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**“A STUDY OF PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS AMONG  
MARRIED AND UNMARRIED PEOPLE”**

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**ABSTRACT**

*An Objectives of the study: To examine the Personality Characteristics among Married and Unmarried People. Hypotheses: There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension Openness. There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension conscientiousness. There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension extraversion. There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension agreeableness. There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension neuroticism. Sample: For the present study 80 Sample were selected from Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India. The effective sample consisted of 80 subjects, 40 subjects were married people and 40 subjects were unmarried people. The age range of subjects was 20-40years. Non-probability Purposive sampling was used. Tools NEO Personality scale. Paul T. Costa, Jr., Ph.D. & Robert R. McCrae, (1992). Variable Independent variable- 1) Marital Status a) Married b) Unmarried Dependent Variable Personality characteristics Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism. Conclusion: Unmarried People had significantly high Openness and Extraversion than the married People. Married People had significantly high Conscientiousness, Agreeableness and Neuroticism than the Unmarried People.*

**KEYWORDS :** *dimension neuroticism , Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism.*

**INTRODUCTION :**

Marriage is broadly defined as any of the diverse forms of interpersonal union established in various parts of the world to form a familial bond that is recognized legally, religiously, or socially, granting the participating partners mutual conjugal rights and responsibilities (Bell, 1997). It includes opposite-sex marriage, same-sex marriage, plural marriage, and arranged marriage (Bell, 1997). But in Ghana the traditional or the old definition still holds. Thus, marriage is a lifelong interpersonal relationship between a man and a woman as a husband and a wife, governed by legal, customary and religious principles.



It is believed that marriage is a social institution which fosters the coming together of two totally different individuals with different personality traits, psychological make-up and often different socio-economic backgrounds to form a family. However, after marriage comes a period of adjustment to each other (Adegoke & Esere, 1999; Esere, 2000). This involves some compromise by both parties for the survival of the relationship. Marital adjustment, therefore, is defined as a situation where partners are said to be happy with each other in the relationship. It

is a complex concept which is dependent on many variables. Often times, partners, in the course of the relationship, do not experience the marital bliss that they expect once they enter into the relationship. This is the probable reason why some researchers believe that the rate at which marital relationship is laced with pains, conflict and emotional confusion in recent times has increased dramatically, with an increased spate of divorce within short periods of marriage (Oppong Asante, Osafo, & Nyamekye, 2014).

This has made the values of the marriage institution to diminish, its beauty to fade and its glory to wane. However, there is a paucity of literature on the various sources of marital adjustment especially with regards to the role of personality in marital adjustment. This study therefore looks at the relationship between the various personality types and its effect on marital adjustment. The Big Five personality factors (Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, Openness to change, Agreeableness and Extraversion) was the theory used to explain personality in this study. Personality includes stable and enduring traits that reveal themselves in various situations (Costa & McCrae, 1992). Global assessments of personality have shown that the personality characteristics found among satisfied couples are different from those found among dissatisfied couples (Kaur, 2016).

Although research has shown how personality is generally associated with marital satisfaction (e.g. Kaur, 2016), the main part of this study addresses the impact of certain personality characteristics on marital adjustment. In comparison to other models of personality, the five-factor model (FFM) encompasses the most basic dimensions of personality (Costa & McCrae, 1992). According to McCrae (1991), the FFM consists of five aspects of personality (called the Big Five): neuroticism, extroversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, and agreeableness. Previous research has demonstrated robust relationships between romantic relationship quality, functioning, and outcomes and broad personality traits such as the Big Five (Goldberg, 1993 in Letzring & Nofle, 2010).

Agreeableness assesses the degree to which an individual gets on well with others, Openness assesses the degree to which one is thoughtful and rational in considering new ideas, Conscientiousness assesses the degree to which one is aware of and attentive to others around him or her and the details of tasks, whereas Neuroticism deals with the degree to which a person is emotionally stable or unstable. Finally, Extraversion assesses the degree to which an individual directs energy inwards or outwards. These five traits seem to appear in all cultures, suggesting that they may represent universal personality components McCrae & Costa, 1998).

