

Structural analysis of the personality of incarcerated women and their dominant traits

Análisis estructural de la personalidad de mujeres privadas de la libertad y sus rasgos dominantes

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Summary

Introduction: Structural analysis of the personality of women deprived of liberty is essential to understand their psychological characteristics and behavior in confinement settings. This study seeks to identify and understand the dominant traits in these women to improve intervention and rehabilitation programs. **Objective:** The main objective of the study is to identify the predominant personality traits in women deprived of liberty, in order to provide a solid basis for the development of rehabilitation and psychosocial support strategies. **Method:** A structural analysis of personality was performed using the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) to a sample of women deprived of liberty ($n = 40$). The analysis included statistical techniques to identify the dominant traits and their relationship with behavior and adaptation in the prison environment. **Results :** The results revealed that the dominant traits in the women studied include high levels of neuroticism and low levels of openness to new experiences. These traits are associated with greater difficulty in adapting to the prison environment and a higher incidence of internal and social conflicts. **Conclusion:** Understanding the predominant personality traits in women deprived of liberty is crucial for designing effective interventions. The identified characteristics suggest the need for personalized approaches in rehabilitation programs, focused on stress management and promoting coping skills.

Keywords: Women, Personality, kindness, conscience.

Resumen

Introducción: El análisis estructural de la personalidad de mujeres privadas de la libertad es fundamental para entender sus características psicológicas y su comportamiento en contextos de reclusión. Este estudio busca identificar y comprender los rasgos dominantes en estas mujeres para mejorar los programas de intervención y rehabilitación. **Objetivo:** El objetivo principal del estudio es identificar los rasgos de personalidad predominantes en mujeres en situación de privación de libertad, con el fin

de ofrecer una base sólida para el desarrollo de estrategias de rehabilitación y apoyo psicosocial. Método: Se realizó un análisis estructural de la personalidad utilizando el Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) a una muestra de mujeres privadas de libertad ($n = 40$). El análisis incluyó técnicas estadísticas para identificar los rasgos dominantes y su relación con el comportamiento y la adaptación en el entorno penitenciario.

Resultados: Los resultados revelaron que los rasgos dominantes en las mujeres estudiadas incluyen altos niveles de neuroticismo y bajos niveles de apertura a nuevas experiencias. Estos rasgos están asociados con una mayor dificultad en la adaptación al entorno penitenciario y una mayor incidencia de conflictos internos y sociales. **Conclusión:** Comprender los rasgos de personalidad predominantes en mujeres privadas de libertad es crucial para diseñar intervenciones efectivas. Las características identificadas sugieren la necesidad de enfoques personalizados en los programas de rehabilitación, enfocados en la gestión del estrés y la promoción de habilidades de adaptación.

Palabras clave: Mujeres, Personalidad, amabilidad, conciencia.

1. Introduction

The study of personality has been a field of significant interest in psychology due to its influence on human behavior and social interactions (Roberts et al., 2022). Understanding personality traits and dimensions is essential for addressing various problems in specific contexts, such as the prison system (Blake & Gangestad, 2020). In particular, the analysis of the personality of incarcerated women offers valuable insight for developing rehabilitation (Coppola & Martufi, 2024) and social reintegration (Clubb et al., 2024) programs.

Authors such as Eysenck (1984) and Cattell (as cited in Comrey & Duffy, 1968) are pioneers in personality research, developing theories and tools that facilitated the measurement and analysis of personality traits. Eysenck, with his three-factor theory (neuroticism, extraversion, and psychoticism), and Cattell, with her 16-factor model of personality, provided robust theoretical frameworks for the study of personality in diverse contexts.

According to Balarezo (2015), identifying the prevalent personality traits in a human being would facilitate the development of strategies for an adequate approach and intervention, in this case, during and after the period of deprivation of liberty; the existence of the following traits can be mentioned: paranoid, bipolar (cognitive approach), borderline, antisocial (behavioral approach), schizoid, avoidant, dependent (distant approach), schizotypal, histrionic and narcissistic.

In the context of Women Deprived of Liberty (WDL), these theoretical models can be applied to explore how personality traits influence behavior and experiences within the prison system (Moreira et al., 2022). Furthermore, research in this area can reveal risk and protective factors that are critical for intervention and psychosocial support (Anderson et al., 2020).

