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A survey of mental and personality profiles of malingerers based on NEO PI-R and MMPI questionnaires

Ghazaleh Keshavarzi Baramchi
Islamic Azad University, Iran

Introduction: Malingering, one of the most challenging issues in the psychology, is described by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM-5) as the intentional production of false or grossly exaggerated physical or psychological problems typically due to an external motivator. It imposes a heavy financial burden on health care and legal systems. It seems that some mental and personality abnormalities might have a crucial role in developing this condition.

Materials and Methods: In this cross-sectional study, we aimed to assess 100 malingering clients of Gilan province general office of forensic medicine, all filled the related questionnaires. The data about some psychometric characteristics were collected through the 71-items version- short form- of Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) questionnaire and the personality traits were assessed by NEO Personality Inventory-Revised (NEO PI-R) including 240 items as a reliable and accurate measure of the five domains of personality.

Results: The 100 malingering clients (55 males and 45 females) ranged from 23 to 45 (32+/-5.6) years old. Regarding marital status, 36% were single, 57% were married and 7% were divorced. Almost two-thirds of the participants (64%) were unemployed, 21% were self-employed and the rest of them were employed. The data of MMPI clinical scales revealed that the mean (SD) T score of Hypochondrias (Hs) was 67(9.2), Depression (D) was 87(7.9), Hysteria (Hy) was 74(5.8), Psychopathic Deviate (Pd) was 62(8.5), Masculinity- Femininity (MF) was 76(8.4), Paranoia (Pa) was 62(4.5), Psychasthenia (Pt) was 80(7.9), Schizophrenia (Sc) was 69(6.8), Hypomania (Ma) was 64(5.9) and Social Introversion (Si) was 58(4.3). NEO PI-R test showed five domains of personality. The mean (SD) T score of Neuroticism was 65(9.2), Extraversion was 51(7.9), Openness was 43(5.8), Agreeableness was 35(3.4) and Conscientiousness was 42(4.9).

Conclusion: According to MMPI test in our malingering clients, Hypochondriasis (Hs), depression (D), Hysteria (Hy), Muscularity- Femininity (MF), Psychasthenia (Pt) and Schizophrenia (Sc) had high scores ($T \geq 65$) which means pathological range and psychological significance. Based on NEO PI-R test Neuroticism was in high range, on the other hand, Openness, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness were in low range. Extroversion was in average range. So it seems that malingerers require basic evaluations of different psychological fields. Additional research in this area is needed to provide stronger evidence of the possible positive effects of the mentioned factors on malingering.

Biography

Ghazaleh Keshavarzi Baramchi is currently as a faculty at Islamic Azad University of Bandar-e Anzali Branch, Iran.

ghazaleh65@yahoo.com

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