

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 061 285

TM 001 236

AUTHOR Soares, Louise M.; Soares, Anthony T.
TITLE Personality and Occupational-Interest Correlates of Disadvantaged Students.
PUB DATE Apr 72
NOTE 7p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 1972

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.65 HC-\$3.29
DESCRIPTORS Correlation; *Disadvantaged Youth; Educationally Disadvantaged; Health Services; High School Students; *Occupational Aspiration; Office Occupations; Peer Relationship; *Personality Studies; Psychological Characteristics; Sales Occupations; Self Esteem; Service Occupations; *Sex Differences; Statistical Analysis; *Test Results

IDENTIFIERS High School Personality Questionnaire; HSPQ; Institute for Personality and Ability Testing; IPAT; *Minnesota Vocational Interest Inventory; MVII

ABSTRACT

Disadvantaged high school males indicated on the Minnesota Vocational Interest Inventory a preference for service-oriented jobs. Disadvantaged females tended toward office work and selling. On the Jr.-Sr. HSPQ form of the IPAT, both groups showed a pattern of personality which can be described as group-dependent, restrained, relatively unfrustrated, self-assured, feeling few obligations, somewhat detached yet self-assured, less oriented to intellectual pursuits, and a tendency toward emotional instability and low-ego strength. The disadvantaged females were significantly differentiated from the males in tough-mindedness and self-reliance. The correlation of these measures was .58, significant at the .01 level. (Author)

ED 061285

Personality and Occupational - Interest
Correlates of Disadvantaged Students

Louise M. Soares
Anthony T. Soares

University of Bridgeport

Paper presented before the Annual Meeting of the American Educational
Research Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 3-7, 1972.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRO-
DUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM
THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIG-
INATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPIN-
IONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY
REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDU-
CATION POSITION OR POLICY.

TM 001 236

Abstract

Personality and Occupational-Interest
Correlates of Disadvantaged Students

Anthony T. Soares
Louise M. Soares
University of Bridgeport

Disadvantaged high school males indicated on the Minnesota Vocational Interest Inventory a preference for service-oriented jobs. Disadvantaged females tended toward office work and selling. On the Jr.-Sr. HSPQ form of the IPAT, both groups showed a pattern of personality which can be described as group-dependent, restrained, relatively unfrustrated, self-assured, feeling few obligations, somewhat detached yet self-assured, less oriented to intellectual pursuits, and a tendency toward emotional instability and low-ego strength. The disadvantaged females were significantly differentiated from the males in tough-mindedness and self-reliance. The correlation of these measures was .58, significant at the .01 level.

Summary

Personality and Occupational-Interest Correlates of Disadvantaged Students

Anthony T. Soares
Louise M. Soares
University of Bridgeport

Objectives

The purpose of the study was to determine whether personality traits and vocational interests differentiate disadvantaged males from females, as well as to correlate two measures which could be administered to educationally disadvantaged students.

Methodology

The Jr. - Sr. HSPQ form of the IPAT and the Minnesota Vocational Interest Inventory (MVII) were administered to 176 disadvantaged youths (93 males and 83 females) from an urban high school. The scores were then submitted to a t-test analysis for the comparison of the two groups and to correlation for the comparison of the two measures.

Results

The students were closely related in their personality profiles, tending toward the lowest quadrant of the grid (Figure 1). The only significant difference in the traits was on the I dimension with the females indicating a greater tendency in the direction of tough-mindedness.

The highest standard scores on the vocational interests area scales of the MVII were on areas 2 (health services) and 3 (clean-hands activities) for the disadvantaged boys, scales 3 (office work) and 7 (sales) for the disadvantaged females. (Figure 2).

The correlation between the IPAT and the MVII was .58, which was

Conclusions

Both disadvantaged male and female teen-aged groups from an urban high school showed a low-scoring pattern of personality which can be described as group-dependent and restrained. They tend to be somewhat detached, less oriented to intellectual pursuits, submissive, yet relatively unfrustrated and self-assured. They go readily along with the group, showing a zest for action with others even though a bit serious and inactive by themselves. They tend toward expediency, feeling few obligations and following their own urges. They are quite low in emotional stability and ego strength. The only significant difference occurred on the I scale, showing tough-mindedness and greater self-reliance for disadvantaged females.

In vocational interests the disadvantaged males had highest scores on the health services and clean-hands activities, with special interest in the particular jobs of hospital attendant and truck driver. Disadvantaged girls showed a consistent tendency toward selling and office work which could be interpreted as their perception of the few options realistically open to them or as the specificity of the instrument itself which is geared toward male-dominated occupations.

