When you first access the login.php script there is no current session, therefore $_SESSION is empty. $_POST is also treated as empty as you have not entered any details yet, so it will display a blank screen. The $_SESSION array is populated with default values, such as 'css_file' and 'rows_per_page'.

After you have entered your id and password and pressed the LOGIN button this will be the 2nd execution of this script, and you will find that both the $_SESSION and $_POST arrays should *NOT* be empty. If the $_SESSION array *IS* empty at this point then you have a problem. You need to see what happens when session_start() is executed on line 42.