



VALUES AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

Values are universal in nature. Values are regarded as the guiding principles of an individual's life. They are the motivating forces behind the specific pattern of behaviour of an individual. The objective of the research was to study the values and value trends among 100 adolescents with respect to educational level. Portrait Value Questionnaire (PVQ-RR) was used to collect the data. The results reveal that adolescents displayed uniformity in their value preferences and that education may not have a noticeable impact on value preferences of adolescents.

KEYWORDS : values value trends adolescent educational level

INTRODUCTION

Values are viewed as a measure which people employ to choose and approve their deeds and to assess oneself, other people and situations (Schwartz, 1992; Schwartz, 2006). Values are regarded as 'principles' as well as 'motivators' that impact people's lives. Being competent in expressing values and having their actual acquaintance can provide people a very good perception of their behaviours, basis of their choices, their communications and exchanges with others. Each individual possess many values with altering levels of significance. A specific value may be very important to an individual whereas that same value might be insignificant to another (Bardi & Schwartz, 2003).

OBJECTIVES

- To explore the value preferences of the adolescents with respect to educational level
- To analyse adolescent value trends across age

PARTICIPANTS

The participants were adolescent of IX, X, XI and XII standards of various government schools of Almora district of Uttarakhand state. Simple random sampling was used to select the sample of 100

adolescents. The age range of the adolescents varied between 14 to 17 years. The mean age of adolescents was 15.42 years. All 100 adolescents belonged to the middle income group.

MEASURES

For the collection of data following measures were used.

- Basic Profile Inventory** - This brief inventory was prepared by the investigator to get information about basic profile of the adolescents such as- name, age, standard, socio-economic status and address.
- Portrait Value Questionnaire (PVQ-RR Value Scale)** - The PVQ-RR developed by Shalom H. Schwartz is the most contemporary tool to measure basic human values. The PVQ-RR Values Scale measures 19 basic individual values developed by Schwartz et al., (2012). There are a total of 57 items in Portrait Value Questionnaire.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

All the necessary calculations were done and then the data was analyzed statistically. Mean, standard deviation and ANOVA was used for statistical analysis of the data.

RESULTS

Table 1 Mean and S.D. scores of Basic individual values of Adolescents according to educational attainment (N=100)

S. No.	Basic individual Values	9 th class	10 th class	11 th class	12 th class	F-Value	p-value
1.	Self Direction (Thought)	4.67±0.79	4.48±0.79	4.2±0.79	4.47±0.79	0.854	0.468
2.	Self Direction (Action)	4.4±0.76	4.47±0.76	4.2±0.78	4.43±0.75	0.419	0.740
3.	Stimulation	4.5±0.8	4.45±0.8	4.4±0.8	4.3±0.8	0.393	0.759
4.	Hedonism	4.47±0.7	4.46±0.7	4.5±0.7	4.5±0.7	0.166	0.919
5.	Achievement	4.6±0.75	4.48±0.75	4.47±0.75	4.3±0.75	0.559	0.643
6.	Power (Dominance)	2.9±1.1	2.68±1.1	2.8±1.1	2.7±1.1	0.564	0.640
7.	Power (Resources)	2.3±1.36	2.35±1.36	2.4±1.36	2.1±1.36	0.269	0.847
8.	Face	4.3±0.7	4.5±0.7	4.47±0.7	4.45±0.7	0.685	0.563
9.	Security (Personal)	4.4±0.8	4.7±0.8	4.3±0.8	4.27±0.8	1.307	0.277
10.	Security (Societal)	4.86±0.7	4.86±0.7	4.68±0.7	4.59±0.7	1.784	0.155
11.	Tradition	4.7±0.79	4.69±0.79	4.69±0.79	4.57±0.79	0.095	0.963
12.	Conformity (Rules)	4.05±1.23	4.3±1.23	4.3±1.23	4.29±1.23	0.718	0.544
13.	Conformity (Interpersonal)	4.23±0.9	4±0.9	4.67±0.9	4.3±0.9	1.776	0.157
14.	Humility	3.8±1.2	3.55±1.2	4.46±1.2	4.39±1.2	3.696	0.014*
15.	Benevolence (Dependability)	4.8±0.79	4.67±0.79	4.5±0.79	4.7±0.79	0.769	0.514
16.	Benevolence (Caring)	4.46±0.78	4.58±0.78	4.48±0.78	4.6±0.78	0.280	0.839
17.	Universalism (Concern)	4.4±0.8	4.4±0.8	4.5±0.8	4.6±0.9	0.239	0.869
18.	Universalism (Nature)	4.3±1	4.5±1	4.1±1	4.3±1	0.767	0.515
19.	Universalism (Tolerance)	3.9±0.7	4±0.8	4.1±0.8	4±0.8	0.064	0.979

Table 2 Post Hoc Analysis of Humility

Dependent Variable	Group		Sig.
Humility	9	10	0.420 NS
	9	11	0.043*
	9	12	0.069 NS
	10	11	0.008**
	10	12	0.011*

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 1 exhibits the mean and SD scores for basic individual values of the adolescents with respect to educational attainment. Adolescents of IX, X, XI and XII standards displayed uniformity in their value preferences. Their most preferred values were Security (Societal), Benevolence (Dependability) and Tradition while Power (Resources) and Power (Dominance) were least preferred values. Above results also hints that education may not have a noticeable impact on value preferences of adolescents. However, there was a significant difference for humility (table 2) values between IX and XI,

X and XI as well as X and XII standards. Thus, it is revealed that educational attainment influences humility value of adolescents. Education provides an individual with a broad spectrum of knowledge. A crucial result of education is the awareness of how much an individual knows and how much is unknown to him. This awareness leads to a state of humility.

The value trend across different educational attainment levels exhibited that face, Universalism (Concern) and Universalism (Tolerance) increased with education while Tradition decreased. Evidently, education brings about increased awareness of self, others, one's immediate environment thus, fostering values of maintaining one's public image, avoiding humiliation, seeking equality for all and understanding others. Also, education develops a tendency to accept things based on logic and valid reasons hence, decreasing Tradition values. **Debeljak (2013)** also revealed Conformity and Tradition values were highest among less educated youth and lowest among highly educated youth.

CONCLUSION

Values stand for aspects that are most important to an individual and frame the basis of an individual's way of approaching life. They are the soundless, unspoken and unvoiced forces behind an individual's behaviour and decisions. This research work thus reveals that adolescents are inclined towards the safety and stability in their wider society, towards being a reliable and trustworthy member of their in-group and also towards maintaining and preserving cultural, family and religious traditions. Also, they do not prefer to exercise power through having a control over people or material resources.

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