

# PERSONALITY OF HINDU AND MUSLIM STUDENTS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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## ABSTRACT

To seek variations on extraversion, neuroticism, self-concept and security-feeling due to variation on community 'Eysenck Personality Inventory' adopted by Thakur (1990), 'Self-concept Scale' developed by Rastogi (1979), and 'Security – Insecurity Inventory' constructed and standardized by Tiwari and Singh (1975) were administered on 200 Hindu and 200 Muslim college level students. The age range of subjects was from 19 – 22 years and they were undergoing studying in constituent colleges of Siwan and Gopalganj districts of Bihar. The comparisons of extraversion, neuroticism, self-concept and security – insecurity scores of Hindu and Muslim students revealed that Hindu students are significantly higher than Muslim Students on extraversion, stability, self-concept and security – feeling.

**Keywords :-** Hindu, Muslim, Extraversion, Neuroticism, Self-concept, Security-feeling.

## INTRODUCTION

Empirical investigations into the nature and socio - cultural conditions of Muslim Community of India has been one of the most important endeavors of the philosophers, thinkers, social reformers, religious pundits etc. Since the origin of Islam, the importance of such investigations arises mainly out of its practical implications from the point of view of economic, educational and social growth. The Indian researchers are greatly interested in the problem of Social Change of Muslims, since the Indian society has now taken up the task of changing itself from a society which aims to be casteless and classless with equality of opportunity to every citizen guaranteed by the Indian Constitution adopted in 1950. The most urgent problem of contemporary social situation in India is the transformation of the individual from the member of a caste, a community or a creed, a language group or a religious group to a citizen of India. This transformation of the individual in social relationships is necessitated by the new social, Political, religious and economic organisations. So it is the task of social scientists to study the nature, process and effect of the resistances which are preventing or slowing down the speed of this transformation.

The caste and the community Systems in India play important and significant roles in the social and economic lives and have played a prominent role in the entire Muslim and Hindu Social

organisation. The origin of the Islamic religious system may be traced to the hymns of prophet Mohammad himself. India is a historical land of caste, creed and community diversities. Caste and community are institutions which have grown and developed through many centuries. These are so firmly and exceptionally rooted in India, that it would appear almost certain that its first beginning is to be sought in India and not outside. Indian society has deep historical moorings. These lie in the contours of Geographical composition. The deep foundation and strong fastenings have with stood the challenges of time, observed the impact of age and have remained unshaken. Radha Krishna, S. (1962) observes that in the ideas, concepts and beliefs of the past age rest the rock foundation of our heritage and tradition.

Due to the caste and Community variations in our Indian society, the personality structures are bound to be changed and rather have changed from time to time. The customs, mores, traditions of cultural groups caste immense effect on structuring of personality of that group whether it be Muslim or Hindu. In current scenario variations on different personality structures or traits is more vivid due to cultural variations. Many sociologists and psychologists have dwelt upon the dimensions of personality characteristics such as extraversion, neuroticism, anxiety, security-feeling and self-concept of different castes and communities. The studies conducted by Agarwal (1980), Bhargava and Qureshi (1991), Kakkar (1963), Mohan and Sharma (1984), Singh (1985), Sharma (1967), Symmonds (1968), White (1971) etc. have shown the roles of different characteristics in personality structures. But there is no prominent study which might be investigating and comparing extraversion, neuroticism, self- concept, and security-feeling of Hindu and Muslim students. As such with the objective of tracing out differences on extraversion, neuroticism, self-concept, and security-feeling the present investigation proceeded to test the following hypotheses :

- (1) There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu groups on extraversion.
- (2) There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu groups on neuroticism.
- (3) There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu groups on self-concept.
- (4) There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu groups on security-feeling.

## **METHOD**

**SAMPLE** : - The study was conducted on a sample of 200 Hindu and 200 Muslim college level students. The age range of subjects was from 19 – 22 years and they were undergoing studying in constituent colleges of Siwan and Gopalganj districts of Bihar. The sample comprised of both male and female students stemming from rural and urban areas.

