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TITLE
SENTENCE COMPLETION TEST

AIM
To assess the personality traits i.e. sociability, self-confidence and ambition using sentence completion test.

INTRODUCTION

Personality is a dynamic organisation within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his/her unique adjustments in his environment. In a more recent definition psychologist Walter Michael (1976) mentioned both inner process and behaviour. According to him personality consisted of distinct patterns of behaviours (including thoughts and emotions) that characterise each individual's adaptation in the situations of his/her life. Personality has been studied by a number of psychologists. Some have put forward various theories to explain the organism and make up of personality.

Type approach tries to comprehend personality by examining certain broad patterns in the observed behavioural characteristics of the individual. Each behavioural pattern refers to one type in which individuals are placed in terms of similarity of behavioural characteristics with that pattern, whereas trait approach focuses on the specific psychological attributes along which a person tends to differ in consistent and stable ways. Trait theorists are mainly concerned with the

description of characterization of basic components of personality. They mainly emphasized on traits as the building blocks of personality.

A trait is considered as a relatively enduring attribute on which one individual differs from another.

Apart from various theories to assess and understand the personality, numerous tests have also been put forward by the psychologists. One of the techniques/tests commonly employed to comprehend the personality of an individual is sentence completion test.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST

Sentence Completion Test (SCT) is a method of presentation of beginning of sentences which then asks the subjects to complete the sentences in any way they would like. This method is based on the idea that it will reveal more about thoughts, fantasies and emotions conflicts than testing with direct questions.

This test falls under the ambit of “Projective Techniques”. The beginning of using the formal sentence completion method for personality assessment was in 1928 with Arthur Payne.

One of the most popular of these tests is RISB or Rotters Incomplete Sentence Blank, developed by Julian Rotter in 1950. In Sentence Completion Test the subject is asked to complete 50 incomplete sentences of which the first word or phrase is given and the rest of the blank sentence has to be completed by the subject in any way he/she would like. The Indian version was developed by L.N. Dubey, National Psychological Corporation, Agra. In this Sentence Completion Test the subject is asked to complete a sentence of which the first word or words are given. The tester encourages the subject to write the responses as quickly as possible, though the quickness of response is encouraged, there is no attempt to measure the speed of reaction. The response tends to provide information that the subject is willing to give.

It is assumed that the subject reflects his own wishes, desires, fantasies, hidden fears, motives, etc.

In contrast to the usual objective tests, the sentence completion method has the distinct advantage of providing the freedom of responses instead of forcing the subject to answer 'Yes' or 'No'. subject can respond to the stimulus as he/she wants. In addition to this, the nature of the test is somewhat designed and is less clear to the subject what constitutes a 'good' or 'bad' answer, therefore the subject can't manipulate the answer.

This test is divided into 3 trait areas:

(a) Sociability - 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 23, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 36, 48

(b) Self confidence - 2, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25, 27, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 49 and 50

(c) Ambitious - 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 26, 30, 33, 35, 37, 43 and 47

RELIABILITY

Method	Sociability	Self Confidence	Ambitious	Total
Split Half	.72	.69	.73	.62
Test Retest	.76	.71	.68	.67

VALIDITY

Traits	Coefficient of Correlation
Sociability	-.66
Self Confidence	-.73
Ambitious	-.69

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Sentence Completion Test Booklet
Manual of Sentence Completion Test
Paper
Pens
Pencil
Screen

SUBJECT'S PROFILE

NAME	Kuhu Pandey
AGE	45 Years
GENDER	Female
EDUCATION	Post Graduate
OCCUPATION	Housewife

PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION

Preparation:

The materials required for SCT were arranged and kept ready.

Rapport:

Rapport was established with the subject by having a conversation. The subject was told about the confidentiality of results and was made comfortable.

Instruction:

The subject was given proper instructions. The subject was told that he/she has to complete 50 incomplete sentences in the shortest time possible, with the first thought/word that comes to their mind. There is no time limit as such but the subject should finish the sentences as quickly as possible. Also that no sentence was to be left incomplete.

Precautions:

1. Subject should not take much time for any response.
2. Subject should write meaningful sentences,
3. Confidentiality was maintained.

Introspective Report:

The subject was given all the relevant instructions before conducting the experiment, the doubts of the subject were clarified. Subject felt at ease during the test except at a few places where she couldn't understand a few items. Her doubts were cleared. As per the subject she enjoyed the experiment and showed a keen interest while performing.

There was no apprehension. The subject showed cooperation.

Scoring and Interpretation:

Each sentence is placed under the following categories:

1. **Positive** - which shows the positive aspect of one of the traits -
Award 2 marks
2. **Negative** - which shows the negative aspect of one of the traits -
Award 1 mark
3. **Neutral** - which shows neither positive or negative aspect of the trait - Award 0 mark

The scoring was done after the subject completed the test. Positive sentences were awarded 2 marks, negative sentences were awarded 1 mark and sentences with neutral responses were given 0 marks.

Subject scored low on social skills and remains withdrawn most of the time, and also feels uncomfortable when around people.

Average score on self confidence indicates that the subject is not sure of the abilities, capabilities and potentials. The subject needs to work upon self confidence a bit. A high score on ambitions reflects the subject's will to move forward in her career or pursue her interests.

Overall the score was average, the subject needs to work a little bit upon being more social and having more self confidence. The subject will lead a successful life ahead.

Conclusion and Discussion:

This test was conducted to assess the personality traits, i.e., sociability, self-confidence, and ambition. The subject scores 21 on sociability, 30 on self confidence and 27 on ambitious and the overall score was 78 indicating an average overall score. Though the overall total score is average, the subject scored low on sociability, indicating withdrawn personality, with a moderate self-confidence, but scored high on ambitions.

The subject needs to work a little upon her social skills and needs to further strengthen her self confidence. Otherwise, the score is fine and the subject has an overall good personality.

References:-

- Symonds, P.M. (1947). The Sentence Completion Test as a projective technique, J. Abnormal Social Psychology.
- Morgan CT. King, R.A. Weing, J.R., Scholar J., Introduction to Psychology, New Delhi, Mc. Graw Hill, 24th edition (2004).