



CONSTRUCTION AND VALIDATION OF A TOOL MEASURING PARENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS EDUCATION

T. Thamayanthi Rani

Ph.D., Research Scholar in Education Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli-627012

ABSTRACT

In this Paper the procedure adopted for the construction of Parental attitude towards Education is given. the sample taken for this study was randomly selected sample of 100 high school Tribal students from Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu India. The process of developing the scale was guided by the Techniques of Attitude Scale Construction by Allen L.Edwards (1969). there were 25 statements prepared for the pilot study. Statements were prepared with options as strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly Disagree, the scoring was fixed as 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively for positive statements and in reverse for the negative statements. Statements were of Positive and Negative in nature. The final tool comprises of 20 statements, which are having value greater than 1.75.

KEYWORDS :

Introduction

Parents' positive attitude towards child's education is important in determining school attendance and academic achievement of the child. Favorable attitude towards schooling and education enhances parental involvement in children's present and future studies. Parent's attitude towards their children's education is affected adversely by low socio-economic status and since the tribal constitute the disadvantaged population, it is expected that the attitude of parents of tribal children will be unfavourable towards education. However, the present study aims to examine whether the tribal parents, today, exhibit a positive and favorable attitude towards their children's education as a result of increasing awareness of values of education through Government Endeavour's and initiatives.

Parental attitude is a measure or an index of parental involvement. A child, brought up with affection and care in the least restrictive environment would be able to cope up better with the sighted world. Therefore, the family shapes the social integration of the child more than a formal school. Turnbull (1983) has identified four basic parental roles- parents as educational decision makers; parents as parents; parents as teachers and parents as advocates. Since the parent's attitude is so important, it is essential that the home and school work closely together, especially for children with disabilities. The Warnock Report (1978) stresses the importance of parents being partners in the education of their children. The role of parents should actively support and enrich the educational processes. Korth (1981) states that parents should be recognised as the major teacher of their children and the professional should be considered consultants to parents. Tait (1972) opines that the parents' psychological well-being and the ease or difficulties with which they decipher the cues that facilitate the socialisation process influence the personal and social development of the child. It is the parents who exert the major influence on the development of the child from birth to maturity. One of the most important attributes of parental attitude is consistency. As children mature into adolescence, family involvement in their learning remains important. Family involvement practices at home and at school have been found to influence secondary school students' academic achievement, school attendance, and graduation and college matriculation rates (Dornbusch & Ritter, 1988; Plank & Jordan, 1997). Despite its importance, however, families' active involvement in their children's education declines as they progress from elementary school to middle and high school (Dauber & Epstein, 1993; Lee, 1994). Research suggests that schools can reverse the decline in parent involvement by developing comprehensive programs of partnership (Eccles & Harold, 1993; Epstein & Connors, 1994).

Need for the construction a tool to measure the Parental attitude towards Education

As there is no suitable tool found to measure the Tribal Parents'

'Parental attitude towards Education' it is decided to prepare anew tool. The process of developing the scale was guided by the Techniques of Attitude Scale Construction by Allen L.Edwards (1969). One of the aims of this study is to construct and validate a tool for measuring the Parents' attitude towards Education. On the basis of review of related studies, the scale have been constructed. 25 statements were prepared for the pilot study.

The first step in the construction of Scale is the collection of a large number of statements, both favourable and unfavourable to the objects under study.

Pilot Study

For the purpose of this study, Simple random sampling technique has been used to select the sample of this Study high school Tribal Students 100 have been randomly selected and used as subjects of this study. For this purpose the investigator referred journals and related literature and prepared as many as 25 statements with options as Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly Disagree for each scale, the scoring was fixed as 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively for positive statements and in reverse for the negative statements. Statements were of Positive and Negative in nature.

To select the items, t-values are calculated using the procedure explained by Allen L. Edwards (1957). The formula applied to find out the t-value is

$$t \text{ value} = \frac{\bar{X}_H - \bar{X}_L}{\frac{\sqrt{\sum(X_H - \bar{X}_H)^2 + \sum(X_L - \bar{X}_L)^2}}{n(n-1)}}$$

On the basis of the calculated t- value, the items which are having value above 1.75 have been selected and these formed final study.

Item analysis and Selection of the Items:

The item analysis calculations were performed for each sub scales. The 't-values' are calculated for each items of the scales. From each sub scales, items with 't-value' greater than 1.75 were selected.

Table . No. 1 Items analysis and Selection of the Items- Behavioural problems Scale

S.No	't'-value	Decision
1	2.04	Selected
2	3.43	Selected
3	5.40	Selected
4	3.99	Selected
5	6.14	Selected
6	4.14	Selected
7	4.21	Selected
8	3.71	Selected
9	3.12	Selected
10	3.40	Selected

11	2.42	Selected
12	2.38	Selected
13	1.09	Selected
14	2.72	Selected
15	2.82	Not Selected-<1.75
16	1.09	Not Selected-<1.75
17	0	Not Selected-<1.75
18	2.39	Selected
19	1.00	Not Selected-<1.75
20	2.56	Selected
21	2.61	Selected
22	0.53	Not Selected-<1.75
23	3.93	Selected
24	2.56	Selected
25	3.93	Selected

Scoring Procedure:

Totally 20 statements in each of the scales were included in the final study. This tool has been used for the data collection of data for the study. The scoring procedure for these scale is, the scoring for positive items are 5,4,3,2,1. and the reverse is for negative items. ie, 1,2,3,4,5. The minimum and maximum score for this scale is 20 and 100. Higher Score indicates favourable attitude towards education and the lower score indicates unfavourable attitude towards education.

Reliability and Validity of the Scales

The Reliability of the Parental attitude towards Education was calculated by the use of Split-Half method, which is found to be 0.82.

The content validity has been established by a panel of experts consisting of faculty members from the Department of Education and Higher Education Teachers.

Conclusion

The tool constructed is having 20 statements and which can be used for the students of secondary level to measure their parents' attitude towards Education. The statements are measuring the parent's attitude by the students' perception about their parents' mental orientation towards their education.

References

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