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OBJECTIVE AND PROJECTIVE MEASURES
OF WITHDRAWAL BEHAVIOR

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Current approaches to the appraisal and investigation of personality can be classified into subjective, objective, and projective methods. These three approaches can be distinguished for purposes of exposition, even though Rappaport (14) and Wechsler (18) have stressed the "projective hypothesis" in dealing with material obtained by measures which are classed usually as psychometric. A more useful way of regarding the three approaches is to emphasize the type of behavior--opinion, overt, or implicit--which each one yields. Both in clinical practice and in fundamental research, the appraisal and investigation of total personality demand a composite plan of attack evaluating opinion, overt, and implicit behavior in a complementary fashion.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

One specific manifestation of the more global personality structure--namely, withdrawal tendencies in human relationships--was selected for investigation. Opinion, overt, and implicit behavior attributed to this particular factor were elicited and evaluated. The following measures of withdrawal behavior were selected for study:

- (1) The Picture Arrangement Subtest scores from the Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Scale, Form I.
- (2) The Picture Arrangement Subtest scores from the Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence Scale, Form II.
- (3) Factor S scores from the Guilford-Martin Inventory of Factors STDCR.
- (4) Human, or H Scores, and Human detail, or Hd Scores, from the Rorschach Technique.
- (5) Quantitative measures from a Rating Scale.

Rappaport (14) and Wechsler (18) emphasize the interpretation of Picture Arrangement Scores as an indication of social intelligence, or social alertness, or ability to deal with social situations. If an individual is lacking in the ability to get along in social situations, he will be uncomfortable in them and will tend to withdraw from them. Guilford (5) states that if a person receives a high score on the S. factor--social introversion--it indicates that he is shy and seclusive. In regard to H and Hd responses on the Rorschach, Rappaport (14) says: "...These responses are generally considered to reflect the presence of interest in human beings...It appears that interest in, and/or free contact with, other persons results in a wealth of observations and experiences relative to human form, postures, and expressions; the lack of such interest or contact results in a lack of such observations."

In order to pursue this study it was necessary to obtain scores on the measures listed above from a number of individuals whose behavior manifested marked withdrawal tendencies. It was decided to use schizophrenic and neurotic individuals because in such individuals' behavior, impressive evidence of withdrawal tendencies frequently is found. On the basis of reported studies (2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 16) no consistent differences between normal, neurotic, and schizophrenic groups on Picture Arrangement scores would be anticipated. The reported studies (7, 8, 17) on intellectual deterioration in schizophrenia and the neuroses are conflicting. Therefore, differences in total test scores between normals, on the one hand, and schizophrenics and neurotics, on the other, would not be expected solely on the basis of diagnosis. Likewise, reported studies (1, 12, 15) on the use of the Rorschach with clinical groups would not lead to the expectancy of differences in the factors under investigation.

The aims of this investigation were to test the following hypotheses:

- (1) Individuals who are rated as withdrawn receive lower scores on the Picture Arrangement Subtests of the Wechsler-Bellevue Intelligence scale than individuals who are rated as outgoing.

- (2) Individuals who are rated as withdrawn receive lower H and Hd scores on the Rorschach technique than individuals who are rated as outgoing.
- (3) Individuals who are rated as withdrawn receive higher scores on Factor S of the Guilford-Martin Inventory of Factors STDCR than individuals who are rated as outgoing.

SUBJECTS AND PROCEDURE

Subjects who manifested withdrawal behavior were selected and appraised, along with a group of individuals characterized by absence of withdrawal tendencies. Schizophrenic and psychoneurotic patients--30 of each--in a Mental Hygiene Clinic were selected as the withdrawn groups. Thirty normal subjects were selected as the outgoing or control group. A Rating Scale on which the subject's typical behavior was checked against behavioral descriptions for each of six characteristics (such as seclusiveness, shyness, detachment) was the instrument for selection of the subjects. Agreement among the independent ratings of a psychiatrist and two psychologists was required for selection of each subject. All subjects were American-born, white, male veterans of World War II, and the groups were matched for age, intelligence, and educational level. The age range was from 20 to 45 years. The IQ range was from normal to superior.

