

PSYCHOTIC DIMENSION

AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

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This is to certify that this work submitted by the candidate as a thesis in fulfilment of the requirement for the Ph.D. degree has not previously formed the basis for award of any degree or diploma to the candidate and this work is a record of the candidate's personal effort.

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(Guide)

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research has been conducted by me at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, under the guidance of Dr. (Mrs.) Vinoda N. Murthy, Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS.

This thesis is being submitted in candidacy for the award of the Ph.D. degree in Clinical Psychology of the Bangalore University in the month of July 1978. This thesis or parts thereof have not been submitted to any other University for any other purpose so far.

Date: 31st July 1978.



Kamal K. Burjorjee

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ABSTRACT

The present research was undertaken to investigate the psychotic dimension from two points of view: The first was to find out if it differed from the other major dimension of personality, namely neuroticism, quantitatively, on a single dimension of mental abnormality, or qualitatively; the second was to study its nature in terms of it being a unitary or a multifactorial dimension. In other words, the aim was to find out if psychoticism was a dimension independent from that of neuroticism, and if found to be so, then to delineate its characteristics.

The initial sample consisted of 20 normals, 23 neurotics, and 27 psychotics and the three groups were matched on the variables of age, sex, and level of education. In the two clinical groups, only such patients whose duration of illness did not exceed 2 years and who had not been on medication for more than 7 days were included. A large number of objective tests and measures relevant to the study of the psychotic dimension were used in addition to the clinical information in terms of the history and symptomatology of the case. Changes indicated on the basis of the preliminary study were incorporated into the main study before finalising the various tools and techniques of investigation.

The clinical and the objective test data were analysed separately. Factor and canonical variate analyses were performed on each of these two sets of data, and in case of the former, the principal-factoring method with iteration was used. In these analyses, all the 248 case history and symptomatology items and the 56 objective test measures were not used; in each set of data, only 19 variables were finally included, and these were mainly selected on the basis of the

results of the F and t tests. Also, the sample included for the final statistical analysis consisted of 19 normals, 14 neurotics, and 19 psychotics since all the scores on all the subjects were not available. Further, in the analysis of the clinical data, the normal group was excluded.

The results of both higher-order factor analysis and canonical variate analysis with respect to each set of data showed that psychosis differed from neurosis in kind, that is, qualitatively. These results therefore lent support to the two-dimensional view of neurosis and psychosis and pointed toward the multifactorial nature of the psychotic dimension. Apart from this major conclusion, the findings were also suggestive of the role of individual and environmental predisposing conditions in the genesis of both neurosis and psychosis.