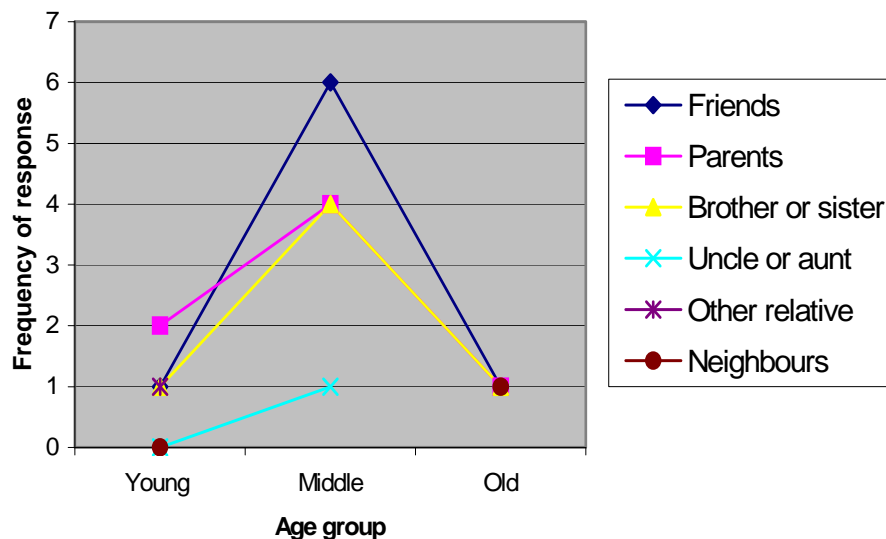


The third and final stage of the cycle of violence is called the “honeymoon stage”. Here the abuser shows remorse for his actions, in what is known as help-seeking behaviour. In most cases he approaches his friends, parents or other family members for help.

Figure 17 Help-seeking behaviour of inmates by age



In an abusive relationship, there is an interchange between caring and abuse. It is thus cyclical in nature, though the timing of each phase is in most cases difficult to predict. The abused wife/partner consequently tends to stay in the relationship.

6 PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

6.1 Introduction

The Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) developed by Eysenck and Eysenck (1975) measures certain personality dimensions, namely extraversion-introversion (E), neuroticism (N) and psychoticism (P). The EPQ is a forced-choice 90-item instrument. The items on the EPQ are answered “yes” or “no” according to the applicability (or otherwise) of each item to the respondent; “yes” was scored as 1 and “no” was scored as 0. The Lie Scale measures the tendency of some subjects to fake or dissimulate. According to Eysenck (1976), the scale also measures a stable personality factor connected with social naiveté or orthodoxy.

The typical extravert obtains a high score on the E scale. He is sociable and has many friends. He is fond of excitement and tends to be impulsive and to take chances. He jokes a lot and needs to talk to other people. The typical introvert, on the other hand, scores low on E, and is quiet, introspective and

