INTRODUCTION

Delinquency is a phenomenon that has affected the personal and social aspects of human being's life throughout human history. Committing crime and community infringement on the one hand destroy the desirable coexistence of individuals and community and is followed by community's reaction; and on the other hand it challenges the philosophy of human being's social life (providing security, welfare and meeting mutual needs) [1]. Criminal behavior which is a synonym for crime and delinquency is a voluntary action done by an individual; because they are in a position that understand the crime and allow themselves to do it; but this action is against the common norms and values in the community [2]. Differing their performances [9]. In Iran few researches have been conducted regarding the criminals' personality. In a research conducted by Palahang named surveying the prevalence rate of personality disorders in imprisoned criminals of Sharekord, conducted on a 216-individual sample, results showed that prevalence rate of personality disorders in imprisoned criminals is detecting the criminals' personality [4]. Calvo and Eysenck believes that delinquent behaviors are resulted from specific personality traits. Combination of environmental conditions and neurologica and personality factors results in creation of different types of crimes [5]. This assumption indicates that some characteristics are disposed to committing crime more than others [6]. Several surveys have shown that criminals usually have serious personality disorders and these problems could have root in basic personality traits [7]. Personality could be defined as relatively stable mental and physical tendencies; tendencies determining the individual's compliance with the mental and social environment [8]. According to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) personality disorder is lasting mental and behavioral experience which does not match cultural criteria and it has an uncompromising influence; starting from adolescence or young adulthood; it does not change over time and results in individual's dissatisfaction and disturbing their performances [9]. In Iran few researches have been conducted regarding the criminals' personality. In a research conducted by Palahang named surveying the prevalence rate of personality disorders in imprisoned criminals of Sharekord, conducted on a 216-individual sample, results showed that prevalence rate of personality disorders in the studied sample is 55.2% and antisocial personality disorder with 18.2% is the most common disorder [10]. In another
research the results showed that 96% of murderers have antisocial personality disorder [11]. Aghanwa [12] concluded that antisocial personality disorder has been connected with delinquent behavior and suicide in a number of researches. Achieved research results up to now indicate that there is a significant difference between personality traits of prisoners and normal individuals; and in Iran few researches have been conducted regarding the criminals’ personality and its cures. Since individuals sentenced to imprisonment have personality disorders and suffer from more disorders compared to normal individuals, the question is that what type of personality disorders exist in the individuals sentenced to imprisonment and which of them have the highest frequency?

METHODS

Regarding the nature of the subject, the research design is descriptive, causal-comparative. The research statistical population consists of two parts: male individuals sentenced to imprisonment in Tabriz prison and male non-criminal normal individuals with no history of convictions. Among the individuals of both populations, ultimately 200 individuals were chosen as the research sample according to the research entry criteria and by the use of convenience sampling method. The sampling method of individuals sentenced to imprisonment was in way that, 150 criminal males in Tabriz central prison passing their sentence that had the criteria required for the study were chosen. The sampling method for normal males was in a way that firstly regarding the research criteria, 120 males who had no history of convictions were chosen and then from this numbers the individuals who had the criteria required for entering the research were chosen and then they were matched with the normal group in terms of age, gender, marital status, socio-economic status and living area. Independent t-test was used for surveying the conformity of groups in terms of age. Results indicated that two studied groups had conformity in terms of age (t = 1.213, P > 0.05). Two-variable Chi-square was used for surveying the conformity of groups in terms of socio-economic status. Chi-square test results indicated the lack of relation between two variables (Chi-square = 1.080, P > 0.05); in other words in terms of income variable two groups had conformity. Data analysis results are shown in Tables 1-3; in terms of marital status most criminals were single (68.6%) and the rest (31.4%) were married. According to Table 1, total number of studied criminals in this research is 100 individuals; from 100 individuals, 52% of criminals had primary school degree, 23% had guidance school degree, 18% had diploma, 5% had associate degree and 2% had bachelors’ degree and higher. As it is observable, primary school degree and guidance school degree had the highest frequency, respectively and bachelors’ degree and higher had the lowest frequency.

RESULTS

Regarding the research design which is causal-descriptive, two groups needed to match for comparison; to this aim in this research two groups were matched in terms of variables of age, gender, marital status, socio-economic status and living area. Independent t-test was used for surveying the conformity of groups in terms of age (t = 1.213, P > 0.05). Two-variable Chi-square was used for surveying the conformity of groups in terms of socio-economic status. Chi-square test results indicated the lack of relation between two variables (Chi-square = 1.080, P > 0.05); in other words in terms of income variable two groups had conformity. In other words in terms of income variable two groups had conformity.

