



VALUE PERCEPTION OF PATRIOTISM AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS WITH RESPECT TO GENDER

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ABSTRACT

Patriotism is the ideology of attachment to a homeland. This attachment can be a combination of many different features relating to one's own homeland, including ethnic, cultural, political or historical aspects. It encompasses a set of concepts closely related to those of nationalism. Patriotism is a state of mind. Emotions and feelings are involved. The feeling must especially be born in the youth of the country so they act as responsible citizens. Youth is the future of the nation and for the bright future of the country it is important for them to protect and preserve the nation and act in its best interest to make it outshine. Patriotism is the love and respect for one's country. It is not about blindly following the beliefs and cultural values of the country. It is most effective when coupled with reason and consideration for others. Youth is the future of the nation and for the bright future of the country it is important for them to protect and preserve the nation and act in its best interest to make it not just a country, but also home.

KEYWORDS : Value Perception, Patriotism

INTRODUCTION

Patriotism is the ideology of attachment to a homeland. This attachment can be a combination of many different features relating to one's own homeland, including ethnic, cultural, political or historical aspects. It encompasses a set of concepts closely related to those of nationalism. Citizenship requires doing our share for our community and our country. Being a good citizen means caring about the good of society and participating actively to make things better. Patriotism is an important part of good citizenship. Patriotism is love of and loyalty to our country. Patriotism is an important part of good citizenship. Patriotism is love of and loyalty to our country. It involves honoring the democratic ideals on which the country is based and expecting elected officials to do the same, respecting and obeying its laws and honoring its flag and other symbols. It also involves accepting the responsibilities of good citizenship, such as keeping informed about national issues, voting, volunteering and serving the country in times of war.

Michael Hand presents us with a carefully considered and rigorous examination of a very important and topical issue in civic education, which deserves careful consideration by policymakers. Hand begins by raising the eminently practical question of whether patriotism should be taught in schools, a question that has been debated for some time, often with more heat than light, due to the powerful emotions that can be aroused by the issue and the associated temptations towards polemic and demagoguery. The issue is tackled head on by the raising of the question as to whether or not patriotism is a good thing. Hand's conclusion is broadly neutral towards the desirability of patriotism and he argues that schools should not promote patriotism if it cannot be unequivocally shown to be worthwhile.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Patriotism is a very important aspect of good citizenship. It is not just a feeling of loyalty. It is a feeling of belonging. The feeling must especially be born in the youth of the country so they act as responsible citizens. A country whose citizens are not patriotic will face an uphill task of protecting its sovereignty and dignity. Since equal importance is given to males and females in the society, it becomes important to know as to what extent males and females differ in terms of value perception of patriotism. Patriotism is a citizenship value involved in the affective objectives of social studies education.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of value perception of patriotism among secondary school pupils with respect to gender

2. To find out significant difference between the value perception of patriotism among secondary school pupils with respect to gender

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between the value perception of patriotism among secondary school pupils with respect to gender

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey method was adopted in the present study.

SAMPLE / SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The simple random sampling technique was used to select 70 respondents from each of the schools in the study area in a neighborhood school in Singapore.

Table 1: LEVEL OF VALUE PERCEPTION OF PATRIOTISM AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS WITH RESPECT TO GENDER

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	28	46.7
Female	32	53.3

From the above table it can be understood that out of 60 respondents 32 of them (53.3%) are female; and 28 of them (46.7%) are male. From this we can understand that the female respondents take part in the study more than the male respondents.

Table No: 2 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEAN SCORES OF VALUE PERCEPTION OF PATRIOTISM AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS WITH RESPECT TO GENDER

Gender	Mean	SD	t	Level of Significance
Male	76.82	22.69	7.54	S
Female	82.13	20.22		

(At 5% level of significance, the table value of 't' ratio is 1.96)

The above table (2) reveals that the calculated 't' value (7.54) is greater than the table value (1.96). Hence the null hypothesis, "There is no significant difference between the value perception of patriotism among secondary school pupils with respect to gender" is rejected.

DISCUSSION

When comparing means scores for the Patriotism scale reveals that females score (82.13) higher and thereby indicating a marginal

increase in perception of patriotism when compared to males (76.82). Therefore, we can say that there is a significant difference between the perception of patriotism among secondary school pupils with respect to gender. The results of the research suggested that participating social studies teachers explain patriotism with concepts of love, commitment and responsibility, and perceived they closer to blind patriotism. According to a Columbian Study of democratic values among eighth graders in New York City Schools, girls held stronger positions on every measure of democratic values. It was reported that girls are more patriotic than boys. This is in line with the findings of the present study too. Some possible reasons for this could be the level of tolerance and volunteerism which is seen to be higher among females. National service is a compulsory military attachment in Singapore. Males who have attained the age of 18 are required to be enrolled and serve the country for 2 years. For females, this is not compulsory. It is purely optional. As such, we have many females coming forward to sign up in the military and para-military forces to serve the nation. This feeling of commitment and the need to serve the country could be another reason.

CONCLUSION

Society is undergoing constant changes in terms of demographics, beliefs and values. It becomes important to do a check on the state of people's attitudes, behavior and values. Old stereotypes have little value and can be misleading when it comes to deciding the roles played by citizens of a country. The question of patriotism becomes very pertinent here. Against the belief that men are patriotic, this study has proven otherwise that patriotism is a trait which can be held strongly by women. Further research and studies in this area will help us to further unearth more facts which will help in many decision-making processes and assessing the roles of males and females in society.

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