

PERSONALITY ADJUSTMENT OF TRIBAL AND NONTRIBAL YOUTH[#]

Utpala Goswami

*Department of Child Development and Family Relations
Faculty of Home Sciences
Assam Agricultural University
Assam, India*

The study was made on 400 youths with 117 tribal and 283 non-tribal respondents from the colleges with a view to understand the personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal youths to find out the gender difference in personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal youth. The youths who were in under graduate level and in higher secondary level were selected. They belonged to 17 to 22 years of age group, unemployed and admitted in the day shift. The Adjustment Inventory for College Students (AICS, Sinha & Singh, 1980, 1984) was used to collect data. The samples were selected from Jorhat and Dibrugarh District of Assam (India). As the thrust area of the present study is to identify similarities and dissimilarities of personality adjustment between Sonowal Kachari, and nontribes, the areas predominantly inhabited by the Sonowal Kacharis were selected. The study revealed that community and gender did not play significant role in personality adjustment of youth. While analyzing the personality adjustment of female youth in relation to community the tribal female youth showed better in their personality adjustment.

The study was on the Sonowal Kacharis, a schedule tribe of Assam (India), particularly with a view to understand the adjustment

[#] Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Utpala Goswami, Department of Child Development and Family Relations Faculty of Home Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat- 785 013, Assam, India.

^{##} The author also acknowledges the cooperation of Dr. Mukul Kumar Sarma, Ex-Head, Department of Education, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam; Dr. Uma Shankar Das, Professor of Statistics (Research), Directorate of Research, Assam Agricultural University, Horhat; Sri Raju Prasad Paswan, Computer Programmer, Computer Centre, Department of Agricultural Statistics, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat; and the Director, Tribal Research Institute, Guwahati, Assam, India, whose academician helped a lot in completion of this research.

patterns of their youths as compared with those of their nontribal counterpart. Of the total of nine tribes scheduled in the plains of Assam (India), the Sonowal Kacharis that form the third largest plains tribal group, is one of the most advanced among the tribes (Bardoloi & Sharma, 1988). After independence, the need for an extensive research on various tribes of India was urgently felt so that the planners could evolve suitable developmental plans and programmes for the uplift of such tribes. With that end in view, Tribal Research Institutes were established in various states of India, including Assam. As per the data published in the Bulletin (1983) of the Tribal Research Institute in Guwahati, the total population of the Sonowal Kacharis in Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts are 15,534 and 48,561, respectively. Literacy among these tribes are 27.33 per cent (male: 35.36; female: 18.77). These figures seem to be high when compared with corresponding figures for the Hajong, Lalung, Miri (Mishing) and Boro, Boro-Kachri tribes of Assam (Bordoloi, 1985).

Keeping in view the backdrop of tribal population in Assam as indicated above and making an interaction with the Director, Tribal Research Institute, Assam, Guwahati, it was felt that an in-depth study to understand adjustment patterns of Sonowal Kacharis *vis-à-vis* their comparison with nontribal counterpart in Assam might reveal important information to fill up existing gaps in this regard.

Traditionally, adolescence is a period of heightened emotionality, a time of "storm and stress". Most of the adolescents do experience emotional instability from time to time resulting from the physical and glandular changes. It is true that growth continues through the early years of adolescence, it does so at a progressive slower rate during the later years.

Not all adolescents go through a period of exaggerated storm and stress, most of them face instability, which is logical consequence of the necessity of making adjustments to new patterns of behaviour and to new social expectations. Emotionally mature adolescents are stable in their emotional responses and they do not swing from one emotion or mood to an other (Hurlock, 1981).

The students generally remain passive listeners in class. This passivity creates emotional stress. Games are important to release the pent up feelings of the day. Schools, which do not have these facilities, create more delinquents than schools which have these facilities (Chauhan, 1978).

The home and family have special significance during adolescence. In spite of the rapid changes within the modern family, the home is still the most potent factor in regulating the behaviour of young people. The mother is more likely to be overprotective, because she is charged with the child's care. His misdeeds and failing are attributed to her faults (Devadas & Jaya, 1984).

