

SUPERSTITIOUS BEHAVIOUR AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC STREAMS

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ABSTRACT

The study Examined the Superstitious behaviour among senior secondary school students in relation to their Academic streams. Data was collected by stratified random sampling technique from a sample of 200 students of secondary schools from Ludhiana districts. The tool used in the study was 'superstitiousness scale by Dubey & Dixit(2008)'. The data was analysed by employing Mean, SD and t-ratio. Result showed that there exists a significant difference in Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of senior secondary school students belonging to Medical stream. It was further found that there exists a significant difference in Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of senior secondary school students belonging to Non-Medical stream. It was further found that there exists significant difference in Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of senior secondary school students belonging to Arts stream but no-significant difference has been found in Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of senior secondary school students belonging to commerce.

INTRODUCTION

The word **adolescence** comes from the Latin word 'adolescere' which means "to grow up". It is the transitional stage of physical and psychological human development generally occurring between puberty and legal adulthood. In studying adolescent development, adolescence can be defined biologically which as the physical transition marked by onset of puberty and termination of physical growth, change in ability to think or socially as a period of preparation for adult role. "Adolescence is both a way of life and a span of time in the physical and psychological development of an individual. It represents a period of growth and change in nearly all aspects of the child's physical, mental, social and emotional life".

The formation of the Latin word is clear, from the verb super-stare, "to stand over, stand upon; survive", its original intended sense is less than clear. The term superstition means those who are "left over", i.e. "survivors", "descendants", connecting it with excessive anxiety of parents in hoping that their children would survive them to perform their necessary funerary rites.

A Superstition is an irrational belief arising from ignorance. Superstitions are based on a belief that future events are influenced by specific behaviours, without having a causal relationship. Many superstitions deal with important events in a person's life such as birth,

entering adulthood, marriage, pregnancy and death. Most of superstitions involve ensuring good luck, avoiding bad luck or making good things happen. Superstitious beliefs and behaviour are common among different groups of high school and university. According to study it was found that superstitiousness was more prevalent amongst females and arts students than males and science students. According to a 1910 study from the American Journal of Insanity. One student said that toothpicks made from a tree struck by lightning will ward off dental problems. Another said that "If you will carry a potato in your pocket, it will cure rheumatism." Though these ailment focused beliefs are different from today's pre-exam rituals, they illustrate the longevity of superstitious practices.

Some popular superstitions among students are the most common and the most ancient superstition is black cat. It is considered a bad luck if black cat crosses your path. According to the superstition if a black cat crosses your path, it creates a barrier of evil and cuts you off from God and Heaven totally opposite to the black cat is the black dog. If a black dog crosses your path it is good luck, Crossing your fingers before the start of the exam or before the declaration of the result is the most common superstition during exams, Eating curd before going out for new work or exam brings good luck, If someone sneezes right before you are about to start or do something is considered a bad omen, If your eye lid pulsates, it can be a sign of upcoming good or bad luck depending on whether it is your left or right eye, Some believe that a coin in the left sock, touching the sole of the foot, will help reduce tension before an exam, Red is a favorite colour for the superstitious.

The common Causes of superstitions among students are fear of exams ,lucky experiences, OBC i.e. obsessive compulsive disorder, foreign or outstation students, study of tradition and culture, role of T.V., superstition based movies, Novels and literature, Human tendency, personal anecdotes. These beliefs have been passed generation after generation students not only remember them but also believe in them. Superstition effects the student life by lack of interest in studies because mind of the student waivers towards beliefs, loss of concentration in studies, mental disorder due to superstition such as paranoia and other mental conditions which may inhibit unnatural behaviour and unknown fear, superstition change the focus amongst the students hampers the development of one's personality, superstitious effects the teenager who has a slight inclination towards such beliefs, a casual conversation with a superstitious can spread and strengthens his or her own personal beliefs in such matters.

