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## A HOMOEOPATHIC APPROACH TO PAEDIATRIC PERSONALITY

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### ABSTRACT

Physicians based their prescription upon different methods, such as Totality of symptoms, Keynote, Personality typing and many others. A study was undertaken to evaluate the efficacy of the method, based on personality typing of children with a control group of prescription made on totality of symptoms. It is observed that, prescription based on personality typing is more effective than based on totality of symptom. It is because methodical assessment of child's personality by the physician is more dependable than mother's information while collecting the symptoms.

### KEYWORD

Personality typing, Paediatric personality, Homoeopathic Prescribing.

### INTRODUCTION

A definition of personality should reflect the enduring and recurring elements of behavior of a child which is unique to his individuality. It is the organizing or governing agent of the individual to integrate the conflicts and constraints to which the individual is exposed and its unique corresponding expression. Understanding paediatric personality and prescription based upon this factor is a better Similimum, than prescribing on the basis of any other method.

The collection of symptoms required for a successful prescription is not only tedious and cumbersome in case of adults but also very much confusing in cases of children.

The child is like an animal. You never have to ask a horse or a dog where he feels pain because he will always tell by emotion so does the infant... J.T Kent.

So it is difficult to get symptoms in cases of children and it is only the skilful observation of the physician to elicit the symptoms

While treating the child, in the one side of the coin the parents information about the mental, physical general, particular symptoms but on the other side, the genuine and painstaking observation of the child by the physician, in his chamber.

Sometimes parents and especially the mothers, due to their ignorance of the importance of mental symptoms in homoeopathy, present it casually which misleads the doctor in selecting the similimum. As for e.g. a mother, during the interview replied that my child is sober. But through observation, it was found that the child is hyperactive, and when a cross-question was asked regarding the attitude of the child towards the pet, mother replied "Oh! though he is mild but brutal to the pet so much so that he pulls the tail, bits the dog mercilessly". This is one of the examples that can be seen in day to day practice.

Thus parent's misguidance, misinterpretation and misconception and least knowledge on the importance of mental symptoms in homoeopathy and profound affection towards their child give a red alert





to every physician to base their prescription on astute observation which is highly essential for successful prescription.

### AIM OF THE STUDY

To make this concept simplified different authors attempted in different ways to typify the personality of children. To quote a few Douglas M. Borland's "children types include five varieties fat, fair type, skin type, nervy type, backward type, and warm blooded type", Bill Gray and J.Shore's pediatric types, Paul Herscue's paediatric constitutional types, and some Indian authors "different axis" concept etc

In this study an attempt is made to study some polychrest fitting into classical classification of personality typings of Kaplan and to prescribe depending upon this personality typing.

As defined by Gordan Alport "Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual, consisting of his psychophysiological systems which determines his/her unique adjustment to the environment".

Personality is both complex and unique in each individual and differs greatly from one another in multiple compartments or behavior and each expresses only one of many potential life style. Personality develops through interaction of hereditary disposition and environmental influences to determine the particular behavior.

Genetic difference accounts for about half of the variance of personality trait. Of the remaining 50% of the variance, 25-30% are due to non-shared environmental effect i.e. experienced unique to the individuals and 15-20% ,family and childhood exposure. It has been observed that environmental factors shared by siblings reared together have little or no effect on basic temperament

traits but do influence other aspects of personality.

Personality consists of temperament, character and intelligence. Temperament reflects biological contribution, character reflects social and cultural contribution to personality whereas intelligence develops from inherited temperament and acquired character derived from social and cultural surrounding.

Temperament as described by Alexander, modern concept of temperament emphasizes its emotional, motivational and adaptive aspects of human being. Temperament is conceptualized as heritable tendency with reference to one's emotion and automatic behavior traits and habits observable in life and relatively stable over one's life span.

Temperaments are heritable, observable in childhood relatively stable, moderately predictive of adolescent and adult behavior. The four temperaments as described by Kaplan are universal across different cultures, ethnic groups and political systems in five continents

It is regulated by Cortico-striato limbic system i.e sensory cortical areas, amygdalae, caudate nucleus and putamen.

The four temperaments described in Homoeopathy have more or less similarity with modern terms by Kaplan which are as follows:-

Former	Now	Associated with basic emotions
Choleric	Novelty seeking	Hyperactive
Melancholic	Harm avoidance	Introvert
Sanguine	Reward dependence	Extrovert
Phlegmatic	Underachieving	Sluggish

Each temperament includes certain characteristics as described by Kaplan. Each of these individual





characters under one type of temperament are repertorised and five highest ranking drugs pertain to each type of temperament is determined:

#### **Novelty seeking:-**

Comprises of Impulsive, hyperactive, irritable characters. The five high ranking drugs covering the above characters- Tub., Tarentula, Hyosyamus, Stramonium, Medo

Tuberculinum is hyperactive due to his mischievous temperament and with inner desire to tease others.

