

Role of ECA's (Extra Curricular Activities) in Personality Development: A Case Study of University Students

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Abstract

By following the entire categories of ECA's, our targeted respondents were university students. Our D.V was "Personality" and I.V's were "ECA's and "Educational Performance" We've found that more participation in ECA's can make the students as a shining stars, build up their leadership qualities, make them future leaders and improve their sportsmanship. Our hypotheses also retrospective that Extracurricular Activities can develop the personality (Big Fives). Our targeted audience were university students (N=941) who belongs to different departments of five dissimilar universities, as well as Arid Agricultural University Rawalpindi, B.Z. University Multan, COMSATS IIT Vehari, GC University Faisalabad and NCBA and E-Layyah campus. Most of the respondent was interested in the cricket, bivariate correlation and the Results of our research study are robust because (Significant level) Sig. (1-tailed) among D.V and I.V were significant and strongly positive to each other. We've used the five point likert scale to check the personality traits and then analyzed the descriptive statistics, likewise Regression coefficient, Pearson (r), R², ANOVA, Standard Deviation, Durbin-Watson and Residuals Statistics. Cronbach's Alpha was 0.8.

Keywords: ECA's; Personality; Improvement; Leadership; Academic achievement

Chronological View of ECA's Involvement

Usually the involvement in extracurricular activities (ECAs) produce the positive attitude, enhance the social and academic development among the students [1-5]. However this statement not always supported in empirically and theoretically, that schools were idealistic place only for academia purposes between the decade of 1950 to 1960 [6].

Minor extracurricular activities were part of the traditional schools that were directly link to curriculums [7,8]. Student's athletic activities were disputed that it's wastage of time [7,9,10]. But research from 1960 to 1970 retrospective that enrolment in ECAs make the students more civilize, cultural and social [11,12]. In the decade of 1970 to 1980 advanced social and famous students became the role model and leader [13]. Marsh emphasized it the zero sum model (students involved in activities have low interest and time for study, so they'll suffer, because no pass and no play) [13]. Research from 1980 to 1990 formed qualitative and empirical evidences for zero sum model that ECAs develops good social relations and improve problem solving skills [2,11,14-17].

Now latest speculation has been acknowledged that participation in ECAs is extremely advantageous [13,18,19] now argument built on previous assumption that academic and social both factors are necessary to achieve the goal [6,7,20]. Participation in activities elevates the academic concepts as well as other skills. It acknowledge in school/university. Also improve the cultural and social values and student's performance [21,22].

Introduction

Any adolescent shouldn't be left behind from their life visions and achievements, American institutes are strongly emphasizing on extracurricular activities, [23]. In this scientific revolution age human

education considered as primary step to motivate the individuals. It's playing a fundamental role in human capital and with the help of it every student can link their opportunities properly [24]. It ensures the attainment of skills and knowledge that enhance the quality and productivity of their life. It also show the new ways of economics intensification and student's personality development [25].

Mostly teenagers of America, they participate in and outside the institute activities as well as dance, youth groups, athletic games, clubs, drama, scouts, theater, students council and sports etc., it determine that what type of personality they have? [26]. These extracurricular activities are the integral part of the educational program. So the extracurricular activities have a legitimate relationship with the student's responsibilities, human needs, character, social linkages, talents, skills and solution of critical circumstances.

Those students who don't participate in the activities at their educational phase, they face an inadequate and different perception at the recruitment time in corporate level, and then they advised to get any diploma for skills development for getting a job. Different surveys reports show that recruiters hire only those candidates who are on the

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top of their list that include leadership and interpersonal skills [27]. Successfully emotional intelligence can be achieved in the real world via extracurricular activities that learned during the academic age at institutes.

Professional, career and occupation of any individual can be measure and develop during the academic time span at professional institutes [28] that focus on the student's extracurricular activities. These activities help out the students in socialization [29].

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study were to:

- Scrutinize the importance of ECAs
- How ECAs revolutionize the attitude and personality?
- Factors that play a vital role in personality development

Review of Literature

Success of any organization based on high intellects. University recruiters analyze the candidates who've emotional intelligent, well rounded and having interpersonal skills, try to examine the correlation flanked by interpersonal skills, leadership and development with ECA, and eventually analyzed that they've a momentous relationship. Darling [30] stated that the participation in ECAs (Extracurricular activities) and adolescent have a positive relationship, more involvement in ECAs build attitude to cope up confusion and adolescent. Those pupils who actively participate in ECAs are reported better as compare to others. Farooq MS [25] stated that multiple factors can influence on the student's performance in secondary level, as well as the high socioeconomic status and parental literacy rate effect in the development of student's life. Wilson N [26] said that actively participant students in ECAs generally get advantages likewise superior test scores, educational attainments, outdoor and leadership skills, better team work and grads and better academic concepts, they quit drugs and absenteeism but ECA often cost the money.

