

ABSTRACT

As ecology and history shaped culture, any discussion of the roots and practices of a discipline like psychology needs to be couched in the historical context since the present emerges from the interaction between the past and the zeitgeist (Bhawuk, 2003a, 2005; Liu & Hilton, 2005; Triandis, 1994). It is important to do so because this would establish objectivity about the role of psychology in shaping our viewpoint and the knowledge that we create. Indian psychology has evolved from the epistemological field of Indian philosophy.

The present study, entitled “To test and construct the multi-component trait model of personality in Indian psychology”, makes an attempt to lay an objective eye on Indian Psychology, by identifying traits from *Triguna* and preparing a trait model of personality. The research began with an introduction of Indian psychology, Western and Indian perspectives on personality and related review of literature, followed by the rationale of the study, research objectives and questions. The conceptual framework of the Trait model of personality in Indian psychology and operational definitions of the traits incorporated in the study were mentioned ahead. For the empirical analysis of the conceptual trait model, a questionnaire was developed. The data was collected in two sets using this questionnaire. One set of data on 533 participants was analysed for descriptive statistics and exploratory factor analysis. The exploratory factor analysis revealed 11 factors of *Triguna* - *Sattvic* Knowledge, *Sattvic* spirituality, *Sattvic* habit, Tranquillity, Maturity, Emotional Stability, Empathy, *Tamasic* Knowledge, *Tamasic* habit, *Rajasic* Habit and Passion; with reliability ranging from 0.6 to 0.7. The 11 factor empirical model of personality in Indian psychology was subjected to confirmatory factor analysis through structural equation modelling. A second set of data on 1018 participants was collected for the same. The results of confirmatory factor analysis revealed a good model fit indices for 11-factor trait model of personality in Indian psychology. The questionnaire was standardized and norms were developed in form of stanine norms for general population, male and female group, and five professional groups (medical personnel, engineers, teaching professionals, administrative professionals and students pursuing

higher education). Personality profiles for males, females and of the above mentioned professional groups were generated as well. Conclusion and implications were drawn and mentioned in the end.

Keywords: Indian psychology, personality, trait model, exploratory factor analysis, structural equation modelling