to the environment, feeling of adequacy in their personality. It helps adopting certain perspectives that are satisfactory to the society at large and to lessening the conflict and enhancing the adjustment.

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