



## What is intellectual personality? And why it matters?

Moosa Javdan

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Hormozgan University, Hormozgan, Iran

\*Corresponding Author: Javdan4920@yahoo.com

**Abstract:** Intellectual personality is feelings, behavior, beliefs, attitudes, and ways of reasoning, evaluation and a decision making that people utilized when they face with a cultural phenomenon-social, political - religious, historical, economic and then accept or reject it. Intellectual personality is resulted in multiple factors which influence the character of the internal (genetic and temperament) and external (environment, education, training and life stories) is individual. Therefore, the human intellectual interpretation is a mental process, a figure that is based on the information processing and decision making of events evaluation.

**Keywords:** Intellectual personality, Critical thinking, Individual differences

### INTRODUCTION

Human are different not only in appearance, but also the moral qualities, intellectual, personality, and psychological. Awareness of individual differences between people, whether children or adults as old as the creation of man, since man first, when they lived in caves or forests, were fully aware of each other's different and have different reactions they showed. The major causes of individual differences are in a variety of mental processes, talent, creativity, personality, motivation, gender and cultural environment-social. Human are different in personality, family context and cultural field. These differences are due to different processes and have different characteristics, mental processes and behavior that affect makes people have different intellectual personalities. Accept individual differences in growth patterns of psycho - social, causes everyone fits his personality, thinking styles and his behavior with expected conditions<sup>1</sup>.

On the other hand, what are inherited abilities, feelings and some of behaviors that would lead to raise some of the mental processes and personality traits which are different in every one<sup>2</sup>? In other words, the historic period - social and individual life-space with inherited features shape intellectual personality and individual differences. That's mean, people's differences depends on inherited fields and the circumstances of time and place in which they are living. Also, individual differences depends on physical, psychological and social needs, such as receiving love, harmony, intimacy, and interpersonal and intrapersonal how and to what these needs are met<sup>3</sup>. Hence, the type of needs may affect intellectual personality and their style thinking.

Thinking is practical mind, and when the man comes to face the problem and its solution is called for. At this point in mind, the mental effort of trying to solve the problem starts. In other words, thinking is a mental effort to accurately answer questions on the mental means such as logic, reason, thinking, experience and understanding of the subject requires<sup>4</sup>. Just the thought of knowing and thinking, thinking and trying to find reliable information about the world. In other words, the ability of thinking and understanding accuracy or the opinions of others is resulted in the foundations of thought and personality and individual differences is due to intellectual independence, social events, historical, political and cultural<sup>6</sup>.

Children don't born with critical thinking but this ability attainment in interact with the environment, education, learning and genetic characteristics and individual personality. Many people do not ever get these specifications, and they are as same as childhood. The difference in terms of chronological development is greater now, it is not possible to achieve such skills but they live freely in the environment and lifestyle is thought to think about philosophy. Hence, intellectual personality required for fortified actuators, intellectual stimulation, freedom of thought, the ability to express their thoughts and comments<sup>6</sup>. While we are thinking, we try to answer a question, solve a problem, and prove conclusions. For example, we want to know what the cause of wars or why some countries have more progress than other countries. Very clear example of Newton and falling apple and the apple came down and made raised this question in Newton mind: Why came down not up? This created the cause of gravity. In all these cases, we are trying to get knowledge that do not advance and in most cases this knowledge we make about by direct observation of events and get ideas, thoughts and judgments. Therefore, we should think about the process of life that part of that process resulted in the character and the story of our lives. Such mental process implies in our intellectual personality traits. In other words, our feelings, interpretations of the phenomena indicate that our minds can be affect by personality and behavior. The author hopes to help to deploy and spread this theme by favor of other theorists and researchers to develop this subject and the development of intellectual capacity and personality<sup>7</sup>.

