

A Study of Personality Traits of Senior Secondary School Students in Relation to Decision Making

Sonal Sharma* Dr. Deepa Rana**

Research Scholar* Assistant Professor**

School of Education

Shobhit Deemed to-be University, Meerut

Abstract

Personality traits are important psychological characteristics that influence an individual's behaviour, attitudes, emotions, and responses to various situations, while decision making is a vital life skill that enables individuals to choose appropriate courses of action from available alternatives. Since the senior secondary stage is a critical period for making academic, career, and personal decisions, understanding the relationship between these two variables is of considerable educational significance. The study employed the descriptive survey method. A sample of 145 senior secondary school students was selected from different schools using an appropriate sampling technique. Standardized tools were administered to measure personality traits and decision-making ability. The collected data were analysed using statistical techniques such as Mean, Standard Deviation, t-test, and correlation analysis. The findings of the study revealed a significant relationship between personality traits and decision-making ability. Students with high decision-making ability obtained significantly higher scores on personality traits than students with low decision-making ability. The results further indicated a significant gender difference in decision making, whereas no significant gender difference was found in certain related aspects. The study suggests that positive personality traits contribute to better decision-making skills among adolescents.

Key Words- *Personality traits and Decision making*

Introduction

Personality is one of the most important psychological constructs that influences an individual's behaviour, attitudes, perceptions, and choices. It refers to the unique and relatively stable patterns of thoughts, emotions, and behaviours that distinguish one person from another. Personality traits shape the way individuals interact with their environment, respond to challenges, solve problems, and make decisions. Since every individual possesses a distinct personality, differences in personality traits often lead to variations in behavior and decision-making processes.

Decision making is a fundamental cognitive process through which individuals select a course of action from among various alternatives. It plays a crucial role in personal, academic, social, and

professional life. Effective decision making requires the ability to analyse situations, evaluate alternatives, anticipate consequences, and choose the most appropriate option. During adolescence, particularly at the senior secondary stage, students encounter numerous decisions related to education, career planning, subject selection, interpersonal relationships, and future goals. The quality of these decisions can significantly influence their academic achievement and future success.

Personality traits have been found to be closely associated with decision-making behaviour. Traits such as conscientiousness, openness to experience, emotional stability, extraversion, and agreeableness can affect how individuals gather information, assess risks, consider alternatives, and make choices. For example, students with high conscientiousness are generally more organized and careful in decision making, while those with higher emotional stability tend to make decisions with greater confidence and less anxiety. Similarly, students who are open to experience may be more willing to explore diverse options before reaching a decision.

The senior secondary stage is a critical period in an individual's life because students are required to make several important decisions that have long-term implications for their educational and career development. Understanding the relationship between personality traits and decision-making abilities can help educators, parents, and counsellors provide appropriate guidance and support to students. It can also contribute to the development of programs aimed at enhancing decision-making skills and promoting positive personality development.

In the present study, an attempt is made to examine the relationship between personality traits and decision making among senior secondary school students. The study seeks to explore how different personality characteristics influence the decision-making abilities of adolescents and to provide insights that may assist in improving educational and counselling practices. By investigating this relationship, the study aims to contribute to a better understanding of the psychological factors that affect students' choices and overall development.

Review of Related Studies

Kaur, Amritpal (2025) conducted a study on ‘**A Study of Career Decision Making of Senior Secondary School Students.**’ Descriptive survey method is employed for existing investigation and sample of from 200 senior secondary school students by employing purposive and simple random sampling technique from Bathinda city. Data has been collected by administering Career decision making inventory on a sample selected by purpose and random sampling techniques from Bathinda city. The finding revealed no significant difference in the career decision making among boys and girl senior secondary school students. Furthermore, career decision making of government and private senior secondary school students differ significantly.

