THESIS SECTION

ABSTRACT

The present study is concerned with two issues:

(1) Whether divergent thinking ability is a general ability or a group of specific abilities, and (2) whether or not personality dimensions covary with these divergent thinking abilities. It seeks to investigate the above mentioned question by:

(1) Criterion definition of the constituents of divergent thinking ability.
(2) Identifying personality dimensions conducive for potential creativity.
(3) Measuring divergent thinking factors and personality dimensions.
(4) Exploring major common factors of the divergent thinking ability and the personality dimensions.
(5) Exploring the interdependence of certain personality dimensions and certain divergent thinking factors.

The constituents of divergent thinking ability were selected on the basis of Guilford's S.I. (Structure of Intellect) model. Out of eight Guilford's Constituents of divergent thinking ability seven have been selected for the present study. The selected factors have been
assessed by the tests of semantic, symbolic and figural contents only. The following four personality dimensions of a creative person have been taken into account for the purpose of finding the covariance with divergent thinking abilities. The dimensions are (a) Non-conformity, (b) Autonomy, (c) Openness of mind, and (d) Ego strength.

The study was conducted in two phases. At the initial stage, 14 tests of divergent thinking abilities were administered to 246 students of VI, VIII and X grades. At the final stage of the study, 13 tests of divergent thinking abilities and 4 questionnaires of personality dimensions were administered to 540 Xth grade students studying in the public schools of Rajasthan State.

Inter correlations were calculated at both these stages separately and the matrices were subjected to Principal Component Analysis. Degree of interdependence of personality dimensions has been calculated by multiple correlation.

The results indicate that:

1. Age and training affect the factor pattern of divergent thinking abilities.
2. Personality dimensions are functionally related
to factors of divergent thinking ability.

(a) Non-conformity, openness of mind, and autonomy are determined by divergent thinking abilities considerably i.e., (between 16 and 27%).

(b) Ego strength is affected by divergent thinking abilities i.e., (4.86 percent).

(3) The main components of potential creativity, as emerged in the Principal Component Analysis are :-

(i) Divergent production of concrete semantic ideas (products).

(ii) Divergent production of figural ideas in case of open figures.

(iii) Autonomous nonconformity.

(iv) Divergent production of figural ideas (products) in case of closed stimuli.

(v) Imaginative originality.