A STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS WITH REFERENCE TO LOCALITY AND FAMILY TYPE

ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study was to find out the problems of higher secondary students with respect to locality and family type. The normative survey method was used in the present study. Problems inventory constructed and validated by the investigator was used to collect data. The sample consisted of 900 first year higher secondary students. Mean, S.D. 't' test were used to analyse the data. The major findings were that most of the higher secondary students are facing low level of problems and there was a significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students, students from nuclear family and joint family in their problems.

INTRODUCTION

It is a known fact that early adolescent stage is the period in which an individual starts thinking of claiming independent status, expressing the emotions in a balanced way, participating in social processes assimilating social and moral values and participating actively in sharing the problems of the family. Obviously the individuals at this stage are confronted with problems due to emerging self. Added to this the students at this stage have additional problems of preparing themselves academically. There are many types of problems, some of them are as follows: physical aspects of an individual, mental aspects of a human being, emotional aspects of an individual, social aspects of an individual, ethical aspects of an individual, academic or educational aspects of an individual, economic aspects of an individual, family aspects or atmosphere of an individual and so on.

All these types of problems of an individual are no doubt related to different areas of subject matter of human being. To the knowledge of the investigators a recent attempt has been made by Jeya kumar (2008) on this area. He conducted a study on the problems of higher secondary students in Virudhunagar district, Tamilnadu, India and this study showed that there is no significant difference between the sex (Male / Female) of the students, the locality (Urban / Rural) of the schools they are studying in, the locality (Urban / Rural) of their residence and the community they belong to, in respect of their problem scores. Also, Natrajan, (2000) in his study on the problems of SC and ST students found that the students are having a high level of problems. Moreover he found that there is no significant difference between male and female students in respect of their problems.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The investigator having been a student for several years is aware of a lot of problems experienced by adolescent students in higher secondary schools. If their parents are illiterate they do not cope with the modern cultural changes. So they are not in a position to help and guide their sons and daughters to face their problems. Near the beginning of the adolescent period the boy or girl achieves sexual maturity and in some specific capacities, intellectual maturity as well. By the end of adolescent period physical growth is complete and intellectual growth is nearing completion. The real problems of the adolescents constitute the emotional, social, moral and economic problems. Solution of these is necessary for the individual to emerge from their childish attitude.

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Most adolescents solve their problems by slow degrees during the ages from 12 to 21. In the normal growth of a normal individual, childhood fades into adolescence and adulthood arrives in a gradual series of changes and with only temporary difficulties and disturbances. In order to pass from childhood to adulthood the adolescent must solve a number of problems. They must develop heterosexual interests, become free from home supervision, achieve economic and intellectual independence and learn how to use leisure time.

Once the students step out of their educational institution they must find themselves self sufficient and be able to face the world boldly standing on their own legs. So modern educators want to utilize the longer period of the adolescents for special preparation in meeting the manifold problems of the present day society. Thus, "A STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS IN CUDDALORE STATE OF TAMILNADU STATE", is justified.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of the present research study.

1. To study the problems faced by the higher secondary students.

2. To study if there is any significant difference in the problems between higher secondary students studying in the schools located in urban areas and those studying in the rural areas.

3. To study if there is any significant difference in the problems between higher secondary students studying in Tamil medium and those studying in English medium.

4. To study if there is any significant difference in the problems between higher secondary students from nuclear families and those from Joint families.

METHOD FOR THE STUDY

The Normative survey method has been used in the present investigation to collect data from the higher secondary students studying in the higher secondary schools of Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu state. This method has been chosen as it seeks to obtain precise information concerning the current status of phenomena and to draw valid conclusions from the facts discovered. Also, this method of research, attempts to describe and interpret what exist at present in the form of conditions, practices, processes, trends, effects and attitudes. In brief it is an attempt to analyse, interpret and report the present status of a social institution. Hence the normative survey method has become inevitable.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

Simple random sampling technique was used in the selection of the sample of as many as 900 first year higher secondary students. The sample was taken from the higher secondary schools situated in the Cuddalore district of tamilnadu, India. The distribution of the sample has been furnished as follows. (a)Students studying in urban area schools- 665, (b) Students studying in rural area schools- 235, (c) Students studying in English medium- 207, (d) Students studying in Tamil medium- 693,(e) Students from nuclear family- 706, (f) Students from joint family- 194.

TOOL USED IN THE STUDY

The tool, namely Problems inventory, constructed and validated by the investigators which has been used in the present study. There are 96 statements in the problems inventory. These 96 statements are distributed under 6 dimensions namely, (a) Physical, (b) Mental, (c) Emotional, (d) Social, (e) School and (f) Family. The problems inventory calls for a graded response to each statement on a two point scale having the options "yes" and "no". Scoring was made for the responses given by the higher secondary students with "yes" as 1 and "no" as 0. The total score gives the problems level of the student. Also, the problems inventory has construct validity. Its intrinsic validity was found to be 0.79. The reliability of this inventory by split-half techniques followed for the use of Spearman–Brown prophecy formula is found to be 0.88

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED IN THE STUDY

The detailed description of the statistical techniques employed in the present investigation has been given in the succeeding paragraphs.

(i) Descriptive Analysis

It involves computing of measures of central tendency such as the mean and the measures of variability such as standard deviation. The computed values are used to describe the properties of the different sub-samples.

(ii) Differential Analysis

In order to realize the formulated objectives for the problems of the higher secondary students, the test of significance was used after having framed suitable null hypotheses and all null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

From Table 1 it has been inferred that the means are found to range from 38.26 to 48.13 in respect of the entire sample and its sub-samples. The mean of the problem scores for the entire sample is 41.56. Its median is 41.00 and its mode is 50.00. Its Kurtosis is found to be -0.159 which is lesser than 0.263 and hence the distribution is platykurtic. Its skewness is found to be 0.41. It can be seen from the following table that the standard deviation ranges from 18.26 to 24.81 and the interval is not very wide, thus suggesting that the group is nearly homogeneous. Because the mean, the median and the mode do not vary much, the distribution can be considered nearly normal. Also, it has been found that the mean of the entire sample of the higher secondary students is found to be below the average level of the total score and hence this finding reveals that a majority of the higher secondary students are facing low level of problems. Moreover, the following findings also support the study.

Table 1

THE SIGNIFICANT OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEANS OF THE PROBLEMS SCORES OF THE DIFFRERENT SUB-SAMPLES OF THE HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

ENTIRE SAMPLE / SUB-SAMPLES	N	MEAN	SD	't' VALUE	SIGNIFICANCE AT 0.05 LEVEL
Entire sample of higher secondary students	900	41.56	-	-	-
Students studying in the schools located in urban areas	665	42.61	20.78	2.38	Significant
Students studying in the schools located in rural areas	235	38.59	22.73		
Students studying in Tamil medium	693	42.48	22.14	2.64	Significant
Students studying in English medium	207	38.46	18.26		
Students from nuclear family	706	40.23	21.16	3.53	Significant
Students from joint family	194	46.37	21.48		

1. There is significant difference between the higher secondary students studying in the schools located in urban areas and those studying in the schools located in rural areas in respect of their problems. Moreover the higher secondary students studying in the schools located in urban areas (Mean=42.61) are having more problems than the higher secondary students studying in the schools located in rural areas (Mean=38.59). The 't' value is 2.38.

2. There is no significant difference between the higher secondary students studying in Tamil medium and those studying in English medium in respect of their problems. Moreover the higher secondary students studying in English medium (Mean = 38.46) are facing more problems than the students studying in Tamil medium (Mean = 42.48). The 't' value is 2.64.