The tests were administered to each subject in two sessions about a week apart. The method outlined by Klopfer and Kelley (9) was used in administering and scoring the Rorschach tests.

RESULTS

The statistical results served four purposes: (1) determining differences between the means of the outgoing group and each of the withdrawn groups on the various measures and testing the significance of the differences by use of the "t" test, (2) analyzing the total variance into that among and within the three groups, and testing the significance of the ratio of these two variances by means of the F test, (3) determining differences among the groups after the effects of intelligence and education are accounted for, and (4) finding the optimum combination of measures to predict withdrawal behavior.

The general conclusion derived from an analysis of the data was that the hypotheses were supported. The specific conclusions were as follows:

- (1) The mean of the scores for each of the withdrawn groups (neurotics and schizophrenics) was significantly lower than the mean of the scores for the outgoing group (normals) on the Picture Arrangement Subtests of the Wechsler-Bellevue, Form I and Form II.
- (2) The mean of the scores for one of the withdrawn groups (neurotics) was significantly lower than the mean of the scores for the outgoing group on both H and Hd factors of the Rorschach Technique. The mean of the scores for the other withdrawn group (schizophrenics) was significantly lower than the mean of the scores for the outgoing group on the Hd factor of the Rorschach Technique, and lower on the H factor, but not significantly so.
- (3) The mean of the scores for each of the withdrawn groups was significantly higher than the mean of the scores of the outgoing group on the S inventory, which is in the expected direction.
- (4) When the effect of education and intelligence on the differences among the three groups is accounted for, significant differences among the groups remain on all measures and in the direction expected for the withdrawn groups.
- (5) Neither of the two withdrawn groups was significantly different from the outgoing group in respect to the number of individuals who gave no H responses or to the number who gave no Hd responses.
- (6) The relationships between actual scores on the Rating Scale and scores on the Rating Scale predicted from the other measures were higher for each of the two withdrawn groups than for the outgoing group, and higher for the total group than for any of the three groups.
- (7) For the total group a team consisting of Picture Arrangement Scores from the Wechsler-Bellevue, Form II, and the S Inventory, gave almost

as good prediction of scores on the Rating Scale as did the team consisting of all measures.

The results of the study indicate that psychological test results vary with certain aspects of personality functioning. Furthermore, if the Picture Arrangement Subtests of the Wechsler-Bellevue Scales are measurers of intelligence, then this study shows that intellectual functioning varies with certain aspects of personality functioning. The study, then, lends evidence in support of some commonly accepted theoretical formulations. The results of the study offer an effective measure of withdrawal to the clinician.

SUMMARY

This study deals with various objective and projective measures described by different authors as measures of withdrawal behavior. The measures used were: (1) The Picture Arrangement Subtest of the Wechsler-Bellevue Scale, Forms I and II, (2) S Inventory, which consisted of the Factor S items of the Guilford-Martin Inventory of Factors STDCR and other similar items, (3) the Rorschach Technique, of which only H and Hd scores were considered. In addition, a Rating Scale designed to measure withdrawal tendencies, or lack of such tendencies, was included.

The subjects included 30 schizophrenics, 30 psychoneurotics, and 30 normals. Three independent ratings and anecdotal material on each subject were used as a basis for inclusion in the study.

Statistical analysis of the test data provided evidence that:

- (1) The Picture Arrangement Scores on both forms of the Wechsler-Bellevue Scale, and the scores on the S Inventory, distinguished withdrawn subjects in both abnormal groups.
- (2) The scores on the H and Hd factors distinguished withdrawn subjects in the neurotic group.
- (3) The scores on the Hd factor only distinguished withdrawn subjects in the schizophrenic group.
- (4) Scores on Picture Arrangement from the Wechsler-Bellevue, Form II, and the S Inventory gave almost as good prediction of scores on the Rating Scale as did the consideration of all the measures.

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