

Effects of Extroversion Traits on Domestic Abuse among inmates in Prisons in Kiambu County, Kenya

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Abstract: This study examined the effects of extroversion traits on domestic abuse. This study examined extroversion traits among prison inmates in Kiambu County, Kenya. A sample size of 370 representing a target population of 10,334 inmates with a margin of error of 0.05 was selected. The study found that 66.2% of inmates who participated in the study with extroversion personality had a more solitary, quiet, and reserved trait while 33.5% had an outgoing, friendly, and energetic, trait. Respondents who were more solitary, quiet and reserved, 27.5% strongly agreed that they had experienced domestic abuse, 44.5% agreed, 9.0% strongly disagreed, 13.7% disagreed, while 5.2% were not sure. Regarding respondents who were outgoing, friendly, and energetic, 30.8% strongly agreed they had experienced domestic abuse, 51.4% agreed, 10.3% strongly disagreed, 4.7% disagreed, while 2.8% were not sure. There is a weak negative correlation (0.119) between extroversion personality type and domestic abuse. However, the negative correlation (-0.105) between extroversion and type of domestic abuse perpetrated was weak at a significance of 0.066. In addition, there was a positive correlation (0.203) between extroversion personality type and type of physical assault perpetrated. Also, the study found a negative correlation (0.144) between extroversion and physical assault trends of whether the physical assaults increased, stayed the same or decreased before imprisonment.

Keywords: Extroversion, traits, domestic abuse, inmates, assault trends

I. INTRODUCTION

Domestic abuse portends severe consequences on the victims' physical and mental health and can even morph into several problems ranging from anxiety to more devastating issues such as depression, Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and drug and substance abuse. In the USA, a study conducted to evaluate domestic abuse response among offenders and perpetrators concluded that domestic abuse is now considered a global health issue (Buzawa & Buzawa, 2017). Similarly, in New York, global data published by WHO (2017) indicates that 35% of women worldwide experience intimate partner abuse or non-partner sexual abuse in their lifetime; this includes a third of women worldwide experiencing some form of domestic abuse. All these studies paint a grim picture of domestic abuse prevalence, abuse against women, and the growing need for intervention.

In the UK, a study investigating domestic abuse among women victims found that abuse against women is linked to adverse health outcomes, including the death of victims, threat of physical and emotionally violent acts, and abuse against

others to injure or demonstrate power and exercise control over them (Oram, Khalifeh, & Howard, 2017). Another study conducted in Portuguese found that women with certain personality traits might seek help to reduce the cruelty of the abuses (Pereira et al., 2020). In the systematic review of literature by Pereira et al. (2020), studies evaluating the characteristics of female victims of intimate partner abuse concluded that victims of domestic abuse are more likely women if they experienced this kind of abuse in their childhood. Other factors contributing to women's vulnerability to domestic abuse included economic dependence, lack of social aid and general dismay for their lives. Women who had the above-identified characteristics suffered physical and psychological abuse from their partners throughout their lives. The studies clarify the impacts of domestic abuse on women while also creating a psychological link between early instances of abuse and victim likelihood in later life. However, the studies do not identify whether inmates serving sentences for domestic abuse have similar characteristics and whether their personality traits relate to their childhood experiences.

Many scholars have linked personality traits to human behaviour in various settings. Individuals who overreact to low stimuli have tendencies of violent behaviour. On the other hand, offenders are seen to have low levels of emotional intelligence, which plays a vital role in relationships. The offenders are less sensitive to others' emotions and have less sense of guilt (Rode, Rode, & Maciej, 2015).

Kosson et al. (2016), in their investigation of IPV perpetrators, found that the offenders can be grouped into three anti-social offenders who have a high level of psychopathic traits. Dysphoric offenders who are apprehensive, depressive and offenders with low levels of pathology. A study in Brazil looked at 170 heterosexual couples and reported that 'mood instability and impulsiveness personality' traits interpreters IPV committed by women while for men, the traits exhibited were aggressiveness and paternal physical abuse. This study showed that personality traits better explained women's violent behaviour while for men, violent behaviour was explained by family experiences (Madalena, Carvalho, & Falcke, 2018).

