



A STUDY ON PERSONAL VALUES AND CRITICAL THINKING OF B.ED STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The intention of the research is to study the personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students. In order to study this problem, the survey method was used to collect the data. The population of the present investigation is all the B.Ed students studying in Tirunelveli district. From the population, 300 students were randomly selected as the sample for the study. The finding reveals that the level of personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students are found to be moderate with regard to gender. There is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their personal values and critical thinking. It also reveals that there is significant relationship between personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.

KEYWORDS : Personal values, Critical thinking, B.Ed students

INTRODUCTION

Critical thinking is a type of thinking which is grounded on an individual questioning the thinking processes of his self and others in making sense of his own world, which presents dependence on the conditions of the current situation and which requires certain skill and responsibility. Accordingly, the critical thinking as a decision making activity in which evidences, concepts, methods, criteria and conditions are considered, and which depends on a purpose concluded by making interpretations, analyses, evaluations and inferences. Based on this definition, it can be asserted that critical thinking requires individuals to question, make inferences and approach incidents through a critical attitude instead of just perceiving incidents as they are seen. The personal characteristics of critically thinking individuals include being curious, faithful towards the prejudices of individuals, eager to rethink, being regular against complicated problems, behaving meticulously to reach information, being rational in selecting criteria, and modest and persistent in achieving results. Such characteristics might provide opportunities for individuals to organize the information they acquire in the educational environments, to reach new information, and to make important decisions.

Need and significance of the study

The teacher in the rising Indian society has a very essential role, to play in the social modernization and in the show of wisdom, knowledge and experiences of one generation to another. Children are the probable wealth of a nation. They are always exposed to the information of the teacher. It is, therefore, necessary to realize that the rising Indian society can achieve all-round development with the help of the teacher who acts as a powerful act in transmitting its perfect values. A teacher can help out country in the process of modernization. This could be possible if teacher's role is properly recognized and make a proper frame of mind to understand the problems of the country and make a sincere effort to create a environment in which society can move forward. Teachers need to become more tolerant of conflict in the classroom. Critical thinking is the connection between individual experience and social conditions. The most important place to offer this education in schools and teachers also trained in critical thinking. Teachers expressing their own bias letting the students debate and resolve problems. The intelligent teachers feel that their concept of thinking is instructionally useful automatically their teaching ability will be reach in a new perspective. In this reason students learn to think more critically and emotionally matured, they become more proficient and to develop skills, abilities and values are

lead to success in everyday life. Therefore the investigator undertakes a study on personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The researcher has framed the following objectives for the present study.

1. To find out the level of personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.
2. To find whether there is any significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their personal values and critical thinking.
3. To find whether there is any significant relationship between personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.

Null Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their personal values and critical thinking.
2. There is no significant relationship between personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used the survey method for the present study. For data collection, the investigator used the standard tool of 'Critical thinking scale' comprises of 64 statements which was developed by Rani in the year 2010 and "Personal values Scale" comprises of 40 statements, which was developed and validated by Rajam (investigator) and Anandaraj (Research supervisor) in 2018. The investigator has selected the sample by random sampling technique for the present study. It comprises of 300 B.Ed students studying in Tirunelveli district. The data were analysed by using Mean, Standard Deviation, 't' test and correlation analysis.

Analysis of the Data

The data were subjected to statistical treatment leading to the findings which may satisfy the requirements of the objectives of the study.

Table 1: level of personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students with regard to gender

Variable	Personal values						Critical thinking					
	Low		Average		High		Low		Average		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	12	27.3	26	59.1	6	13.6	3	6.8	37	84.1	4	9.1
Female	27	10.5	193	75.4	36	14.1	39	15.2	190	74.2	27	10.5

Submitted : 24th May,2019

Accepted : 19th July,2019

Publication : 15th September, 2019

It is inferred from the above table that 27.3% of male B.Ed students have low, 59.1% of them have moderate and 13.6% of them have high level of personal values. 10.5% of female B.Ed students have low, 75.4% of them have moderate and 14.1% of them have high level of personal values.

6.8% of male B.Ed students have low, 84.1% of them have moderate and 9.1% of them have high level critical thinking. 15.2% of female B.Ed students have low, 74.2% of them have moderate and 10.5% of them have high level of critical thinking

Ho1: There is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their personal values and critical thinking.

Table 2: Difference between male and female B.Ed students in their personal values and critical thinking

Variable	Group	Mean	SD	t' Value	Remarks
Personal values	Male	165.18	14.787	1.526	NS
	Female	168.59	13.489		
Critical thinking	Male	258.75	20.440	0.480	NS
	Female	256.60	28.488		

(at 5% level of significance the table value of 't' is 1.96, NS- Not Significant)

It is inferred from the above table that there is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their personal values and critical thinking.

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.

Table 3: Relationship between personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students

Variables		Calculated 'r' value	Table 'r' value	Remarks
Personal values	Critical thinking	0.309	0.113	S

It is inferred from the above table that there is significant relationship between personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.

Findings of the study

The major findings derived from the study are:

1. The level of personal values and critical thinking of male and female B.Ed students are found to be moderate.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their personal values and critical thinking.
3. There is significant relationship between personal values and critical thinking of B.Ed students.

CONCLUSION

Critical thinking ability varies according to the current mindset, most of the time we can learn to improve our critical thinking ability by developing certain values applying them to all problems that present themselves. So both personal values and critical thinking are related to each other the things which we all are facing in our daily life. And it is very important to the persons those who are working in the teaching field. Once we understand the theory of personal values and critical thinking, improving the skills takes persistence and practice. One of the most important aspects of critical thinking is to decide what we are aiming to achieve and then make a decision based on a range of possibilities. So finally I conclude that this study taught me a lot of things about the personal values and critical thinking which everyone should know to make changes in their life.

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