Verat.alb hyperactiveness is purposeless without any bad motive.

Tarentula is hyperactive but due to his foxy nature he escapes others attention, Medorrhinum is bipolar, sometime restless and sometimes sluggish. Stramonium hyperactive is accompanied with seriousness and to damage others.

Hyos is hyperactive but has some foolish and comic gestures.

#### **Harm avoidance:-**

Comprises of fearful; shy; fatigable characters.

The five high ranking drugs covering the above characters- Nat.mur, Ign, Aur.met, puls

#### **Reward dependence:-**

Comprises of sentimental, open, warm, affectionate characters.

The five high ranking drugs covering the above characters- Phos, sulph, Nux.vom, Lyco, Carc

#### **Persistence:-**

Comprises of Lazy, Underachieving

The five high ranking drugs covering the above characters- Calc., Silicea, Bar.c, Bufo

#### **Character:**

In contrast to temperament, which is mostly inherited, character is less heritable and is moderately influenced by social learning, culture and random life events unique to the individual. Character is the conceptual

core of personality involves higher perceiving functions regulated by hippocampus and neocortex, The major character traits have been distinguished as Self-directedness, Cooperative, And Self transcendence. The outline of three characters are as follows-

#### **Self directedness**

Responsible, purposeful; resourceful, self acting, disciplined

Drugs for them- Puls, Carc., Kali. Carb, Nat. mur, Aur.met

#### **Cooperative**

Tenderhearted, Helpful, Compassionate, principled

Drugs for them- Ign., Puls., Nat. carb, Nat.mur., Carc., Nux.vom

#### **Self transcendental**

Intuitive, Spiritual, Idealistic

Drugs for them- Lach., Sep., Plat., Lyco., Caust

#### **Learning Attitude:**

The third aspect of personality is learning attitude, develops with the background of inherited temperament and childhood experience of culture of family, parents attitude, social background. They are described as follows

**Artistic:** Introspective, imaginative, and expressive.

Drugs for them- Puls., China, Ign, Stram, Can.indica, Cocculus

**Investigative:** Intellectual, curious, and energetic.

Drugs for them- Lach, Choco., Aur.met, Lyco., Sepia, Sulph

**Conventional:** Mechanical, asocial, careful. Drugs

for them- Bar. Carb, Iodum, Ars.alb., Puls, Bufo.

#### **Material & methods:-**

50 cases with different pediatric complaints were selected of which 30 cases were prescribed giving





emphasis upon their temperament, character and learning attitude. When drugs selected upon personality typing, don't corroborate with the other physical general or particular symptoms of the drug, these two later categories of symptoms were ignored and drugs were prescribed completely based on the personality typing.

The second group constitutes of rest 20 patients where prescription base on strong physical general and peculiar symptoms ignoring the physician's observation on personality trait.

**Observation:**

It was observed that prescription based on Physician's observation on personality trait were more effective than prescription based upon strong physical general.

**Example**

A case named Satyasis Mohanty diagnosed to be Glomerular nephritis taking steroids consulted me

with urine report is with Albumin - +

RBC- 40- 50

Puscells- 5-6 cast granular

Prominent symptoms

Constitution - obese

Sweat - profuse from head

Desire - Salt, sour, eggs

Aversion - milk

Chilly patient

Mental symptoms

Temperament - Reward dependence

Character - cooperative

Learning attitude - Investigative

Though constitution and physical general indicates Calc. carb but considering temperament, character, learning attitude, it corresponds to Phos.

Phos in millesimal could cure the case.

**Before treatment**

**SRI SATYASAI CLINIC AND LABORATORY**  
Ganganagar, Unit-VI, Bhubaneswar  
REPORT ON LABORATORY INVESTIGATION

Name: *Satyasis Mohanty*      Date: *13/2/23*

URINE

GF INDEX TEST : Positive/Negative  
PREG. COLOUR TEST : Present/Absent  
H. C. G. - Present/Absent

GROSS - Colour: *yellow*      Deposits: *few*  
Sp. gr.: *1.020*      Reaction: *acid*

CHEMICAL

Sugar (Qual): *nil*  
(Quant): *0*  
Albumin: *Trace*  
Phosphates: *+*  
B. J. Protein: *+*  
Chyle: *+*  
Ketone bodies: *+*  
Bile Salt: *+*  
Bile Pigment: *+*  
Urobilinogen: *+*

MICROSCOPIC (Centrifuged deposit)

