

# SOCIAL MATURITY AND ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE OF SECONDARY STUDENTS

Research  
Paper

## ABSTRACT

*This study aims to find out the relationship between social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students. The survey method was adopted. The sample consisted of 299 IX standard students. The major statistical techniques used were Pearson product moment correlation, percentage analysis and t-test. The study revealed that there is no significant relationship between social maturity and achievement in science with respect to background variables such as gender-male, type of school, locality and nature of family.*

## INTRODUCTION

Education is the process of developing the inner abilities and powers of an individual. The maturing and growing child develops not only in physical, mental and emotional behavior, but also correspondingly in social functioning and character. Socialization is a significant process only when its basic factors are comprehended. Unfortunately it is not possible at the present time to state it completely. Certainly all the basic and fundamental elements in socialization are the mechanisms in its formation. "Socialization is the process of presenting alternate channels for individual behavior together with positive and negative sanctions which will lead to acceptance of some and rejection of others. It emphasizes the influence of social groups, formal and informal, upon the personality of the individual" (Kegan 2007).

Generally there are three types of maturity viz physical, psychological and social maturity. Maturity has a lot of dimensions. Social maturity has vast relation to education. Social maturity deals with how people will understand the nature of the social world they live in. Social maturity encompasses attachments in several domains, including independent functioning, effective interpersonal communication, interaction and responsibility etc, contributing to the well being of society. Social maturity deals with learning to properly relate to friends and maintain intimate relationships. In a tensioned and stressful world social maturity helps human beings to grow in a fruitful manner. In the field of education a student is ranked on the basis of their academic achievement. For good academic achievement, a student needs enough social maturity also.

## NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Today's world is a place of stress and strain. To overcome these, we should have enough social maturity.

In society, a person should show mature attitudes towards problems that he/she faces in everyday life. To develop this mature behavior, education is an important factor, because social maturity is related to education. Most of the people prefer only socially matured personalities, because people think they are good sources of help, love, affection, co-operation, comfort, genuine advice and other soft feelings. A socially mature individual should be able to make judgments and take decisions, and take proper action in solving problems and critical issues. This means that a socially mature behaviour implies cooperation, dependability, self confidence and that the group or the society in which the individual lives approves of it. The present world thinks that the social maturity is a part of the art of loving and art of living.

As the density of a nation is determined in the classroom, The students are the future citizens of India. The teacher should propagate the ideas of national strength and national well being. The slogan of essential unity in diversity should be the motto of all the students all over the country. It is generally agreed that a citizen must be educated in such a way that it would develop certain desirable skills, attitudes and values in him/her for the manifestation of his own self as well as for the progress of the nation. Hence schools must prepare students for dealing with social controversies, cultural change and the manifold problems in society.

A few studies have been conducted in the field of social maturity and academic achievement separately. But the study of social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students is novel. The present study is an attempt to relate social maturity and achievement in science. Hence the study is very significant.

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## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study is entitled as "social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students"

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the significant relationship between the social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students.
2. To find out the level of social maturity of secondary school students with reference to background variables.
3. To find out the level of achievement in science of secondary school students with reference to background variables.
4. To find out the significant difference in social maturity of secondary school students with reference to background variables.
5. To find out the significant difference in achievement in science of secondary school students with reference to background variables.

## HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant relationship between the social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students
2. There is no significant difference in social maturity of secondary school students with reference to background variables.
3. There is no significant difference in achievement in science of secondary school students with reference to background variables.

## METHODOLOGY IN BRIEF

The normative survey method was adopted for the study. The sample consisted of 299 secondary school students. The tools used for the study were Social Maturity Scale developed and standardized by Nalini Rao and Achievement Test in Science prepared and validated by the investigator. The major statistical techniques used were Pearson Product Moment Correlation, Percentage Analysis and t-test.

## ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Table 1  
CORRELATION  
BETWEEN SOCIAL MATURITY  
AND ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE

Sl. No	Variables	Category	N	Calculated r value	Table value
1	Gender	Male	150	0.030	0.196
		Female	149	0.201	0.196
2	Type of School	Govt	140	0.014	0.196
		Aided	159	0.035	0.196
3	Locality of School	Rural	98	0.096	0.208
		Urban	201	0.018	0.196
4	Nature of family	Nuclear	226	0.054	0.139
		Joint	73	0.182	0.282

Note: S indicates significant statistically.  
NS indicates not significant statistically.