Even more so when it is known that approximately 23% of MPL during their stay in prison require outpatient health services for personality disorders, hence the need to evaluate the percentage of women with psychopathology and the prevalence of certain personality traits, in order to provide adequate follow-up and intervention (Molina et al., 2022).

Following Molina et al. (2022), MPLs tend to present high scores in schizoid and depressive personality traits, with a higher prevalence of clinical personality patterns at a younger age, and antisocial, compulsive, schizotypal and borderline personality traits with shorter prison terms and a higher number of admissions to prisons. In fact, Kalsoom & Gul (2020) indicate that borderline, antisocial, histrionic and narcissistic personality traits are associated with the commission of assaults, sexual abuse, murders, arsons and theft in MLPs.

Molina et al. (2023) point out that antisocial personality traits are prevalent in women deprived of liberty who are held in maximum security wards, and that they are characterized by the presence of a lack of remorse, emotional insensitivity, and manipulation. Furthermore, this trait would be associated with the likelihood of recidivism in MPL (Shahid & Mujeeba, 2022).

While borderline personality traits would be associated with risk behaviors for the spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (Adams et al., 2016), with substance use, mainly cocaine, in women before, during and up to 12 months after going through a period of deprivation of liberty (Loya et al., 2022), more frequently when these personality traits are accompanied by dysfunctionality in family dynamics (Malik & Majeed, 2023).

In recent years, research on personality in prison settings has gained significant relevance due to the growing need to develop more effective and humane rehabilitation programs (Smith et al., 2022). Recent studies have shown that women inmates present unique personality profiles that differ markedly from their male counterparts, underscoring the need for

gender-specific approaches to psychosocial intervention and support (Anderson & Pitner, 2021). Furthermore, the prevalence of personality disorders in this population remains high, with direct implications for the management of their mental health and the reduction of criminal recidivism (Jones et al., 2023).

A crucial aspect identified in recent literature is the relationship between prior trauma and personality traits in incarcerated women. Longitudinal studies have found that experiences of abuse and violence in childhood are strongly correlated with the development of dysfunctional personality traits in adulthood (Cohen & Brown, 2020). These connections suggest that interventions should address not only current behaviors but also traumatic history that may have contributed to criminality (Robinson et al., 2023).

In addition, the assessment of personality traits using tools such as the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality The MMPI has allowed researchers to identify specific patterns that can predict risky behaviors and adjustment difficulties in prison settings (Miller et al., 2022). For example, high levels of neuroticism and low levels of agreeableness have been consistently associated with a higher incidence of conflict and mental health problems in women prisoners (Sullivan et al., 2021).

Therefore, this analysis not only contributes to the academic understanding of personality but also has practical implications for the management of penitentiary institutions and the design of public policies aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of women into society. By delving deeper into the personality of this specific population, more effective and humane strategies can be developed to promote their well-being and resocialization.

The main objective was to determine the structure and manifestations of personality in women deprived of liberty, through a comprehensive analysis that allows identifying patterns. For this study, 177 female deprived of liberty individuals held at the Azuay N1 Deprivation

of Liberty Center were evaluated. Of these, 40 required personality studies from 2019 to 2022 due to the severity and connotations associated with the commission of crimes. The results obtained reveal characteristics related to personality development, such as self-esteem, self-image, self-knowledge, coping skills, temperament and character, and the degree of psychological maturity achieved.

In contemporary prison systems, the study of incarcerated individuals' personalities is crucial for understanding the internal dynamics of these environments and for informing effective rehabilitation and social reintegration strategies. Among the vulnerable groups within these populations, women in prison represent a particularly relevant segment, characterized by complex life experiences that frequently include histories of abuse, trauma, and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Personality, understood as the set of stable psychological characteristics that shape how individuals perceive and respond to the world, plays a fundamental role in how people adapt to their environment, including how they cope with incarceration and rehabilitation opportunities. However, specific research on personality in incarcerated women is limited, with studies predominantly focusing on male samples or generalizations based on mixed populations.

This article focuses on filling this research gap by providing a structural analysis of the personality of women in prison, identifying and understanding their dominant traits. Using a rigorous empirical and theoretical approach, this study aims to expand academic knowledge on the psychology of women in prison, offer practical recommendations to improve their quality of life, and promote the successful reintegration of these women into society after serving their sentences.