An 'abusive personality' towards intimate partners is a combination of features such as attachment anxiety, low self-esteem, and chronic traumatic symptoms. Personality analysis has also been used in other sectors, especially in the corporate

sector to improve performance. The study of personality traits is essential for entrepreneurs in occupational choice (Kerr et al., 2017).

Results from a study by Ahmad & Poespowidjojo (2017) showed that individuals with high level of openness to experience conscientiousness, extraversion and agreeableness demonstrate high level of customer-oriented behaviour whereas individuals who possess high level of neuroticism demonstrate no or low level of customer-oriented behaviour. Understanding the personality traits of both victims and perpetrators of IPV is imperative in assisting professionals in predicting behaviour and knowing how to respond. To better understand the study of personality, it is important to understand the history of personality research and the development of the Big Five model.

Extraversion focuses on traits such as assertiveness, talkativeness, sociability, and positive emotions. There are two types of personalities associated with Extraversion “more solidary, quiet and reserved” the second consist of traits namely “outgoing, friendly and energetic”. Individuals who like drawing attention or being the life of the party have high extraversion. Extraversion is linked to social interaction as individuals draw energy from interacting with other people. An introvert is a person who is low on the extraversion scale. They tend to shy around people or do not talk a lot. Introverts draw energy from their solitude and are quiet. Introverts are reserved and control their emotions very well in sticking to their plans.

II. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

The study employed a mixed method approach where qualitative and quantitative approaches were adopted concurrently. Correlational and phenomenological research

designs were used. Questionnaires and a focus group discussion was used to collect data. Extraversion traits were categorised as “more solidary, quiet and reserved” and “outgoing, friendly and energetic”. Extraversion was measured using the big five inventory scale developed by John and Srivastava (1999). The participants were presented with self-reporting questionnaires while a segment was engaged in a focussed group discussion.

III. RESULTS

The objective was to investigate the extent to which extraversion affect domestic abuse among inmates in prisons in Kiambu County, Kenya. The inmates were identified as either “More solidary, quiet and reserved” or “Outgoing, friendly and energetic” as presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Inmates with Extraversion Personality Traits

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More solidary, quiet and reserved	215	66.2	66.4	66.4
	Outgoing, friendly and energetic	109	33.5	33.6	100.0
	Total	324	99.7	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.3		
Total		325	100.0		

From the findings 66.2% of the respondents were more solidary, quiet and reserved while 33.5% were outgoing, friendly and energetic.

A result on the influence of extraversion personality on domestic abuse among inmates is presented on Table 2.

Table 2. Extraversion Personality and Experience of Domestic Abuse among

			I have experienced domestic abuse					Total
			A	B	C	D	E	
Extraversion	More solidary, quiet and reserved	Count	58	94	19	29	11	211
		% within Extraversion	27.5%	44.5%	9.0%	13.7%	5.2%	100.0%
	Outgoing, friendly and energetic	Count	33	55	11	5	3	107
		% within Extraversion	30.8%	51.4%	10.3%	4.7%	2.8%	100.0%
Total		Count	91	149	30	34	14	318
		% within Extraversion	28.6%	46.9%	9.4%	10.7%	4.4%	100.0%

Key.

- A – Strongly agree
- B – Agree
- C – Strongly disagree
- D – Disagree
- E – Not sure

From the findings regarding the respondents who were more solidary, quiet and reserved, 27.5% strongly agreed that they

had experienced domestic abuse, 44.5% agreed, 9.0% strongly disagreed, 13.7% disagreed, while 5.2% were not sure. Regarding respondents who were Outgoing, friendly, and energetic, 30.8% strongly agreed they had experienced domestic abuse, 51.4% agreed, 10.3% strongly disagreed, 4.7% disagreed, while 2.8% were not sure.

A result on the influence of extroversion personality on type of domestic abuse perpetrated by inmates is presented on Table 3.

