



Risk-Taking Tendency Among The Students of Faridabad Schools

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the Present study is to find out the comparative results of risk taking tendency among the students of Faridabad schools. A total sample of 300 students (150 boys and 150 girls) of Faridabad Haryana was taken. Tool used was Risk Taking Questionnaire (RTQ) prepared by Sinha and Arora (1983)).

KEYWORDS : Risk Taking Tendency, Risk Taking Questionnaire (RTQ).

INTRODUCTION

No risk no gain is appearing a true proverb in this modern and technical age. Life is like a gamble and without taking any risk we cannot win this game successfully. Risk-Taking provides us 50/50 chances of winning this game or leading a successful life. Life abounds with situation in which we must choose between alternatives willingly or unwillingly. Yousuf (1974), it is the part of the border aspect of decision making where one has to take risk for the problem solving.

We have to take decisions and risk in order to lead a good life but most decisions are risky in the sense that we cannot be sure of the outcome. A tossed coin for example, normally has a 50/50 chances of coming up heads or tails. We are not sure which it will be and must take knowledge about the probability of the outcome into account when making a decision about whether the coin will come up heads or tails. In tossing a coin we know what the head & tail probabilities of the coin are; but making decisions and taking risk in "real life", we do not know the precise likelihoods of various outcomes. We can only make our own estimates of the probabilities.

In the modern competitive life, the risk-taking has become a silent feature of the personality. Today, every unit of the society is bound to opt the risk more or less for his/ her survival to some extent and to gain popularity and superiority over the other members of the society. Risk-Taking is different in various aspects of life; physical risk is easier to be undertaken in comparison with economic and prestigious risks. Theoretically risk-taking is not same in all aspects of life, some takes are easier and one has no hesitation to undertake such risk for the fulfillment of need or desire, on the other hand some takes are difficult to achieve and one has to face a lot of risk to achieve the goal. Risks may be of different natures such as economic, political, religious or social.

Similarly, the risk-taking tendency differs from region to region, caste to caste sometimes from sex to sex and age to age. These aspects of risk-taking tendency bear a direct influence on the personality make-up of the individual, especially in the age of adolescents, the period from the beginning of sexual maturity (puberty) to the completion of physical growth. Hall, (1904) in his book "Adolescence" view it as a period of "Storm and Stress" when the key developmental task for the adolescent is answering the question "who am I?" and "what am I going to do with my life"? This shows the desire of achieving identity; this motivation leads adolescents to take risk willingly or unwillingly in order to get their position or identity in the society.

The non risk-takers are orthodox and stereotyped by nature and believe in the continuation of traditions and customs as they are going on, in other words they do not dare to deviate from the usuality, whereas the risk-taking tendency of the person may not be limited into the boundaries of custom, tradition and socio-economic status. All the comforts that we enjoy in today's world are fruits of untiring efforts and risk taking tendency of some extra-ordinarily brilliant individuals dedicated to the cause of humanity. John Logie Baird, the inventor of television battled throughout his life with poverty but he was the man of courage and a true risk taker who invented television one of the most wonderful creations of the century. Wright brothers,

the inventors of aeroplane, toiled hard, met with many failures and even risked their lives to transform their dream of creating a flying machine into reality. Without taking any type of risk it could not be possible for inventors to invent new things; humanity will never forget their contribution.

The 21st Century is the age of science and technology in which modern social activities are aimed at materialistic achievements in other words this is the age of anxiety and competition. In the modern materialistic world, everyone is indulged in the races of making money, gaining popularity, prestige power and prominent places in the society and obtain his objectives by hook and crook. This era is full of desires, needs, fantasies, wants and urges. Everyone wants to utilize his entire resources to establish his superior position in the society one way or the other.

The competitive life pattern forces the human being to dare for such activities which in the stage of failure may cause the harm not only to his energy, power, and prestige but to his life ultimately. In other words, smooth living has become a thing of the past. This brings us to problem of risk and risk taking tendencies in the present social living.

"Risk" as layman understands, may be an act where an individual undertakes to earn his livelihood. Generally, the term 'risk' means a dangerous element or factor, where an individual is put in willingly/unwillingly in that situation. Habrin defines the term 'Risk taking Tendency' as condition where there is possibility of occurrence of loss as result of deviation from the intended or expected situation. To take risk, in several environmental situations, is an interesting phenomenon of human life. Risk-taking behavior has its own importance in the life. Where on one hand, it prepares a person to face the dangerous situations on the other hand it helps in the canalization of abundant body energy in different creative ways. Especially in the age of adolescence. "Adolescence is simply an uncomfortable intermediate state between being a child and being adult Rice (1984). It is often viewed as stormy period a time of critical changes a period of rapid physical, sexual, psychological, cognitive and social changes that have lasting effects.

Adolescence is also an age of identity crisis, when they like to assert independence and fluctuate between dependence on parents and attempt to assert independence. This motivational desire to be an independent leads them to take the "Risk".

If we study comparatively we will find that adolescents and young man are significantly higher in confidence and taking risk than children and old man, and tend towards risky jobs, motivated by their needs and young age, in which they get success many times but also face failures because of the lack of experience and proper guidance. Adolescence, viewed as a period of "Storm and Stress", Hall (1904) it means that this is a stage of life in which adolescents are filled with risk-taking behavior and energy.

