

Secular Change in Learning Potentials And Its Impact on Youth –A Statistical Study of Associated Factors.



Statistics

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between secular changes in learning potentials of youth. The purpose of the study is to find out awareness of our culture in youth and its relevance for better quality of life. The study also attempts to inquire about the culture regarding respect for elders, culture regarding celebrations, culture regarding the celebration of special occasions, culture regarding concern for others, culture regarding practising of yoga in their daily life. The universe of the study consists of the youth in twin cities of Telangana state. The students are of age around 20 years. Random sample of 385 young students were covered. Colleges which are attended by the students of affluence and high socioeconomic status and those of colleges available for students of average and middle income groups were covered. The principal investigator collects data through questionnaire.

Introduction:

The culture of India is among the world's oldest, reaching back about 5000 years. Many sources described it as "Sa Prathama Sanskriti Vishvavara"-the first and the supreme culture in the world. India is a very diverse country, and different regions have their own distinct cultures in terms of language, religion, food and the arts etc. India has long lived in harmony with the natural world. Practices that would now be described as sustainable and eco friendly have existed in the country for centuries, and many have practiced within living memory. India makes up 2.4% of world's land, while supporting 16% of the world population (Planningcommission.nic.in). The modernization of recent year has put enormous pressure on the country's natural resources and India is experiencing widespread environmental degradation, yet, India has long lived harmony with natural world and has a tradition of environmental conservation dating back to the ancient Vedic period. "Unity in diversity", it is not just another phrase or quotation. But, these words are highly relevant to the country like India that is incredibly rich in culture and heritage. Few quotations or statements cannot describe the pedestal that India holds in the world map because of its vibrant and unique culture. "Traditional yet contemporary". The Indian culture has never been rigid and that is why it is surviving with pride in the modern era. It imbibes the qualities of various other cultures and comes out as a contemporary and acceptable tradition. That is what is unique about Indian culture. It moves on with the time. It is of interest to take up some issues like culture regarding respect for elders, culture regarding celebrating festivals, culture regarding concern for others, culture regarding practising of yoga in their daily life. Unfortunately today we find the youth those who are more interested in other places which are not useful to them as well as nation. They choose to spend their days playing video games. They spend their nights partying and living it up, so to speak more and more young men of this age group are sitting at home in front of their televisions playing games all day instead of bettering themselves or going to work.(Ramachandra acharya) Marking International Day of Youth, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that no one knows better than young people the issues at stake in today's rapidly changing world or the best way to respond, and declared: "That is why I am calling on young people to speak out – and I am urging leaders to listen." (<http://undesadspd.org/Youth.aspx>).

As the world changes with unprecedented speed, young people are proving to be invaluable partners who can advance meaningful solutions, the Secretary-General stated in a message issued for the Day, observed each year on 12 August. (<http://undesadspd.org/>)

Need for the study :

The present youth is driven by peer pressure. Being better educated, with greater spending power and more technically savvy

than any previous generation, they are overwhelmingly optimistic about the future, yet hamstrung by the fear of making bad decisions. The youth should be engaged in social services and attempts to do some good to others without expecting any return. Such orientation is necessary for youth. The young India needs more attention and orientation about the cultural roots of our country. Youth needs guidance and counseling. They are the pillars of the nation. Educare with human values is the route to global peace and happiness. Educare means to bring out our latent values, they have to be manifested through self-enquiry. (Bhagavan's Inaugural discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall Prashanthi nilayam on the occasion of Sri Satya Sai World Youth Conference 26th July 2007).

The survey was carried out keeping in view the important role which the youth can play towards development.

Objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study awareness among youth about the cultural roots and change in society.
2. To assess the responsibility towards elders, parents, teachers and society.
3. To assess the degree of awareness about the parameters of quality life.

Materials: A cross sectional study was conducted on the students of final year under graduate course. Women's colleges, coeducation colleges were taken for the study. Details of the sample subjects of the population studied are provided in the table 1. To meet the objectives of the study we have generated a questionnaire. Details of questionnaire distributed and percentage of subjects responded are provided in the table 2. The data was collected to study the awareness of our culture in youth.

Sampling procedure utilized: Total number of subjects studied were 385. Stratified cluster sampling procedure was utilized. The colleges in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad were taken and broadly classified into 2 strata as below. i) students belonging to women's colleges as first strata, ii) co-education as second strata. Randomly selected colleges from each strata were completely enumerated. Within each selected cluster % non-response was minimal. The details of the colleges selected strata wise are provided in table 1.

The Data needed and generated: To trace the factors associated with awareness of culture in youth, it is of interest to know the details of present life styles. To get the information about their present life styles the questionnaire is designed to have the data which explains their culture regarding respect for elders, urge of helping a needy person, interest to follow the tradition, celebration of special events, spending time on yoga and meditation.

Scoring method developed and utilized: The entire questionnaire developed consists of 40 questions. All these questions are categorised into 5sets of interrelated variables. The sets of variables studied and scoring system developed and utilised are as follows. These are quantified with scores as higher the score better it is.(Kuntal K saha, 2008).