### **Theoretical Basics**

Among all the creatures created by God, the human beings have the finest abilities including the ability of thinking, ponderous and recognition. This capability makes the human being a superior life form compared to other creatures on earth. Humans being have the superior capability of thinking which other creatures on earth do not have. This finest ability help the human being achieve great objectives in his life including scientific, cultural and social achievements. They may also create new inventions with the genius application of this capability. Thus, the ability to think makes a prior distinction between the human being and other creatures in the universe. As time passed by, the necessity to have this blessing was felt by the human being more and

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more. Therefore, having the greatest thoughts possible was considered as the most important and valuable capability among the human beings as well. This finest capability blessed the human being with the best mental abilities which other creatures do not have. This also brought him an elevated growth and development provided that he may use the power to think in the best way possible. In the old days, human beings had a very simple life. They had no adventitious means of life except some essential ones which were used for the purpose of providing a secure shelter and simple living conditions. Gradually they started to facilitate their arduous way of living with the ingenious help of their intellectual power. Thus, an easier life for human being on earth may be possible in the condition that he uses his power of thinking. This may also be possible through consultation with thoughtful individuals (thinkers) and intellectuals. Psychological characteristics, such as thinking capability, curiosity and emotions are considered as the features relevant to one individual's thinking capability. Given following conditions, the human being need to deeply understand and recognize his thinking capability: the increasing complexities of human being living conditions and the accelerating speed of changes as well as evolutions in economic, social, cultural and psychological aspects of life. This issue made the theorists and those interested in the subject of knowledge and thinking to expand the scope of their study in the field of thinking recognition. Thus, they can keep pace with industrial and organizational developments as well as psychological researches. Therefore, they can better understand the nature of human being. Other researchers conducted on human cognitive development showed that intellectual individuals may have a successful life.

Sternberg<sup>8</sup> studied infrastructural and multi-dimensional aspects of the thinking ability. He found out that there is a direct interaction between the human being and the environment. The human being can overcome the environment providing that he get a deep understanding of the elements relevant to the environment as well as learning from the past experiences. In addition to the influence of environmental factors on mental processes, the human being is an elective and active creature. He is also considered as the processor who can process the external data. He specifically analyzes and interprets the external data in the information processing area when he wants to deal with the environmental problems using his own creativity. Then, he uses this processed data in the way which corresponds to his living conditions.

Personality traits, the way of thinking, attitudes and perceptions of an individuals from his own society as well as the environment are considered as the most important topics in the area of psychology. These subjects can be effectively and beneficially used to nurture intellectual- cognitive abilities of the human being as well as cultural-social development of every society. These subjects are the result of critical and logical thinking. This way of thinking reveals the subject, properly measures its various components and relations. In the end, it checks whether the information were processed and complied accurately or not. In other words, it does not naively and close mindedly accept other individuals' thoughts and statements. Furthermore, it does not simply overlook social, scientific, cultural and political issues. However, it considers these issues as important matters which should be dealt with properly. In addition, it

reviews and criticizes other individuals' views, opinions and ideas. It even reviews and criticizes the experts' views, opinions and ideas<sup>9</sup>.

### **Personality traits of thoughtful people**

*Logical Thinking:* an individual with this way of thinking usually looks at matters with doubt and uncertainty. He refrains from accepting other individuals' thoughts and ideas unless he deeply evaluates and interprets them. Each individual's logic represents his beliefs and perception from various events. This shows how an individual may deal with different situations and how he interacts and thinks in various situations, i.e. what are his attitudes and reactions when he faces various situations. In other words, the perception of an individual specifically belongs to that individual and no one else can claim one individual's specific thoughts as his own. Furthermore, each individual has his own specific logic which completely differs from other individuals' logics. This distinct logic represents a unique way of thinking in various aspects of one individual's life.