Table 2  
LEVEL OF SOCIAL MATURITY  
WITH RESPECT TO BACKGROUND  
VARIABLES

Sl. No	Variables	Category	Low		Average	
			N	%	N	%
1	Gender	Male	22	14.67	111	74.00
		Female	25	15.44	107	73.15
2	Type of school	Govt	29	20.71	83	59.29
		Aided	28	17.61	111	69.81
3	Locality of school	Rural	14	14.29	68	69.39
		Urban	31	15.42	141	70.15
4	Nature of family	Nuclear	32	14.16	158	69.91
		Joint	12	16.44	50	68.49



**Table 3**  
**LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE**  
**WITH RESPECT TO BACKGROUND**  
**VARIABLES**

Sl. No	Variables	Category	Low		Average		High	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Gender	Male	20	13.33	111	74.00	19	12.67
		Female	21	14.09	103	69.13	25	16.78
2	Type of School	Govt	27	19.29	96	68.57	17	12.14
		Aided	24	15.09	115	72.33	20	12.58
3	Locality of School	Rural	15	15.31	63	64.29	20	20.41
		Urban	36	17.91	145	72.14	20	9.95
4	Nature of Family	Nuclear	35	15.49	170	75.22	21	9.29
		Joint	10	13.70	51	69.86	12	16.44

**Table 4**  
**COMPARISON OF SOCIAL MATURITY WITH**  
**RESPECT TO BACKGROUND VARIABLES**

Sl. No	Variables	Category	Mean	SD	N	t-value	Result
1	Gender	Male	227.79	12.76	150	2.22	S
		Female	224.83	10.10	149		
2	Type of school	Govt	227.59	8.07	140	1.84	NS
		Aided	225.19	13.90	159		
3	Locality of School	Urban	227.43	13.45	98	2.21	S
		Rural	224.02	10.41	201		
		Aided	225.19	13.90	159		
4	Nature of family	Nuclear	227.85	10.94	226	3.89	S
		Joint	221.58	12.29	73		

**Table 5**  
**COMPARISON OF ACHIEVEMENT**  
**IN SCIENCE WITH RESPECT TO**  
**BACKGROUND VARIABLES**

Sl No	Variables	Category	Mean	Standard deviation	N	t-value	Result
1	Gender	Male	24.84	3.22	150	1.13	NS
		Female	25.28	3.44	149		
2	Type of school	Govt	26.26	3.08	140	6.25	S
		Aided	23.99	3.20	159		
3	Locality of school	Rural	23.96	2.88	98	4.32	S
		Urban	25.59	3.42	201		
4	Nature of family	Nuclear	24.78	3.24	226	2.46	S

Note: S indicates significant statistically.  
NS indicates not significant statistically.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

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1. The study reveals that there is significant relationship between social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students with respect to background variables such as gender - female and nature of family - joint. It may be due to the fact that females are more mature than males. Their maturity level is reflected in almost all their works. Students who belong to joint families possess more maturity than those who belong to nuclear families because they obey and accept the regulations of all the elder members of their families. So their maturity level has significant relation to their academic achievement.

2. The level of social maturity and achievement in science with respect to background variables such as gender, type of school, locality and nature of family is average.

3. The study shows that there is significant difference in social maturity of secondary students with respect to gender, locality and nature of family. But there is no significant difference with respect to type of school. From the mean value it is noted that social maturity is greater in males. It may be due to the fact that males have got more opportunities to mingle with the society than females. Also students who belong to urban areas have enough facilities to participate in different social functions.

4. There is no significant difference exists in achievement in science of secondary students with respect to gender but significant difference is found with respect to locality of school, type of school and nature of family. It may be due the fact that the students who belong to urban areas get more facilities to learn than rural ones. Students studying in aided schools get individual attention from their teachers because they are result oriented.

## CONCLUSION

The study helped to understand the importance of social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students. From the study the investigator found that there is significant correlation between social maturity and achievement in science of secondary school students with respect to gender-female, nature of family-joint and there is no significant correlation between social maturity and academic achievement in science of secondary school students with respect to gender - male, type of school, locality of school, nature of family- nuclear. Social maturity

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