Generally a "Risk-Taker" is an individual who takes an act in his hands involving danger to his life, social prestige or economic set-up. As it is said that, "If one wants to walk on the water one has to be willing to get his feet wet first, then one discovers it is worth the risk". It is

evident now that a risk-taker is more successful and leading position holder in the society. It has become quite essential or inevitable for a man to opt the risk willingly or unwillingly to cope with the problems and to complete and win the race of the materialistic world.

The term " Risk" has become now a very common and prominent term, the measurement of risk- taking tendency among adolescents would be more interesting and useful too as it is evident that the young generation is the future of the country, in future they will lead the nation. The instinct of risk- taking is natural for the youth, but if youth energy could be guided to positive form of risk – taking and violence such as mountaineering, swimming, competitive games, NSS, NCC and armed forces, fighting of natural calamities like floods, famine, earthquakes, epidemics of disease, environmental control, social evils like dowry and child marriages, learning to various arts such as painting, writing, public speaking, and their emotions sublimated to creative arts, gainful employment and socially useful activities, they could be made a resource. Unfortunately most of our youth population or young population remains unutilized; we should think and take action in this regard.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is planned to study the following objectives- To explore the level of Risk-Taking behavior among the students of Faridabad schools.

To find out the comparative results of risk taking tendency among the students of Faridabad schools.

HYPOTHESES

On the basis of review of related literature indirectly concerned with the investigation under taken, the following hypotheses have been formulated:

We will not find any significant difference in Risk-Taking Tendency among the male and female students of Faridabad schools.

METHOD

For testing the proposed hypothesis and objectives of this investigation random selection method was adopted to collect the data. The choice of randomly selection survey method is made principally because the study aims at ascertaining the present information and knowledge of Risk-Taking tendency among the students of different schools in Faridabad.

SAMPLE

The present study was conducted on 300 students 150 boys and 150 girls from different schools in Faridabad, Haryana. The students were selected randomly. The age range was 13 to 15 years.

TOOL USED-

RISK- TAKING QUESTIONNAIRE (R.T.Q)

This tool is designed by Sinha and Arora (1983).It is designed to measure the extent of risk – taking of a particular individual in his personal as well as in his social life. It is useable on male and female literates. The authors covered eight areas of risk which are considered to be the most important and affiliated areas of risk for Indian life by a number of sociologists and psychologists. These areas are: Hills, Space, Sea, Commercial Trades, Police & Intelligence Services, Fire, Professional Trades and Military Services.

Risk Taking Questionnaire is a five point scale. The five points of the scale are; Very much, Much, Moderate, Less and Very Less. The scoring for each items are 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The sum of the scores in all the eight areas gives the total extents of risk taking tendency in the tests. The maximum possible score in this tool is 200 and minimum 40. The questionnaire is in Hindi language. The instructions to be given to the testee are written in Hindi, on the cover page. All these are self- explanatory.

Results and Discussion

Table 1

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR BOYS GROUP (N = 150)

S.NO.	NAME OF THE VARIABLES	MEAN	S.D.	SKEW-NESS	KURTO-SIS	REMARK
1.	Risk -Taking	152.99	24.126	-.726	.172	Lepto Kur.

Table1 shows that the value of Skewness of Risk - Taking, is negatively skewed. Further, it was also found from the Table that the value of Kurtosis shows the distribution was slightly Lepto Kurtic for Risk- Taking.

TABLE 2

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR GIRLS GROUP (N=150)

S.NO.	NAME OF THE VARIABLES	MEAN	S.D.	SKEW-NESS	KURTO-SIS	REMARK
1.	Risk – Taking	144.83	24.395	-.376	.102	Lepto Kur.

It is evident from the Table 2 that the value of Skewness for Risk- Taking is negatively skewed. The value of Kurtosis, shown in the Table reveals slightly Lepto Kurtic tendency of distribution for Risk – taking.

TABLE 3

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR TOTAL STUDENTS (N=300)

S.NO.	NAME OF THE VARIABLES	MEAN	S.D.	SKEW-NESS	KURTO-SIS	REMARK
1.	Risk – Taking	148.91	24.563	-.528	.607	Platy Kur.

Table 3 concludes that the value of Skewness for Risk Taking was negatively skewed. It is also evident that the value of kurtosis reveals slightly Platy-Kurtic tendency of distribution for Risk – Taking.

McClelland (1958) conducted a study on risk- taking tendency and concluded that risk- taking tendency and the personality are inter-related with each other. Risk forms a special type of personality and vice - versa i, e. The personality traits force the individual to opt the risky jobs in the life. Wallach and Kogan (1961) studied the risk taking tendency among young and old they reported that young men were significantly higher in confidence than old men, and tended towards risky jobs. They also concluded that young men and old women did not differ in this respect. Brown (1965) studied on cultural values for risk- taking tendency. He found that cultural value for risk leads individuals to want to be at least as risky as their peers. Wallach and Kogan (1965) studied risk- level in the university students and obtained higher risk- level in the university students relative to a gerontological sample of comparable education. Rim Y. (1965 b) through a series of studies investigated the effect of group discussion on risk- taking. Working on the Israeli sample, he showed that a risk- taking individual in a group situation is extrovert. He is tolerant of ambiguity and is above average in radicalism and tender mindedness. His theoretical, economic and political interests are high, as are his inter- personal values of the leadership and recognition. He is good at manipulating interpersonal relations. Further, the risk- taker is inner directed and is high in the considerations.

McCoby and Jacklin (1974) conducted a comparative study on risk-taking tendency of male and female. They found that in the external affairs the males are high risk- takers than those of the females while in the case of family and internal affairs the females prove them much more risk – takers than those of males.

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