2. Methodology

Type of Research

A non-experimental quantitative descriptive, correlational, retrospective and cross-sectional study was carried out.

Participants

The participants were 40 women deprived of liberty (secondary data from 2021 in a detention center), using non-probability convenience sampling. Demographic data reveal significant diversity in the marital status of the women deprived of liberty analyzed. The majority identify as single, representing 45 % of the sample, followed by those in common-law unions, who constitute 30 %. Additionally, a considerable proportion of widowed, married, and divorced women are observed, each representing 10% and 7.5% respectively. This variability in marital status suggests a range of experiences and family contexts among the study participants. Regarding educational level, a diverse distribution is observed in the sample. Incomplete secondary education is the most common category, accounting for 30% of the women, closely followed by incomplete primary education, which represents 25%. On the other hand, those with completed higher education and those with completed primary education are less prevalent, at 17.5% and 7.5%, respectively. These figures reflect a variety of educational levels within the study population, which may influence their life trajectories and employment opportunities (Table 1).

Table 1.*Descriptive analysis of sociodemographic variables*

n (%)	
Marital status	
Married	3 (7.5%)
Divorcee	3 (7.5%)
Single woman	18 (45%)
Widow	4 (10%)
Free union	12 (30%)
Level of education	
Complete upper level	7 (18%)
Incomplete primary education	10 (25%)
Complete secondary education	8 (20%)
Incomplete secondary education	12 (30%)
Complete primary education	3 (7.5%)

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria for this study considered women deprived of liberty, whose data were secondary. Significant diversity was observed in the marital status and educational level of the participants, reflecting a wide range of family and educational experiences. Exclusion criteria included women under the age of 18, those unable to provide informed consent or experiencing emotional crisis, as well as those participating in other concurrent studies that could influence the results.

Tools

Ad-hoc survey of the following sociodemographic variables: marital status, education and crime of entry.

The *Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI)* is one of the most widely used and recognized psychological assessment instruments in the field of clinical and forensic psychology. Designed to measure personality and psychopathology, the MMPI consists of an extensive series of questions or statements about various aspects of behavior, thought, and emotion. Developed in the 1940s, it has been revised and updated several times since. The MMPI assesses a wide range of personality characteristics and psychopathology, including depression, anxiety, paranoia, schizophrenia, and hypomania. Its scales include both specific symptoms and underlying behavioral patterns, allowing clinicians to gain an in-depth understanding of the personality and mental state of the individuals being assessed. The MMPI is used in a variety of clinical and forensic contexts, such as the evaluation of mental disorders, the selection of candidates for sensitive employment positions, and the evaluation of persons involved in legal proceedings.

Procedure

The research was conducted using secondary data obtained from incarcerated women. Initially, existing datasets containing responses previously collected using the *Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI)* were accessed. Information was obtained from institutional databases, previous research archives, or clinical records. After accessing secondary data, data cleaning and preparation were performed, followed by statistical analysis to explore patterns and relationships with the incarcerated women's personalities. Measures were taken to ensure the confidentiality and privacy of the information, as well as to comply with all applicable data protection regulations and policies. Furthermore, the necessary ethical approvals were obtained before using secondary data in

the research. The results obtained were interpreted based on the research objectives, allowing for a deeper understanding of personality in this specific group of women.

Statistical analysis

descriptive statistical analysis was performed. Univariate and bivariate analyses. First, univariate descriptive analysis was used to explore the distribution of responses on each of the MMPI scales, allowing for the identification of central tendencies, dispersion, and potential outliers in the women in prison's personality scores. Subsequently, bivariate descriptive analysis was performed to investigate the relationships between the different MMPI dimensions and other variables of interest, such as marital status and education level. This analysis identified potential associations between personality and other factors relevant to the context of women in prison. Furthermore, median difference tests were performed to examine whether there were significant differences in personality scores between different groups of participants, based on variables such as marital status and education level. These statistical techniques provided a deeper understanding of the women in prison's personality and allowed for the identification of significant patterns and relationships for further research.

Additionally, this advanced technique was used to examine the complex relationships between latent and observed variables in a previously established theoretical model. The SEM model specified the hypothesized relationships between different aspects of the incarcerated women's personality and their potential determinants or consequences. Structural equations were used to represent these relationships, along with measurement equations that described how the latent variables were related to the observed variables.

