

Personality Traits Profile in a Sample of Occupational Therapy Practitioners in Puerto Rico.
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Introduction: The construct of personality has been studied over the past's decades and has been identified as an important variable related to job performance, training proficiency, leadership, team work, decision making and problem solving skills. Objectives: Obtain a personality traits profile in a sample of occupational therapy professionals in Puerto Rico based on the big Five Personality Model by Costa & McCrae (2000). Methods: The sample of this research was selected by convenience including occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. The participants completed a Sociodemographic Data Questionnaire and the 50 item Five Factor Personality Inventory (2001). The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences was used for the statistical analysis. Results: The sample consisted of 255 occupational therapy professionals of which 83.2% had a bachelor degree and 14.9% had an associate degree. Through factor analysis technique, the variability of the scale was caused by the factor neuroticism. The reliability coefficients for the five subscales ranged from .90 to .73. The outcomes indicate significant statistical differences between the means of the groups considering the gender variable, in relation to the extraversion factor ($p < .05$); and between the means of the group that are member of professional associations and the group who are not, in relation to the factor of openness to experiences ($p < .01$). Conclusions: There are more similarities than differences between the sample of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Puerto Rico. The results illustrate the benefits of using the five factor model to describe the personality traits. Practice Implications: The findings have numerous implications for research and practice in personnel psychology and occupational therapy, especially in the subfields of personnel selection, training, and development of the core values and professional competencies of students in occupational therapy programs.

References

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