Aggression, Accentuated Personality Traits, Depression and Locus of Control at Prisoners with Substance Abuse

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   - Design of research
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Objective: The purpose of this research is to highlight and analyze the psychological and judicial characteristics of inmates with substance abuse.
Theoretical aspects:

• Aggression - Buss, A., Perry, M

• Accentuated Personality Traits - Karl Leonhard

• Major Depressive Episode - DSM V

• Locus of Control - Rotter
Aggression – Buss, A., Perry, M.

**Physical**

**Verbal**

**Anger**

**Hostility**

**Behavioral dimension**

**Affective dimension**

**Cognitive dimension**
Accentuated Personality Traits – Karl Leonhard

“The feature of character (personality) in which some of its traits are excessive force. It is within the limits of clinical norms.”

- The term "accentuation" in 1968 introduced by the German psychiatrist Karl Leonhard.
I. **Demonstrativeness;**
   (self-confident, agile, ambitious, deceitful, oriented to its "I")

II. **Hiper-exactness;**
   (difficulties in making decisions, meticulosity, excessive care, attachment to the workplace)

III. **Hiper-perseverance;**
   (ambitious, personal prestige, selfishness, suspicious)

IV. **Uncontrollability;**
   (impulsive, irritable, uncontrolled, aggressive)

V. **Hiperthymia;**
   (surplus energy, cheerfulness, optimism, need to talk, superficial)

VI. **Dysthymia;**
   (serious, pessimist, low mood, sadness, slowness of thinking)

VII. **Cyclothymia;**
   (appears as a succession of purely hyperthymic states with totally dysthymic states)

VIII. **Exaltation;**
   (sensitive, impressionable, expressive, excited)

IX. **Anxiety;**
   (shy and docile, unable to affirm in the case of divergences of opinion)

X. **Emotivity.**
   (compassionate, emotional)
## Major Depressive Episode

### Table 1 DSM-5 criteria for MDE

- At least five of the following symptoms that cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning:
- At least one of the symptoms is 1) depressed mood or 2) loss of interest or pleasure
- Symptoms must be present almost every day for at least 2 weeks
  
  1. Depressed mood most of the day
  2. Diminished interest or pleasure in all or most activities
  3. Significant unintentional weight loss or gain
  4. Insomnia or sleeping too much
  5. Agitation or psychomotor retardation noticed by others
  6. Fatigue or loss of energy
  7. Feelings of worthlessness or excessive guilt
  8. Diminished ability to think or concentrate, or indecisiveness
  9. Recurrent thoughts of death

- Diagnosis of recurrent MDD requires ≥2 MDEs separated by at least 2 months in which criteria are not met for an MDE

**Abbreviations:** DSM-5, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition; MDD, major depressive disorder; MDE, major depressive episode.
• **Definition:** the extent to which one believes that the things that happen to them are under their own or others’ control
Design of research:
Comparative factorial study of type 3X2 and correlative aspects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Convicted inmates for offenses with violence against the person</th>
<th>Convicted inmates for offenses without violence against the person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With alcohol abuse</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With drug abuse</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No substance abuse</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants and procedure

- 90 inmates from Maximum Security Penitentiary Arad:
  - 30 inmates with alcohol abuse
  - 30 inmates with drug abuse
  - 30 inmates without substance abuse

- Voluntary participation;
- Benefit: 3 credits.

48 convicted inmates for offenses with violence against the person
42 convicted inmates for offenses without violence against the person
Research tools:

1. Aggression Questionnaire (Buss & Perry, 1992)

2. H. Schmieschek’s personality accentuation test (Schmieschek, 1970)


4. Locus of Control – Rotter
There's two possible outcomes: if the result confirms the hypothesis, then you've made a discovery. If the result is contrary to the hypothesis, then you've made a discovery.

(Enrico Fermi)
A. Comparative hypothesis:

1. There is a difference between the three groups in terms of aggression.

2. Persons convicted for offenses with violence against the person are more aggressive than those convicted for offenses without violence against the person.

3. There is a statistically significant difference between inmates without depression in terms of the type of offense committed.
B. Correlational hypothesis

1. There is a link between *Aggression* and the "*Uncontrollability*" the dimension from accentuated personality traits.

2. There is a link between *Locus of Control* and the "*Uncontrollability*" the dimension from accentuated personality traits.
Results
Comparative hypothesis

Hypothesis 1:

1. There is a difference between the three groups in terms of aggression.

\[ F(2, 69.717) = .173, \ p = .842 > .05 \]

There are no statistically significant differences between the three groups: alcohol abuse, drug abuse, without substance abuse, in terms of aggression.

Hypothesis 2:

2. Persons convicted for offenses with violence against the person are more aggressive than those convicted for offenses without violence against the person.

\[ F(1, 111.249) = .276, \ p = .601 > .05 \]

There are no statistically significant differences.

Hypothesis 3:

There is a statistically significant difference between inmates without depression in terms of the type of offense committed:

\[
\chi^2(2, N=67) = 6.556, \ p = .038 < .05
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without depression</th>
<th>Addiction</th>
<th>Offenses with violence against the person</th>
<th>Offenses without violence against the person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Correlational hypothesis

Hypothesis 1:

There is a link between Aggression and the "Uncontrollability" the dimension from accentuated personality traits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;Uncontrollability&quot;</th>
<th>r</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>$r^2$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>.557</td>
<td>&lt; .01</td>
<td>.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>.425</td>
<td>&lt; .01</td>
<td>.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>.335</td>
<td>&lt; .01</td>
<td>.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>.518</td>
<td>&lt; .01</td>
<td>.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostility</td>
<td>.465</td>
<td>&lt; .01</td>
<td>.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hypothesis 2:

There is a link between Locus of Control and the "Uncontrollability" the dimension from accentuated personality traits.

"Uncontrollability" : $r(88) = .309, \ p < .01$

4. Discussions and limits

• The environment and the detention regime.

• The motivation of inmates to participate in the study.

• The inmates habit of participating in research and completing questionnaires.

• The results of the study can’t be generalized.

• Very low internal consistency at the H. Schmieschek’s personality accentuation test.
Thank you very much!

facebook is kind of like prison.
You spend all day staring at walls and getting poked by people you don’t know.

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