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A study of attitudes of science and arts college students

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Abstract

Attitude is a belief of that one holds towards his work people and surroundings. In case of student positive attitudes may in influence Sex and the linking of subjects they study. In present study researchers made an attempt to study the difference, if any, between boys and girls students and also the subjects like science and arts at undergraduate level. A sample of 125 Students (male 77, female 48, Science 55 and arts 70) of undergraduate final year student from the population of Bahraich District selected randomly. The data revealed that female students scored significantly higher than boys on the dimensions of attitude towards education, teachers and family. Similarly, Science students scored significantly higher than arts students only on the dimension of attitude towards education.

Keywords: Attitude towards education, teachers, family and society, sex, science and arts students

Introduction

Higher education commission contended that universities must provide leadership not only in politics and administration but also in various professions, industry and community. Students of different streams due to different nature of disciplines may cause different attitudes. Students of arts and Science may differ in different aspects. Due to different nature of these two disciplines, students of these disciplines may differ in many ways. Attitude can be simply defined as an established way of thinking or feeling or behaving about something or someone. Attitude comes from our beliefs, intensions and actions. It is also a degree of positive or negative affect associated with some psychological objects. In other words, it is defined as a tendency to react favorably or unfavorably towards a designated class of stimuli. In the present study, the researchers have concerned with attitude of students towards education teachers family and society. As a concept, an attitude always refers to an individual's or group's more or less stable and observable tendency or predisposition to perform, perceive think and fell in relation to something specific. Researchers suggest several components such as emotional cognitive and behavioral components for formation of attitude in students. Attitude form as a result of personal experience, observation and influence by social norms. The students having positive attitude towards any situation achieve their goals easily. Therefore, development of formation of positive experience or education can have powerful influence over attitudes. However, since attitude is not independent from environment or experience, thus, it is also accepted that attitudes are dynamics in the sense that it is enduring and the same time it can also be changed [2]. Some researchers found that there is a correlation between attitudes towards research and intension to conduct research [2, 4, 8]. Attempts have been made to study the attitudes of nursing students [1, 7]. Some researchers have studied attitude towards education with academic achievement at secondary Level [3]. Though in such studies some have positive attitude towards research but many of them have negative attitude towards research. In this way the present research aimed to study the attitude of students with sex and nature of subjects (Arts and Science).

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the present study were as follows:

1. To find out the difference between attitude scores of male and female students.
2. To investigate the difference between attitudes scores of Science and Arts students.

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Hypotheses of the study

The following hypotheses were verified and tested in the present study:

1. There is no difference between attitude scores of male and female students.
2. There is no difference between attitude scores of Science and Arts students.

Methodology of the Study

a) Population and sample

In the present research all the students of B.A. and B.Sc. Final year of aided colleges of Bahraich District were the population of the study. The researchers randomly selected 125 (77 boys and 48 girls) students in the sample. Science and arts students were 55 and 70 respectively.

b) Tools of the study

To collect the data from sample the researchers used the psychological test named college student attitude inventory, made by Manav (1988). Manav for the purpose of his study defined attitudes in terms of four directions as attitude towards education, teachers, family and society. There were 64 statements in this inventory Scoring was done by Likert method. By obtaining the responses from the subjects, they were asked to select any one of the five categories: Strongly agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly disagree for each item.

c) Collection of the data

The selected students were administered college student attitude inventory in the classes of their respective colleges. After administering this inventory, response sheet of each student were scored according to the instruction given there in.

d) Statistical technique used

The purpose of the study as to compare the attitudes of students in terms of sex and arts and science disciplines offered by them. The mean, S.D and t-value were obtained to get the results.

Result and Discussion

Through descriptive and inferential statistics, researchers analyzed the collected data of the study. Analyzed data are as follows.

Table I: Comparison of Attitudes of Boys and Girls student

Attitudes Towards	Boys (N=77)		Girls (N=48)		t-value	Level of significance
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.		
Education	39.32	7.21	42.51	6.04	2.66	'01 level
Teachers	31.64	10.01	39.92	8.43	2.96	'01 level
Family	50.02	8.31	54.81	8.89	1.88	NS*
Society	31.39	7.11	39.52	7.89	4.16	'01 level

*NS= not significant.

It is revealed from Table-I, that the attitudes of girls are almost higher as compared to boys. Mean difference between boys and girls on the dimension of family were not found significant. Thus, the boys and girls were found similar on this dimension. But, for other mean dimensions like education, teachers and society, the mean difference were found significant at *01 level. Attitudes towards education, teachers and society were found higher in girl

students as compared to boys. Hence, the null hypothesis-1 of no difference in the means of attitude towards family of boys and girls is accepted, while for the attitudes towards education, teachers and society, it is rejected at *01 level of significance (Table value at '01 level for 123 degrees of freedom is 2.62).

Table 2: Comparison of Attitudes of Science and Arts students

Attitudes Towards	Science (N=55)		Arts (N=70)		t-value	level of significance
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.		
Education	39.80	7.81	34.6	6.01	3.20	'01 level
Teachers	34.01	9.43	30.80	8.32	1.23	NS*
Family	51.02	7.53	50.60	8.31	0.203	NS*
Society	30.69	7.92	31.42	7.96	0.77	NS*

*NS= Not significant.

From above Table-2, it is clear that the means of attitudes for science students seems higher on the dimensions of education, teachers and family than that of arts, but for the dimension of society mean of arts students was high as compared to science students. The mean difference as found significant only for the attitude towards education while, for the dimensions of teachers, family and society it was not found significant. It may be concluded that the hypothesis of no difference was accepted for the attitude towards teachers, family and society, while for the attitude towards education it was rejected at 01 level of significance. It may be further revealed that the attitude towards education is higher in science student as compared to arts. But on other dimensions like attitude towards teachers, family and society arts and science student were found similar.

Conclusions

It is the general belief that the attitude of boys and girl and of science and arts student should be different. In the present study, attitude towards education, teachers and family were found higher in female student than that of male. Similarly, the attitude towards education of science student was higher than that of arts. So, the general belief is supported by these findings.

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