To remove superstitious behaviour among students some remedies such as to think positive and try to develop positive attitude towards challenges and arduous tasks. This can be achieved through reading, listening and watching positive material in form of books, biographies, audio-video means etc. In order to get rid of the 'failure' syndrome, Parents play an important part in removing all the fears and beliefs in superstitions through personal guidance and real life examples, Teachers should encourage healthy discussions in the classroom to get a clear picture of what's the truth and what's a lie. This can dispel student's beliefs in superstitions, Government and other non-governmental organisations can enlighten the clouded minds with various events and campaigns which can be effective tools in eliminating myths, various means of media can contribute to a

large extent in bringing a change in attitude towards these beliefs.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“SUPERSTITIOUS BEHAVIOUR AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC STREAMS”

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF THE TERMS USED

Adolescence

Adolescence is both a way of life and a span of time in the physical and psychological development of an individual. It represents a period of growth and change in nearly all aspects of the child's physical, mental, social and emotional life.

Superstition

Superstition is defined as 'cultural' mode of satisfaction of the biological needs of human organism.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Medical stream.
2. To find out the difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Non- Medical stream.
3. To identify the difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Arts stream.
4. To find out the difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Commerce stream.
5. To compare the difference in superstitious behaviour of secondary school students belonging to Medical, Non-Medical, Arts and Commerce streams.

HYPOTHESES OF STUDY

1. There exists a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Medical stream.
2. There exists a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Non-Medical stream.
3. There exists a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Arts stream.
4. There exists a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Commerce stream.
5. There exists a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of secondary school students belonging to Medical, Non-Medical, Arts, and Commerce streams.

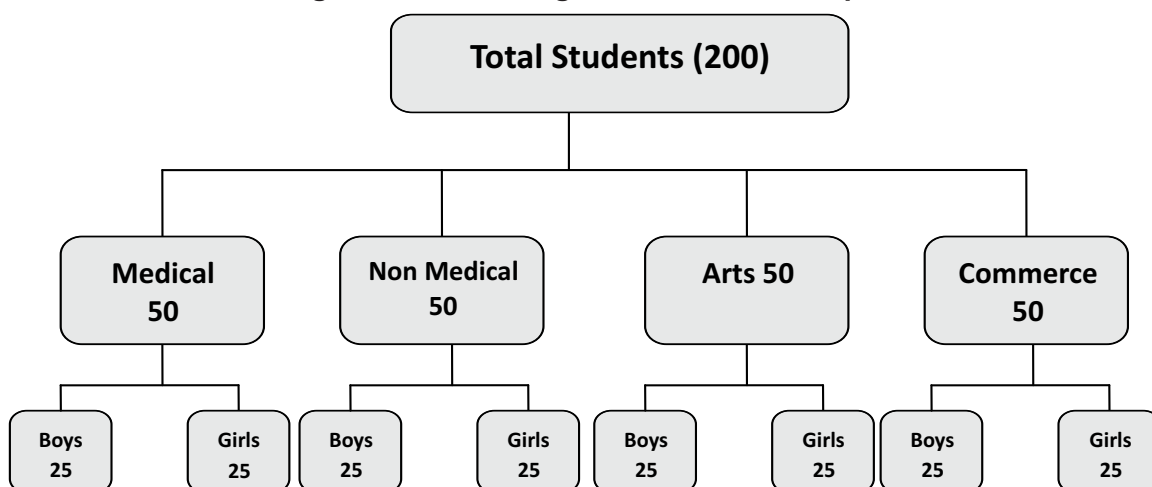
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Adolescence is a very complex and important period of every individual's life. This is the period in which growth and development takes place at all levels i.e. physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Individuals have to adjust and adapt themselves to the

environmental situations. Superstition is an irrational, invalid and unreasonable belief. That means we believe in superstitions without considering they are reasonable or not. Origin of superstition is ignorance. Superstition is originated when we had no knowledge of the law of 'cause' and 'effect'. The mind of man was not so developed as to be capable of analyzing facts and events and seeking their cause in nature. But today we are living in the age of science and for the development of our country we need scientifically oriented and people who can act rationally and take right decisions which are not based on superstitions. For the country's real progress the society must leave irrational, orthodox ways.