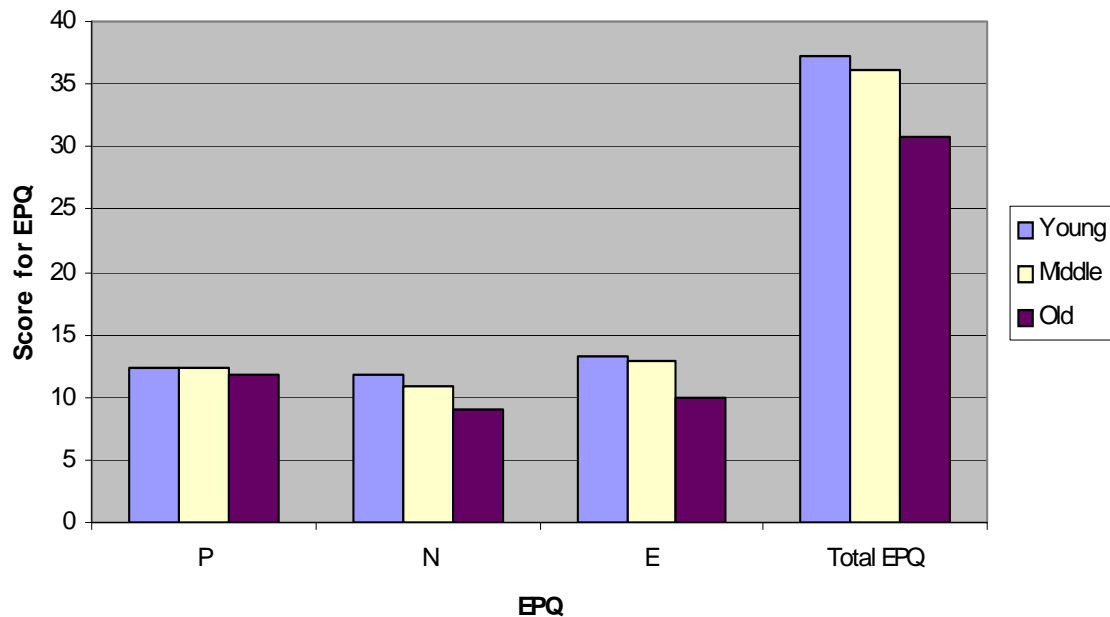
reserved. He tends to plan his actions and is generally serious-minded. The term neuroticism (N) or emotionality refers to the stability/instability dimension of personality. The typical high N scorer is given to worrying and moodiness. He is generally anxious, although he may suffer from depressive episodes. He sleeps badly and tends to suffer from psychosomatic complaints. He has an excessive emotional reaction to stimuli and has difficulty regaining his equilibrium after an emotionally arousing experience (Eysenck and Eysenck 1975).

The scale has been validated for prisoners in Nigeria (Idemudia 1997). To determine the validity and reliability of the EPQ, all the items were factor analysed using principal component analysis with varimax rotation. All the items had high-item loadings of at least 4. Therefore, all the items were retained. Also, internal consistency of the scales was high: Crombach coefficient alpha for (P), 0.81; (E), 0.72; (N), 0.83; and (L), 0.76. Split-half reliability obtained was 0.80, 0.79, 0.81 and 0.30 for each of the scales (P, E, N and L respectively). This indicates that the scales were highly reliable for use in an African setting. Concurrent validity was established for N (Awaritefe and Kadiri 1981) on Nigerian subjects by correlating the scores on State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) of Spielberger, Gorsuch and Lushene (1979), and the neuroticism scale. The neuroticism scale, N, positively and significantly correlated with X-1 and X-2 (STAI X-1, $r = 0.51$, $P < .01$; STAI X-2, $r = 0.920$, $P < .01$). N is a trait measure and so is X-2; N correlated more with X-2 than with X-1, a state measure.

6.2 Demographic variables

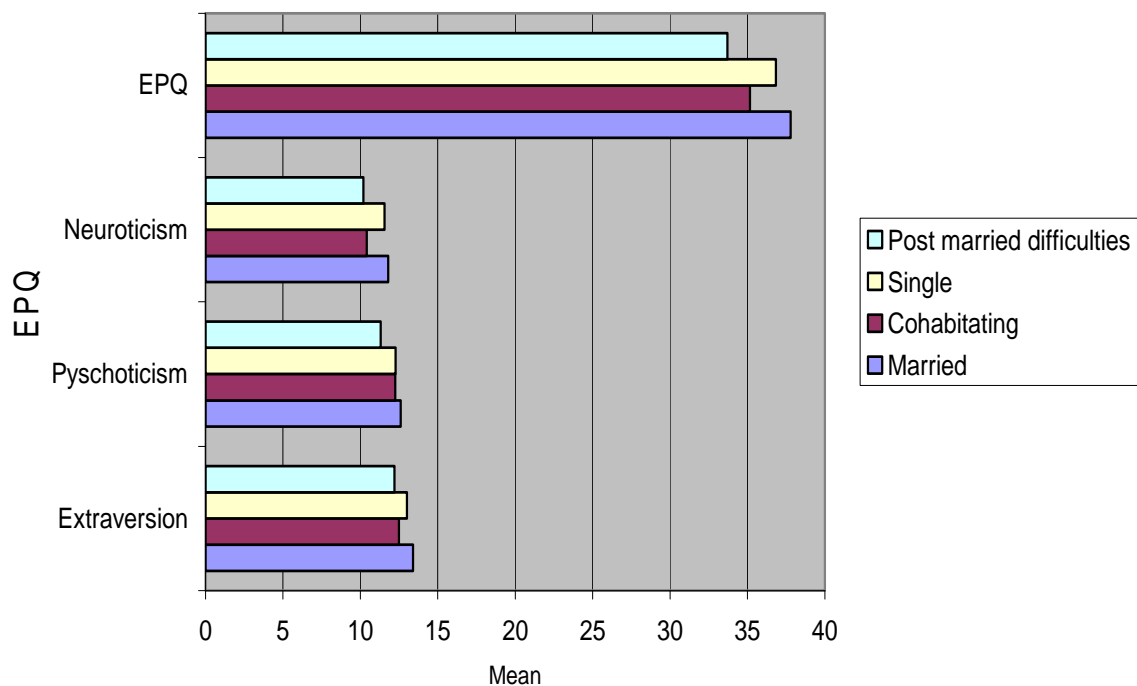
As indicated by Figure 18, younger perpetrators have the highest EPQ scores, followed by middle-aged and older perpetrators. Also, younger perpetrators are more neurotic and extroverted than older and middle-aged perpetrators. However, there is no difference between younger and middle-aged perpetrators regarding psychoticism. In other words, the younger and middle-aged perpetrators are more predisposed to psychological disorders such as affective and depressive disorders than the older perpetrators, and as a result are more likely to commit violent acts.