To conduct the SEM analysis, maximum likelihood estimation was used to fit the model to the observed data and assess its adequacy. Model

fit statistics, such as the Wald chi-square, comparative fit indices (e.g., CFI, TLI), and robust standard errors, were calculated to determine whether the model fit the collected empirical data well.

Results

Regarding crimes committed, a wide range of illegal activities is observed among women deprived of liberty. Drug trafficking is the most common crime, accounting for 25% of cases, followed by robbery, which constitutes 12.5%. In addition, less frequent but equally significant cases are identified, such as human trafficking, murder, fraud, and others. This diversity of crimes highlights the complexity of these women's individual circumstances and suggests the need for multidimensional approaches to intervention and rehabilitation.

Exploring Personality: An analysis of women deprived of liberty revealed an average age of 34.8 years, with a wide variability ranging from 18 to 62 years ($m = 34.8 \pm 11.9$ years). This suggests a significant diversity in life experience and personal development among the population studied.

Regarding personality traits, relatively high mean scores were observed in some domains. For example, the tendency toward paranoia was notable, with a mean score of 3.9 and a standard deviation of 1.6 ($m = 3.9 \pm 1.6$). This indicates a significant tendency toward mistrust and suspicion in this group of women deprived of liberty.

A tendency toward schizoid and histrionic-schizotypal traits was also noted, with mean scores of 4.2 and 4.2, respectively (schizoid: 4.2 ± 1.4 ; histrionic-schizotypal: 4.2 ± 2). These results demonstrate the presence of characteristics related to social withdrawal, as well as exaggerated and theatrical emotional expression, in the study population.

In contrast, lower mean scores were observed for antisocial and narcissistic traits, with mean values of 2.7 and 3.5, respectively (antisocial: 2.7 ± 1.4 ; narcissistic: 3.5 ± 2). These findings may indicate a lower prevalence

of antisocial behaviors and less exaggerated self-perceptions in this group of women.

However, it is worth noting the presence of a relatively high level of avoidance traits, with a mean score of 4.7 (avoidance: 4.7 ± 2.0). This indicates a tendency to avoid challenging social or emotional situations, which could influence their ability to adapt and function in diverse environments (Table 2).

Table 2. Descriptive analysis of Personality in women deprived of liberty.

						Shapiro-Wilk		Percentiles	
	Average	Median	OF	Minimum	Maximum	W	p	25th	75th
Age	34.77	32.00	11.90	18	62	0.944	0.046	25.00	43.00
Paranoid	3.92	4.00	1.59	1	7	0.946	0.057	3.00	5.00
Schizoid	4.25	4.00	1.39	1	6	0.909	0.004	3.00	5.25
Histrionic Schizotypal	4.22	3.50	2.01	1	8	0.918	0.007	3.00	6.00
Antisocial	2.74	3	1.45	0	6	0.949	0.075	2.00	4.00
Narcissistic	3.52	3.50	2.03	0	8	0.948	0.063	2.00	5.00
Limit	3.85	4.00	1.97	0	7	0.932	0.019	3.00	5.00
Obsessive- Compulsive	3.58	4.00	1.50	0	7	0.947	0.061	3.00	4.00
Dependence	2.40	2.00	1.77	0	7	0.916	0.006	1.00	4.00
Avoidance	4.72	5.00	1.99	0	8	0.957	0.127	3.00	6.00

Table 3. Female personality based on marital status.

	Married	Divorcee	Single woman	Widow	Free union	Statistical Test
	(N=3)	(N=3)	(N=18)	(N=4)	(N=12)	
Schizoid	4.0 4.0 4.8	3.2 4.0 4.8	3.0 4.5 6.0	3.2 5.5 6.0	3.0 3.5 5.0	$F_{4,35} = 0.60, P = 0.66^1$
Histrionic	1.3 3.0 4.7	2.0 2.0	3.0 5.5 7.0	2.4 3.5 5.2	3.0 3.5	
Schizotypal	2.3 4.0	4.5			5.6	$F_{4,35} = 0.96, P = 0.44^1$
Narcissistic	6.5	2.2 3.0	2.0 4.0 6.0	2.7 5.5 6.0	1.4 2.5 4.0	
Limit	1.2 2.0 4.5	1.5 4.0 4.8	3.0 4.0 5.1	2.2 4.5 6.2	1.8 4.0 5.0	$F_{4,35} = 0.50, P = 0.74^1$
Dependence	1.2 2.0 4.5	0.2 1.0 2.7	1.0 2.5 4.0	0.0 0.5 2.2	1.0 2.0 3.6	
Avoidance	3.2 4.0 4.8	3.0 3.0 5.5	4.0 6.0 7.0	2.8 4.5 6.8	2.4 4.0 6.0	$F_{4,35} = 0.97, P = 0.44^1$

