



**#68 PAPER 93 -**

**STRONG PERSONALITIES` PROFILES RELATED TO GENDER AND  
MARITAL STATUS IN A HEALTHY POPULATION OF STUDENTS – A CASE-  
STUDY**

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**Abstract**

*Strong personalities` analysis is useful in psychiatry and in healthy population. In this study I aimed at investigating whether there is a relation of strong personalities to gender and marital status in a healthy population of students. The presented results were obtained in a sample consisting in 1364 students, 39.3% male, 60.7% female, aged 19-30 years, 13% married, 81% unmarried, chosen through stratified random sampling. In conclusion, females are more emotive, exalted and anxious than males and males are more unruly than females; married students are more emotive, exalted, anxious (males and females), hyperexact (females) and demonstrative (males) than unmarried.*

**Keywords:** *strong personalities; gender; marriage; students*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Personality traits in relation with genetic or environmental factors were frequently approached in medical literature (Kang et al., 2014, Dinger et al., 2014). Strong personalities were approached especially in psychiatry. They are also useful in healthy people personalities` analysis. Leonhard (1972) considered strong personalities difficult to compare with research literature and mentioned the congruence and incongruence between what the subject said and nonverbal cues. Schmieschek (1970) created a strong personalities questionnaire in order to diagnose strong personalities and to create a strong personalities` profile. In this study I aimed at investigating whether there is a relation strong personalities profiles of a healthy population of students to gender and marital status.

**2. MATERIAL AND METHOD**

*2.1. Participants*

The investigated sample consisted of 1364 students (39.3% males, 60.7% females, aged 19-30 years, 13% married, 81% unmarried) chosen by stratified random sampling from 13 universities (about 100 students in each). After complete description of the study to the subjects, a written informed consent was obtained.

*2.2. Procedures*

In this study I used an observational inquiry (case-study) applying a Strong Personality Questionnaire (SPQ) (Schmieschek 1970) consisting in 88 items (each item was marked with "S" from SPQ): I-demonstrative – 12 items, II-hyperexact – 12 items, III-hyperperseverant – 12 items, IV-unruly – 8 items, V-hyperthymic – 8 items, VI-dythymic – 8 items, VII-cyclothymic – 8 items, VIII-exalted – 4 items, IX-anxious – 8 items, and X-emotive – 8 items. SPQ had a 0.823  $\alpha$ -Crohnbach index. I applied it individually, anonymously, for 1 hour length. The items of gender and marital status were included in a short "Personal characteristics" questionnaire attached to SPQ. A strong personalities profile was built and its variation related to gender and marital status was investigated.

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### 2.3. Analysis

Statistical analysis (chi square test-  $\chi^2$ , Fisher's exact test and gamma correlation coefficient- $\gamma$ ) was performed with the aid of a SPSS 20 program. In this analysis I considered entire sample. A gender analysis of married students was done, too.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1. Strong personalities profile of the entire sample

The symptomatic (more than 50%) strong personalities were: V-hyperthymic – 100% - 1<sup>st</sup> position, III-hyperperseverant – 83% - 2<sup>nd</sup>, X-emotive – 75% - 3<sup>rd</sup>, VII-cyclothymic – 62.5% - 4<sup>th</sup> position and I-demonstrative – 58.1% - 5<sup>th</sup> position.

### 3.2. Strong personalities profile depending on gender

The symptomatic strong personalities profile of females consisted of: V-hyperthymic – 100% - 1<sup>st</sup> position, X-emotive 87.5% - 2<sup>nd</sup>, III-hyperperseverant – 83% - 3<sup>rd</sup> position, VIII-exalted – 75% - 4<sup>th</sup>, VII-cyclothymic and IX-anxious 62.5% each - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively, I-demonstrative and II-hyperexact – 58.1% each – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> positions.

The symptomatic strong personalities` profile of males consisted of: V-hyperthymic - 100% - 1<sup>st</sup> position, III-hyperperseverant – 74.7% - 2<sup>nd</sup>, IV-unruly and VII-cyclothymic - 62.5% each – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> positions, and I-demonstrative – 58.1% - 5<sup>th</sup> position.