Sten Scores

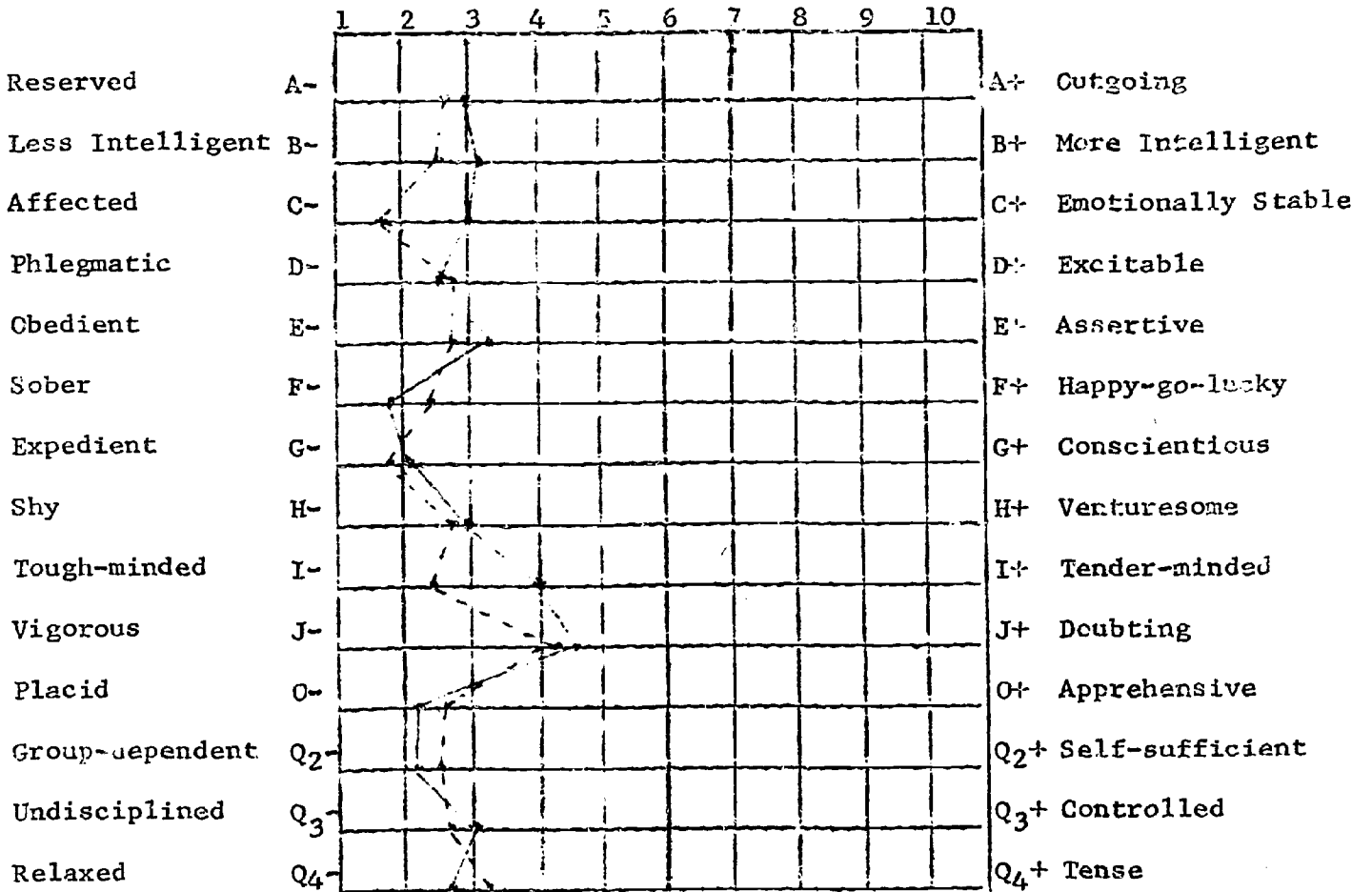


Figure 1

IPAT Personality Profiles of Disadvantaged Students

Males _____

Females _____

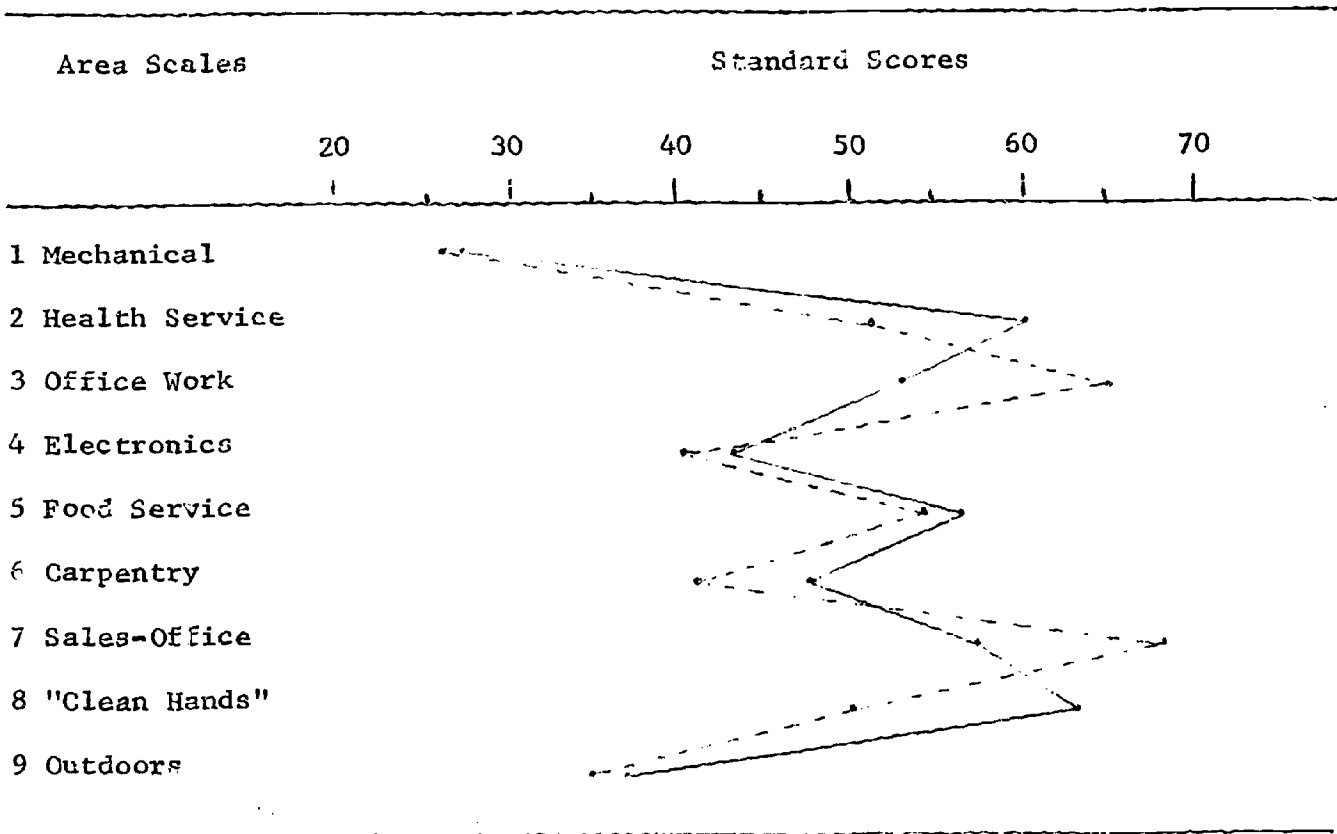


Figure 2

Vocational Interests Profiles
of Disadvantaged Students

Males _____

Females _____

Related Bibliography

- Baker, J.Q., & Wagner, N.N. Social class and mental illness in children, Teachers College Record, 1965, 66, 522-536.
- Langner, T.S., & Michael, S.T. Life stress and mental health. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1963.
- Osipow, S.H. Theories of career development. N.Y.: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1968.
- Siegelman, M., & Peck, R.F. Personality patterns related to occupational roles, Genetic Psychological Monographs, 1961, 61 (No. 2).
- Soares, A.T. & Soares, L.M. Self-description and adjustment correlates of occupational choice. Journal of Educational Research, 1966, 60, 27-31.
- Sternberg, C. Personality trait patterns of college students majoring in different fields. Psychological Monographs, 1955, 69 (No. 403).
- Super, D.E. The psychology of careers. N.Y.: Harper & Bros., 1957.
- Tannenbaum, A.J. Social and psychological considerations in the study of the socially disadvantaged. In P.A. Witty (ed). The educationally retarded and disadvantaged. Chicago: National Society for the Study of Education, 1967. Sixty-sixth Yearbook, Part I.