

POSTER

BETWEEN SHADOWS AND LIGHT: PERSONALITY TRAITS AND THEIR IMPACT ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOOL CONDUCT IN ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy—collectively known as the Dark Triad—are often regarded as reflecting the most malevolent aspects of human nature. In 2013, sadism was added to this constellation, forming the Dark Tetrad. In contrast, the Light Triad, introduced in 2019, encompasses traits such as humanism, faith in humanity, and Kantianism, symbolizing the more virtuous facets of personality. This study aimed to explore how these contrasting personality traits influence adolescents' functioning in an educational context.

The specific objective was to examine the relationship between dark and light personality traits and school functioning among adolescents aged 14–19. We investigated the extent to which traits from the Dark Tetrad and Light Triad predict academic achievement and behavioral evaluations in students from grades 7–8 of primary school and general high schools.

A total of 300 students participated in the study. Independent variables included personality traits measured using two psychometric tools adapted into Polish via back-translation. The dependent variables were students' grade point averages and conduct grades. Data were collected through self-report questionnaires administered under teacher supervision.

The study assumes that both subclinical antisocial traits and prosocial moral tendencies can significantly influence adolescents' functioning within educational settings. The findings aim to expand our understanding of how personality relates to academic performance and behavioral adjustment in youth, and to provide a foundation for more personalized psychological and pedagogical support strategies in schools. Results are interpreted within the framework of evolutionary psychology, considering the adaptive value of diverse personality configurations.