Comparison of personality trait and emotional intelligence between the women who experienced domestic violence and control group

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Abstract

Aim. The aim of this research is comparing the role of personality traits and emotional intelligence between women who experienced domestic violence and a control group.

Methods. The statistical population of the study includes all women (700 participants) referred to the judicial authorities of Ardabil province in 2019.The research sample included 30 women who experienced domestic violence and 30 women as control group (not experienced domestic violence) who were selected by available sampling method. To measure emotional intelligence and personality traits, the Bar-on Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire and NEO Questionnaire was used. The questionnaires briefly describe and evaluate the two complex concepts of emotional intelligence and current emotional health. Data analysis was performed using SPSS statistical software and MANOVA. The main variables of the research were neuroticism, extroversion, openness, agreeableness, extra-individual skills, conscientiousness, interpersonal skills, adaptability, stress control and public mood.

Results. The findings of the research have shown that among the characteristics of the five major personality factors (NEO), only the neuroticism component was more prevalent among women who experienced domestic violence, and the rest of the personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to new experiences) among control group were higher ($P<0.05$). Also, all components of emotional intelligence (extra-individual skills, intrapersonal skills, adaptability, stress control, and public mood) were higher among control group than those of women who experienced domestic violence ($P<0.05$).

Conlusion. As a result, it can be acknowledged that personality traits and emotional intelligence abilities are among the main factors related to domestic violence and are very important in preventing this violence.

Key words: Domestic violence, personality traits, emotional intelligence, Ardabil province

Introduction

Although from social and legal perspective, beating women and causing psychological damage is considered disastrous in the contemporary world, it is still legitimate given the historical and traditional contexts. This is confirmed by private domestic violence. Dobash and Dabsh were among those who first investigated domestic violence in the West. They found that domestic violence was linked to the social isolation and powerlessness of women in the family (Dobash & Dabsh, 1992).

In a study titled violence against women in Iran, which was conducted as a national project in 28 provinces, the study found that 66 percent of Iranian women have been abused at least once since the beginning of their marriage. However, the rate and types of domestic violence in different provinces of Iran are very diverse and significant.

In addition to physical problems, mistreatment of women causes sustained psychological consequences such as depression, suicide, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Violence against women affects the quality of them and their children, their ability, independence, and threatens and disrupts severely their normal lives (Sadeghi Fasaei, 2010; Antai et al. 2014). On the one hand, personality traits may be one of the most important variables related to violence. From Eisenhower's point of view, personality is the integrated whole of character, temperament, intelligence, and body. One of the most widely used personality patterns in psychological research is the five-factor pattern of personality. Some authors believe that this pattern is the best concept of personality (Goldberg, 1990; Mccrae & Costa, 1987).

The above pattern has five factors: psychosis means a person's tendency to experience negative emotion, anxiety, tension, anger, depression, and impulsivity; extroversion has characteristics such as sociability and energy, excitement and intimacy; A person's desire for help, compassion, kindness, and altruism; being conscientious, with a person's tendency toward responsibility, trustworthiness, self-discipline, purposefulness, efficiency, interest in pro-

gress, and being rational, and ultimately openness include characteristics such as courage, interest, flexibility and curiosity.

In a study (Panaghiet al., 2011) entitled the role of personality traits in spousal abuse that measured five personality factors, the results showed that the psychosis components predict psychological and physical violence, conscientiousness, sexual violence, and physical violence.

Numerous studies emphasize that, today just using public intelligence alone is not enough to explain success, and to achieve success, several types of intelligence (including emotional intelligence) and emotion control are needed (Mayer et al., 2001; Hillman et al., 2019).

Emotional intelligence indicates what is appropriate and what is wrong in social relationships and in psychological and emotional bargaining in certain situations. That is, in different situations, one can keep hope alive, empathize with others, listen to the feelings of others, ignore small rewards because of greater rewards, and not let the anxiety of thinking and reasoning interfere with one's worries. To be stable in the face of problems and to maintain one's motivation at all times (Javid, 2002).

Shoa Kazemi and Momeni Javid (2009) in a study entitled the relationship between emotional intelligence and personality traits of female students showed that there is a relationship between emotional intelligence and personality dimensions. This study showed that the components of epistemology had a negative share in predicting sexual violence and extroversion in predicting physical violence.

Therefore, due to the relationship between emotional intelligence and personality traits, as well as the importance of personality traits in violence and spousal abuse (Panaghi et al., 2011), it is necessary to conduct research that examines such a relationship. This study was conducted in the same direction and with the aim of comparing the role of personality traits and emotional intelligence in women who experienced domestic violence and control group.