**TESTS USED** :- For measuring Extraversion, Neuroticism, Self-concept, and Security-feeling ‘Eysenck Personality Inventory’ adopted by Thakur (1990), ‘Self-concept Scale’ developed by Rastogi (1979), and ‘Security – Insecurity Inventory’ constructed and standardized by Tiwari and Singh (1975) were used. EPI measures Extraversion and Neuroticism.

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS** :- To see the effect of community on Extraversion, Neuroticism, Self-concept and Security-feeling means and S.Ds. were calculated for Extraversion, Neuroticism, Self-concept and Security-feeling scores of Hindu and Muslim groups separately. After this 't' test was run to test the significance of mean differences on scores of different personality traits of the two groups.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The mean score on extraversion-introversion dimension of Muslim group is 9.88 while that on the same dimension of Hindu group is 14.49 (Table 1). The obtained 't' ratio is 13.513469 which is significant at .01 level. Significant 't' ratio signifies effect of Community Belongingness on extraversion. The mean score on Neuroticism Stability dimension of Muslim group is 12.30 while that on the same dimension of Hindu group is 10.05 (Table - 2). The obtained 't' ratio is 6.9908385 which is significant at .01 level. Significant 't' ratio signifies significant effect of Community Belongingness on Neuroticism. The mean Self-concept score of Muslim group is 159.95 while that Hindu group is 179.25 (Table 3). The obtained 't' ratio is 6.5886522 which is significant at .01 level. Significant 't' ratio signifies significant effect of Community Belongingness on Self-concept. The mean score on Security-Insecurity dimension of Muslim group is 75.55 while that on the same dimension of Hindu group is 63.35 (Table 4). The obtained 't' ratio is 7.896689 which is significant at .01 level. Significant 't' ratio signifies significant effect of Community Belongingness on Security Feeling. There have been found significant differences on Extraversion, Neuroticism, Self-Concept and Security-Feeling between Muslim and Hindu groups.

**Table – 1**

Groups	N	Means	S.Ds.	df	't' ratios	Level of Sig.
Muslim	200	9.88	3.0619600	398	13.513469	.01
Hindu	200	14.49	3.7282568			

**Table – 2**

Groups	N	Means	S.Ds.	df	't' ratios	Level of Sig.
Muslim	200	12.30	3.2557640	398	6.9908385	.01
Hindu	200	10.05	3.1808016			

Table – 3

Groups	N	Means	S.Ds.	df	't' ratios	Level of Sig.
Muslim	200	159.95	28.349559	398	6.5886522	.01
Hindu	200	179.25	30.20658			

Table – 4

Groups	N	Means	S.Ds.	df	't' ratios	Level of Sig.
Muslim	200	75.55	14.849158	398	7.896689	.01
Hindu	200	63.35	16.027398			

Results displayed in Tables – 1 to 4 clearly indicate that community belongingness cast significant impact on extraversion, neuroticism, self-concept and security-feeling. All the personality variables – extraversion, neuroticism, self-concept and security-feeling - have been found significantly influenced by community belongingness. Muslim group has been found significantly higher on introversion, neuroticism and insecurity-feeling than Hindu group. Hindu group has been found significantly higher than Muslim group on extraversion, stability, self-concept and security-feeling than Muslim group. It appears that Muslim community-belongingness induces introversion and reduces extraversion whereas Hindu community belongingness induces extraversion and reduces introversion. Higher level of neuroticism accompanied by higher insecurity-feeling and lower self-concept might have also contributed to significantly lower level of extraversion of Muslim group in comparison to Hindu group. However, it is evident that Hindu group, due to being a majority group in Indian social set up, feels relatively more secure. Due to higher security-feeling this group is likely to be less neurotic and higher on self-concept. A person higher on stability, security-feeling and self-concept is likely to be more extrovert.

**The study has finally led to the following conclusions :-**

- (1) Muslim group is significantly higher than Hindu group on introversion.
- (2) Muslim group is significantly higher than Hindu group on neuroticism.
- (3) Muslim group is significantly lower than Hindu group on self-concept.
- (4) Muslim group is significantly higher than Hindu group on insecurity-feeling.

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