Heckman and Kautz [29] mentioned in their research that cognitive and the non-cognitive skills can be measured after participation in ECAs it stimulates personality qualities, preferences, motivations in school domains. Appreciation necessary to enhance the skills that invest in the school or university age, but it offered by the triumphant families. It'll be helpful in later life. Lewis CP [23] stated that proficiency in social skills and educational psychology promote in the presence of extracurricular activities, among the 141 well-known studies 41 meta analyses shows that adolescents and children (student's) performance were considerably related to the pro-ECAs. 120 respondents between 13-16 age, who've participated in 6 types of ECAs (Horse riding, Yoga, Music, Sports and Dance) these ECAs influenced the students in the development of social skills, good grades, regularity, self-concept, and degree completion.

Soe HP [31] said that newsletters and documents of Myanmar University are revealed that objective, mission statement and learning outcomes of LAP (Liberal Arts Program) which were designed; these were achieved with the help of participation and taking interest in ECAs. Kolchenko K and Kozlikovska N [32] stated that a sound balanced amalgamation of the learning, practice and systematic research can be possible with the help of only ECAs not in traditional way of education. Park D [33] stated that potential ECAs can develop the language proficiency, emotional and social wellbeing, fantastic academics interest and marvelous confidence among the pupils. Massoni E [34] stated that future of students determined in their

activities that they do at home after school before coming parentage. Wangai MM [35] mentioned in his research that the combination of student's teachers and parentage's talent can enhance the performance and talent of pupils by ECAs. Reva A [36] stated that foreign language can be learned with the help of ECAs in Russia and Canada. Perspective of Psychology, economics and social sciences can be develop in labour market and career development's path designed in college ECAs. Pitts SE [37] stated that music with the help of extracurricular activities retrospective and evaluate the life engagement of teenage in British school. Bloomfield and Barber [38] stated that the adolescents of Australian students and their positive and negative aspects lucratively get rid off by extracurricular activities.

Fung and Wong [39] analyzed that involvement in the extracurricular activities having a constructive relation with acceptance by class mates, academic performance, carrier development and student's personality in Hong Kong.

Research Methodology

Cross sectional data was used in this research study. Data was collected by survey from different five universities that were accredited from HEC Pakistan. We've used the both primary and secondary data. Primary data collected with the help of questionnaire from five universities. Secondary data was collected from books, research papers, internet and magazine journals etc.

Selected variables

In this research study one Dependent Variable "Personality" (Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Emotional stability v/s Neuroticism and Culture) and there are two Independent Variables (1- ECA's and 2- Educational Performance) we have shown these above variables in our conceptual framework (Figure 1).

This five factor arrangement personality model also called the "Five Bigs". The list of Personality into "Five Bigs" these are as follows.

- (I) Extraversion or insurgency (assertive talkative, energetic)
- (II) Agreeableness (cooperative, fine natured, trustful)
- (III) Conscientiousness (responsible, orderly, dependable)
- (IV) Emotional Stability versus Neuroticism (cool and calm, not easily upset, not neurotic)
- (V) Culture (polished, intellectual, independent-minded)

These above mentioned factors known as "Five Bigs" Goldberg. It represents that each of these factors is enormously broad. So these "Five

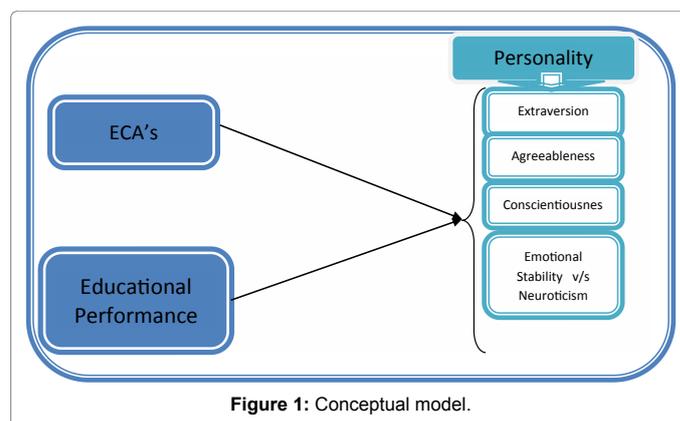


Figure 1: Conceptual model.