Figure 18 EPQ scores of inmates by age group



As indicated by the Figure 19, convicts who were married scored higher on P, E and N, followed by those who were single. In fact, there was very little difference between the EPQ scores of married, cohabiting and single inmates. Surprisingly, however, convicts with marital difficulties scored lowest on all dimensions of P, E and N.

Figure 19 EPQ scores of inmates by marital status



As indicated in Figure 20, inmates with high school education scored higher on EPQ (Total) than inmates with only primary or no education. However, although inmates' EPQ scores were generally high, the differences between the educational groups were not such as to be statistically significant.

Figure 20 EPQ scores of inmates by education

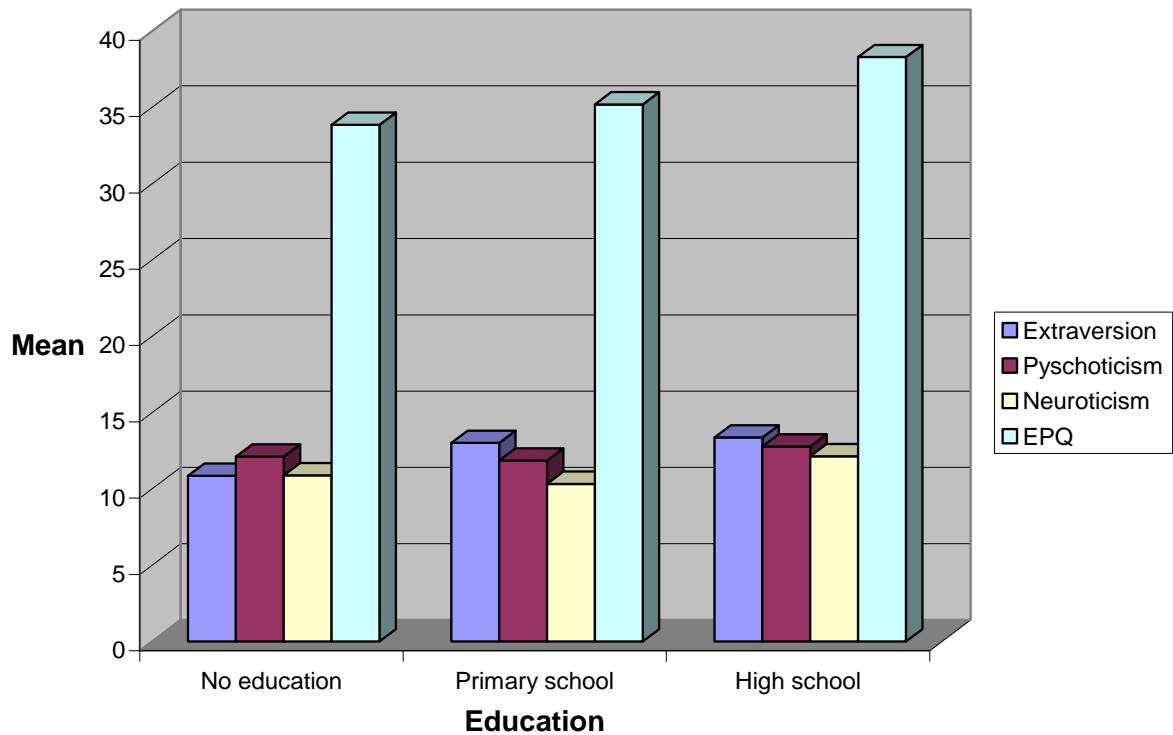
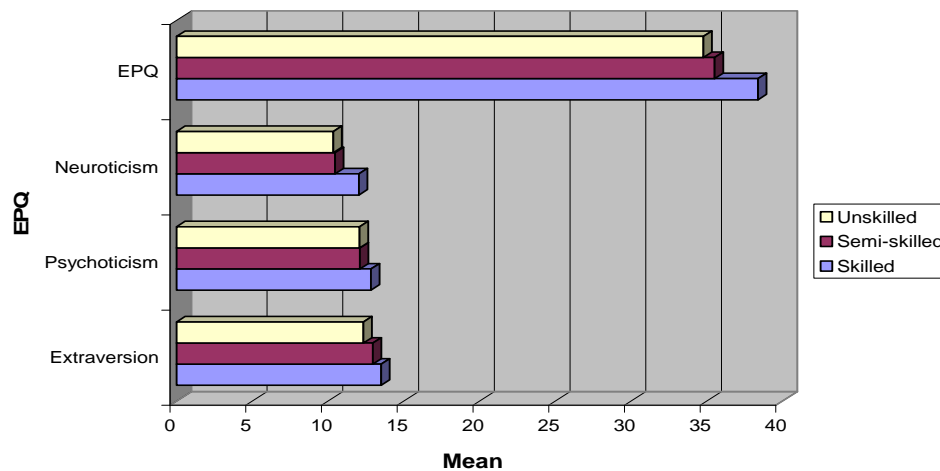


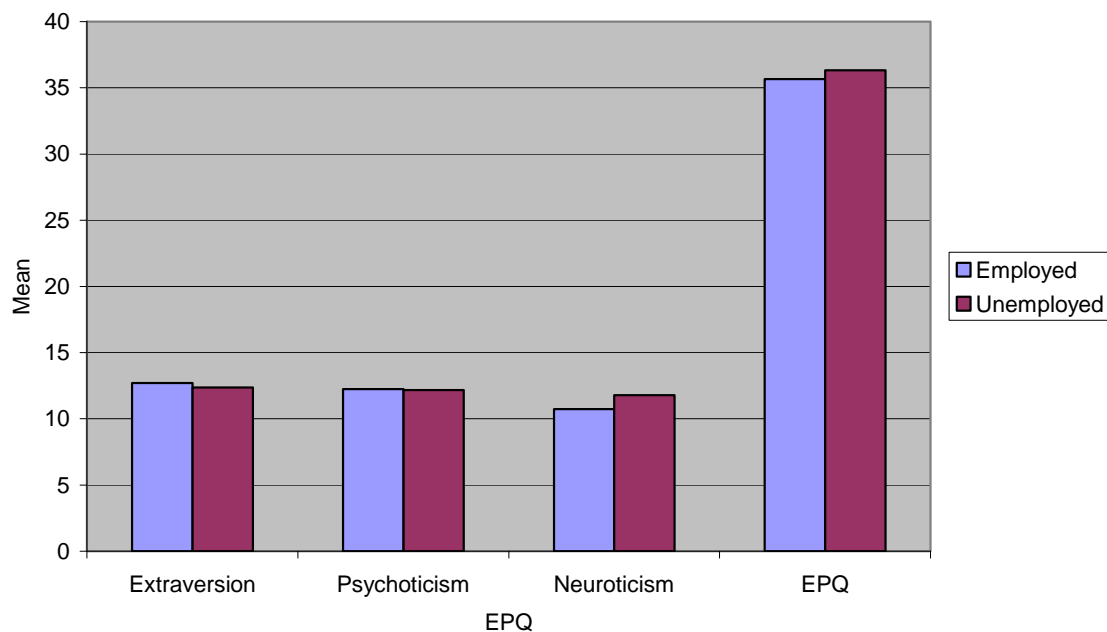
Figure 21 shows that skilled convicts scored highest on EPQ (Total), followed by semi-skilled and lastly unskilled convicts. This pattern was consistent for P, E and N. It is also surprising that skilled inmates should have higher EPQ scores than semi-skilled and unskilled inmates.