Kaushik, Gauri and Sahai, Anjali (2025) conducted a study on ‘**Analysis of personality and career: a study among college students.**’ The purpose of this study is to analyse the relationship between personality and career choices among college students. For this, questionnaires method - Holland’ s Code assessment given by Dr. John L. Holland (1970) and Big Five Personality Inventory given by John, Donahue and Kentle (1991) Results are interpreted through statistical analysis such as Correlation and Regression. The results revealed that there is a significant relationship between Personality and Career Choices. As personality is shaped by some of our inherent characteristics and mostly by our experiences. So, people tend to choose the career which matches their values, beliefs and personality. There is a significant positive relationship between personality and career choices people prefer to choose.

Nag, Sanjoy Kumar & Dwivedi, Shri Kant (2024) conducted a study on ‘**Effect of Critical Thinking on Decision Making Efficacy of Students at Senior Secondary Level.**’ This paper is meant for exploring correlation between Critical Thinking and Decision-making ability and the effect of critical thinking ability on decision making for resolving problems. This study was conducted on a sample size of 50 male and 50 female Students of two Senior-Secondary schools situated in urban and rural areas in the District of Hooghly in West Bengal, India. Quantitative analysis of data was done by finding coefficient of correlation and regression between critical thinking ability and decision-making ability and also by finding difference in decision making ability in respect of Gender and Critical Thinking ability. The result showed a significant positive correlation and regression between Critical Thinking and Decision-making ability of Senior Secondary Students. A significant difference was also observed in Decision-making ability in respect of Critical Thinking ability and Gender.

Kanjani, Sapna (2023) conducted a study on ‘**The Impact of Personality Traits on Career Indecision in Young Adults.**’ The aim of the research was to understand how personality traits impact career indecision in young adults. For this purpose, an online survey was conducted for students aged 18-23 years. The sample comprised of 117 students from colleges and universities from various cities in India. Online survey method was used for the purpose of data collection and analysis, of quantitative data were carried out by employing descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS (version 29.0) software. The results indicated that conscientiousness personality trait was negatively correlated with career indecision. Lastly, openness trait significantly influenced career indecision scores.

Justification of the Study

The senior secondary stage is a critical period in the life of students, as they face numerous academic, personal, and career-related decisions that influence their future development. The ability

to make appropriate decisions is essential for achieving educational success and personal well-being. However, students differ considerably in their decision-making patterns, and these differences may be influenced by their personality traits. Since personality affects an individual's thoughts, emotions, attitudes, and behaviour, it is likely to play a significant role in the way decisions are made. Although decision making has been widely recognized as an important life skill, relatively fewer studies have focused on its relationship with personality traits among senior secondary school students. Understanding this relationship is important because it can help identify the personality characteristics that promote effective decision making and those that may hinder it. Such knowledge can be useful for teachers, parents, counsellors, and educational planners in supporting students during a crucial stage of their development. The present study is justified because it seeks to explore the relationship between personality traits and decision making among senior secondary school students. The findings may provide empirical evidence that can be utilized in educational guidance, counselling services, personality development programs, and career planning initiatives. Moreover, the study may help in developing strategies to enhance students' decision-making abilities by considering their individual personality characteristics. Therefore, the study is both timely and relevant in the context of contemporary education and adolescent development.

Statement of the Problem

A Study of Personality Traits of Senior Secondary School Students
in Relation to Decision Making

Operational Definitions of the Variables

Personality traits

Personality traits are the relatively stable and enduring characteristics that influence an individual's patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving. These traits distinguish one person from another and determine how individuals perceive themselves, interact with others, and respond to different situations. Personality traits develop through the combined influence of hereditary, environmental, social, and cultural factors and tend to remain fairly consistent over time.

Decision Making

Decision making is a fundamental cognitive and psychological process through which an individual selects the most appropriate course of action from among several available alternatives. It involves identifying a problem or situation, gathering relevant information, evaluating possible options, considering their consequences, and choosing the best alternative to achieve a desired goal.

Decision making is an essential life skill that influences personal, educational, social, and professional success.