Materials and methods

The method of this research is cross-sectional. The statistical population of the study includes all women who referred to the judicial authorities of Ardabil in 2019, which is approximately 700 people. The research sample includes 30 women who experienced domestic violence and 30 control group who were selected by available sampling method. In addition, the minimum sample for comparative projects is 15 people (Delavar, 2009), and in this study, 30 people were selected to increase validation in each sample group.

To measure emotional intelligence, the Bar-on Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire (2000) was used. The questionnaire briefly describes and evaluates the two complex concepts of emotional intelligence (*i.e* a set of non-cognitive abilities and skills that affect a person's ability to succeed and meet environmental needs) and current emotional health (Bar-on, 1997).

The questionnaire contains 33 questions and is the first valid meta-cultural questionnaire for emotional intelligence assessment (Bar-on, 2000), developed in 1997 and includes a general score (general IQ), five compound factors of intrapersonal relationships, Interpersonal relationships, coping, adaptation of public mood and coordination index and 15 subscales. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient in the internal calculation is high for all subscales.

From the low Cronbach's alpha coefficient (0.69) for the social responsibility subscale to the Cronbach's (0.86) alpha for the self-esteem subscale, the overall mean is 0.76 (Bar-on, 1997).

The five-factor personality test, developed by Costa and McCrae (1997), measures five main personality traits and six aspects in each factor (30 in total). These two aspects of the test are the five main factors and 30. This scale of validity has been shown to be a good factor in different age and race groups (Costa & McCrae, 1997). Garosi Farshi (1998) in Iran standardized a group of students at Iranian public universities.

The data analysis is first descriptive, which includes the mean, standard deviation, etc., and in the second part, the MANOVA test was used to test the hypotheses, for which SPSS statistical software was used.

Demographic characteristics

According to the results of Table (1), 46.66% of the respondents with the highest frequency, who have been abused, have advanced diploma, while 50% of the control group with the highest frequency has a bachelor's degree.

Table 1
Distribution of respondents' education between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group.

Total		Education										Participants
		Master		Bachelor		Associate Degree		Diploma		High school		
P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	
100	30	3.33	1	10	3	46.6	14	23.3	7	16.6	5	Women who experienced domestic violence
100	30	16.6	5	50	15	20	6	10	3	3.3	1	Control group
100	60	19.9	5	70	21	56.6	3	33.3	28	19.9	23	Total

Note: P: Percent; A: Abundance;

Source: own research.

According to the results of figure 1, the average age of the respondents is 30.67 with standard deviation of 6.125 and with variance of 37.51.
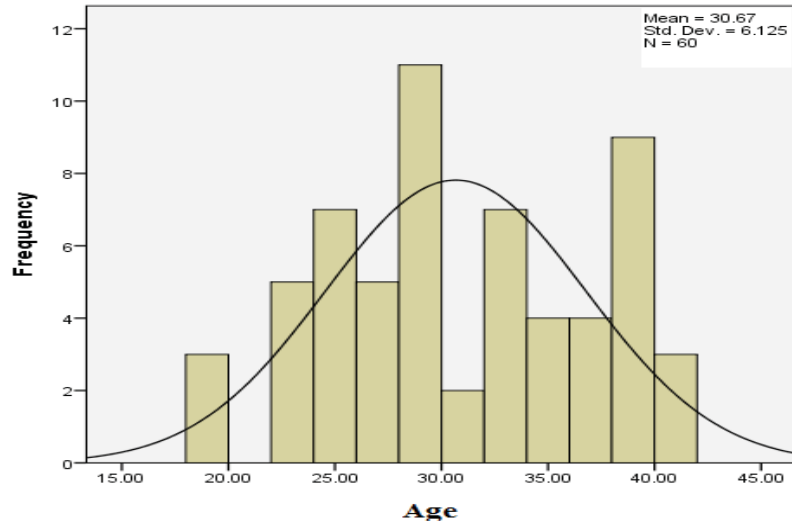
Fig. 1. Descriptive statistics of respondents' age.
Source: own research.

It should be mentioned that 36.66% of the women who experienced domestic violence were single and 63.33% of them were married. Among control group, 60 percent were single and the rest of them were married.

RESULTS

Descriptive findings show the information about the mean and standard deviation of personality and emotional intelligence components between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group. This indicates the difference between the mean and the standard deviation of perturbation variables in the two groups (Table 2).

INFERENTIAL FINDINGS

According to the characteristics of neuroticism, the value of F=0.032 and also considering the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) which is less than 0.01, it can be said that there is a significant difference in the characteristics of neuroticism between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group (P <0.01); moreover, the characteristics of neuroticism in control group are lower than women who experienced domestic violence (Table3). On the other hand, the characteristic of extroversion based on the value of F = 0.005 and the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) which is less than 0.01, it can be said that the extroversion in control group has been higher than in the group of female victims (Table3).