Epithelial cells: *+*  
Leucocytes: *4-6/HPF*  
R. B. C.: *30-40/HPF*  
Casts: *granular - 10*  
Crystal: *+*  
M. F. / T. V.: *+*

Dr. B. K. PRADHAN  
Pathology Specialist

**After Treatment**

**SRI SATYASAI CLINIC AND LABORATORY**  
Ganganagar, Unit-VI, Bhubaneswar  
REPORT ON LABORATORY INVESTIGATION

Name: *Satyasis Mohanty*      Date: *25/4/23*

URINE

GRAVINDEX TEST : Positive/Negative  
PREG. COLOUR TEST : Present/Absent  
H. C. G. - Present/Absent

GROSS - Colour: *Pale yellow*      Deposits: *nil*  
Sp. gr.: *1.010*      Reaction: *acid*

CHEMICAL

Sugar (Qual): *nil*  
(Quant): *0*  
Albumin: *nil*  
Phosphates: *nil*  
B. J. Protein: *nil*  
Chyle: *+*  
Ketone bodies: *+*  
Bile Salt: *+*  
Bile Pigment: *+*  
Urobilinogen: *+*

MICROSCOPIC (Centrifuged deposit)

Epithelial cells: *few*  
Leucocytes: *0-1/HPF*  
R. B. C.: *+*  
Casts: *nil*  
Crystal: *nil*  
M. F. / T. V.: *+*

Dr. B. K. PRADHAN  
Pathology Specialist



## Case 2

A case of idiopathic thrombocytic purpura named Sandeep Swain complained of petechiae all over the body. The platelet count in the first consultation was 24.5 thousand. His constitution was Obese, Aversion to sweet, constipative and chilly which indicates Graphites but considering the personality trait it is phlegmatic temperament and conventional learning attitude and tendency towards masturbation, Bufo was prescribed in various potencies, which could bring his platelet count to normal which can be observed from reports below.

## Before treatment

**JAGANNATH AUTO ANALYSOR  
CLINIC & LABORATORY**

Sandeep  
Swain

Blood -

Total

Platelet

Count →

24.5 Thousand

31.10.18  
Dr. S.C. Pradhan

Dr. S.C. PRADHAN, M.D.  
PATHOLOGIST, Regd No. : 2893  
Bhubaneswar, Dist : Khurda  
Ph. : 405522

## After Treatment


**LAXMI BARAHA  
CLINIC & LABORATORY**

MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL ROAD, BHUBANESWAR

Dr. S. N. Pradhan (Pathologist)

Patient's Name : S. Sandeep Swain

Ref. by Dr. :

**REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF BLOOD**

1. HAEMOGLOBIN..... gm % (Sahli's)  
(M: 12.5% to 18 gm%, F: 11.5% to 15.5%)
2. Total RBC Count..... Million per Cmm.
3. Total WBC Count..... Per Cmm.
4. Total Platelet Count..... Lacs per Cmm.
5. Total Neutrophil Count..... (N.V. - 200,000, 400,000)

**6. DIFFERENTIAL COUNT OF W.B.C.**

- Neutrophils..... %
- Lymphocytes..... %
- Eosinophils..... %
- Basophils..... %
- Monocytes..... %

**7. MALARIA PARASITE**

8. Microfilaria.....

9. E.S.R..... mm falls in the 1st hr (Westergren's)

10. BLEEDING TIME..... Min..... Sec

11. CLOTTING TIME..... Min..... Sec

12. Blood group.....

13. Rh typing.....

14. Serum V.D.R.L. Test.....

15. A.S.O. Test..... Negative / Positive

16. R. A. Factor.....

17. Sickling Test.....

18. A.E.C.....

Date 24/11/18

Signature

**Inference and conclusion**

Kent in his evaluation of symptoms gives more weightage to mental general symptoms whereas Bonninghausen is of the view to consider mental symptoms for final selection of the drug. Whatever the fact may be while dealing with the pediatric cases the crux of pediatric case taking is to observe the behavior of the child which includes temperament, character, and learning attitude (Kaplan), is more authentic source than mother's information. But what is to be observed in the child is to be kept in mind so that nothing can be missed to reach the similitum.

So in this work Kaplan's personality study was taken as the criteria to observe different temperament, character, attitude, of the child to elicit the mental symptom. Medicine prescribed basing on these characters is found to be effective. As the child grows very fast from his infancy to school going age, the personality of the child varies in a greater or lesser extent with growing age, family culture, social surrounding etc. But by and large out of many personality characters described in above study some of them will definitely be suitable to any age and paves the way to select the correct remedy.

Prof. Dr.L.K.NANDA