In the present study the investigator tries to explore the superstition attitude and belief of adolescents. As adolescents are at the age of moral or character development they need proper attitudes to be developed. We should check the undesirable and irrational attitude of the adolescents. Today with advancements of science & technology world is exploring the space. In India science has become popular and is playing a very constructive role. There is no field untouched by science. Science is trying to break age old blind faiths, which are

Figure 5.6 : Showing distribution of sample



TOOL

In this study investigator had used only one tool which is as follows:

- ❖ Superstitiousness Scale by Dubey & Dixit (2008)

SAMPLE

The process of sampling makes research possible to draw valid inferences or generalizations on the basis of careful observation of variable within a relatively small proportion of population. A measured value based on sample data is statistics. A population value is inferred from statistics is a parameter. A population is any group of individuals who has one or characteristics in common that one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher.

A sample is the small proportion selected for observation and analysis. By observing the characteristics of the sample, one can make certain inferences about the characteristics of

the population from which it is drawn. A good sample not only needs to be representative, it needs also to be adequate or of sufficient size to allow confidence in the stability of its characteristics. An adequate sample is one that contains enough cases to insure reliable results. Hence planning in advance for size of sample is very important for the researcher.

In order to collect the relevant data, a sample of 200 students of secondary schools from Ludhiana district was involved. Students from the four different streams Medical, Non-Medical, Arts, and Commerce were selected. Stratified random sampling method was employed to draw the sample.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION

In order to conduct the study, 200 school students were selected with stratified random sampling from Ludhiana District. Each respondent was contacted to collect information about superstitious behaviour. After developing good rapport and making them clear about the purpose of the study, scale of superstitiousness was administered on selected sample. After the collection of information, scoring was done and scores were subjected to statistical technique.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

1. t-test was used to find out the difference in

- Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Medical stream.
- Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Non-Medical stream.
- Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Arts stream.
- Superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Commerce stream.

2. One way ANOVA was used to find out the difference in superstitious behaviour of secondary school students belonging to Medical, Non-medical, Arts and Commerce streams.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. Study was delimited to 200 senior secondary school students.
2. Only Ludhiana district was covered for this study.
3. Study was delimited to four streams i.e. Medical, Non-Medical, Arts, Commerce only.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions are very essential aspect of any investigation. They provide a finishing touch and review to the whole of critical work. This part of the study plays an important role in any research work. Result of research shows acceptance or rejection of the hypotheses.

1. There was found a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Medical stream at 0.05 level of

confidence.

2. There was found a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Non-Medical stream at 0.05 level of confidence.
3. There was found a significant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Arts stream at 0.05 level of confidence.
4. There was found an insignificant difference in superstitious behaviour of boys and girls of secondary school students belonging to Commerce stream even at 0.05 level of confidence.
5. There was found an insignificant difference in superstitious behaviour of secondary school students belonging to Medical, Non-medical, Arts and Commerce streams even at 0.05 level of confidence.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Research is never ending process. Every investigator after completing his piece of research inevitably becomes aware of areas in which further research is needed and naturally feels inspiring to indicate areas, which may be taken up for research by other investigators. The researcher by virtue of his experience in the field of study humbly offers the following suggestions for further research that can be undertaken by perspective researchers:

1. The study can also be conducted by considering the impact of family environment on the superstitious behaviour.
2. The study can also be conducted on teachers, parents, and college students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Superstitions act as hurdle in the growth of an individual. It restricts the thinking process of the individual. There are different circumstances in which students start believing in superstitions like increasing competitions, lower academic achievements, inability to fulfill the expectations of the life. So parents and teachers should adopt other healthy ways to keep their children stress free. They should motivate them intrinsically for working hard instead of such kind of superstitions. Lectures of esteemed personalities can be arranged who have got success with lots of hardwork in the presence of large pressures also.

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