

## **Personality Factors among Internet Addicted and Non-internet Addicted Iranian and Indian Students**

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### **Abstract**

This study was aimed at finding out differences in terms of personality factors of internet addicted and non-addicted students. In this study both male and female Iranian and Indian students were compared on dependents variables. The main objectives of this study were “To study the differences if any, in personality of internet addicted and non-addicted students.”

The instruments used to measure the variables were: Internet Addiction Test (IAT) by Young (1998) to measure the internet addiction and NEO Five-Factor Inventory-R by Costa and McCrae (1992) for measuring the personality factors. The results indicated that: Internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism, and lower on extroversion, agreeableness, openness to experience and conscientiousness than Non-internet addicted students. Iranian students were higher on extroversion, agreeableness, and openness to experience and conscientiousness and lower on Neuroticism than Indian students. Female students were higher on neuroticism and lower on extroversion and conscientiousness than male students and there is no any difference in terms of agreeableness and openness to experience between male students and female students.

**Keywords:** Personality, Internet addiction, Gender, Nationality, NEO-FFI.

## **Introduction**

At the very beginning of third millennium, people are observing its deep and surprising developments of technology and its social, cultural, occupational effects. Electronic revolution, data explosion and computer revolution bring more quantitative and qualitative differences than past two decades. Internet was an instrument for private communications than for public access in the past up to 1990. Personality is a concept that has been used to recognize stability and consistency of behavior in different situations, uniqueness of the individuals and personal differences. Personality can be defined as a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influences his or her cognition, motivations, and behaviours in various situations (Haghshenas, 2006). In the background of increasing use of internet in Asian countries, the study of personality trades in internet addicted users seems to be vital and necessary since its outcomes can be used in people's teaching and training from their early relation with internet and proper use of information. The new information technologies have been developed rapidly in less than two decades between the mid-1970s to mid-1990s throughout the world and today have become an integral part of life. One of the essential tools of the global network of computer revolution is internet. Many disadvantages and demerits of it are not yet clearly defined because of very rapid expansion of these technologies and it needs to be examined very largely. Internet like all other technologies has numerous positive and negative points. The benefits of this network allows fast access to information, communication and breaking down of barriers and limitations of communicate (Katz and Speed 1997) and the disadvantages of using these spaces, social isolation (Tirkel 1996) reduce altruistic behavior (Chambers, Asion 1987) addiction and loss of social relationships (Darkin and et al,2002).

The sample for the present research consists of 400 students (both male and female) studying at Arts, Commerce and Science stream at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in various colleges from Pune and Mumbai cities of Maharashtra. For the present study 2 x 2 x 2 factorial research design was employed. Three variables namely, nationality of the participants and gender of the participants and internet addiction status were treated as independent variable.

The instruments used to measure the variables were: Internet Addiction Test (IAT) by Young (1998) to measure the internet addiction and NEO Five-Factor Inventory-R by Costa and McCrae (1992) for measuring the personality factors. One-way ANOVA was used to study main differences between nationality, gender and internet addiction status in terms of personality, self-concept and mental health and Statistical analysis of the data was carried out by using SPSS version 18.

## Finding and Discussion

**Table1:** Summary of One-way ANOVA for Personality Variables among Internet Addicted Students and Non-internet Addicted.

Sr. No.	Variables	Source of variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	P	Partial Eta Square
1	Neuroticism	BG	7692.459	1	7692.459			
		WG	19620.607	398	49.298	156.04	.000	0.282
		Total	27313.067	399				
2	Extraversion	BG	5912.839	1	5912.839			
		WG	19479.151	398	48.943	120.81	.000	0.233
		Total	25391.990	399				
3	Openness	BG	1393.358	1	1393.358			
		WG	11270.874	398	28.319	49.203	.000	0.110
		Total	12664.232	399				
4	Agreeableness	BG	6403.354	1	6403.354			
		WG	16192.250	398	40.684	157.392	.000	0.283
		Total	22595.604	399				
5	Conscientiousness	BG	2773.587	1	2773.587			
		WG	23549.736	398	59.170	46.875	.000	0.105
		Total	26323.323	399				