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage of Respondents Based on Criminals’ Education Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
<th>Cumulative Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>52 (52)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance School</td>
<td>23 (23)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>18 (18)</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>5 (5)</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bachelor Degree &amp; Higher</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Frequency Distribution and Percentage of Respondents Based on Criminals’ Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Frequency (%)</th>
<th>Cumulative Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-30</td>
<td>27 (27)</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-35</td>
<td>48 (48)</td>
<td>75.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-40</td>
<td>20 (20)</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-45</td>
<td>4 (4)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 (100)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of Scores in Individuals Sentenced to Imprisonment and Normal Individuals Based on Personality Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>Mean ± SD</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schizoid</td>
<td>-2.23 ± 2.84</td>
<td>-2.23</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>23.03 ± 2.84</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>23.85 ± 2.21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoidant</td>
<td>-2.83 ± 2.84</td>
<td>-2.83</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>21.72 ± 2.69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>22.73 ± 2.10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent</td>
<td>-2.25 ± 2.21</td>
<td>-2.25</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>23.67 ± 3.02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>24.55 ± 2.23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histrionic</td>
<td>-1.24 ± 2.69</td>
<td>-1.24</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>24.86 ± 3.12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>25.32 ± 1.81</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcissistic</td>
<td>-1.47 ± 2.91</td>
<td>-1.47</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>24.68 ± 2.91</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>25.27 ± 2.56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antisocial</td>
<td>-3.37 ± 2.84</td>
<td>-3.37</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>34.83 ± 4.28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>36.76 ± 3.40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggressive/Abusive</td>
<td>-2.36 ± 3.00</td>
<td>-2.36</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>30.75 ± 3.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>31.74 ± 2.70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obsessive/Compulsive</td>
<td>-0.67 ± 3.05</td>
<td>-0.67</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>25.45 ± 3.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>25.71 ± 2.15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive/Aggressive</td>
<td>-0.09 ± 3.14</td>
<td>-0.09</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>23.32 ± 3.14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>23.36 ± 2.52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-defeating</td>
<td>-1.40 ± 3.24</td>
<td>-1.40</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>23.76 ± 2.24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>24.20 ± 1.96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizotypal</td>
<td>0.14 ± 3.31</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>24.22 ± 3.31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>24.16 ± 3.02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borderline</td>
<td>-2.80 ± 2.99</td>
<td>-2.80</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>24.74 ± 2.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>31.86 ± 2.40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paranoid</td>
<td>-1.37 ± 2.57</td>
<td>-1.37</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>25.49 ± 2.57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>32.03 ± 2.76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As Table 2 shows, among criminals, age range of 30-35 years has the highest frequency (48%) Frequency of other age ranges was: 25-30 (27%), 35-40 (20%) and 40-45 (4%). And one case was no answer. Independent t-test was used for testing the research main hypothesis of difference between personality disorders of individuals sentenced to imprisonment and normal individuals. Based on Table 3, the personality disorders rate (schizoid, avoidant, dependent, antisocial, aggressive/abusive, borderline and paranoid) is different for individuals sentenced to imprisonment and normal individuals; because the results are significant referring to the t-test amount at error lev-
el smaller than 0.05; thus with 95% confidence it could be stated that there is a significant difference between the mentioned personality traits of individuals sentenced to imprisonment and normal individuals; and the mean of mentioned disorders among imprisoned criminals is higher. Table 3 shows that in imprisoned criminal individuals, the highest score belonged to antisocial (36.76), aggressive/abusive (31.74), borderline (31.86) and paranoid personality disorder (32.03), respectively. Also, as we could see the highest score in individuals sentenced to prison allocated to antisocial personality disorder. This finding was validated by the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV axis II Personality Disorders.

DISCUSSION

In general the aim of this research was examining the personality traits of criminal individuals. Research results showed that antisocial, aggressive/abusive, borderline and paranoid personality disorders was higher than normal for individuals sentenced to imprisonment, and the highest personality disorder among criminals, was antisocial personality disorder. This finding is consistent with research results of Aghanwa [12], Assadi et al. [16], Coid et al. [17] and Mazaheri et al. [18].

According to the current research results, paying attention to individuals sentenced to imprisonment who have antisocial personality disorder (that had the highest frequency in the current research) is very important. According to Black et al. [19], some criminals are more subject to recommitting a crime; and the possibility of committing acts of violence is higher in antisocial criminals after being released. In fact, individuals with antisocial personality disorder have characteristics such as telling lies, escaping school and home, theft, quarrel, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, self-indulgence and illegal behaviors. One of the main characteristics of these individuals is lack of remorse and sense of guilt for committing crimes; and it seems that these individuals do not have conscience. These features (audacity, lack of conscience and also irritability) increase the possibility of criminal behavior [20, 21]. Thus there is a necessity for introducing these individuals to care centers after being released from prison so that they receive mental health services and attend group therapy sessions in order to eliminate antisocial personality disorder which has been the main disorder of the sample in this study. The current research had some limitations; Lack of cooperation of some of the respondents (criminals) for participating and answering the whole test and/or answering some of the test questions and the research sample including the male criminals of Tabriz prison; thus it is necessary to be careful in generalizing the current research results to other geographical zones; thus due to lack of presence of women in sampling, the results have generalizability for men. It is suggested to avoid commutation of sentence for mental patients; and it is necessary to be careful in generalizing the current research results to other criminals. It is suggested to use female samples in the future researches. Teaching the appropriate parenting styles to parents regarding how to deal with children, general methods of behaving and dealing with problems of life, explaining the needs and demands of adolescence, young adulthood and adulthood through print or non-print media and providing methods for meeting these needs and dealing with them establishing technical support centers in different fields such as financial, career, counseling support such as family, psychological, legal, social counseling and leading different individuals toward appropriate paths of life according to their conditions and needs; raising the level of public culture in how to deal with criminals and mental patients that are prepared for committing crimes; economic and legal support from families with specific conditions and making efforts for reducing mental illnesses are also some other ways suggested regarding the necessity of preventing from social issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None declared.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interests.

REFERENCES


