CHAPTER - I

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The term Personality actually comes from the Latin word, “Persona” which means masks used by actors on the stage, but personality in the modern usage of the term means the real individual existing as a self conscious human being, having the quality of being a person and not as a disguised individual.

Personality is the visible aspect of one’s character. It is a person as an embodiment of a collection of qualities. Psychology does not regard personality as a passive entity but as that dynamic quality of the individual which finds route or bears fruit through his attitude, conduct and activities. It does not enquire about what personality is but with what it deals. Collectively it has been stipulated by “words worth”, “Personality is the total quality of an individuals behaviour”.

Personality is not however, a more aggregate but is the unity of integration of manifold manifestations like pleasure, love, hatred, activity, inactivity and hope, despair of the individual. We seek to assess individual personality and to rate the various traits and character. It may be for child guidance, vocational guidance or personality investigation or the all round development of an individual and for any other psychological or psychiatric purpose. How is this done? Based on psychological principles various methods have been evolved, one of these is the investigation of personality on the basis of handwriting. This is graphology.

Graphology is the science of knowing or highlighting a persons character from his handwriting. Psychographology is the science which tries to study
human mind, personality and behaviour through handwriting in scientific way. Since handwriting is a universal means of communication and expression. It is the route for finding important personality information, your handwriting is the record of your personality, your thoughts and emotions, conscious and subconscious, your intentions, talents and ambitions, your strength and shortcomings, past experience and present state of development, your physical strength are all set down in permanent record by the strokes of your pen as you write.

Communicating through written symbol is a uniquely human endeavour of the millions of species of life on earth, only Homo-sapiens have the ability to use graphic symbols to communicate, even long after they existed, through art, objects, books, wills, music and so on. The term ‘graphology’ originates from the Greek words – “grapho” which means “writing” and ‘logas’ means discursive knowledge ‘or’ study. Thus graphology stands for the “study of handwriting”, especially as it is supposed to indicate the writers character, aptitude etc. (Webster’s New Twentieth Century unabridged Dictionary). Graphological data are obtained from observation, study and experimentation. Graphology also uses hypothesis and experiments in order to establish a body of facts. Here it is necessary to point out that graphology is the study of all graphic movements and not merely “handwriting analysis”. In addition to handwriting, the graphologist studies doodles, drawings, sculptures and paintings in order to gain insight in to the physical, mental and emotional states of the writer or artist. Although all graphic movement can be analysed, the personality work concentrates only on handwriting.

Graphology is complete, accurate examination and evaluation of behaviour and personality of ones innerself, as well as others. If people really
completely and thoroughly knew and understood each other (impossible!),
counselling, psychiatry and psychology would be unnecessary and graphology
would only divulge those obvious characteristics already known. Each of us is
really three person, that is; one’s self-image, the personality projected to
everyone else, and a combination of all of these. Handwriting reflects the
fundamental features which combine to constitute a personality in each
individual instance, very faithfully it follows the course of development of the
writers.

Over two thousand years ago, Aristotle spoke of dividing man into three
separate aspects, the body, the mind and the spirit which is now referred to as
the physical, the mental and the emotional studies of thousands of people who
have lost the use of their hands and have had to learn to write the pen in their
mouths or between their toes show that they eventually produce their own
unique “handwriting” the same handwriting they had when they could use their
hands. The point is it’s not the hand or mouth or toes that decide which way
we’ll slant our writing or how big we’ll write. Those decision actually come
from our brain. So when we produce any graphic movement, such as
handwriting, we are actually “brain writing” and leaving our “brain-prints”
behind on the paper, our brain print reveal who we are and how we think, feel
and behave. They are an X-ray of our mind. And, like our finger-prints, they
remain uniquely our own forever. No two people ever have the exact same brain
prints.

The advance fields of both psychology and psychoanalysis, has widened
as well as deepend the scope of the study and the usefulness of graphology.
According to the tenents of psychology a man has three distinctive aspects -
physical, Mental and emotional.
When we get set to write something, we are using all the three of these aspects. Among the three it is only the emotion which alone guide everything we do. Emotions may arouse, sustain and direct activity. Thus they play an energizing role in one’s behaviour. Graphology is considered to be an art by means of which we can detect the emotions of an individual as reflected in his/her handwriting.

Psycho-graphology is a scientific study of handwriting as a means of ascertaining individual character on principles of psycho-analysis. This method of personality investigation, character-analysis and subsequent psychological study is most economical, quick and practical in application. As for as its reliability is concerned, it is sufficient to say that it is continuously tested in all spheres by expert and eminent graphologists.

If you compare the samples of your handwriting at various times over a periods of year, you notice at once how they vary. Samples from your school days have little resemblance to your present writing, which may slant in the opposite direction and show entirely different shapes of letters. A letter you wrote when you were well and happy look quiet different from another, written when you were sad, depressed or ill. Just your personality has changed during the progress of your life, so has your handwriting is faithful elho. Moreover it is a permanent record. Hence if affords permanent and representative data for scientific treatment. The method of investigation is based upon the principles of psycho-analysis given a specimen of handwriting, it is possible to make out with confidence a sufficiently close broad outline of the writers psychological picture.
The reason for this close association between personality and handwriting is this every nervous and muscular movement originates in the brain. The hand merely holds the pen or pencil; it is the brain which is thus responsible for the manner in which you form letter and space you lines. If you sit on the bench and idly write in the sand with your toe, the markes you make will have the same characteristics of your handwriting. At this stage, an objection may be raised, if handwriting changes so often in each individual case, how it represent personality and character? How can it give details of traits which would be reliable? This would seem an objection but would in fact explain one advantage of this fascinating method of character analysis. It portrays the man as he is, an emotional, flexible, living being. Handwriting like personality, is individually characteristic as well as has quality of exhibiting changes.

