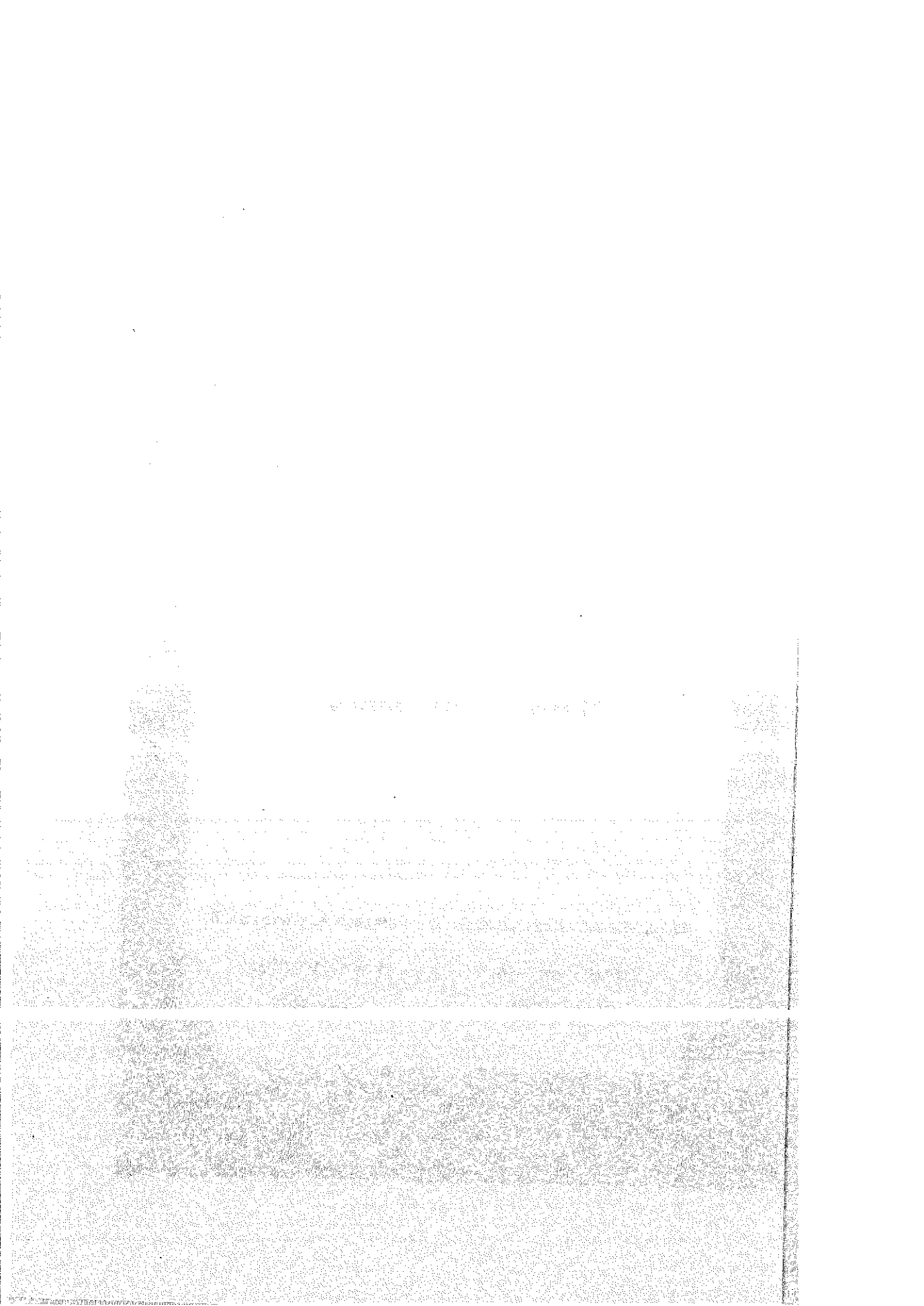


**The Relationship Between
Neuroticism, Selfesteem And
I.-E. Locus Of Control In Three
Different Arab cultures.**

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEUROTICISM, SELF-ESTEEM AND I.-E. LOCUS OF CONTROL IN THREE DIFFERENT ARAB CULTURES.