Bigs” structure not explores the entire personality difference, rather these “Five Bigs” represents the personality at a maximum broadest level. Each element or factor summarized the maximum number of distinctions, aspects and maximum characteristics of the personality.

Types of ECAs

Sort out the ECAs into (13) thirteen categories.

1. Intramural team sport (football, hockey, baseball, soccer and basketball etc.)
2. Intramural individual sports (golf, cross - country, gymnastics and tennis)
3. Interscholastic team sports (football, hockey, baseball, soccer and basketball)
4. Interscholastic individual sports (golf, cross-country, gymnastics, tennis, track, wrestling and swimming etc.)
5. Orchestra, Chorus, Band and other music groups
6. Musical, Drama club and School play
7. Drill team, Cheerleading and Pompom
8. Academic honour society, National Honour Society
9. Pupil/Student’s government
10. Academic club (Debate, computer, foreign languages, philosophy club and art etc.)
11. School yearbook, magazines, newspapers etc.
12. Hobby Clubs (Chess and photography etc.)
13. Services Club (Key Club and American Field Service etc.)

Indonesian institutes also carry out the six ECAs as well as

1. Scouting
2. Marching Bands
3. Religious Programs
4. Sciences and philosophy (science club and debate etc.)
5. Sports (Basketball, badminton, volley ball, karate and soccer etc.)
6. Arts (Class room decoration, chart making, classic dancing drawing etc.)

Distinction of Research Study

Early research studies were based on, only Academic/educational subject wise performance (subject wise Mathematics, Science and English Marks) etc., but in this research we’ve highlighted that how personality can change with the help of ECA’s (Extra Curricular Activities)

- Our targeted audience was the university level student.
- We have analyzed the impacts of ECAs on the personality development.
- Graduate and post graduate level students have a different thinking level as compared to adolescents and school childes.

Research questions

Basically three questions will attempt to explore this research study.

1. In what ECA’s students are choosing?
2. How many students participate in ECA’s?
3. What is relationship flanked by ECA’s and Personality Development?
4. How many times you’ve actively participated in ECA’s (13 core types)?
5. How University’s Educational Performance related to the extracurricular activities?
6. How your Personality (Big Five) development was developed with the help of ECA’s?

Hypotheses

H₀: ECA’s don’t have a positive relationship flanked by ECA’s and Personality development.

H₁: ECA’s have a positive relationship flanked by ECA’s and Personality development.

Method and procedure

This research study based on the cross sectional data. Our respondents were belonged to Universities. Questionnaire was used to collect data. Questionnaire based on the Demographic information, Academic information, extracurricular activities questions and finally Personality questions. Both Primary and Secondary data was used. Primary data collected from university surveys and secondary data from books, research papers, magazines, internet and other journals etc.

Data Analysis and Interpretations

Cronbach’s Alpha (α) results are 0.8 that shows the reliability of our research study questionnaire. Cronbach’s Alpha (α) never be less than 0.7. Consequently from above table, Cronbach’s Alpha (α) is > (greater than) 0.7. So it considered as tremendous and reliable results (Table 1).

Descriptive statistics

Demographic information:

Gender: In our research study there were 520 (55.3%) male and 421 (44.7%) female student respondents respectively.

Age: Between 18-20 there were 220 (23.4%), between 21-25 there were 581 (61.7%), between 26-30 there were 91 (9.7%) and above 30 years there were 49 (5.2%) (Table 2).

Class vise there were 282 (30%) students belongs to Bachelor classes, 615 (65.4%) belongs to Master level classes and 44 (4.7%) students belongs to M.Phil/Ph.D level classes.

Cronbach's Alpha	No of Items
0.8	59

Table 1: Reliability statistics.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Bachelor	282	30.0	30.0	30.0
	Master	615	65.4	65.4	95.3
	M.Phil / Ph.D	44	4.7	4.7	100.0
	Total	941	100.0	100.0	

Table 2: Classes detail.

Belongingness of the respondents

Our respondents were belongs to five different universities of Pakistan. We got the 191 (20.3%) student’s response from Arid Agricultural University Rawalpindi, 183 (19.4%) students from B.Z. University Multan, 174 (18.5%) student from COMSATS IIT Vehari Campus, 193 (20.5%) from GC University Faisalabad and finally 200 (21.3%) student’s response from NCBA&E-Lahore, Layyah Campus (Table 3).

