CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The concept of personality and its influence on society or institution to which it belongs has long been an area of interest to researchers in the field of education in general and social psychology in particular. Personality dynamics is a special branch of social psychology, wherein various dimensions of personality and their relationship with society are studied.

There is inseparable interrelationship between the personality and its society. Both are complimentary to each other, being influenced and benefitted by each other.

Several research studies have been completed with the object to identify the personality variable responsible for the individual performance of person in different areas. Much of the research work completed by psychologists, indicated that a person differs from other individuals in personality, i.e. there is individual difference in the development of personality.

Personality is one of the broader dimensions in the study of human behaviour. Rather, it is a global picture which tries to encompass both physical as well as psychological characteristics of an individual which governs his behaviour.
Kendler (1963) explained the measurement of personality and defined the personality characteristics in the following words: "It is clear that an individual's personality is not revealed by any single characteristics like facial expression, or the way he talks, walks or dances. Personality is multidimensional. To obtain an adequate picture of an individual's personality, we must make many different kinds of observations of this behaviour".

Allport (1937) reviewed some fifty definitions of personality and attempted to combine the best features of each by defining personality as, "The dynamic organisation within the individual of those psycho-physical systems that determine his unique adjustments to his environment".

The term 'Dynamic' implies that the psychological structure of each person is in a constant state of a change and development, while at the same time there exists an integration or organisation of these changing aspects into a functioning unit.


Cattell (1966)\textsuperscript{1} also emphasises the term by stating that dynamic traits are concerned with causing the person to act toward some goal. The phrase, 'Psychological Systems' serves to remind that no clean dichotomy exists between the mind and body when dealing with human behaviour; rather, they are inextricably fused into personal unity. The word 'determinate' implies that one's personality consists of decisive tendencies that act in a purposeful manner to change one's environment. With respect to the term 'adjustment', Allport\textsuperscript{2} feels that a person not only adjusts or submits to his environment but also acts to master and control it in a manner characteristic of his alone.

Guilford (1959)\textsuperscript{3} also emphasised the fact that each and every individual is unique. He defines personality as, "An individual's unique pattern of traits". Everyone makes a different impression on other people, everyone behaves differently in various situations and the organisation and integration of traits in each person varies to a greater or lesser degree. Guilford\textsuperscript{4} claims that within

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{1} R.B. Cattell, "The Scientific Analysis of Personality", Chicago, Aldine, 1966, p. 88.
\item \textsuperscript{2} Allport, loc. cit., p. 79.
\item \textsuperscript{3} J.D. Guilford, "Personality", New York, McGraw-Hill, 1959, p. 188.
\item \textsuperscript{4} Ibid., p. 188.
\end{itemize}
the individual differences which exist one finds key to personality and that personality is best understood by comparing the differences between people.

Eysenck's (1960)\textsuperscript{1} definition of personality can be paraphrased as, "The more or less stable and enduring organisation of a person's character, temperament, intellect and physique, which determines his unique adjustment to the environment". This supports the concepts of uniqueness and adjustment.

There have been many research studies completed in the assessment of personality traits and profile of persons.

However, much little efforts have been made in this direction in the field of physical education in India, as this profession is a new and upcoming discipline in India. It dates back hardly to half a century and odd years. Very few personalities and institutions of professional training were on the horizon of physical education during the early period of this century.

Secondly, the activity of research in the profession is a recent innovation and quite in its infancy. Whatever research is initiated, it is more of experimental.

or normative survey type. Personality studies, particularly of biographical type, are found absolutely exceptional. Individual case studies of personalities or of the institutions/organizations working in the field of physical education with the object of assessing their contribution to profession are very rare. Hence, this humble attempt has been made in this direction.

L.J. Kokardekar was a personality of third decade of the current century, who was highly qualified in the profession and had worked for physical education in erstwhile C.P. and Berar Province of Central India (the present Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha part of Maharashtra). He was pioneering Director of Physical Education in the University of Nagpur. Several references are found of his name, in the state government reports, Nagpur University reports and in other documents and correspondence. The scientific work that was carried out by him, was reflected in his writings in the contemporary magazines and newspapers, so also in the annual reports of the Board of Physical Welfare of Nagpur University. He was short lived, as he met with a fatal accident in the year 1943 when he was only 40 years of age. He was closely associated with Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal, Amravati the voluntary social institution of Central India working in the field of Physical Education.
1) **Statement of the Problem:**

Statement of the problem is, "A Personality Profile of Dr. Kokardekar and his Contribution to Evaluation in Physical Education".

2) **Objective of Study:**

   a) **General objective:**

To study the personality of Dr. L.J. Kokardekar and to know his contribution to the field of Physical Education.

   b) **Specific objective:**

   i) To study his personality traits from available source material and prepare his biographical sketch highlighting various facts and dimensions of his personality.

   ii) To prepare his personality profile.

   iii) To review his scientific work in the area of sports anthropometry, physical fitness and evaluation.

   iv) To make critical appraisal of his innovative scientific work.

3) **Significance of the Problem:**

The study is pioneering and instrumental in compiling, classifying and assessing the life sketch and contribution of Dr. L.J. Kokardekar which was hitherto
unknown. It may serve as discovery of a lost chapter in the history of physical education in India.

The study may serve as a model or guideline for future research workers in undertaking similar type of personality and biographical studies in physical education.

The study has generated a few problems/topics for further research for the consideration of future research workers.

) **Design of the study:**

Considering the title and in view of its objectives, the study was divided and conducted in two parts:

**Part I:** Personality study of Dr. L.J. Kokardekar

**Part II:** Critical Appraisal of his Scientific Work.

The detailed methodology of each part is described separately under the respective part.