Abstract

The present study focuses on the relationship between neuroticism, self-esteem and internal-external locus of control in cross-cultural perspective. Three samples from Sudan and Kuwait were employed in the present study to fulfill this purpose. Sudanese sample (SU) consisted of 141 males and female. Thesecond sample consisted of 180 Kuwaiti males and females (KU), while the third sample was formed from 203 Arab males and females (AR) resided in Kuwait at the time of the study. All Subjects ranged in age between 16 and 20 years. Results revealed that in all three nation-samples, neuroticism was correlated significantly negatively with self-esteem, and positively with externality. In comparison with the other two nation-samples, Sudanese subjects scored significantly lower on neuroticism and externality measures, but higher on the measure for self-esteem. It was also found that Kuwaiti females scored significantly higher on externality measure than their male counterparts.

There are many differences and similarities between different cultures and societies due to endless of reasons (Wasfe, 1981; Abou-el-Neil, 1988). Differences between cultures and societies can be found in language, habits, tradition, religion, schooling system, degree of social satisfaction, goals and values, per capita income, and the level of economic and political situation. Several research studies have tried to examine the effects and influences of cultural background on personality, values, attitudes, and cognition (Eysenck, Adelaja and Eysenck, 1977; Perere and Eysenck, 1984; Bijnen, Van der Net and Poortinga, 1986; Brislin, 1990; Segall, Dasen, Berry and Poortinga, 1990; Eaves, 1989; Tashakkori and Thompson, 1990; Mwamwenda, 1992). As far as the cross-cultural research on personality is concerned, results, generally, indicated that culture affects personality. Results showed also that each culture has its special components which influence personality differently.

As for other psychological issues such as neuroticism, self-esteem and internal and external locus of control, results of cross-cultural research showed no agreement among the researchers. Some of these results showed cultural effects on personality, while others failed in reaching such findings.

For example, the study of Eysenck, Adelaja and Eysenck (1977) showed that Nigerian subjects had scored significantly lower than English counterparts on neuroticism measures. Eysenck and his associates attributed these differences to cultural demands and characteristics. They postulated that individuals in different cultures will score differently on Eysenck's Personality Questionnaire (EPQ). Another cross-cultural study

on neuroticism was carried out by Perere and Eysenck (1984) by using samples of men and women from Sri Lanka and England. Results showed that Sri Lankans scored significantly lower than their English counterparts. It was also found that Sri Lankan and English men were found to score significantly lower on neuroticism than their women counterparts. These results were supported by results of many later studies, such as those studies conducted by Bijnen, Van der Net and Poortinga (1986) and Eysenck (1987).

Two other cross-cultural studies compared Egyptian and English samples (Abdel-Khalek and Eysenck, 1983), and Lebanese and English samples (Eysenck and Abdel-Khalek, 1988), by using the EPQ. Results of these two studies showed that both two Arab samples (i.e. Egyptians and Lebanese), have scored significantly higher on the EPQ than their English counterparts. Moreover, results of these two Arab studies came in line with results of some other previous studies, such as the studies carried out by Eysenck et al., (1977); Perere and Eysenck (1984); Bijnen et al., (1986) and Eysenck (1987) which showed a cultural impact on the subject's performance on the EPQ. Contrary to the above mentioned results, the study conducted by Mwamwenda (1992), in which two samples of males and females from South Africa, and Canada were used, showed no significant differences between the two nations' subjects concerning their performance on the EPQ. However, results revealed that females in the two nation-samples have scored significantly lower on neuroticism than their male counterparts.

As for the relationship between self-esteem and internal-external (I-E.) locus of control, several research studies have been carried out (Kliewer and Sandler, 1992; Simmons and Weinman, 1991; Terry, 1991; Tashakkori and Thompson, 1991; Griffore, Kallen and Popovich, 1990), and concluded that individual with high self-esteem tended to score significantly higher on internality and lower on externality, than their counterparts who have lower self-esteem.

In one of the cross-cultural studies, Tashakkori and Thompson (1991) investigated the differences between black and white American high school students by using measures for self-esteem and I-E. locus of control. Results showed that black students scored significantly higher on self-esteem and lower on internality than their white counterparts.