Student’s belongs to different discipline. 364 students from Computer Sciences, 322 students from Commerce/Business Administration, 174 from Natural Sciences, 60 from Engineering and Technology, 12 from Arts group and finally 9 from Other Departments (Table 4).

We’ve analyzed one more thing from this research that most of the students whether male or female. They’ve keen interest in the Cricket, There portion was 352 (37.4%) students. It’s a larger portion of our respondents. Then 214 (22.7%) students were interested in other minor games. At the third number was Bed Minton 146 (15.5%). So we can say that cricket is the most interested game of the students. So Government of Pakistan should contemplate on the National game of Pakistan (Table 5).

Descriptive statistics

Descriptive Statistics shows the “Mean” (103.29) and “Standard

Deviation” is (11.249) of personality, Extracurricular Activities and Educational Performance (Table 6).

Correlations

Here we’ve analyzed the bi variate (R) Pearson Correlation between “Personality with ECA’s” is 0.154, and between “Personality with Educational Performance is 0.227”. Now Sig. (Significance level) “P” Value is 0.00 in all aspects, and it will always be less than 0.05, so we found the very significant and positive relationship among D.V and I.V, that shows that as much as students participate in ECA’s in their Personality will develop and their academic performance will improve (Table 7).

Model summary

We’ve analyzed the bi variate correlation r (R) value is 0.253 and R² is 0.064, so its indicating that there is strong, significant and positively correlated flanked by Personality (D.V) and Educational Performance and Extracurricular Activities (I.V). However these values might be overestimated, so that we’ve took the “Adjusted R Square” for the better estimation of the values. “Std. Error of Estimation” is 10.895. We also got the “Durbin-Watson” that’s values are 1.794 (Table 8).

ANOVA

In above ANOVA results of Regression shows the relationship flanked by Personality (Big Fives) (D.V) and Educational Performance and Extracurricular Activities (I.V). This table represents the values of

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Arid Agricultural University. Rawalpindi	191	20.3	20.3	20.3
	B.Z. University. Multan	183	19.4	19.4	39.7
	COMSATS IIT. Vehari	174	18.5	18.5	58.2
	GC University. Faisalabad	193	20.5	20.5	78.7
	NCBA&E-Lahore, Layyah Campus	200	21.3	21.3	100.0
	Total	941	100.0	100.0	

Table 3: Students belongingness from universities.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Computer Sciences	364	38.7	38.7	38.7
	Commerce / Business Administration	322	34.2	34.2	72.9
	Natural Sciences	174	18.5	18.5	91.4
	Engineering & Technology	60	6.4	6.4	97.8
	Arts	12	1.3	1.3	99.0
	Others	9	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	941	100.0	100.0	

Table 4: Student’s specialization.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Cricket	352	37.4	37.4	37.4
	Hockey	66	7.0	7.0	44.4
	Bed Minton	146	15.5	15.5	59.9
	Tennis	16	1.7	1.7	61.6
	Table Tennis	12	1.3	1.3	62.9
	Football	56	6.0	6.0	68.9
	Snooker	6	.6	.6	69.5
	Wrestling	14	1.5	1.5	71.0
	Tug War	3	.3	.3	71.3
	Racing	56	6.0	6.0	77.3
	Other Minor Games	214	22.7	22.7	100.0
	Total	941	100.0	100.0	

Table 5: Game types.

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Personality	103.29	11.249	941
Extracurricular Activities	23.96	12.472	941
Educational Performance	8.84	2.305	941

Table 6: Descriptive statistics.

		Personality	Extracurricular Activities	Educational Performance
Pearson Correlation	Personality	1.000	0.154	0.227
	Extracurricular Activities	0.154	1.000	0.196
	Educational Performance	0.227	0.196	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	Personality	0.0	0.000	0.000
	Extracurricular Activities	0.000	0.0	0.000
	Educational Performance	0.000	0.000	0.0
N	Personality	941	941	941
	Extracurricular Activities	941	941	941
	Educational Performance	941	941	941

Table 7: Correlations.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	0.253 ^a	0.064	0.062	10.895	1.794

a. Predictors: (Constant), Educational Performance, Extracurricular Activities

b. Dependent Variable: Personality

Table 8: Model summary.