Jain and Panwar (1992) studied criminal behaviour as a function on parents acceptance. The results showed that the noncriminals were accepted with love and affection. Prescription for a specific parent-child relationship cannot be laid down. The best relationship is one that contributes to the welfare of both the parent and the child. Parents who lack insight or are deeply involved in their own difficulties may meet troubles. Children whose attachment to their parents is moderate are actually happier than those whose relation is a very intimate one. Adolescents do need complete confidence in the love of their parents.

It is with such considerations that the present study was undertaken with the objectives to explore the personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal youth, and to see whether any gender difference exist in personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal youth.

METHOD

Sample

As the thrust area is to identify similarities and dissimilarities in personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal college going students referred to here in as youth who were studying in under graduate level and in higher secondary level, were selected. They belong to 17 to 22 years of age group, unemployed and admitted in the day shift. Youth from both genders were selected for the study.

Sonowal Kachari and nontribals living side by side, naturally those areas were selected where the Sonowal Kachari population is concentrated. These areas are (I) in Jorhat district a) villages from Titabar Block, two blocks from the river island of the Brahmaputra, (b) Ujanimajuli Block, and (c) Kamalabari Block, and (II) In Dibrugarh district (a) villages from Tiloi Block, and (b) village from Khowang Block.

These areas are predominately inhabited by the Sonowal Kacharis.

Instrument

The Adjustment Inventory for College Students (AICS) (Sinha & Singh, 1980, 1984) was administered on a group of 40 normal college

students in order to get familiarized with its administration and also to ascertain whether or not the respondents can understand the questions contained in it. The AICS was found satisfactory on this score. Twenty maladjusted youth (4 from each area, i.e., home, health, social, emotional, and educational) were selected on the basis of opinion of persons intimately connected with them. *viz.*, parents, teachers of the colleges where they study, and social leaders of the particular locality where they live. Reliability of the inventory was determined by test-retest method.

Procedure

The data collected through the instrument mentioned above were neatly arranged in appropriate tables. On the basis of the data collected through the first tool namely the AICS, the respondents were grouped into five categories like 'excellent', 'good', 'average', 'unsatisfactory', and 'very unsatisfactory' levels of adjustment. In order to study the community and gender difference of personality adjustment of youths, *chi-square* test (Gupta, 1984) was adopted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was seen from Table 1 that there was not much difference in the distribution of percentage of tribal and nontribal youth. In all levels excepting 'excellent', and 'average' in personality adjustment, the percentage was seen more in tribal youths. On the other hand, 'very unsatisfactory' adjustment was seen among more member of nontribal youth.

Table 1

Personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal youth.

Adjustment Level	Tribal (n = 117)		Nontribal (n = 283)	
	n	%	n	%
Excellent	5	4	4	1
Good	7	6	11	4
Average	27	23	36	13
Unsatisfactory	23	20	58	20
Very unsatisfactory	55	47	174	62

$\chi^2 = 7.02$ (nonsignificant)

The non-significant value of *chi-square* test proved that community had no role to play directly in personality adjustment. The difference between the Sonowal Kachari and nontribal youth in the personality adjustment was not significant but while considering the percentage analysis, the tribal group showed better adjusted. In most of the components of personality adjustment of youth like home, health, social, emotional, and educational adjustment the Sonowal Kachari youths showed better adjusted than their counterpart. Moreover, it may be a well accepted fact that the tribal youth know that tribal development is a constitutional obligation. The constitution of India directs the states to promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the scheduled tribes and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The present finding found support in the statement of Goswami (1990).

The personality adjustment in relation to gender are depicted in Tables 2, 3, and 4.

Table 2

Gender difference in personality adjustment of youth.