Note: 1 Kruskal-Wallis. 2 Pearson. 3 Wilcoxon.

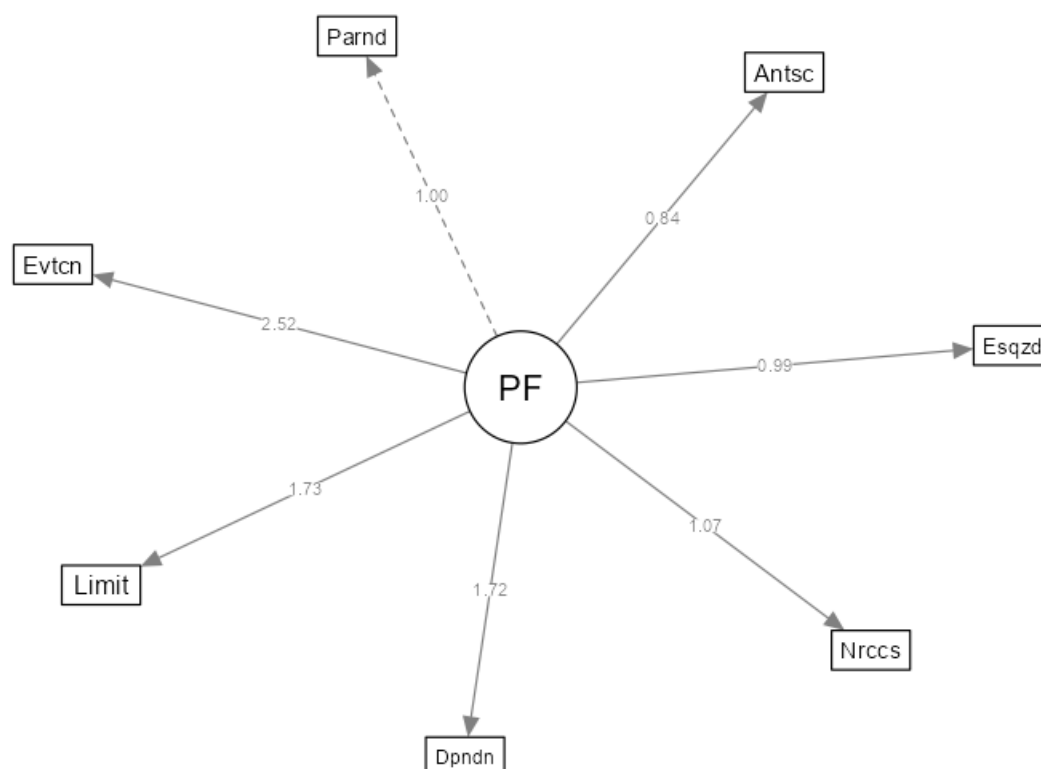
The results presented come from an adjustment analysis of a female personality model, where two models are compared: the *User Model* and *Baseline Model*. First of all, the *Overall Tests* indicate that there is no significant difference between the user model and the base model, since the *chi-square value* (X^2) is 13.5 with 14 degrees of freedom and a p-value of 0.487.

Regarding the adjustment indices, the *SRMR* (Root Mean Square Residual) and the *RMSEA* (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation) indicate a good model fit, with values of 0.067 and 0.000 respectively. Furthermore, the 95% confidence intervals for the *RMSEA* are within an acceptable range (0.000 to 0.150).

When comparing the *User Model* with the *Baseline Model*, fit indices such as *CFI* (Comparative Fit Index), *TLI* (Tucker-Lewis Index), *NNFI* (Bentler-Bonett Non-normed Fit Index), *RNI* (Relative Noncentrality Index) and *IFI* (Bollen's Incremental Fit Index) show values close to 1. In

summary, the results suggest that the female personality model proposed by the user fits well to the observed data, but could benefit from a revision to improve parsimony and avoid overfitting.

