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Personality and Academic Performance among Graduate Students

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Research Highlights

Personality traits have a significant role in a student's life to handle academic related issues which may lead to a decline in academic performance. A unique pattern of feeling, thinking and behaving shapes the personality of an individual. The objective of the current study is to examine the relationship between personality traits and academic performance among graduate students in Pakistan. The quantitative research design was used to achieve the objective of the study. The data was collected from a proportionate random sample of 384 postgraduate students enrolled in HEIs of Pakistan. Further, the data was analyzed through appropriate statistical techniques using SPSS and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) using SMARTPLS 3.0. The result indicated that there is a positive relationship between the dimensions of personality and academic performance. There is a significant relationship between neuroticism, openness to experience, extraversion, and academic performance. Whereas there is an insignificant relationship between conscientiousness and agreeableness with academic performance.

Research Objectives

The main objective of the current study is to examine the relationship between personality traits and academic performance among graduate students in Pakistan. This objective is set to analyze the research related problems faced by graduate students in higher education institutions in Pakistan. The concept of research has gained tremendous attention in today's academic environments and settings. Pakistan is also heading towards that trend and specifically, postgraduate students are more connected to research activities as per the requirement of their academic settings (Rana & Mahmood, 2010). Pakistani postgraduate students are facing numerous issues during their studies. Statistics indicated that mostly postgraduate students in Pakistan are unable to complete their studies within normal duration (Lashari, Bhutto & Abro, 2013). For the said purpose the current study identifies the ways that affect the academic performance of graduate students with their personality characteristics.





Methodology

The quantitative research design was used to achieve the objective of the study. The data was collected from a proportionate random sample of 384 postgraduate students enrolled in HEIs of Pakistan. Further, the data was analyzed through appropriate statistical techniques using SPSS and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) using SMARTPLS 3.0. A total of 500 postgraduate students have been selected to gather the data for the current study. In the end, 384 students have filled the research questionnaires relating to personality traits and academic performance. The current study used the Big Five Inventory (BFI) for personality dimensions developed by John and Srivastava, (1999) and for academic performance the current study used two dimensions for measuring academic performance. These dimensions include skills acquisitions and persistence, as the research related studies cannot be measured by GPA only (York et al., 2015).

Results

Results indicated that there is a positive and significant relationship between openness and extraversion with academic performance. Students with openness personality are more creative and innovative that made them perform better in academic settings. Students having extraversion personality are more social and friendly and also perform well in groups, so their academic performance is always high. There is negative and significant relationship between neuroticism and academic performance and there is positive but insignificant relationship between conscientiousness and agreeableness with academic performance among postgraduate students in Pakistan.

Findings

Findings of the current study indicated that the students have different personality traits that can affect their academic performance and sometimes it is helpful in getting good grades and sometimes it can create problems while performing well in academic settings. The current study indicated that the postgraduate students in HEIs of Pakistan with neurotic personality





traits are not able to perform well in their studies. As they feel a lot of stress due to work pressure and research work. Their ability to be more nervous leads them to the lower performance. extroverted students are more social and friendly and that makes them confident and they have better communication skills as compared to other students, highly extraverted students devote time on extra-curricular and social activities and that makes them motivated towards better studies at postgraduate students in HEIs of Pakistan.

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