*Curiosity and inquiry:* this is the most powerful tool of reasonable and logical thinking. This tool may represent mature thinking as well as the personality of an individual. This may be the beginning of thinking (This shows how thinking process will begin). As long as there is no inquiry, a thoughtful image will not be perceived in an individual's mind (there will be no soul and mind). Enriching morale inquiry fundamentally reinforces the intellectual personality of an individual. An individual may find the answers to his questions using his own curiosity. He may also find the answers just because he enjoys learning new subjects in his life and wants to learn new concepts every day. As a result, finding answers to these questions lead to an enriched thinking, knowledge and understanding. He gradually may come to the conclusion that (understand) he should properly think in order to reflect worldly facts and concepts. He should also rationally and logically think about the views of other individuals. Curiosity is always a subjective process which is essential for making sense of various phenomena in the world around us. This capability is not limited to a specific group of individuals. On the other hand, not only children have this capability but also the adults. It should be noted that children pose different new questions on various questions every day. Therefore, they enjoy a fresh kind of curiosity.

*A Broad Perspective:* the individuals with this capability often study things deeply and extensively. They do not suffice in surface reflection (or they are not just satisfied with shallow thinking). Specific thoughtfulness can be seen in these individuals' attitudes. Their belief and faiths in objective facts and abstract phenomena strengthen and confirm their prior beliefs. What they disagree with does not pass through their mental filters. Individuals who have narrow views of life events cannot use critical broad thinking skills in interpreting various phenomena. They always just think within the scope of their traditional/obsolete norms<sup>10</sup>. For this reason, these individuals may face dire difficulties when they try to go beyond their scope of thinking and flee the tight

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fence of their way of thinking and dark mind. In other words, these close minded individuals have inflexible personalities. On the other hand, these individuals are not aware of their mental limitations. That's why these individuals always look at various affairs and events from a specific angle of view which does not change at all during their lives. They cannot change their feelings, so they may not discover the secret of their intellectual growth, benefit from creative thinking. They never expand their vision.

*Self-Confidence:* it relates to self-assuredness in one's personal judgment and abilities. It also refers to the individual's implications about himself in specific or general situations during his life. This capability includes confidence in our own abilities to cope with the fundamental challenges in our life, achieve the desired wishes, feelings of competence and the right to defend our needs, wishes and achieving the goals. These beliefs are considered as the basis of an intellectual personality. This shows how much an individual feels that he is in control of his destiny and life events<sup>11</sup>. This way of thinking is essential in life and cannot be replaced with any other way of thinking. This process begins in the childhood and continues throughout the life of an individual. This issue is essential in all aspects of an individual's life, including decision-making process, how to connect with the outside world, how to looks at life events and determines the ultimate destiny/fate of an individual.

### **Personality traits**

One of the major individual differences between the human beings is his personality traits. Thus, each individual has unique characteristics, temperaments and abilities which indicate his behavioral patterns, ways of responding and reacting to the environment. These features may reflect his personality. Therefore, every human being is unique in its kind. The personality is a specific pattern of the ways of thought as well as the behavior which will determine how the individual may adapt with the environment<sup>12</sup>. The Personality includes various traits and characteristics which represent the behavior of an individual. Among these traits and characteristics, following ones can be mentioned: thought, emotion, and perception of the individual from himself, his way of thinking and his lifestyle<sup>13</sup>. There are so many different views and theories about the personality. Each theory provides several hypotheses on personality characteristics. Some theorists have emphasized on the individuality and uniqueness of an individual. For example, Adler<sup>13</sup> and some other theorists believe that personality include the characteristics which make a distinction among various individuals. In other words, a personality characteristic is specific to just one individual (personality characteristic are unique and certain). Another group of theorists emphasized on internal and perceived structures. They believe that the apparent behavior and implication of an individual's behavior indicate the personality of that individual<sup>12</sup>. Another group of theorists believed that the personality depends on the history of life as well as stages of cognitive development. In this view, it is believed that the personality is the outcome of internal and external events. Internal events include genetic and biological preparations while external events encompass social experiences and environmental events<sup>14</sup>.