Significant statistically differences were found between female and male students for the symptomatic answers to certain items of: X-emotive, IX-anxious, and VIII-exalted nature in favor of female students and for IV-unruly nature in favor of male students (table 1).

### 3.3. Strong personalities depending on marital status

13% of investigated students were married, 6% were in consensual union and 81% were unmarried.

The symptomatic strong personalities of married students consisted of: V-hyperthymic and X-emotive nature – 100% each - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> positions, respectively, VIII-exalted – 75% - 3<sup>rd</sup>, III-hyperperseverant and I-demonstrative – 74.7% each - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively, and VII-cyclothymic and IX-anxious – 62.5% each, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively.

The symptomatic strong personalities` profile of unmarried students consisted of: V-hyperthymic - 100% - 1<sup>st</sup> position, X-emotive – 87.5% - 2<sup>nd</sup>, III-hyperperseverant – 74.7% - 3<sup>rd</sup>, VII-cyclothymic – 62.5% - 4<sup>th</sup>, VIII-exalted and IV-unruly – 50% each – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively.

Significant statistically differences ( $\chi^2$  and  $\gamma$ ) between married and unmarried students were found for the “Yes” answers to the items of:

X-emotive nature – S35 (Are you impressed when you see blood?) -  $\chi^2 = 47.08$ , Fisher exact test's significance 0.000,  $\gamma=0.50$ , Sig. 0.0000

IX-anxious nature – S38 – (Are you afraid to enter in a dark cellar?) -  $\chi^2 = 29.20$ , Fisher exact test's significance 0.000,  $\gamma=0.40$ , Sig. 0.0000; S60 – (Would you dislike to go through a cemetery in the dark?) -  $\chi^2 = 24.31$ , Fisher exact test's significance 0.000,  $\gamma=0.39$ , Sig. 0.0000

VIII-exalted – S76 – (Can you change your mood so suddenly, that you sometimes have a great feeling of joy, than fall into a state of heavy bitterness?) -  $\chi^2 = 12.04$ , Fisher exact test's significance 0.000,  $\gamma=0.29$ , Sig. 0.000

I-demonstrative – S41 – (Did you like to recite poems at school?) -  $\chi^2 = 9.40$ , Fisher exact test's significance 0.002,  $\gamma=0.24$ , Sig. 0.002

II-hyperexact – S17 – (Do certain people think you are pedant?) -  $\chi^2 = 6.72$ , Fisher exact test's significance 0.006,  $\gamma=0.2$ , Sig. 0.01.

Table 1. Chi square ( $\chi^2$ ), Fisher test values and gamma correlation coefficients ( $\gamma$ ) with high statistical significance for answers to certain items on strong personalities depending on gender

| Strong personalities | Items | Answers and questions                                                                                                                   | $\chi^2$  | Fisher's exact test Sig. (a) | $\gamma$ (c, d) | Sig.  |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| IV-Unruly nature     | S42   | Yes – Have you ever run away from home when you were a child?                                                                           | 23.42(b)  | 0.000                        | -               | 0.000 |
|                      | S52   | Yes – When someone upset you a lot and intentionally, are you likely to lose control and start a fight?                                 | 28.10(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.29            | 0.000 |
| VIII-Exalted nature  | S10   | Yes – Are you able to feel strongly excited?                                                                                            | 14.96(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.27            | 0.000 |
|                      | S54   | Yes – Do you feel discouraged when you have deceptions?                                                                                 | 72.21(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.44            | 0.000 |
|                      | S76   | Yes – Can you change your mood so suddenly, that you sometimes have a great feeling of joy, than fall into a state of heavy bitterness? | 18.81(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.24            | 0.000 |
| IX-Anxious nature    | S16   | Yes – Are or where you scared by thunderstorms or dogs?                                                                                 | 48.71(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.38            | 0.000 |
|                      | S27   | Yes – When you were a child, were you afraid to remain alone at home in the evening?                                                    | 73.83(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.45            | 0.000 |
|                      | S38   | Yes – Are you afraid to go into a dark room?                                                                                            | 52.09(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.41            | 0.000 |
|                      | S49   | Yes – Are you sometimes tormented by a confusing fear that something bad could happen to you and your relatives?                        | 28.90(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.29            | 0.000 |
|                      | S60   | Yes – Would you dislike passing through the cemetery in the darkness?                                                                   | 40.82(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.34            | 0.000 |
|                      | S71   | Yes – Are you usually scared?                                                                                                           | 122.83(b) | 0.000                        | 0.57            | 0.000 |
|                      | S5    | No – During childhood were you as daring as your peers?                                                                                 | 22.89(b)  | 0.000                        | -               | 0.000 |
| X-emotive nature     | S3    | Yes – Do you burst into tears easily?                                                                                                   | 280.52(b) | 0.000                        | 0.76            | 0.000 |
|                      | S13   | Yes – Are you very merciful?                                                                                                            | 41.74(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.38            | 0.000 |
|                      | S35   | Yes – Are you impressed when you see blood?                                                                                             | 33.10(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.32            | 0.000 |
|                      | S57   | Yes – Can a tragic movie influence you so badly that you burst into tears?                                                              | 193.32(b) | 0.000                        | 0.69            | 0.000 |
|                      | S79   | Yes – Are you very impressed by the suffering of other people?                                                                          | 55.36(b)  | 0.000                        | 0.42            | 0.000 |
|                      | S25   | No – Are you able to cut an animal?                                                                                                     | 187.92(b) | 0.000                        | 0.68            | 0.000 |