Figure 1. SEM model of female personality.



Note: Parnd = Paranoid, Antsc = Antisocial, Esqzd = Schizoid, Nrccs = Narcissistic, Dpndn = Dependent, Limit = Borderline, Evtcn = Avoidant.

Figure 1 presents a structural equation model (SEM) that examines the structure of female personality, considering several specific traits. At the center of the model is the latent construct of female personality (FP), from which several arrows emerge toward different personality traits, each with a coefficient indicating the strength of the relationship.

The paranoid trait (Parnd) shows a perfect association with feminine personality, with a coefficient of 1.00, represented by a dashed line. This

indicates that the paranoid trait is completely explained by the latent construct in this model. Antisocial personality (Antsc) has a coefficient of 0.84, suggesting a strong and positive, although not perfect, relationship with feminine personality. The schizoid trait (Esqzd) is almost perfectly related to feminine personality, with a coefficient of 0.99.

Narcissism (Nrccs) has a coefficient of 1.07, suggesting a significant positive relationship between this trait and female personality. Dependency (Dpndn) shows a strong association with a coefficient of 1.72, indicating that this trait has a considerable influence on female personality according to this model. The borderline trait (Limit) also shows a significant positive relationship, with a coefficient of 1.73, similar to that of Dependency.

Finally, the avoidance trait (Evtcn) has the highest coefficient of 2.52, indicating that it is the trait most strongly related to female personality in this model. This demonstrates that avoidance is a dominant component of female personality structure according to this analysis.

In summary, the SEM model provides a detailed view of how various personality traits relate to the latent construct of female personality. Avoidant personality emerges as the most strongly associated trait, followed by borderline, dependent, narcissistic, schizoid, antisocial, and finally paranoid traits. These findings may be fundamental to better understanding the dynamics of female personality and developing effective interventions in clinical and rehabilitation settings.

Discussion

Among the reasons for arrest in the MPL is illicit trafficking of controlled substances, which is related to socioeconomic circumstances such as poverty. In interviews, most agree that the alibi worked for those who forced them to join this organized crime network related to drug trafficking.

In Latin America, the main crime in which women are involved is trafficking in psychotropic substances (Center for Legal and Social Studies, 2011), the so-called mules would tend to introverted behavior, a characteristic dimension in people in whom avoidant and dependent traits prevail, which were positively associated with the personality of the MPL in the present research.

Contrary to what was stated in the previous paragraph, Pieters et al. (2018) state that women with a high level of openness to experience are more vulnerable to becoming involved in criminal activities due to their search for new experiences and adventures. These results coincide with those reported by Kalsoom & Gul (2020), who found that borderline, histrionic, and narcissistic personality traits are associated with the commission of assaults, sexual abuse, murders, arsons, and theft.

On the other hand, Molina et al. (2022) agree with the results reported in this research on the high scores on paranoid, schizoid, and schizotypal personality traits in MPL, which are related to distrust, suspicion, and social withdrawal; they also establish the schizotypal trait as a risk factor for reoffending after a period of deprivation of liberty in women.

Likewise, the borderline trait, on which a strong association with the feminine personality was found in the MPL who were part of the study, is prevalent and is associated with risk behaviors for the contagion of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (Adams et al., 2016), family dysfunction (Malik & Majeed, 2023) and substance use before, during and after the period of deprivation of liberty in this population (Loyola et al., 2022).

Regarding the antisocial personality trait, whose average was low in this research, Molina et al. (2023) indicate that the MPL who participated in their study presented high scores in it, especially those who belonged to maximum security wards and who presented behaviors characterized by lack of remorse, emotional insensitivity, and manipulation; in addition, Shahid & Mujeeba (2022) report that this trait is associated with the probability of reoffending.

A study by Day et al. (2017) indicated that women with low agreeableness are more likely to participate in criminal activities due to their lower empathy and greater willingness to act selfishly, which allows quick attention to be drawn to this type of conduct and behaviors that are related to the ease with which they carry out acts that go against what is socially accepted.