Table 31. Extroversion Personality on Type of Domestic Abuse Perpetrated by Inmates

			What type of domestic abuse did you perpetrate?					Total
			A	B	C	D	E	
Extraversion	More solitary, quiet and reserved	Count	60	53	32	30	30	205
		% within Extraversion	29.3%	25.9%	15.6%	14.6%	14.6%	100.0%
	Outgoing, friendly and energetic	Count	41	23	11	17	8	100
		% within Extraversion	41.0%	23.0%	11.0%	17.0%	8.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	101	76	43	47	38	305
		% within Extraversion	33.1%	24.9%	14.1%	15.4%	12.5%	100.0%

Key

- A – Physical abuse
- B – Sexual abuse
- C – Financial abuse
- D – Emotional abuse
- E - Not sure

From the findings the respondents who were more solitary, quiet and reserved and the type of abuse they perpetrated, 29.3% indicated physical abuse, 25.9% indicated sexual abuse, 15.6% indicated financial abuse, and 14.6% indicated

emotional abuse while 14.6% were not sure. Regarding respondents who were outgoing, friendly and energetic and the type of physical abuse they perpetrated, 41.0% indicated physical abuse, 23.0% indicated sexual abuse, 11.0% indicated financial abuse, and 17.0% indicated emotional abuse while 8.0% were not sure.

A result on the influence of extroversion personality on type of physical assault perpetrated by inmates is presented on Table 4.

Table 4. Extroversion Personality on Type of Physical Assault Perpetrated by Inmates

			What type of physical assault did you perpetrate?								Total
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Extraversion	More solitary, quiet and reserved	Count	41	20	34	23	9	0	4	7	138
		% within Extraversion	29.7%	14.5%	24.6%	16.7%	6.5%	0.0%	2.9%	5.1%	100.0%
	Outgoing, friendly and energetic	Count	17	11	16	16	4	3	5	12	84
		% within Extraversion	20.2%	13.1%	19.0%	19.0%	4.8%	3.6%	6.0%	14.3%	100.0%
Total		Count	58	31	50	39	13	3	9	19	222
		% within Extraversion	26.1%	14.0%	22.5%	17.6%	5.9%	1.4%	4.1%	8.6%	100.0%

Key

- A – Pushed and shoved someone without causing injury
- B – Pushed and shoved and injured someone
- C – Hit, slapped, or punched someone without causing injury
- D – Hit, slapped, or punched someone causing injury
- E – Kicked
- F - Pulled hair
- G - Strangled someone
- H - Harmed or hit someone with an object

From the findings regarding respondents who were more solitary, quiet and reserved and the type of physical assault they perpetrated, 29.7% of the respondents indicated they

pushed and shoved someone without causing injury, 14.5% indicated they pushed and shoved and injured someone, 24.6% indicated they hit, slapped, or punched someone without causing injury, 16.7% indicated they Hit, slapped, or punched someone causing injury, 6.5% indicated they kicked, 2.9% indicated they strangled someone, while 5.1% harmed or hit someone with an object. Regarding respondents who were outgoing, friendly and energetic and the type of physical assault they perpetrated, 20.2% of the respondents indicated they pushed and shoved someone without causing injury, 13.1% indicated they pushed and shoved and injured someone, 19.0% indicated they hit, slapped, or punched

someone without causing injury, 19.0% indicated they hit, slapped, or punched someone causing injury 4.8% indicated they kicked, 3.6% indicated they pulled hair, 6.0% indicated they strangled someone and 14.3% indicated they harmed or hit someone with an object.

A result on the influence of extroversion personality on persistence of the physical assault by inmates during the relationship is presented on Table 5.