- a. Computed only for a 2x2 table;
- b. 0 cells have expected count less than 5.

### 3.4. Gender variation of strong personalities in married students

76 students were married, with a gender distribution of 31% males and 69% females.

The symptomatic strong personalities` profile of married female students consisted of: X-emotive nature – 100% - 1<sup>st</sup> position, V-hyperthymic – 87.5% - 2<sup>nd</sup>, II-hyperexact – 83% - 3<sup>rd</sup>, VIII-exalted – 75% - 4<sup>th</sup>, IX-anxious -75% - 5<sup>th</sup>, III-hyperperseverant – 74.7% - 6<sup>th</sup> and I-demonstrative – 66.4% - 7<sup>th</sup> position.

The strong personalities profile of married male students consisted of: V-hyperthymic – 100% - 1<sup>st</sup> position, III-hyperperseverant – 66.4% - 2<sup>nd</sup>, I-demonstrative – 58.1% - 3<sup>rd</sup> and X-emotive, VII cyclothymic and VIII – exalted – 50% each, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively.

Significant statistically differences were found between married female and married male students for the symptomatic answers to the items referring to: X-emotive, IX-anxious, II-hyperexact (in favor of females) and I-demonstrative nature (in favor of males) (table 2).

Table 2. Chi square ( $\chi^2$ ), Fisher test values and gamma correlation coefficients ( $\gamma$ ) with high statistical significance for answers of married students to certain items on strong personalities depending on gender.

| Strong personalities | Items | Answers and questions                                                                                                                                 | $\chi^2$ | Fisher's exact test Sig. (a) | $\gamma$ (c, d) | Sig.  |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| X-Emotive nature     | S3    | Yes – Do you burst into tears easily?                                                                                                                 | 40.20(b) | 0.000                        | -               | 0.000 |
|                      | S57   | Yes – Can a tragic movie influence you so badly that you burst into tears?                                                                            | 37.86(b) | 0.000                        | 0.80            | 0.000 |
|                      | S25   | No – Are you able to cut an animal?                                                                                                                   | 49.21(b) | 0.000                        | 0.80            | 0.000 |
| IX-Anxious nature    | S16   | Yes – Are you or were you scared by thunderstorms or dogs?                                                                                            | 13.85(b) | 0.000                        | 0.55            | 0.000 |
|                      | S38   | Yes – Are you afraid to go into a dark room?                                                                                                          | 12.98(b) | 0.000                        | 0.54            | 0.000 |
|                      | S60   | Yes – Would you dislike passing through the cemetery in the darkness?                                                                                 | 12.74(b) | 0.000                        | 0.34            | 0.000 |
|                      | S71   | Yes – Are you usually scared?                                                                                                                         | 34.62(b) | 0.000                        | 0.71            | 0.000 |
| II-Hyperexact nature | S4    | Yes – After you finish a well done job, does it happen to you in doubt that you did well and you do not have peace until you convince yourself again? | 14.39(b) | 0.000                        | 0.56            | 0.000 |