The results of One-way ANOVA revealed that internet addicted students (M=23.15) had higher score on neuroticism compared to non-internet addicted students (M= 15.08). This result was in the similar direction as that of the finding reported by Weaver (2000), Hamburger & Ben-Artzi (2000), Tuten & Bosniak (2001) and Hall (2005). Hall (2005) found that people who benefited the most from Internet use and those who are internet addicted, they are high on neuroticism. Those People who score high on neuroticism are more likely to have feelings of guilt and to be tensed and anxious compared to those who are low on neuroticism. Therefore, it can be supposed that those who are high on neuroticism may be especially tended to use the net for getting release from nervousness and anxiety. On the basis of this framed it can be said non-internet addicted students (M=30.94) had higher score on extroversion than internet addicted students (M= 23.25). This result was in the similar direction as that of the finding reported by Similarly Landers & Lounsbury (2006), and Kunimura and Thomas (2000). They reported that negative relationship between extroversion and internet addiction. In contrast Gombor and Vas (2008) found positive relationship between extroversion and radical use of internet in Israeli men. Similarly, it was also found that non-internet addicted students (M= 28.01) had higher score on Openness than internet addicted students (M=24.2). The result in the present study was supported by Tuten and Bosniak (2001) and Correa et al. (2010). It was reported that low level of openness to experience has been related to internet dependency. The findings of the One-way ANOVA showed that non-internet addicted students (M= 31.71) had higher score on Agreeableness than internet addicted students (M= 23.7). The obtained result was supported by Landers & Lounsbury (2006). According to that study total Internet usage was negatively related to the Big Five traits such as agreeableness. The results of one-way ANOVA noted that non-internet addicted students (M=34.96) had higher score on conscientiousness than internet addicted students (M=29.6). The finding of the present study was supported by Landers & Lounsbury (2006). Landers &

Lounsbury (2006) found that total Internet usage was negatively related to the Big Five traits such as conscientiousness. Furthermore, research results showed that those who are internet addicts obtain lower scores in being conscientious index.

**Table2:** Summary of One-way ANOVA for Personality Variables among Indian and Iranian Students.

Sr. No.	Variables	Source of variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	P	Partial Eta Square
1	Neuroticism	BG	1408.751	1	1408.751			
		W G	25904.316	398	65.086	21.644	.000	0.052
		Total	27313.067	399				
2	Extraversion	BG	2274.812	1	2274.812			
		W G	23117.178	398	58.083	39.165	.000	0.090
		Total	25391.990	399				
3	Openness	BG	79.704	1	79.704			
		W G	12584.528	398	31.619	2.521	.113	0.006
		Total	12664.232	399				
4	Agreeableness	BG	2070.985	1	2070.985			
		W G	20524.618	398	51.569	40.159	.000	0.092
		Total	22595.604	399				
5	Conscientiousness	BG	2834.145	1	2834.145			
		W G	23489.178	398	59.018	48.022	.000	0.108
		Total	26323.323	399				

The results of One-way ANOVA revealed that Indian students had higher score on neuroticism, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness compared to Iranian students. The result of this study is similar to the study by Navabakhsh & Fathi (2008), Marzabadi (2011) and Moulavi et al. (2010).

**Table 3:** Summary of One-way ANOVA for Personality Variables between Male and Female.

Sr. No.	Variables	Source of variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	P	Partial Eta Square
1	Neuroticism	BG	677.734	1	677.734			
		W G	26635.332	398	66.923	10.127	.002	0.025
		Total	27313.067	399				
2	Extraversion	BG	723.340	1	723.340			
		W G	24668.650	398	61.982	11.670	.001	0.028
		Total	25391.990	399				
3	Openness	BG	144.666	1	144.666			
		W G	12519.566	398	31.456	4.599	.033	0.011
		Total	12664.232	399				
4	Agreeableness	BG	.078	1	.078			
		W G	22595.526	398	56.773	.001	.970	0.000
		Total	22595.604	399				
5	Conscientiousness	BG	1091.423	1	1091.423			
		W G	25231.900	398	63.397	17.216	.000	0.041
		Total	26323.323	399				

The results of One-way ANOVA revealed that female had higher score on neuroticism, Extraversion and Conscientiousness compared to male. This result was in tune with that of the findings reported by Costa, Terracciano & McCrae (2001). According to them, women have been found to obtain scores higher than men on Neuroticism. According to Costa et al (2001), women have higher Neuroticism than male. Referring to this study it can be stated that female students ( $M= 5.95$ ) had higher score on Openness than male students ( $M= 5.24$ ) but this difference was not significant. This finding of the present study was supported by Costa; Terracciano & McCrae (2001). According Costa (2001) there was no significant gender differences are typically found on Openness/Intellect at the domain level, likely due to the divergent content of the trait. According to Costa; Terracciano & McCrae (2001) women had higher openness to feelings.

## **Conclusion**

1. Internet addicted students were higher on neuroticism, and lower on extroversion, agreeableness, openness to experience and conscientiousness than Non-internet addicted students.
2. Iranian students were higher on extroversion, agreeableness, and openness to experience and conscientiousness and lower on Neuroticism than Indian students.
3. Female students were higher on neuroticism and lower on extroversion and conscientiousness than male students and there is no any difference in terms of agreeableness and openness to experience between male students and female students.

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