A psycho-graphological examination of handwriting specimen of a youngest reveals the effect of education on him, the effect of other factors that might have played an important part of the formation of his character, standing of culture, capabilities, failings and the negative qualities resulting in reactionary activities, showing off by aggressiveness, feeling of inferiority, dishonesty, irritability etc. The positive and negative traits of child’s character having been found out, and the psychological working of his mind having been studied, the diagnosis and of a psychological remedy do the remain difficult to make out.

There are some every day occurrences in handwriting we all notice them from time to time and observe on serious reflection that handwriting is inseparably related with the writer. The relationship is direct and continuous, out of this relationship based on the principles of psycho-analysis a systematic method of investigation personality and character has emerged and proved to be of considerable value in the fields where knowledge of human nature is useful.
In our country, psycho-graphology may be thought to be a young science, but it has proved the claim it makes again and again in the field of research and operation. In various countries this science is being beneficially employed in child clinics, selection of teachers, selection of personnel for responsible jobs, vocational guidance, crime investigation etc. It is not yet popularly known in this country and even if it is not possible to permit it to take upon itself the task of analyzing the characters, personal aptitudes and abnormal behaviour of problematical children. It can certainly be made use of as an aid to psychological study and investigation.

The purpose of this study is to know the reliability of graphology as a tool of personality measurement. The purpose is also to find out whether handwriting changes according to the personality of a person and whether persons of the same personality characteristics possess the similar handwriting traits or not. To achieve this purpose following problem was taken.

(2) **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM :-**

“Psycho-graphology”. its validation as personality measure in relation to 16PF scale and T.A.T.

(3) **JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM :-**

Hundreds of years ago many attempts were made to find a convenient and reliable method of judging character of a person as, colour of his eyes, size and lines of forehead, lines of his hand (Palmistry) and his writing. But later
psychologists developed many scientific tests of assessing the physical and mental characteristics of a person.

The science of psychology provides many elaborate ways of assessing the physical and mental characteristics of a person, but none of them can be compared with graphology in easiness, thoroughness and quickness (John Gillman, Graphologist). Every time a person writes his name, he is registering a pen picture of his personality. “(Robert Holder, Graphologist)”. Inspite of all these challenges, psychologists do not recognize graphology as a reliable and scientific method for the measurement of human behaviour in general and personality in particular. Therefore it was thought by the researcher to test the accuracy of the graphology as personality measure scientifically.

Psycho-graphology, as a reliable measure to study personality and behaviour will prove economical and convenient for psychologists since, it is readily available always and everywhere. Therefore, the need to enlist it in the field of measurement as a scientific measure, was felt by the researcher and inspired her to do the pioneer research work.

(4) DEFINATION OF THE KEY TERM :-

(A) Personality :- R.B. Cattell has attempted to define and refine conception on personality are based on factor analysis method and underlies trait theory on personality. According to him, “Personality is a structure of traits which are both surface traits and source traits. The traits emphasized in the inventory are source traits”.
C.w. Allport (1937, "Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustments to his environment").

(B) **Graphology** : "Graphology is the Art of knowing men by their handwriting". (Abbe Lean Hyppolyte Michon).

(C) **Psychographology** : Psychographology is the interpretation of handwriting by the principles of psychoanalysis.

(5) **OBJECTIVES :-**

1. To study whether there is significant difference in the graphological patterns of the persons coming in the category of either introversion or extroversion.
2. To study whether there is significant difference in the graphological patterns of the person coming in the category of either high or low Anxiety.
3. To study whether there is significant difference in the graphological patterns of the person coming in the category of Tough poise or Tendermindedness.
4. To study whether there is significant difference in the graphological patterns of the persons coming in the category of either subduedness or Independence.
5. To study whether there is a set of combination of handwriting traits for each of the second order scoring factors of 16P.F. Test.
6. To study whether there is any relationship between graphology and personality or not.
(6) **SPECIFIC RESEARCH QUESTIONS :-**

(i) Is there any significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either introversion or extroversion?

(ii) Is there any significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either high or low anxiety?

(iii) Is there any significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either Tough poise or tendermindedness?

(iv) Is there any significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either Subduedness or Independent?

(v) Is there any set of combination of handwriting traits for each of the second order scoring factors of 16P.F. test?

(vi) Is there any relationship between graphology and personality?

(7) **HYPOTHESES :-**

1. There is no significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either Introversion or extroversion.

2. There is no significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either high or low anxiety.

3. There is no significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either Tough Poise or Tendermindedness.

4. There is no significant difference in the handwriting of the persons coming in the category of either Subduedness or Independent.

5. There is no set of combination of handwriting traits for each of the second order scoring factors of 16 P.F. test.

6. There is no relationship between graphology and personality.