Figure 21 EPQ scores of inmates by occupation



Both employed and unemployed inmates had high EPQ scores. As indicated by Figure 22, unemployed inmates obtained slightly higher overall EPQ scores than employed inmates. However, the difference is not statistically significant.

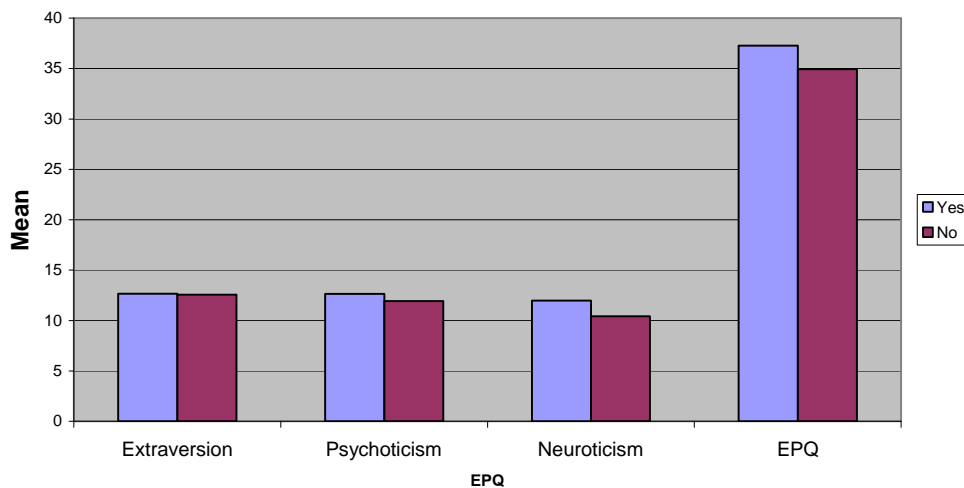
Figure 22 EPQ scores of inmates by employment



6.3 Social variables

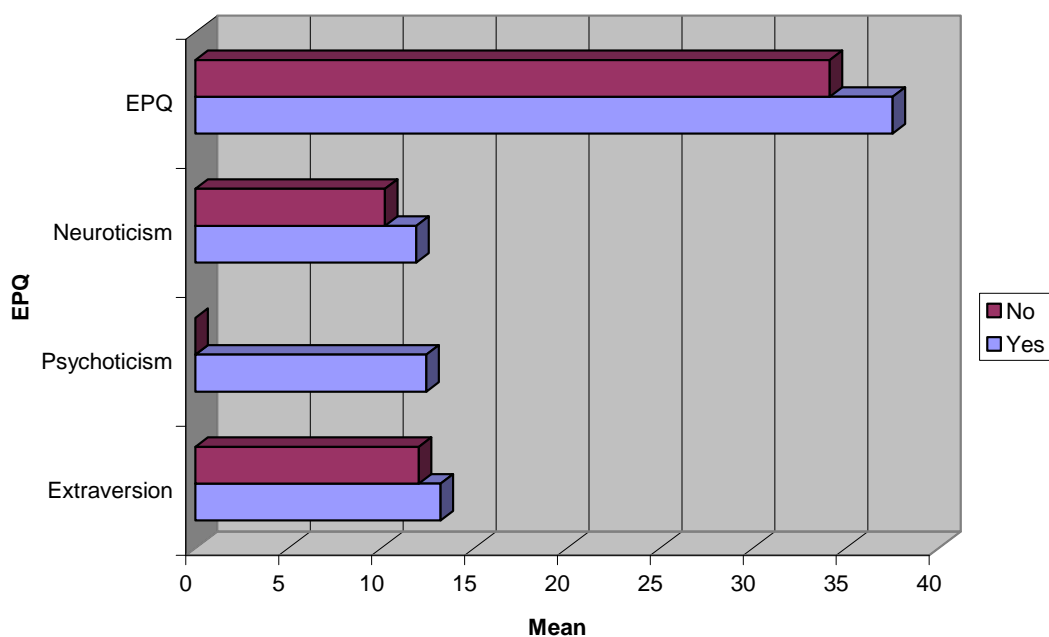
As indicated by Figure 23, inmates with a strong history of conflict with parents during childhood scored higher than those without such a history. Although high EPQ scores were observed for both groups, the difference between the groups was not statistically significant.