|                        |     |                                                                                                                                                  |          |       |      |       |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|------|-------|
|                        | S17 | Yes – Are you pedant in the opinion of certain people?                                                                                           | 13.75(b) | 0.000 | 0.55 | 0.000 |
|                        | S26 | Yes – Do you mind the fact that the curtain or the tablecloth at home, are a little bent and you arrange them immediately?                       | 13.09(b) | 0.000 | 0.54 | 0.000 |
|                        | S48 | Yes – Do you sometimes return from your way to check – at home or at your work place – whether everything is all right and nothing could happen? | 12.32(b) | 0.000 | 0.54 | 0.000 |
|                        | S61 | Yes – Are you very careful that at your home each thing should have its own place?                                                               | 13.75(b) | 0.000 | 0.55 | 0.000 |
|                        | S80 | Yes – Usually, in the school notebooks, did you write a page again if it happen to make a blob?                                                  | 25.00(b) | 0.000 | 0.70 | 0.000 |
| I-demonstrative nature | S22 | Yes – Have you ever had crying crises?                                                                                                           | 13.82(b) | 0.000 | -    | 0.000 |
|                        |     |                                                                                                                                                  |          |       | 0.62 |       |

- a. Computed only for a 2x2 table;  
 b. 0 cells have expected count less than 5.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

In this study resulted a strong personalities` profile specific in young students` population (aged 19-30 years – intimacy-isolation developmental stage) (Erikson, 1968).

A gender influence on strong personalities also resulted in this study from personalities` profiles and statistical results. X-emotive, IX-anxious and VIII-exalted natures were significant statistical different in favor of females, and IV-unruly nature was significant statistical different in favor of males. In research literature studies sustain these results: women were more likely to experience affective instability (X-emotive nature) and less likely to endorse impulsivity (IV-unruly nature) at lower levels than men (Hoertel et al., 2014). An explanation of these gender differences also resulted from research literature, by two biomarkers measurements (cortisol and C reactive protein) associated with diminished extraversion (I-demonstrative nature) in women, and with increased anger (IV-unruly) in men (Suarez, Sundi, & Erkanli, 2014). Research findings also demonstrated the evidence of gender linked neuroanatomical background of Behavioral inhibition system and Behavioral activation system among non-clinical subjects (Li et al., 2014). In actual research literature specific personality disorders were seen by the investigated people as been masculine or feminine (Boysen, Ebersole, Casner & Coston, 2014).

In this study marriage had an influence on personality, although not so relevant as gender influence. Three strong personalities changed significantly the profile in married students: X-emotive, VIII-exalted and I-demonstrative nature. Significant statistical differences were found for X-emotive, IX-anxious, V-exalted, I-demonstrative and II-hyperexact natures between married and unmarried students.

When we analyzed gender differences in married students, they were found as statistical significant for X-emotive, IX-anxious, V-exalted, I-demonstrative (in favor of male students) and II-hyperexact natures (in favor of female students). A person`s feature can be modified by dyad as it resulted from other researches (Rauer & Volling, 2013). In this study X-emotive nature (emotions come out easier) was high symptomatic in both gender of married students. In other studies the psychological distress of married people appears to be associated with enduring traits (the personality trait neuroticism) and the most important mediating personality factor between marital dissatisfaction and a first episode of major depression was “neuroticism” (Tavares & Aassve, 2013). Misbalance between the samples of unmarried and married students could affect the results and represents a limit of the study.

Variation of strong personalities` profile depending on marriage and gender indicates high symptomatic II-hyperexact nature for married females and high symptomatic demonstrative nature for married males. For both sexes the marital status was associated with favorable well-being as it results from other study (Wood, Rhodes & Whelan, 1989).

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Strong personalities` analysis is a useful approach to the investigation of similarities and differences in a healthy population. Strong personalities` profiles and statistical differences identified female students as being X-emotive, VIII-exalted and IX-anxious and male students as being more IV-unruly. Married students are more X-emotive, VIII-exalted, IX-anxious, I-demonstrative (males) and II-hyperexact (females) than unmarried. In conclusion, a relation between personal characteristics (gender and marital status) and strong personalities of students is suggested.

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