In the Arab countries, two research studies could be mentioned here as examples for the research on the relationship between self-esteem and I-E. locus of control. The first study was conducted by Abdullah (1989) in Saudi Arabia, while the second study was carried out by Al-Khawaja (1988) in Kuwait. Both two studies employed university students in the two countries, as subjects. Results of these two studies were supported by the results obtained later by Western researchers (i.e. Kliewer and Sandler, 1992; Simmons and Weinman, 1991; Terry, 1991; Tashakkori and Thompson, 1991; Griffore, Kallen and Popovich, 1990).

As for the relationship between the three personality traits: neuroticism, self-esteem and I-E. locus of control, to our knowledge, only two research studies have been conducted. The first of which, was

conducted by Vasudeven and Sananda Raj (1988) by using Indian neurotic and normal subjects. The second study was carried out by Faraj (1991) in Saudi Arabia, and in which samples of male university students were employed. Generally, results of these two studies showed that (a) neurotic subjects, in comparison with the normal subjects, scored significantly lower on self-esteem and higher on externality, (b) self-esteem correlated positively with internality, and negatively with neuroticism, and (c) internality correlated negatively with neuroticism.

The examination of the psychological literature on the relationship between the three personality traits: neuroticism, self-esteem and I-E. locus of control shows that there is a shortage in this field of research. Moreover, our review of the small number of studies which were previously carried out, re-veals discrepancies (or contradictions) concerning the relation-ship between the above mentioned personality traits. Finally, there is no study, to our knowledge, examined the relationship between these three variables in different cultures.

The aim of the present study is to examine the relationship between the following three personality traits: neuroticism, self-esteem, and I-E. locus of control in three different Arabic cultures by using samples of male and female secondary school students from the Sudan (SU), Kuwait (KU) and samples of the Arab subjects (i.e. Egyptians, Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanians, Palesti-nens, and Yemani) who resided with their families in Kuwait (AR) during the time of the study, and who spent already not less

than five years in Kuwait. The main reason laid behind the selection those three different Arab nation- samples was: each of them has its own social and economic characteristics. Individuals in the Sudan and Kuwait share the same culture and are predominantly Muslim. They differ in some ways, yet are similar in others, such as language, tradition, habits, young population, large families. As for the differences between Sudan and Kuwait, one can point out to the following aspects: the level of technology used in the society, the access to the Western's life style, schooling system, and the life expectancy (in Kuwait about 65 years and in the Sudan only 47 years (Ahmed, 1989). So, it would be of value to see if these social and economic factors will (or will not) affect the performance of subjects on the personality's measures used in the study. Finally, the reason of using a third sample of subjects (AR, or Arab subjects) is to find out any similarities or differences between Kuwait subjects and their Arab counterparts, who lived in Kuwait for reasonably long time.

Hypotheses:

At the hand of the results of the previous research studies on Eysenck measure neuroticism cross-culturally (Eysenck et al., 1977; Perere and Eysenck, 1984; Abdel-Khalek and Eysenck, 1983; Eysenck, 1987; Bijnen et al., 1986; Eysenck and Abdel-Khalek, 1988), and also in the light of results of the studies which have investigated the relationship between neuroticism, self-esteem and I.-E. locus of control (Vasudeven and Sananda

and Raj, 1988; Faraj, 1991), the following three hypotheses were established to meet the aims of the present study.

1. There are significant differences between the three Arab nation-samples (SU, KU, and AR) concerning their performance on the three measures used in the present study.

2. There are negative correlation between self-esteem on one hand and each of neuroticism and externality on the other hand. While, a positive correlation will be found between neuroticism and externality.

3. There are significant differences between male and female subjects in each of the three nation-samples (SU, KU, and AR) concerning their performance on the three measures of neuroticism, self-esteem, and I.-E. locus of control. Males score significantly lower on both measures of neuroticism and externality, but higher on self-esteem than the females do.

Method

Samples:

Three groups of male and female high school students have participated in the present study. Subjects were randomly selected from different public secondary schools in Khartoum (the Sudan) and Kuwait City (Kuwait). Administration of the study's measures took place in groups and in the classrooms during the school day. The Sudanese sample (SU) consisted of 141 subjects, 62 males and 79 females, with an average age of 18.2 and SD of 0.82 years. The Kuwaiti sample (KU) consisted of 180

subjects, 84 males and 96 females, with an average age of 18.42 and SD of 1.58 years. The Arab subjects (AR) included 203 subjects, 69 males and 134 females, with an average age of 17.98 and SD of 1.17 years. The total number of subjects in the three nation-samples reached 524, 215 males and 309 females. Their average age was 18.17 and SD= 1.19 years.