Table 2

Mean and standard deviation of personality components and emotional intelligence in women who experienced domestic violence and control group.

Standard deviation	Mean	group	Variable
2.21	9.80	CG	Neuroticism
8.08	9.70	V	
4.48	15.30	CG	Extroversion
1.83	15.26	V	
2.53	16.93	CG	Openness
2.28	15.73	V	
2.79	11.86	CG	Agreeableness
2.07	11.70	V	
1.89	12.86	CG	Conscientiousness
2.20	12.66	V	
7.90	16.33	CG	Interpersonal skills
3.54	14.66	V	
2.27	12.26	CG	Extroversion skills
2.43	12.13	V	
2.35	13.63	CG	Adaptability
2.11	13.13	V	
1.91	14.40	CG	Public mood
1.88	12.23	V	
3.83	19.46	CG	Stress control
3.26	19.20	V	

Note: CG:Control group;*V: Victim*

Source: own research.

According to the characteristics of openness and considering the value of F =2.5 and also considering that the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, it can be said that there is a significant difference in the characteristics of openness between victim and the control group (P <0.01) and the feature of openness in the control group is higher than in the women who experienced domestic violence (Table 3). Conforming to the characteristic of agreeableness (agreeing) and according to the value of F = 0.048 and also considering that the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, it can be said that there is a significant difference in the characteristic of agreeableness (agreeing) among the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group (P <0.01) and the characteristic of agreeableness (agreeing) in the control group is higher than in the women who experienced domestic violence (Table 3).

According to the characteristic of conscientiousness (being conscientious) and considering the value of F = 0.141 and also considering that the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, it can be said that there is a significant difference in conscientious-

Table 3

The characteristics between the women who experienced domestic violence and control group

Characteristics	Atta's presence	P	The value of F	Degrees of freedom	Source of changes
Neuroticism between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.851 0.89	0.020 0.000	1229.348 0.032	1 1 60	CG V Total
Extroversion between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.970 0.741	0.000 0.010	4143.718 0.005	1 1 60	CG V Total
Openness between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.97 0.74	0.003 0.000	1857.76 2.50	1 1 60	CG V Total
Agreeableness (agreeing) between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.943 0.857	0.000 0.004	966.82 0.048	1 1 60	CG V Total
Conscientiousness (being conscientious) between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.975 0.871	0.000 0.030	2304.43 0.141	1 1 60	CG V Total
Intrapersonal skills between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.91 0.86	0.000 0.000	383.98 1.11	1 1 60	CG V Total
Extra-individual skills between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.96 0.82	0.000 0.001	1611.91 0.048	1 1 60	CG V Total
Adaptability between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.983 0.879	0.000 0.020	3416.67 1.19	1 1 60	CG V Total

Stress control between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.976	0.000	2398.72	1	CG
	0.822	0.007	0.114	1	V
				60	Total
Public mood between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group	0.97	0.000	2511.89	1	CG
	0.89	0.004	0.22	1	V
				60	Total

Note: CG: control group; V: victim

Source: own research.

ness (being conscientious) between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group (P <0.01), and conscientiousness (being conscientious) is higher in the control group than in the female victims (see Table 3).

Based on the characteristic of intrapersonal skills and considering the value of F = 1.101 and also considering that the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, it can be said that there is a significant difference in the component of intrapersonal skills between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group (P <0.01); this means that the component of intrapersonal skills is lower in the women who experienced domestic violence than in the control group (Table 3).

According to the characteristic of extra-individual skills and according to the value of F = 0.048 and also considering that the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, there is a significant difference in the component of extra-individual skills between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group (P <0.01), and the component of extra-individual skills in control group is more than women who experienced domestic violence(Table3).

According to characteristic of adaptability and according to the value of F= 192.1, and also considering that the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, there is a significant difference in the component of adaptability between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group (P <0.01), and the component of adaptability in the control group has been higher than in the women who experienced domestic violence(Table3).

According to the characteristic of stress control and according to the value of F = 0.114, also considering that the significance level of the test error for the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, which means that the stress control component has been higher in control group than women who experienced domestic violence (Table 3).

According to the characteristic of public mood and according to the value of F = 0.2225 and also considering that the significance level of the test error for

the confidence level (0.99) is less than 0.01, this means that the components of the public mood in the control group has been higher than in the women who experienced domestic violence (Table 3).