Humanistic view has a positive view on the human nature. This view recognizes the human as a thoughtful and creative creature who tries to identify his talents and abilities so that he may self-actualize. In this view, correct perception of the reality, acceptance of one self and others, liberalism in the main motive of the human for the purpose of intellectual development are considered as self-development as well as self-actualization. Paying attention to the physical and psychological needs, creativity, unconditional positive satisfaction of needs, receiving unconditional love and other individuals' endorsement are considerably important for mental health and development as well as the inherent desire of a healthy individual<sup>15</sup>.

Natural selection, the evolution of cultural traditions and reinforcement of the individual determine an individual's personality and behavior in behaviorist approach. In this approach, a healthy individual is the one who believes he should behave according to the rules and regulations of society. When he faces a problem, he should use behavior modification approach in order to improve and normalize his behavior. A healthy individual are not sure that he can act freely because his behavior depends on the environment. Each behavior is characterized by a limited number of environmental factors. A healthy individual receives higher social reinforcement from the environment and those around him due to his proper social behavior<sup>16</sup>.

The followers of social learning perspective believe that the interactions between the individual, the situations and actions determine an individual's behavior<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, the individual may shape his attitudes and behavior based on the information provided for him through this interaction. Furthermore, he expresses his attitudes and beliefs in line with his perceptions. In cognitive view, the individual have an active role in organizing, encoding and interpreting the information. For example, Kelly<sup>18</sup> believes that the human perceives and interpret the world based on his individual mental structure. He recognizes the meanings of his life events (the processes with respect to the events of everyday life. In this view, the individual's systematic intellectual structure is constantly evaluating his various mental experiences and changes.

In existentialism doctrine, it is emphasized that freedom and value arise from the views of the individual. Thus, the individual takes the responsibility for his life (is self-directed) and destiny/fate. He depicts an appropriate meaning of his life by critical thinking. This individual may feel that he is the conscious master of his life; moreover, the life events are not the effect of external and involuntary forces. The search for meaning requires acceptance of personal responsibility<sup>19</sup>. No one and nothing but the individual himself can give a meaning to the human's life. The human beings should face the world as well as his life and its various conditions with a free will and find the meaning of it. According to this view, the human essence consists of three elements whose roots are the human's reasoning and thoughts from the universe. These elements include spirituality, freedom and responsibility. The criterion that measures the meaningfulness of life lies in discovering the meaning and concept of life by the

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human being themselves, not by absolute obedience from what other individuals may say and desire (the meaningfulness concept of life can be determined by the human beings' perceptions, not what other individuals say or desire). Human being should feel that he is free to act and think critically and creatively in order to give meaning to his life or understand the meaningfulness of his life. In this approach, the main purpose of human development is achieving perfection by deep thinking and recognition. In other words, the human being should surpass himself and go beyond himself. In this way, the human being' thought naturally and spontaneously may broaden and be meaningful<sup>20</sup>.

This article is the first essay that introduced the basic concepts and main ideas about intellectual personality, importance and its significance in life. For the application and use of this area of human life and understanding it, this unique topic more studies are needed.

### **Conclusions**

Intellectual property is a valuable human potential that through it can evaluate their thoughts and beliefs, many of which are faced then take a different decision. Intellectual is one of the most important human complex ability skills that have been defined in different ways. Development of critical thinking is resulted in personality patterns and helps to seek the truth and avoid accepting anything without thinking and the wisdom. Personality is general pattern of express personal feelings and experiences, practices and procedures. Although the integrity of human existence personality is in both intellectual and personal life, through the interactive effects of both the visible and a general description and discrimination of thinking that called intellectual personality. In other words, intellectual personality reflects the way people think and behave in different ways that show the clues of mental abilities and personality during the live. The main source of the intellectual personality is the interaction of nature and nurture which form type of intellectual personality. Individuals who have been dealt with authoritarian behaviors have rigorous approach in their way of life. This informs the authoritarian intellectual personality. People, who have flexible approach and the way they were treated with them had been full of love, have flexible intellectual personality.

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