Figure 23 EPQ scores of inmates by inmate's conflict with parents



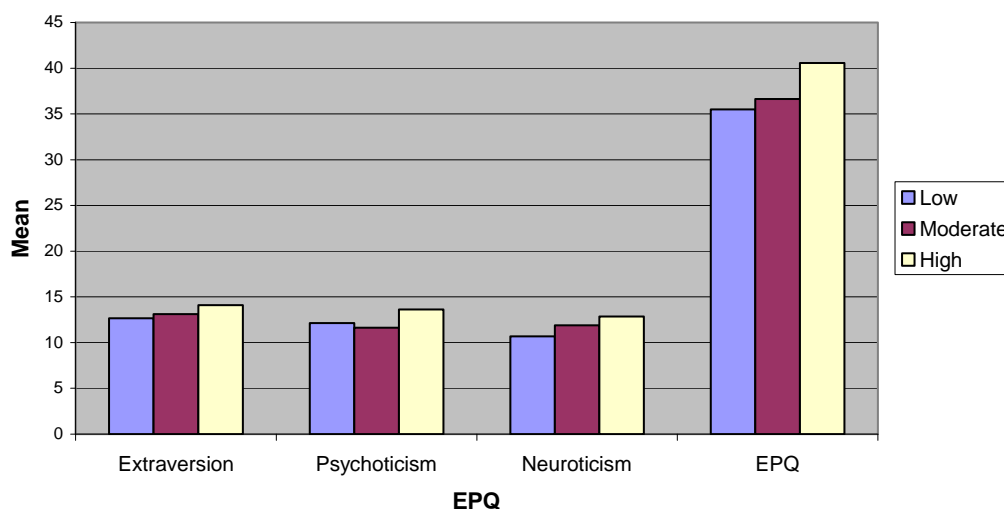
According to Burgess and Youngblade (1988), families are the primary socialising agent for children and have an enduring effect on an individual's social development. Furthermore, they suggest that abusive parents' reliance upon coercive patterns of family interaction will be likely to be emulated by children in later relationships. For children, being a victim of abuse does not induce opposition to violence, but instead teaches it as a value (Straus 1980). Finally, Burgess and Youngblade (1988) suggest that a child's peer relations may function either as a deterrent, or a causal pathway in carrying out those behaviours observed at home. It therefore appears that the influence of other significant role models may have a mediating or indirect effect on the development of family violence. This is reflected in Figure 24 below.

Figure 24 EPQ scores of inmates by personal experience of violence in the parental home



