



Science Interest of Higher Secondary School Students

KEYWORDS

Science interest. Higher secondary students

Dr. M. Soundararajan

Associate Professor, Department of Education, Annamalai University, Annamalai nagar
Chidambaram 608 002., Tamil nadu, India.

ABSTRACT *The major purpose of this research was to study the level of science interest of higher secondary school students. The data were collected by means of science interest of higher secondary school students constructed by N.O. Nellaiyappan scale have been administered to a random sample of 300 higher secondary school students in Dindigal District. The normative survey method has been used. The collected data were subjected to 't' test and 'F' test for large independent groups. The findings indicate there is a significant difference in the level of science interest between the urban and rural students and the type of management. But there is no significant difference in the level of science interest between boys and girls, parents occupation and parents education.*

Introduction

Science has now become a compulsory subject in the school curriculum. Because of its multifarious value to the individuals as well as to the society. Science is a process of developing and cultivating the various powers, such as, mind, physical, mental and moral. The science is a fundamental right. So children develop science interest.

Science teaching by science educators and teachers is alike. The term "Interest in Science" has been employed to denote a range of meaning that extend from positive feeling towards science, to complete absorption is scientific inquiry.

Science interest is highly valued in all human societies. If education is to prepare children for a productive life in society, educational system must accept responsibility for developing science interest. A good number of research studies conducted in the area of rural and urban school students differ significantly in relation to their science interest. But the research studies of Nellaiyappan (1992) and Paolucci, Judith Jean (2002), Kelly Hutchinson, George M. Bodrer, and Lynn Bryan (2011) indicated that rural and urban school students do not differ significantly in relation to their science interest. Thus, in the present study an attempt was made to study the impact of science interest of higher secondary school students.

Objectives

1. To find out the level of science interest of Dindigal district.
2. To find out the male and female of higher secondary school students.
3. To find out the rural and urban of higher secondary school students.
4. To find out the type of management of higher secondary school students.
5. To find out the parents occupation of higher secondary school students.
6. To find out the parents education of higher secondary school students.

Hypotheses

1. The science interest of higher secondary school students is high.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary school students in respect of their science interest.
3. There is no significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary school students in respect of their

science interest.

4. There is no significant difference among type of management of higher secondary school students in respect of their science interest.
5. There is no significant difference among parents occupation of higher secondary school students in respect of their science interest.
6. There is no significant difference among parents education of higher secondary school students in respect of their science interest.

Methodology

The normative survey method was considered appropriate for gathering data about science interest of higher secondary school students.

Sample

The random sampling technique has been used for the study. The sample includes 300 higher secondary school students in four different schools in Dindigal District.

Tool

The science interest inventory constructed by N.O. Nellaiyappan (1994) has been used for the present study. There is also a separate column in the first phase of the scale along with instruction where the students are asked to give particulars like gender, locality, type of management, parent's occupation and parent's education. The validity of this inventory was established through concurrent method.

Findings

The findings are tabulated below:

Table 1:
Science Interest Score of Total Samples

Sample	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Total	300	24.98	7.147

The mean and standard deviation for the science interest scores of higher secondary school students for total samples are found to be 24.98 and 7.147 respectively. The mean value is more than the mid scores 22.5. Hence, it can be inferred that the science interest of higher secondary school students is high.

Table 2

Comparison of Science Interest Scores of Higher Secondary School Students in Dindigal District

Groups	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	't' /F value	Level of Sig
Boys	145	25.04	5.99	0.13	Not Significant
Girls	155	24.93	8.10		
Urban	150	22.95	7.21	5.12	Significant
Rural	150	27.01	6.49		
Government School	150	27.01	6.49	4.08	Significant
Private School	50	22.34	2.82		
Aided School	100	23.26	8.61		

Significant at 0.05 level.

Table 3
F test for Parents Occupation and Science Interest

Parents Occupation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F- Value	Level of Sig
Between Groups	18.93	35	0.54	1.45	Not significant
Within Groups	98.45	264	0.37		
Total	117.38	299			

Significant at 0.05 level

Table 4
F test for Parents Education and Science Interest

Parents Education	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F Value	Level of Sig
Between Groups	11.16	35	0.31	0.92	Not Significant
Within Groups	90.86	364	0.34		
Total	102.03	299			

Significant at 0.05 level

It is evident from Table- 2, Table- 3 and Table- 4 that there is a significant difference in the level of science interest between rural and urban among the types of schools of higher secondary school students in Dindigul District. But there is no significant difference between in the level of science interest between boys and girls, parents occupation and parents education among the higher secondary school students.

Educational Implications

The present study confirms that science interest of higher secondary school students in Dindigul district. The following suggestions are given further investigations.

1. A similarly investigations may be undertaken to compare the science interest of students at different levels.
2. A similar investigation may be undertaken to compare the science interest of students of different district in Tamil nadu.

Conclusion

It is concluded that the science interest of higher secondary school students are high. Further it is noted that there is a significant relationship between type of management and locality, but there is no significant difference between boys and girls, parent's occupation and parent's education of science interest of higher secondary school students.

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