Methodology: The main aim of the research is to study about the cultural awareness of the among college going students be-

longing to women’s colleges and co-education colleges. The data was collected from six colleges out of ninety six women’s colleges, and eight colleges out of one hundred and twenty eight colleges of twin cities of Telangana state. The researcher collects the data through a questionnaire. Only final year students were given preference while collecting the data. (Kothari.C.R. 2004). The research design followed in present study was cross sectional research design.

Results and Discussion:

Table: 1 Details of the subjects chosen from different colleges under study

S.No	Type of college chosen	Total number of colleges	No.of colleges studied	% they constitute	Number of Subjects studied
1.	Women’s	96	6	45	188
2.	Co-education	128	8	55	197
	Total	224	14	100	385

Table:2 The Mean ± SD values & ‘F’values of life styles indicators

S.No	Lifestyle indicators	Types of colleges studied(No.of subjects studied)	Mean±SD scores	F d.f (1,383)	Inference
1.	Culture regarding respect for elders	Women’s (188) Co education (197)	16.8±2.4 17.0±2.8	.877	.350 p>0.05 Not significant
2.	Culture regarding the celebration of festivals	Women’s Co education	14.4±2.2 14.8±3.1	3.243	.073 p>0.05 Not significant
3.	Culture regarding the celebration of special occasions	Women’s Co education	10.7±3.7 11.0±4.5	.386	.535 p>0.05 Not significant
4.	Culture regarding service to poor and needy	Women’s Co education	13.6±3.9 14.1±3.7	13.780	.000 P<0.05 significant
5.	Awareness regarding Yoga and meditation	Women’s Co education	10.9±5.6 12.1±6.6	34.620	.000 P<0.05 significant

The five indicators of the study are i)Culture regarding respect for elders ii)Culture regarding the celebration of festivals iii) Culture regarding the celebration of special occasions iv)Culture regarding service to poor and needy and iv) Awareness regarding Yoga and meditation. From the above table it is observed that mean values are almost same. From the table: 2 it is observed that there is no significance difference between Culture regarding respect for elders, Culture regarding the celebration of

festivals and Culture regarding the celebration of special occasions like birthdays, but there is significant difference between the groups of colleges regarding service to poor and needy, and awareness regarding Yoga and meditation. Motivation towards community service is compulsory for youth. Yoga and meditation are integral part of our lives. Youth must be encouraged to learn and practise yoga and meditation.

Table 3: Karl Pearson Co-efficient of Correlation for the life style indicators

S.No	Variables under study	Culture regarding respect for elders	Culture regarding the celebration of festivals	Culture regarding the celebration of special occasions	Culture regarding service to poor and needy	Awareness regarding Yoga and meditation
1.	Culture regarding respect for elders	1	.904	0.755	.840	.616
2.	Culture regarding the celebration of festivals		1	.756	.838	.604
3.	Culture regarding the celebration of special occasions			1	.623	.072
4.	Culture regarding service to poor and needy				1	.632
5.	Awareness regarding Yoga and meditation					1

Table:3 There exist a perfect positive correlation between the variables of culture regarding respect and the tradition of celebrating festivals they follow. Those who observe festivals also involve themselves in service activities. Perfect positive correlation is observed with the youth those who respect elders follow the tradition of celebrating festivals with 'r'^{0.90}, Culture regarding the celebration of special occasions with 'r'^{0.755}, service to poor and needy with 'r'^{0.84} but little less with 'r'^{0.616} for yoga and meditation.

S.No	Variables under study	Related variables	R	'F' Ratio (d.f)
1	Culture regarding respect for elders	Yoga	0.209	10.68 (1,383)
2	Culture regarding service to poor and needy	Quality of life	0.477	138.829
3	Culture regarding responsibilities	Quality of life	0.386	82.165

Table 4:Best set of variables related to life style indicators

Findings: It is inferred that 188 subjects covered under women's colleges and 197 subjects covered under coeducation category table 2. The normality of the subjects studied and found mean, median and mode. All three are equal for the data and concludes that the data follows normality. Under the null hypothesis it was assumed that there is no significant difference between the variables under study. For the variables like culture regarding respect, culture regarding the celebration of festivals, Culture regarding the celebration of special occasions there is no significant difference ($p > 0.05$), for the variables Culture regarding service to poor and needy, and Awareness regarding Yoga and meditation has significant difference ($p < 0.05$). Table :4 Regression analysis says that the quality of life is associated with the factors like respect for elders, helping poor and needy and ready to take up the responsibilities.

Discussion:

Students need 360° of development which is possible only in their student life. Student must be involved in various activities like community service. It means that they learn helping right from their young age. Similarly helping elders/younger and mothers at home must be encouraged by moral stories or student development programs in the colleges. Every student must take part in cultural activities in the college. Students must be involved in organising the programs, then they will learn how to, manage things. Quality of life is associated with many factors like socio economic status, parental education ,maternal education etc. Offering service to poor and needy by youth must be motivated. Youth must be empowered to take up the responsibilities immediately whenever the need arises. This also shows the quality of life they possess. Those who do yoga and meditation has regards to the elders. To relieve from peer pressure youth must have yoga classes right from their college life. Helping needy persons and accepting the responsibilities are associated with the quality of life.

"If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nations. When there is order in the nations, there will peace in the world."(Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam).So students must possess the character of Righteousness, which is one the most important element of human values.

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