Table 5. Extroversion Personality on Persistence of the Physical Assault by Inmates during the Relationship

A		Did the physical assaults increased, stayed the same or decreased during your relationship?					Total	
		Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased	Only happened once	Not sure		
Extroversion	More solitary, quiet and reserved	Count	33	23	47	61	33	197
		% within Extroversion	16.8%	11.7%	23.9%	31.0%	16.8%	100.0%
	Outgoing, friendly and energetic	Count	25	14	27	29	7	102
		% within Extroversion	24.5%	13.7%	26.5%	28.4%	6.9%	100.0%
Total		Count	58	37	74	90	40	299
		% within Extroversion	19.4%	12.4%	24.7%	30.1%	13.4%	100.0%

From the findings regarding the respondents who were more solitary, quiet and reserved, and whether the physical assaults increased, stayed the same or decreased during the relationship, 16.8% of the respondents indicated it increased, 11.7% indicated it stayed the same, 23.9% indicated it decreased, 31.0% indicated it only happened once, while 16.8% indicated they were not sure. Regarding the respondents being outgoing, friendly, and energetic, and whether the physical assaults increased, stayed the same or decreased during the relationship, 24.5% of the respondents indicated it increased, 13.7% indicated it stayed the same, 26.5% indicated it decreased, 28.4% indicated it only happened once, while 6.9% indicated they were not sure.

A null hypothesis that there is no statistically significant relationship between extroversion and domestic abuse among inmates in Kiambu County, Kenya was tested at 0.05 significance level using the Pearson correlation and the test results are presented on Table 6.

Table 6. Correlation between Extroversion Personality and Domestic Abuse

		A	B	C	D	E
Extroversion	Pearson Correlation	1	.119*	-.105	.203**	-.144*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.033	.066	.002	.013
	N	324	318	305	222	299
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).						
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).						

Key

- A – Extroversion
- B – I have experienced domestic abuse
- C – What type of domestic abuse did you perpetrate?
- D – What type of physical assault did you perpetrate?

E - Did the physical assaults increased, stayed the same or decreased during your relationship?

Table 6 shows that there is a weak negative correlation (0.119) between extroversion personality type and “I have experienced domestic abuse” with a significance of 0.033 which is lesser than 0.05. Therefore, this relationship is statistically significant as there is enough evidence to support the correlation. However, the negative correlation (-0.105) between extroversion and “What type of domestic abuse did you perpetrate?” is weak at a significance of 0.066 which is greater than 0.05. This relationship is not significant and is a result of chance. In addition, there is a positive correlation (0.203) between extroversion personality type and “What type of physical assault did you perpetrate?” with a significance of 0.002 which is lesser than 0.05. This implies that the relationship is significant and is solely as a result of the extroversion personality. Also, the negative correlation (0.144) between extroversion and “Did the physical assaults increased, stayed the same or decreased during your relationship?” is at a significance of 0.013 which is lesser than 0.05. This relationship is also significant. Therefore, null hypothesis that there is no statistically significant relationship between extroversion and domestic abuse among inmates in Kiambu County, Kenya is rejected. The existing relationship is due to traits of the extroversion personality type.

Extroverted people have two distinct traits. There are those who are more solitary, quiet, and reserved. The others are outgoing, friendly, and energetic. Ideally, people who live a solitary lifestyle and are quiet and reserved are thought to have pent up emotions which can easily result in violent behaviour at one time. Those who are outgoing, friendly, and energetic are expected to be socially interactive with less violent behaviour.

According to this finding, extroversion is directly related to domestic violence. Inmates with solidary, quiet, and reserved traits experienced less domestic abuse acts than those with outgoing, friendly, and energetic traits. This finding collaborates Jones, et al (2020) that outgoing, friendly and energetic people are violent and abuse alcohol notwithstanding differences across gender.

Implications

Inmates are highly recommended to undergo personality test to determine those with extroversion personality traits associated with abuse. The identified inmates should then be trained on anger management strategies as they are vulnerable to perpetrating domestic abuse. As much as imprisonment terms ensure that perpetrators of domestic abuse are kept away from their victims, it does not guarantee safety to victims once the perpetrators are released from prison. Therefore, it is recommended that family counsellors and religious leaders should play an active role in reconciliation and mediation of family members in conflict resolution.

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