## **METHODOLOGY:**

### **Objectives of the study:**

To examine the Personality Characteristics among Married and Unmarried People.

### **Hypotheses:**

- There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension Openness.
- There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension conscientiousness.
- There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension extraversion.
- There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension agreeableness.
- There will be no significant difference between married and unmarried people on dimension neuroticism.

### **Sample:**

For the present study 80 Sample were selected from Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India. The effective sample consisted of 80 subjects, 40 subjects weremarried peopleand 40 subjects were unmarried people. The age range of subjects was 20-40years. Non-probability Purposive sampling was used.

### **Tools**

#### **NEO Personality scale.**

Paul T. Costa, Jr., Ph.D. & Robert R. McCrae, (1992). This test is developed and standardized by Costa and McCrea the 60 items are rated on a five point scale. The NEO-FFI has a grade six reading level.

The subjects were required to respond to each item in terms of “Strongly disagree”, “Disagree”, “Neutral”, “Agree”, “Strongly agree”. Reliability and Validity Internal consistency coefficients range from .86 to .95 for domain scales, and from .56 to .90 for facet scales. Stability coefficients ranging from .51 to .83 have been found in three-year, six-year, and seven-year longitudinal studies of the original NEO-PI factors. The NEO PI-R has been validated against other personality inventories and projective techniques.

**Procedures of data collection**

For data collection first permission has been taken from respective sources than the despondence has been selected for data collection. Personal data sheet (PDS) has been given to collect the preliminary information with respect to subject’s related variables then standardized test administer to the subjects. Before that rapport was established with subjects. And they have been told that their responses were kept confidential and the information is used for research purpose only.

**Variable**

**Independent Variable- 1) Marital Status** a) Married b) Unmarried

**Dependent Variable** 1) Personality Characteristics

- i. Openness
- ii. Conscientiousness
- iii. Extraversion
- iv. Agreeableness
- v. Neuroticism

**Statistical Analysis and Discussion**

**Married and Unmarried People Shows the mean S.D and t value of Personality Characteristics**

Dimension	Married People		Unmarried People		DF	t
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Openness	38.04	5.40	46.56	4.11	78	7.94**
Conscientiousness	42.89	3.55	36.74	3.96	78	7.32**
Extraversion	41.88	4.02	45.69	3.67	78	4.21**
Agreeableness	46.00	3.78	42.05	4.08	78	4.49**
Neuroticism	47.33	3.30	41.90	3.48	78	7.16**

The results related to the hypothesis have been recorded. Mean of openness of married people is 38.04 and unmarried people Mean is 46.56 the difference between the two mean is highly significant (‘t’=7.94, df =78, P < 0.01).

Conscientiousness of the married people is 42.89 and unmarried people Mean is 36.74 the difference between the two mean is highly significant (‘t’= 7.35, df =78, P < 0.01).

Extraversion of the married people is 41.88 and unmarried people Mean is 45.69 the difference between the two mean is highly significant (‘t’= 4.21, df =78, P < 0.01).

Agreeableness of the married people is 46.00 and unmarried people Mean is 42.05 the difference between the two mean is highly significant (‘t’= 4.49, df =78, P < 0.01).

Neuroticism of the married people is 47.33 and unmarried people Mean is 41.90 the difference between the two mean is highly significant (‘t’= 7.16, df =78, P < 0.01).

The findings from Soldz and Vaillant (1999) also show that, people with extraversion personality traits adjusted in marriage more than those with neurotic personality traits. They also proved that those with agreeableness personality traits were also adjusted in their marriages than those with conscientiousness personality trait.

**CONCLUSION:**

- 1) Unmarried People had significantly high Openness and Extraversion than the married People.

2) Married People had significantly high Conscientiousness, Agreeableness and Neuroticism than the Unmarried People.

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