

A COMPARISON OF PERSONALITY TYPES BETWEEN BUSINESS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS IN A PRIVATE COLLEGE

Tee Sock Sing

Career and Counselling Centre, INTI College Subang Jaya,
Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
(socksing@tm.net.my)

14686

ABSTRACT

An understanding of one's psychological type and the demands of the career and workplace can reduce the loss of human resource and increase job satisfaction. The first objective of the present study is to identify the psychological types of the Business and Computer Science students and the second objective is to compare the psychological types of the Business and Computer Science students. Hand scorable Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Form M and demographic questionnaires are administered to the subjects. Results indicated that the dominant MBTI types among the Business and Computer Science students are ENFP, ENFJ and INFP; these MBTI types contributed to 41% of the Business students and 31% of the Computer Science students. ENTJ types were also common among Business students (8%) and Computer Science students (7.2%). There were 9.4% of ISTJ and 7.9% of ISTJ types found among the Computer Science students but these types were under represented among the Business students. Male and female students show the greatest difference in the Thinking and Feeling dimension, where the males marginally prefer Thinking and the females highly prefer Feeling for both the Business and Computer Science students. Intuitive-Thinking function pairs were preferred by the vast majority of Business and Computer Science students. The majority of Business students preferred Intuitive-Feeling (45%) and Intuitive-Thinking (23%), whereas business professionals preferred Sensing-Thinking (ST). Computer Science students

preferred Intuitive-Feeling (36%) and Intuitive-Thinking (22.3%) whereas the Computer Professionals preferred Sensing-Thinking (ST) and Intuitive-Thinking (NT).

INTRODUCTION

The psychological type theory by Myers and Briggs (Myers, 1975) provides a theoretical framework which explains individual preferences that may influence the person's career choice. The Psychological type refers to a theory of personality developed by Swiss psychiatrist Carl G. Jung to explain the normal differences between healthy people. Four psychological preferences, as described by Myers-Briggs Type Theory, are Extraversion and Introversion (E-I), Sensing and Intuition (S-N), Thinking and Feeling (T-F), and Judging and Perceiving (J-P).

E-I : Extraversion refers to preference of people who prefer to focus on the outer world of people and activity. They direct their energy and attention outwardly and receive energy from interacting with people and from taking action. Introversion refers to people who prefer to focus on their own inner world of ideas and experiences. They direct their energy and attention inward and receive energy from reflecting on their thoughts, memories and feelings.

S-N : Sensing refers to preference of people who prefer to absorb information that is real and tangible, what is actually happening. They are observant about the specifics of

what is going on around them and are specially attuned to practical realities. Intuition refers to people who prefer to take in information by seeing the big picture, focusing on the relationships and connections between facts. They want to grasp patterns and are especially attuned to seeing new possibilities.

T-F : Thinking refers to preference of people who prefer to look at the logical consequences of a choice or action. Feeling refers to people who prefer to use feelings in decision making. They are energised by appreciating and supporting others and look for qualities to praise. Their goal is to create harmony.

J-P : Judging refers to preference of people who prefer the external world that is organised and orderly. They look at the world and see decisions that need to be made. Perceiving refers to people who prefer to understand and experience the world. They want to interact with the world in a flexible, spontaneous and adaptable manner. They are energised by their resourcefulness in adapting to the demands of the moment.

By understanding and comparing the psychological types of graduating college students, we may be able to gain insight into the reasons for specific professional orientation. Such studies provide self-understanding, understanding of others and appreciation of the differences in the psychological types among college students. It facilitates effective career development, planning and decision-making among college students. Results of such studies will contribute to the general body of knowledge of psychological types and career development of college students. This knowledge of the psychological types of college students should increase the effectiveness of career development

programme as students apply the insights gained.

The present study seeks to determine the psychological types of two groups of undergraduate students majoring in Business and Computer Science.

The objectives are:

1. To identify the psychological types of Business students and Computer Science students,
2. To identify the similarities and difference in the psychological types between the Business and Computer Science students,
3. To identify the similarities and difference of the psychological types between the male and the female students in these two groups,
4. To identify the similarities and difference of the psychological types of Business students compared to other management professionals, and
5. To identify the similarities and difference of the psychological types of Computer Science students compared to other computer professionals.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Participants

The participants comprised 100 Business students and 139 Computer Science students from a private college in Malaysia. Seventy percent were Malaysian students while 30% were foreign students. They were in their fourth to sixth semester of their degree studies and were between 20 to 23 years of age. For Business students, 44 % were males and 56 % females; for Computer Science Studies, 67% were males and 33 % females.

Instrument : Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI).

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator was developed by Katharine Briggs and Isabel Myers Briggs based on Carl Jung's psychological type theory.