Adjustment Level	Male (<i>n</i> = 139)		Female (<i>n</i> = 261)	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Excellent	4	3	5	2
Good	12	9	6	2
Average	19	14	44	17
Unsatisfactory	34	24	47	18
Very unsatisfactory	70	50	159	61

$\chi^2 = 6.84$ (nonsignificant)

It was evident from data in Table 2, that there was not much difference in the distribution of percentage of both male and female youth in personality adjustment levels. But in all the levels of adjustment the male youth were better adjusted except for the 'average' level of adjustment. The nonsignificant value of *chi-square* test proved that gender did not play significant role directly in personality adjustment.

Table 3

Personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal male youth.

Adjustment Level	Tribal (n = 51)		Nontribal (n = 88)	
	n	%	n	%
Excellent	2	4	2	2
Good	4	8	8	9
Average	11	21	8	9
Unsatisfactory	9	18	25	29
Very unsatisfactory	25	49	45	51

 $\chi^2 = 8.1$ (nonsignificant)

In personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal youths in relation to male gender, the data show that there was not much difference in the adjustment level of both tribal and nontribal youths (Table 3). The proportion of tribal male youth exhibiting 'average' level of personality adjustment was double when compared with their counterpart.

Table 4

Personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal female youth.

Adjustment Level	Tribal (n = 66)		Nontribal (n = 195)	
	n	%	n	%
Excellent	3	5	2	1
Good	3	5	3	2
Average	16	24	28	14
Unsatisfactory	14	21	33	17
Very unsatisfactory	30	45	129	66

 $\chi^2 = 7.02$ (nonsignificant)

The maximum number (66%) of nontribal female youth exhibited 'very unsatisfactory' level of adjustment when it was only 45 per cent in the case of tribal female youths (Table 4). In 'excellent', 'good', and 'average' levels of adjustment, the tribal female youth numbered twice as many when compared with nontribal female youth.

The significant *chi-square* (at .05%) value also showed the trend that personality adjustment levels were not same in the female youth from both the tribal and nontribal groups.

The need of personality adjustment was not found the same in all three variables *viz.*, gender difference in personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal, male youth and personality adjustment of tribal and nontribal female youth as presented in Tables 2, 3, and 4, respectively. Excepting the third variable, the first two showed that there was not much difference in personality adjustment in general for male and female youth and in the case of male youth from tribal and nontribal groups. The non-significant *chi-square* value also provided support for these hypotheses. But in the case of female youth the results indicate that the tribal female youth were better in their personality adjustment compared to nontribal female youth. A female youth in tribal society is a pervasive person. She is a combination of many facets of a woman right from her childhood. She is a helper to her parents and her elders and thus she becomes an ideal member in society as a result of which the tribal female showed better in their personality adjustment. The significant *chi-square* did not support the original hypothesis, and hence the same is rejected.

In conclusion, community had no role to play directly on personality adjustment of youth. Gender did not play any role directly on personality adjustment of youth. Community had played significant role on personality adjustment of female youth. The tribal female youth were found to be better than their counterparts.

REFERENCES

- Bordoloi, B. N. (1983). *Bulletin of Assam Institute of Research for Tribal and Scheduled Caste*. Guwahati.
- Bordoloi, B. N. (1985). *Strategies for tribal development in North East India with special reference to Assam*. Assam: Bulletin of the Tribal Research Institute.
- Bordoloi, B. N., & Sharma, G. C. (1988). *Tribes of Assam (Part II)*.
- Chauhan, S. S. (1978). *Advanced educational psychology*. New Delhi: Vikash Publishing House.
- Goswami, A. (1990). Tribal development in India with special reference to Assam. *Bulletin of Assam*, 1(3), 16.. Assam: Institute of Research for Tribal and Scheduled Castes.

- Gupta, S. P. (1984). *Statistical methods*. New Delhi: Mulnchand & Sons Publishers.
- Hurlock, E. B. (1981). *Personality development*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill Publishing Company Ltd.
- Jain, S., & Panwar, S. (1992). A study of criminal behaviour as a function on parental acceptance. *Indian Journal of Criminology*, 20(2), 10.
- Sinha, & Singh. (1984). *Adjustment inventory for college students: AIGS*. Agra: National Psychological Corporation Agra, India.

Received: March 31, 1998.