Measures:

(1) Neuroticism (N) was measured by using the Eysenck's Neuroticism measure of Eysenck's Personality inventory (EPI) Form A (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1969; 1975). The measure consists of 24 items. It was translated and adapted into Arabic by Gaber and Fikhr el-Islam (1973) in Egypt. The measure has been used in several studies in many Arab countries, such as Egypt, Kuwait, and the Sudan (See for example: Ahmed, Gielen and Avellani, 1988; Ahmed, 1993). Results of these studies show that the measure enjoys reasonably high reliability and validity coefficients. In the present study, inter-item Cronbach Alpha has been computed for the scores on neuroticism measure, and the following results have been obtained: In all the three samples (SU, KU, and AR) together Alpha was 0.70. For the SU sample, Alpha was 0.77, for the KU sample, was 0.69, and 0.66 for the AR sample.

(2) Self-Esteem (SE) was measured by using the Scale for Self-Confidence which was locally developed by Abou-Allam (1978). The scale consists of two equal forms A and B, each has 40 items. Abou-Allam (1978) pointed out that the consistency coefficient between the two forms reached 0.85. Later studies (Ahmed, Gielen and Avellani, 1988) reported

similar results. During the last twenty years, the scale was used in several studies in Kuwait, Egypt, and the Sudan. Only Form B was used in the present study. Inter-item Cronbach Alpha was computed in the present study for the scores on the self-confidence scale (=self-esteem). The following are the results: Alpha for all the three nation-samples together (SU, KU, and AR) was 0.77. Alpha for the SU sample was 0.80, for the KU sample was 0.74, and for the AR sample was 0.77.

(3) The Reid-Were Three Factor I-E. Locus of Control Scale (Reid and Were, 1974). This scale includes 45 items, 32 of which measure locus of control, (i.e. self control, social system, and fatalism). The other remaining 13 items are filler ones. The scale was translated and adapted into Arabic and used by AlKhawaja (1988). Inter-term Cronbach Alpha was computed in the present study for the scores on I-E. Locus of Control Scale, results were as follows: For all the three samples together (SU, KU, and AR), Alpha was 0.67, for the SU sample was 0.68, for the KU was 0.57, and for the AR sample was 0.65.

Administration of the Study's MeasuresThe three measures (N, SE, and the I-E. Locus of control) were administered by the researchers to the three nation-samples in both two countries, Sudan and Kuwait during the time period from January to May 1990. Subjects participated in the present study were selected randomly from the secondary public schools in the Sudan and Kuwait. All, were Muslim and Arabic speakers. Administration of the three measures took about 60 minutes.

Results

Means and standard deviations of the scores on the three personality measures (N, SE, and I.-E. locus of control) were computed for the three nation-samples (SU, KU, and the AR). (Table 1) 0

Table 1 : Means and Standard Deviations of Neuroticism, Self-Esteem and I.-E. Locus of Control.

Personality Measures	All (N=524)		Sudanese (N=141)		Kuwaitis (N=205)		Arabs (N=180)	
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
NEU	13.58	3.99	12.39	4.24	13.74	3.89	14.27	3.72
LOC	46.07	4.97	44.16	4.24	46.86	4.04	44.69	5.58
Self-Esteem	21.73	4.25	23.52	5.82	21.47	5.47	20.72	4.07

NEU=Neuroticism , SE= Self-Esteem & LOC= External Locus of Control.

One way analysis of variance, Scheffce Test and T-Test were also used to examine the significance of the differences between the three nation-samples, and between males and females in each nation, concerning their performance on the measures used in the present study. Results of one way analysis of variance for the scores on neuroticism (N), revealed significant differences between the three nation-samples ($F=9.79$, $df=2$, $P=0.0001$). Sheffee Test showed that SU sample scored significantly lower than the other two nation-samples: KU and AR, respectively.

As for the scores on the self-esteem measure (SE), a one way analysis of variance indicated significant differences between the three nation-samples ($F=10.32$, $df=2$, $P=.0000$). Results of the Sheffee test showed

that the SU sample scored significantly higher on the SE measure than their KU and AR counterpart

Finally, a one way analysis of variance was computed for the subjects' scores on the I.-E. locus of control scale and showed significant differences between the three nation-samples ($F=14.99$, $df=2$, $P=0000$). Results of Sheffee test indicated that the SU sample scored significantly lower than the KU and AR samples on externality.