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	7605.612	2	3802.806	32.034	0.000 ^b
	Residual	111351.765	938	118.712		
	Total	118957.377	940			

a. Dependent Variable: Personality

b. Predictors: (Constant), Educational Performance, Extracurricular Activities

Table 9: ANOVA^a

Model		Un standardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	92.015	1.470		62.602	0.000	89.131	94.900
	Extracurricular Activities	0.103	0.029	0.114	3.549	0.000	0.046	0.160
	Educational Performance	0.996	0.157	0.204	6.337	0.000	0.688	1.305

a. Dependent Variable: Personality

Table 10: Coefficients.

“F Test” is 32.034 and as well as “Sig Value” is 0.000 that shows the considerable relation flanked by Personality (D.V) and Educational Performance and Extracurricular Activities (I.V) (Table 9).

Coefficients

Standardized regression of coefficient always predicts the outcome of variables. As the above tables shows that the values of B, Std. Error, Beta, T-Test and Confidence Interval for B in both (Lower and Upper) cases. If the values of the Sig are less than 0.05 then it shows that the “ECA’s” and “Personality Development” have significant results flanked by each other (Table 10).

Residuals statistics

It’s a linear model of the residuals statistics that supports the random pattern. In both cases “Mean” and “Sum” of residuals are should be equal to “Zero”. It represent $\sum e=0$ and $e=0$. Here residual statistics are showing the data is appropriate; in other case non linear residuals are also more suitable here in ECA’s and P.D (Table 11).

Findings

Check the University student’s response regarding ECA’s

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Predicted Value	95.45	110.57	103.29	2.844	941
Residual	-49.386	25.079	0.000	10.884	941
Std. Predicted Value	-2.755	2.560	0.000	1.000	941
Std. Residual	-4.533	2.302	0.000	0.999	941

Table 11: Residuals statistics.

and Personality. Hypothesis also express that ECA’s develop the personality among university students. Cronbach’s Alpha is 0.8 that retrospective the tremendous reliability of the questionnaire data. Data collection from five universities of 941 students was a huge task. Students were belongs to Five different department (CS, Commerce/ BA, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Arts and Others) An amazing thing was that among the 941 respondents (students) there were 352 (37.4%) respondents were interested in Cricket, while only 66 (7%) were interested in Hockey, rest of them were in other games. So I think Government of Pakistan should contemplate on the National game. There was strapping, positive and strong correlation “r” (R) and R² values existed among Personality (D.V) and ECA’s and Educational Performance (I.V). Durbin-Watson (1.794) also advocating the

significant findings among the whole values. Standardize Coefficient values, T-test scores; Sig values and Confidence Interval for B (Lower and Upper Bond Values) are tremendously representing the significant findings.

Limitations

1. Personality model based on "Five Big" is enormously broad.
2. Respondent students perform in ECA's only in their leisure time.
3. Huge research required on this topic, but scarcity of funding and time is hurdle.
4. This research study is narrow to personality and ECA's and Educational Performance.
5. Those students who are doing part time job, they don't participate in ECA's, but they've very shining personality.

Conclusion

Prospective ECA's (thirteen types) always develop the multiple characteristics of the personality, as well as Educational achievement. Pupils of different universities got the confidence and learn how to plan the future among rival groups. Majority of students (male and female) were interested in Cricket, then why still we're considering Hockey as our (Pakistan's) national game? So I think Government of Pakistan should contemplate on the National game. Meanwhile personality "Five Big" model was replicated from Norman (1963) that is enormously broad model. It'll explore many other horizons. If students' vigorously involve themselves in ECA's by sacrificing their study, automatically they'll lose their position in class.

Recommendations

Recommendations for school counselors

1. Partnership of community always be encouraged.
2. Counselors should reciprocate the shy pupils individually.
3. Counselors should advocate students ECA's with academia.
4. Barriers should be removed from the participation in activities.
5. Counselors should avoid to practice of risky and dangerous ECA's.
6. Skip the direct involvement of sponsors and politicians, in ECA's.
7. Over participation in activities could be perilous for the academia.
8. Encourage the pupils for ECA's, but also make their schedule for study.
9. Keep in mind the "Best fit" formula, for participation in activities and skills.
10. Students could be preventive the involvement from the risky extracurricular activities.
11. Best learning environment for extracurricular activities should be providing within the premises of university camps.

Recommendations for future research

1. In future diversity of ECA's will be discussed.
2. Pros and cons of ECA's should be unveiled by all aspects.

3. How gender discrimination perform separately?
4. How disable students could be encouraged by community to participate in ECA's?
5. Are all students availing equal opportunities in ECA's?
6. Only cross-sectional study is not enough, longitudinal research will explore the real picture.
7. Wider research required to find out the positive ways of win-win approach to motivate the students.

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