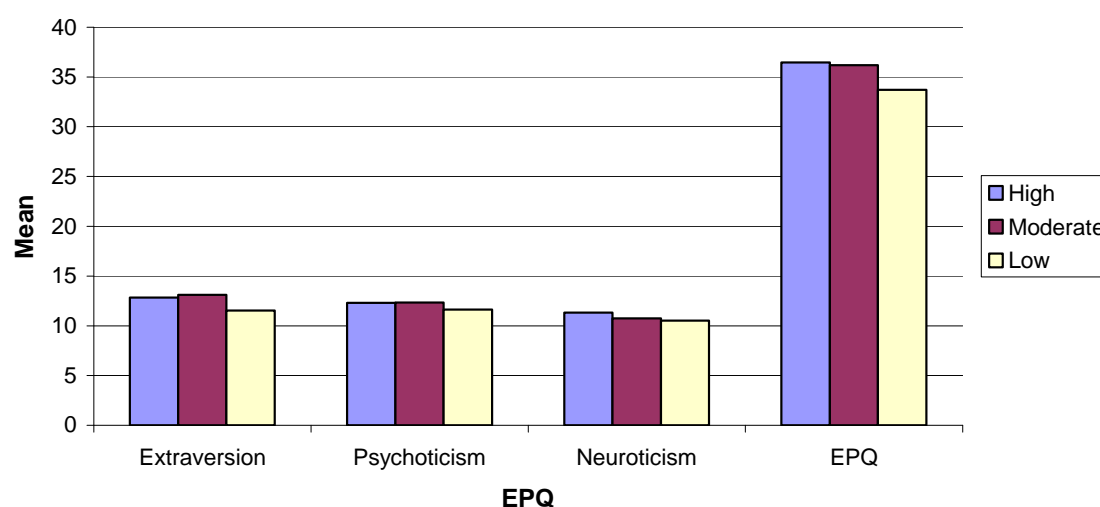
As indicated by Figure 25, inmates with a strong history of early family violence scored higher than those without a history of family violence. Although a high EPQ score was observed for both groups, the difference between the groups was not statistically significant.

Figure 25 EPQ scores of inmates by experience of violence between parents



As shown by Figure 26, for heavy and moderate drinkers, higher scores on P and E, followed by N, were observed. The same pattern was observed for EPQ (Total). Although the scores were generally high, the differences between the sub-groups were not statistically significant.

Figure 26 EPQ scores of inmates by own alcohol consumption



As shown in Figure 27, regarding the drinking behaviour of inmates' partners, high P, E, N and EPQ (Total) scores were observed for inmates whose partners

were heavy drinkers, followed by low and moderate drinkers. This suggests that partner selection follows the principle of “like attracts like”.