To sum up, results of the present study revealed significant differences between the the three nation-samples concerning their performance on the three measured used. SU sample was the lowest on neuroticism (N) and externality (I.-E. locus of control), and the highest on self-esteem (SE). KU sample was the highest on externality (I.-E. locus of control), and occupied the second place on bothe two other measures: neuroticism (N) and self-esteem (SE). AR sample was the highest on neuroticism (N), and the lowest on self-esteem (SE), but took the second place con-cerning its performance on externality (I.-E. locus of control). An overall conclusion indicate that Sudanese subjects showed higher self-esteem (SE) than both Kuwaiti and Arab subjcts, in that order. Kuwaiti subjects showed more externality than their Arab and Sudanese counterparts, in that order. And Arab subjects scored higher on neuroticism (N) than the Kuwaiti and Sudanese subjects, in that order.

As for the comparison between males and females in all three nation-samples concerning their performance on the three person-ality measures, results showed no significant differences betweenmales and females in

both SU and AR samples. Only in the KU sample, females scored higher on externality (I.-E. locus of control) than their male counterparts.

Correlations between subjects' scores on the three personality measures were computed for all subjects in the three nation-samples employed in the present study (N= 524), and also for each nation-sample separately (Table 2).

Table2 : Correlations Between The Three Personality Measures.

Nations	Variables	NEU	LOC	SE
All Groups	NEU	1.000		
	E-LOC	.3902	1.000	
	SE	-.5952	-.4409	1.000
Sudanese	NEU	1.000		
	E-LOC	.4539	1.000	
	SE	-.5843	-.5132	1.000
Kuwaitis	NEU	1.000		
	E-LOC	.3622	1.000	
	SE	-.6099	-.4652	1.000
Arab Residents	NEU	1.000		
	E-LOC	.3211	1.000	
	SE	-.5490	-.3391	1.000

NEU = Neuroticism, LOC= External Locus of Control, SE= Self-Esteem

(All Correlation Coefficients Are Significant at 00.1 Level)

As shown in Table 2, and in the case of the whole sample (N=524), neuroticism (N) correlated significantly but negatively with and self-esteem (SE) ($r=0.59$, $P=0.001$), and positively with externality (I.-E. locus of Control), ($r=0.390$, $P=0.001$). A significantly negative correlation was

found between self-esteem (SE) and externality ($r=0.441$, $P=0.0001$). Similar results were obtained by computing the correlations between subjects' scores on the three personality traits.

In general, results of the present study pointed out that:

1. There is a significant negative correlation between neuroticism and self-esteem,
2. There is a significant negative correlation between self-esteem and externality, and
3. There is a significant positive correlation between neuroticism and externality.

At the hand of the above mentioned results, we could say that these results show consistency and agreement with results of some previous studies such as Al-Khawaja (1988), and Abdullah (1989).

Conclusion

The results of the present study showed some similarities and some differences in the performance of the three nation-samples on the three personality measures used. There were significant differences between the Sudanese sample on one hand and both of Kuwaiti and Arab subjects on the other hand. Sudanese subjects were found to be higher on self-esteem (and internality), but lower on neuroticism and externality. Kuwaiti subjects were found to be higher than Arab and Sudanese subjects on externality (I-E locus of control), and higher than Sudanese (but lower than Arabs) on neuroticism. On the self-esteem measure, Kuwaitis were lower than the Sudanese, but higher than the Arabs. The Arab subjects showed higher degrees on neuroticism than the other two nation-samples did. In other words, our results indicate that Sudanese subjects were found to be more self-esteem (or self-confident), with lesser degrees of neuroticism and more internal locus of control (=lesser external locus of control), while Kuwaiti subjects scored higher on both externality (I-E locus of control) and neuroticism but lower on self-esteem than their Sudanese counterparts. Arab subjects were found to be higher on neuroticism, and lower on self-esteem than the Kuwaiti and Sudanese subjects. As for the I-E locus of control, Arab subjects were less external than Kuwaitis, but less than the Sudanese subjects. Differences between Sudanese and Kuwaiti subjects were greater than the differences between Kuwaiti and Arab subjects who were living in Kuwait at the time of the study.

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