
Impulse Life, Emotional Reactivity, Introversive and Extratensive Balance in Criminals on Rorschach

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Abstract

The study of personality is pursued with the thought that it will ultimately lead to the greater understanding of the forces that control human behaviour. Rorschach Ink Blot test has been an useful tool in understanding human personality. The present investigation aims to study the personality profile of criminals on Rorschach. The sample consists of 32 criminals and 30 normals. Rorschach Ink Blot test was administered to both the groups. Klover's system was followed in the administration, scoring and interpretation of the test.

Key words -

**Criminals,
Impulse life,
Emotional reactivity,
Introversive and extratensive balance**

The study of personality is pursued with the thought that it will ultimately lead to the greater understanding of the forces that control human behaviour. Hall and Lindzey [1] define personality as a "comprehensive and abstract construct that refers to long standing and important characteristics within an individual, ones that continue to exert a strong influence on behaviour".

Crime is a social cancer, and like its biological counterpart, it flourishes among and involves in one way or the other all those who comprise the society in which it occurs. Legally we deal with the crime not with the individual.

Psychologically we must deal with the individual.

Rorschach Ink Blot test, has been a useful tool and it occupies the first rank in the rank order given by psychologists as a clinical tool (Dubey et al [2]). The number of studies on criminals using Rorschach are few.

Gupta [3] found delinquent adolescents to be emotionally unstable with disorganised personality and uncontrolled impulsivity on Rorschach. Majumdar and Mukerji [4] studied habitual offenders on Rorschach. They were able to arrive at four personality characteristics which were distinct to habitual offenders. Sethi et al. [5] conducted a study on murderers with Rorschach. They found the murderers to have weak emotional control, impulsivity, extravertive trend and immature ego functioning. Gupta and Sethi [6] studied the personality patterns of murderers using Rorschach. They found that murderers were characterised by emotional tension, immature ego function, with pentup emotions and hostility. Yadav [7] studied the personality of first offenders using Rorschach. They were found to be extroverts.

The present investigation aims to study the personality profile of criminals and compare it with the normal sample.

Hypothesis

A null hypothesis was formulated :

There is no significant difference between normals and criminals on:

- (i) impulse life,
- (ii) emotional reactivity and
- (iii) introversive and extratensive balance on Rorschach

Sample

The sample consists of 32 criminals drawn from Central Prisons Bangalore and 30 normals. The age group of the sample was between 20-40 years. Educational qualification was VII + and only males were included in the sample.

Rorschach Ink Blot test was administered to both the groups. Klover's system was followed in the administration scoring and interpretation of the Test.

Results and discussion

Rorschach data collected from 32 criminals and 30 normals was analysed using Test for Proportions. Table I shows that the two groups differ significantly on the proportion FM>2M. The difference is significant at 0.01 level. This indicates that criminals are more impulsive than the normals and there is immediate need for gratification among criminals. The results are in agreement with the findings of Sethi et al. [5] and Yadav [7]. Thus the null hypothesis i.e. there is no significant difference between criminals and normals in impulse life is rejected.

Table I - Frequency of the various ratios of impulse life and their level of significance

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Table II indicates that there is no significant difference between the two groups in the area of emotional reactivity, except for the average (30-40) percentage of responses on the cards VIII, IX & X in normals. So the null hypothesis is accepted. The findings are not in agreement with the findings of Sethi et al. [5] and Majumdar and Mukerji [4]. The findings are in agreement with the findings of Yadav [7].

Table II - Frequency of the various ratios of emotional reactivity and their level of significance

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Table III - Frequency of the various ratios of introversive - extratensive balance and their level of significance

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Regarding the introversive - extratensive balance it is risky to interpret the ratio sum C between 1M and 2 M, where the supportive ratio is in introtensive direction. The present findings are similar to the results found by Majumdar and Mukerje [4]. The present findings are contrary to the findings of Sethi et al. [5] and Yadav [7].

Summary

The investigation attempted to study the personality profile of criminals on Rorschach. The sample consisted of 32 criminals drawn from Central Prisons Bangalore and 30 normals. Rorschach test was administered using Klover's method. The data was analysed using test for proportions.

Conclusions

1. Criminals are more impulsive than normals.
2. There is no significant difference between criminals and normals on emotional reactivity.
3. There is no significant difference between criminals and normals on introversive - extratensive balance.

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