BPD is characterized by emotional instability, impulsivity, and chaotic interpersonal relationships. Women with this disorder may have a greater tendency to commit crimes due to their impulsiveness and difficulty managing stress. This type of misconduct, in female inmates, usually presents several situations that deteriorate behavior, such as repeated escapes from their homes or domiciles. Borderline personality disorder or emotional instability is related. The questionnaire on antisocial and criminal behaviors already mentions some events that may be related to borderline personality traits. This is also mentioned in the study by Black et al. (2007), which indicates that Borderline Personality Disorder is prevalent among women in prisons and is associated with impulsive and self-destructive behaviors, which can lead to criminal activities. Avoidant people also have some particularities such as repressions in terms of thought, desire, among other characteristics, which can trigger patterns of behavior or paranoid personality traits, according to Coid et al. (2009), Paranoid Personality Disorder is relatively common among women in prisons, and is associated with defensive and aggressive behaviors. A study by Warren and South (2009) suggests that women with Dependent Personality Disorder in prisons can be easily exploited by other inmates or criminal networks, participating in crimes due to their need for approval and fear of abandonment. Finally, when referring to narcissistic personality disorder, it is the most predominant one in women deprived of liberty, presenting behaviors related to manipulation, coercion, etc. As cited by Dolan and Blackburn (2006), Narcissistic Personality Disorder is less common than APD and BPD in women deprived of liberty, but

when present, it is associated with crimes motivated by exploitation and manipulation.

The assessment of personality profiles in incarcerated women has shown that therapeutic intervention must consider individual characteristics to be effective (Hare et al., 2022). A recent study shows that rehabilitation programs that include cognitive-behavioral therapy and social skills training can significantly reduce antisocial behaviors and improve social reintegration (Linehan et al., 2023). Furthermore, social support and group therapy have been found to play a crucial role in reducing recidivism and improving the psychological well-being of incarcerated women (Yoon et al., 2023).

Conclusion

Structural analysis of the personality of women deprived of liberty reveals that avoidance is the dominant trait, with a significant influence on their behavior and attitudes. This trait suggests a tendency to avoid stressful situations or confrontations, which could be related to previous experiences of trauma or stress.

Furthermore, dependency and borderline traits also show considerable influence. Dependency indicates a high need for external support and validation, while borderline traits reflect unstable emotional regulation and difficulties in interpersonal relationships. These traits can be exacerbated by the incarceration environment, affecting adaptation and behavior in the prison context.

Narcissistic and schizoid traits are less prevalent, but still relevant. The former may be related to an inflated self-image and the pursuit of admiration, while the schizoid trait may reflect a tendency toward introspection and isolation. Although less prominent, these traits contribute to the complexity of the personality profile.

Finally, antisocial and paranoid personality traits also play a role in the personality structure of these women, with the paranoid trait showing a strong association with the latent construct. This suggests that mistrust and suspicion are key elements in their psychological profile.

In conclusion, avoidance, dependency, and borderline personality traits are the most prevalent in incarcerated women. These findings are crucial for the development of interventions and support programs, as they provide a detailed understanding of the psychological characteristics that influence their behavior and adaptation in the prison environment.

Future research on the personality of women in prison could focus on deepening our understanding of the dominant traits identified in this study. A promising line of research would be to explore how the avoidance trait develops and manifests in the prison context, assessing its causes and effects on these women's behavior and well-being. Investigating the experiences of trauma and stress prior to incarceration could provide a clearer view of how these factors contribute to the prevalence of avoidance.

Another area of interest could be the study of the influence of dependency and borderline traits on relationship dynamics within penitentiary institutions. Analyzing how dependency affects the formation of interpersonal relationships and access to resources and support within the prison environment could help develop more effective strategies for managing these needs. Similarly, investigating how borderline trait characteristics impact adaptation and social interaction in prison can offer valuable information for designing interventions that foster better emotional regulation and more stable relationships.

Furthermore, it would be beneficial to investigate the relationship between narcissistic and schizoid traits and behavior and adjustment in the prison environment. Evaluating how these traits influence self-image and the ability to form meaningful connections could contribute to a more complete understanding of the challenges these women face.

Finally, future research could explore the influence of antisocial and paranoid traits on group dynamics and security within correctional institutions. Understanding how mistrust and antisocial behaviors affect coexistence and risk management could provide a basis for developing strategies to improve safety and well-being in prison settings.

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