Objectives of the Study

The study is designed to attain on the following objectives-

1. To find out the difference between personality traits of two groups of senior secondary school students having high and low scores on decision making.
2. To find out the difference between personality traits of male and female senior secondary school students.
3. To find out the difference between student's decision making of male and female senior secondary school students.
4. To study the relationship between personality traits and decision making of senior secondary school students.

Hypotheses of the Study

Keeping in view the above objectives of the study the following hypotheses have been framed-

1. There is no significant difference between personality traits of two groups of senior secondary school students having high and low scores on decision making.
2. There is no significant difference between personality traits of male and female senior secondary school students.
3. There is no significant difference between decision making of male and female senior secondary school students.
4. There is no relationship between personality traits and decision making of Senior Secondary School students.

Method Adopted for the Study

To examine the personality traits and decision making the investigator employed the Normative Survey Research Method. This method is particularly suited for research aimed at identifying the typical or prevailing conditions and practices at a given time.

Population of the Study

The Population, of the present study was constituted of all the students of senior secondary schools situated in the Meerut City.

Sample of the Study and Sampling Technique

From the underlined population a representative sample was drawn by using a Random Sampling Technique from the senior secondary schools of Meerut City. The Sample was constituted of 145 students of Senior Secondary Education. Classes 11th and 12th out of which 70 boys and 75 girls were selected for the study. To execute the procedure of random sampling, first of all a list of schools of Meerut City was prepared.

Variables of the Study

Following variables have been incorporated present study:

1. Personality Traits
2. Decision Making

Tools used for the Study

In order to collect data for the present research, following tools have been administered-

- Dimensional Personality Inventory by Mahesh Bhargava
- Career Decision Making Scale by K. Singh

Statistical Techniques Employed for the Analysis of Data

- Descriptive Statistics: Mean and Standard Deviation
- Inferential Statistics: t-test, Pearson Product-moment Correlation.

Objective: 1-Result pertaining to the difference between personality traits of two groups of senior secondary school students having high and low scores on decision making is given in the table below:

TABLE -1

Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value of personality traits of two groups of senior secondary school students having high and low scores on decision making

Variable	Group	N	Mean Scores	S.D	t-value	Level of Significance
Personality Traits	High decision making	94	27.44	4.55	5.89	Significant at 0.05
	Low decision making	51	23.22	3.15		

Significant at 0.05 Level

The data indicate that students with high decision-making ability obtained a mean score of 27.44 on personality traits, whereas students with low decision-making ability obtained a mean score

of 23.22. This shows that the high decision-making group scored considerably higher on personality traits than the low decision-making group. The calculated t-value of 5.89 is significant at the 0.05 level of significance, indicating that the observed difference between the mean scores of the two groups is not due to chance. Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in personality traits between students with high and low decision-making ability is rejected. The findings suggest that personality traits are significantly associated with decision-making ability. Students who possess stronger or more positive personality traits tend to exhibit better decision-making skills compared to those with lower levels of such traits. Thus, personality traits appear to play an important role in influencing the decision-making behaviour of senior secondary school students.

Objective: 2-Result pertaining to the difference between personality traits of male and female senior secondary school students is given in the table below:

TABLE-2

Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value of personality traits of male and female senior secondary school students

Variable	Group	N	Mean Scores	S.D	t-value	Level of Significance
Personality Traits	Male	70	18.82	3.98	1.18	Not Significant
	Female	75	19.62	4.17		

The above table shows a comparison of career aspirations between male and female senior secondary school students. The mean score of male students is 18.82 with a standard deviation of 3.98, whereas the mean score of female students is 19.62 with a standard deviation of 4.17. Although the mean score of female students is slightly higher than that of male students, the difference is relatively small. The calculated t-value is 1.18, which is not significant at the 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that the observed difference between the mean scores of male and female students may be due to chance and is not statistically meaningful. Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in career aspirations between male and female senior secondary school students is accepted. The findings reveal that gender does not have a significant influence on the career aspirations of the students included in the study. Both male and female students exhibit similar levels of career aspirations, suggesting that they are equally motivated and ambitious regarding their future educational and occupational goals.