Discussion

The study aims to compare personality traits and emotional intelligence in women who experienced domestic violence and the control group. The results for neuroticism showed that this characteristic was more likely to occur in women who experienced domestic violence than in the control group. These results were consistent with the findings of the research of Jamshidi et al. (2010); Atef Vahid et al. (2011); ZabrdastYosefabad (2011) and Panaghi et al. (2011). Panaghi et al. (2011) in a study entitled the role of personality and demographic characteristics in domestic violence showed that among the personality factors, the neuroticism component was able to predict psychological and physical violence. According to the findings of many studies, the characteristics of neuroticism in women who experienced domestic violence are not the cause of spousal misbehavior, but the consequence, and women involved in such relationships may adopt neurotic traits as adaptive responses to abnormal conditions (Herman, 1992).

The results of the extroversion feature showed that it was more common among control group than the women who experienced domestic violence. These results are consistent with the findings of research by Jamshidi et al. (2010), AtefVahid et al. (2011), Panaghi et al. (2011) and ZabrdastYosefabad (2011). Zabardast Yosefabad (2011) in a study comparing the dimensions of personality and attachment styles in the women who experienced domestic violence and control group, indicated that women who are victims with high neurosis, low pleasantness, lack of flexibility and low extroversion reduce pleasure and marital satisfaction.

The results of openness to new experiences have shown that this trait was more common among control group than women who experienced domestic violence. These results are consistent with the findings of Jamshidi et al. (2010), AtefVahidet al. (2011),Panaghi et al. (2011).

According to ZabrdastYosefabad (2011) women who score higher on the experience of openness to new experiences would likely show characteristics such as feeling beautiful, paying attention to their inner feelings, seeking diversity, independence in judgment, which may probably reduce domestic violence .

The results obtained regarding the characteristics of agreeableness showed that this feature was more common among control group than women who experienced domestic violence and these results with the findings of Jamshidi et al. (2010), AtefVahidet al. (2011), Panaghi et al. (2011), ZabrdastYosefabad (2011) are alike. Panaghi et al. (2011) in their study entitled the role of personality and demographic characteristics in spousal abuse showed that women who experienced domestic violence in the component of agreeableness received

low scores. It should be noted that the component of agreeableness, like extroversion, is an interpersonal dimension and refers to the types of interactions which one prefers, and these interactions are located along an appendix from compassion to hostility (Grose farshi, 2001).

The results of conscientiousness showed that this feature was more common among control group than women who experienced domestic violence. These results are consistent with the findings of research by Jamshidi et al. (2010), Atef Vahid et al. (2011), Panaghi et al. (2011) and ZabrdastYosefabad (2011).

Regarding the explanation of this finding, according to Abolghasemi & Narimani (2005) the component of conscientiousness which would be characterized by characteristics such as purposefulness, determination, precise, goodwill and confidence, women with these characteristics would probably be very effective in communicating with their family members, convincing them and increasing life satisfaction, which may possibly contribute to reducing domestic violence.

Findings related to the components of emotional intelligence, which include interpersonal skills, extra-individual skills, adaptability, stress control, and public mood, showed that there was a significant difference among all the components of emotional intelligence between the women who experienced domestic violence and the control group, and this difference is in favor of control group. The results were consistent with the findings of Shafietabar et al. (2008), Imam Hadi et al. (2009), Fitness (2001) and Gottman & Levenson (2004). Imam Hadi et al (2009), in a study, showed that the components of emotional intelligence in the women who experienced domestic violence and in the control group, showed that the overall score of emotional intelligence and components of interpersonal skills, extroversion skills, adaptability, stress control and public mood in control group were higher than women who experienced domestic violence. According to the results of Saarni (2000), one of the primary characteristics of people with high emotional intelligence is the ability to correctly identify emotions and judge the integrity of emotional manifestations. For this reason, these people are more successful in adapting to life, and this factor contributes to the reduction or even non-violence of spouses.

In addition, many aspects of emotional intelligence may be the basis for building a good relationship with others. Therefore, people with higher emotional intelligence are expected to have more social contacts and better quality relationships (Bar-on & Parker, 2000; Fitness et al., 2001; Gottman et al., 2004)

Conclusion

In general, the findings have shown that among the characteristics of the five major personality factors (NEO), only the neuroticism component was more prevalent among the women who experienced domestic violence, and the rest of the personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to new experiences) were higher in the control group.

Also, all components of emotional intelligence (extra-individual skills, intrapersonal skills, adaptability, stress control, and public mood) were higher among the control group than in the women who experienced domestic violence. All in all, personality traits and emotional intelligence skills are among the main factors related to domestic violence that would probably be very significant in reducing this violence.

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