

*Case No. 7*

This Peace Corps trainee was a 24-year-old girl who had graduated from an excellent university. Her college grades were exceptionally high and her references were very favorable.

The field assessment officer interviewed her following his review of the psychological test data which indicated the possibility of emotional instability. The schizophrenic and manic scales of the MMPI were elevated, suggesting that she might behave impulsively with a great flurry of energy and little realistic purpose. In addition, the test data from the Edwards Personality Preference Inventory pointed toward unusual emotional dependency upon heterosexual relationships. During the interview, the trainee disclosed the fact that her mother was an alcoholic of long standing, and her father was an immensely successful architect who devoted all of his energies to his profession.

As her mother's problems with alcohol became more and more serious, her father devoted less and less time to the family. The girl, then, was left to grow up without the emotional support of either parent and the result was a bubbly, vivacious, "everything's grand" sort of person on the outside, but a desperately lonely, insecure, and starved for affection person on the inside. She cried uncontrollably during the better part of two interviews as she told of her unhappiness. Unfortunately, her emotionally deprived life made her particularly vulnerable to anyone who was willing to take advantage of her deep-felt need for affection.

She was referred for psychiatric evaluation, where the fragile nature of her adjustment became even more apparent. At the midboard the psychiatrist indicated that he intended to disqualify her because of the likelihood that she would develop neurotic symptoms under stress of an oversea assignment. Academically, she had done well in the program, but she was strongly rejected by her peers. Rather than wait for a psychiatric disqualification, the board decided to select her out of the program on grounds of personality unsuitability.

*Case No. 8*

This 23-year-old man was invited to a school construction training program where his performance in training was variable.

His MMPI profile featured a very low score on the K scale, implying emotional bankruptcy. The rest of his profile showed a peak on the depression scale accompanied by elevated scores on the paranoia and psychasthenia scales, suggesting a depressed, somewhat anxious individual.

On the basis of his interviews, the field assessment officer reported the trainee as earnest and unpoised. He saw him as slow, deliberate, determined, and as working hard for modest rewards. In general, he was described as passive.

Faculty predictions of success tended to be unusually low, even in subjects where he was earning good grades. Peer ratings indicated that he was well liked as a person but was not perceived as an individual who would be successful as a Peace Corps volunteer.

The full field investigation indicated that the trainee was somewhat limited in ability and was self-deprecating in his manner. His low self-esteem appeared to be dramatically indicated in two arrests, one as a minor in possession of alcohol and the second for drunkenness on a public street.

Based on the consistency between the MMPI and all other data, the subject was separated from the program for personality unsuitability at the time of the Intermediate Advisory Selection Board. The MMPI contributed substantially to the observation that the subject did not have the resources to protect himself under the rigorous conditions in the host country.

*Case No. 9*

This 21-year-old girl was invited to an agriculture training program where her performance was erratic. The training staff reported that she had a good deal of ability but was inattentive, uncooperative, and unresponsive to authority. The peer ratings indicated her lack of acceptability to others, thought to be a function of her crude behavior.

The psychological test results were consistent with the behavioral data. The MMPI showed the 9-4 peaks and 2-6 depressions characteristic of manics and acting out psychopaths. In addition, the relationship of 7 to 8 indicated that the subject's intellectual controls were insufficient. Other psychological tests indicated manic behavior, exhibitionism, dominance, and low superego strength.

Psychiatric study resulted in the project psychiatrist recommending disqualification based on the subject's lewd, seductive, and insensitive behavior. No action had been taken on this request at the time of the selection decision.