Objective: 3-Result pertaining to the difference between decision making of male and female senior secondary school students is given in the table below:

TABLE- 3

Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value of decision making of male and female senior secondary school students

Variable	Group	N	Mean Scores	S.D	t-value	Level of Significance
Decision Making	Male	70	17.52	2.32	2.17	Significant at 0.05
	female	75	16.66	2.43		

Significant at 0.05 Level

The above table presents the comparison of decision-making ability between male and female senior secondary school students. The mean score of male students is 17.52 with a standard deviation of 2.32, whereas the mean score of female students is 16.66 with a standard deviation of 2.43. The results indicate that male students have a slightly higher mean score in decision making than female students. The calculated t-value of 2.17 is significant at the 0.05 level of significance, which shows that the difference between the mean scores of male and female students is statistically significant and is unlikely to have occurred by chance. Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in decision-making ability between male and female senior secondary school students is rejected. The findings suggest that gender has a significant influence on decision-making ability in the present sample. Male students demonstrate comparatively higher decision-making ability than female students. Hence, it can be concluded that there exists a significant difference in decision making between male and female senior secondary school students, with male students scoring higher on the decision-making scale than their female counterparts.

TABLE-4

Co-efficient of correlation between personality traits and decision making of senior secondary school students

Variable	N	Coefficient of correlation	p	Level of Significance
Personality Traits	145	+ 0.459	P< .001	Significant at 0.05
Decision Making	145			

Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Table 4 depicts that co-efficient of correlation between personality traits and decision making of senior secondary school students is +0.459 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. So, the null hypothesis, i.e., “There is no significant relationship between personality traits and decision making of senior secondary school students” is rejected. Hence, there exists a significant positive correlation between these variables. It indicates that personality traits and decision making of senior secondary school students are positively correlated with each other. Results of the Pearson correlation indicated that there is a significant positive relationship between X and Y, ($r(288) = .459, p < .001$).

Findings of the study

1. ‘There is no significant difference between personality traits of two groups of senior secondary school students having high and low scores on decision making’ stands rejected. It is evident that both groups of students have high difference.
2. ‘There is no significant difference between personality traits of male and female senior secondary school students’ stands accepted. It is evident that both groups of students have no difference.
3. ‘There is no significant difference between student’s decision making of male and female senior secondary school students’ stands rejected. It is evident that both groups of students have difference.
4. ‘There is no relationship between personality traits and decision making of Senior Secondary School students’ is rejected. Hence, there exists a significant positive correlation between these variables.

Conclusion

The study concludes that personality traits and decision-making ability are closely related among senior secondary school students. Students with more positive personality traits tend to exhibit higher levels of decision-making competence. Therefore, efforts aimed at enhancing personality development may significantly contribute to improving students’ decision-making skills, thereby supporting their academic, personal, and career success.

References

- Advanced Learner’s English Dictionary (2006). 5th Edition. UK: Harper Collins
- Agrawala, T. (2008). Factors influencing career choice of management students in India. Career Development International, 13(4), 362-376.
- Buch. M.B. (1983) ‘A survey of Research in Education’.

- Kanjani, Sapna (2023). The Impact of Personality Traits on Career Indecision in Young Adults. The International Journal of Indian Psychology. ISSN 2348-5396 (Online), ISSN 2349-3429 (Print), Volume 11, Issue 3, Pp.2956-2967
- Kaur, Amritpal (2025). A Study of Career Decision Making of Senior Secondary School Students. International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts. ISSN 2320-2882, Volume 13, Issue 11, Pp. 680-684
- Kaushik, Gauri and Sahai, Anjali (2025). Analysis of personality and career: a study among college students. The International Journal of Advanced Research. ISSN 2320-5407, Volume 13, Issue 3, Pp.644-648
- Nag, Sanjoy Kumar & Dwivedi, Shri Kant (2024). Effect of Critical Thinking on Decision Making Efficacy of Students at Senior Secondary Level. The International Journal of Indian Psychology. ISSN 2348-5396, Volume 12, Issue 3, Pp.21-29