Figure 27 EPQ scores of inmates by partners' alcohol consumption

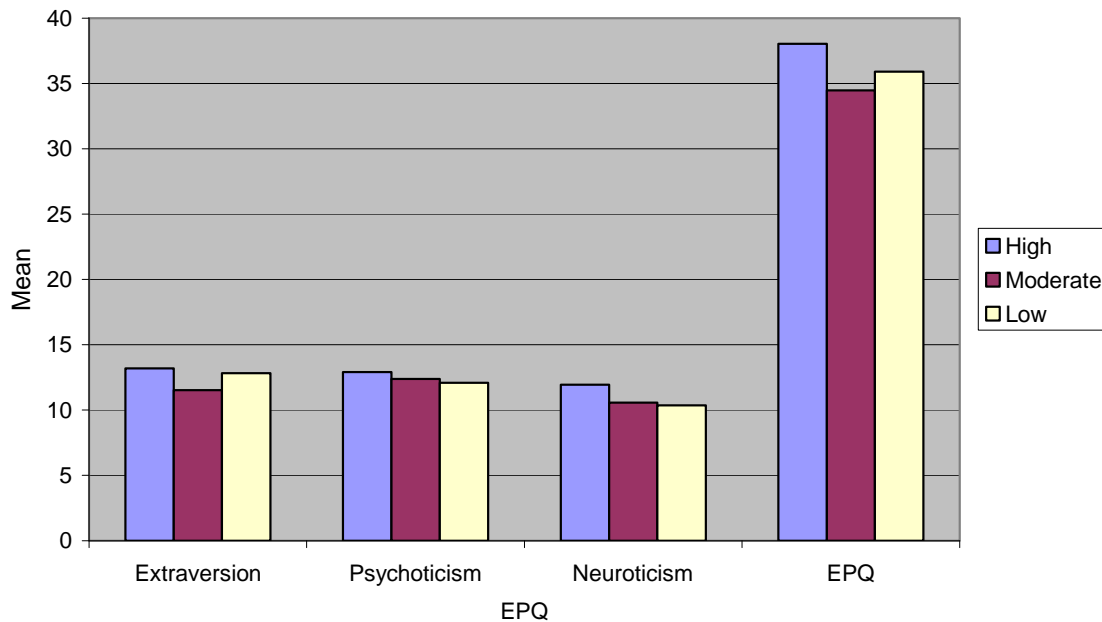
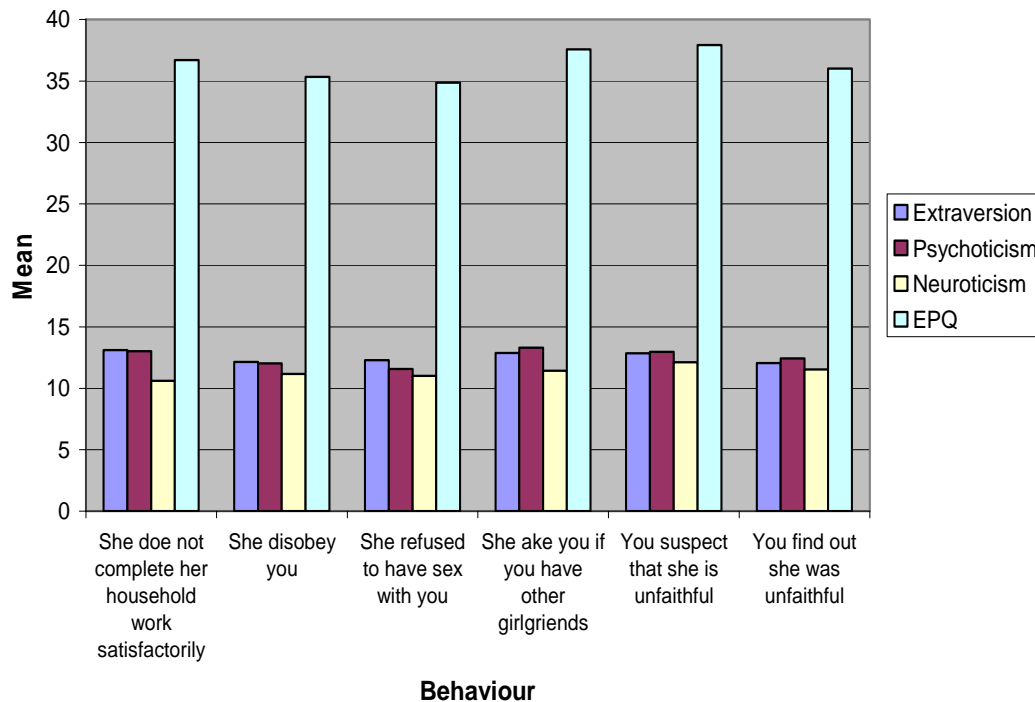


Figure 28 relates to the perceptions of inmates about their motivations for behaving violently towards their partners. It emerged that for all the measured factors, E and P were very high, followed by N. The inmate's suspicion that his partner had been unfaithfulness was associated with the highest EPQ (Total) score, followed by suspicion on the part of the partner that the inmate had been unfaithful.

Figure 28 EPQ scores of inmates by motivation for violent behaviour



7 DISCUSSION

This study focuses primarily on the characteristics of male perpetrators of violence against women and girls in Namibia. The method of investigation was to study prison inmates who had been convicted of rape or other violent crimes against women or girls. In so doing, developmental, social, and psychological variables were studied.

In addition to interviews and questionnaires, focus group discussions were used to gather data from the inmates. The study revealed several factors that are associated with the violent crimes committed against women and girls. Prominent among these is the use of alcohol, which was present in almost every case that led to a conviction.

According to the disinhibition theory, alcohol suppresses the functions of the superego, a Freudian personality mechanism that is considered to be the storehouse of the human's moral values. Basically, the superego regulates the moral conduct of the individual and invokes a guilty conscience in the individual when he behaves contrary to the wishes of the superego. Thus, with the proper functioning of the superego suppressed, the id manages to drive the individual to commit an immoral act only to feel guilty later on. Socially, when under the influence of alcohol, an individual loses all sense of rationality and, as a result, takes irrational decisions and actions. This was indeed the case with the inmates who were interviewed, for they revealed through the focus group discussions that they committed these crimes while under the influence of alcohol and did not know what they were doing at the time. Most related how they were shocked and surprised to be picked up by the police the following