Research Paper Education

Adjustment of Higher Secondary Commerce Students – A Differential Study

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KEYWORDS

Being a socialized animal, every human being has to face various kinds of situations and adopt harmoniously with the situation. The adaptation or changing of oneself or one's surroundings according to the demands of the external environment becomes the basic need for one's survival. Those who can adapt or adjust to the needs of changing condition can lead the life lively, happily and successfully, while others either vanish, lead miserable lives or prove a nuisance to society. In the words of James Drever (1952) adjustment means the modification to compensate for or meet special conditions. It is the establishment of a satisfactory relationship, as representing harmony, conformance, adaptation or the like (Sharma, 2008).

According to Warren, adjustment refers to any operation whereby an organism or organ becomes more favourably related to the environment or to the entire situation, environmental and internal (Mangal, 2005). It is imperative for higher secondary students who are active adolescents of the society to adjust with the situations so as to exhibit the best performance in their studies as well as in personal life. The role of an adolescent student is multiple; he/she has to adjust their behaviour as well as thinking to be successful in any sort of situation they face.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The role of higher secondary students is highly conflicting which needs a high level of flexibility to be fit with the situation and to deal with them effectively and successfully. The adolescent stage itself needs a high level of adjustment which can make the ordinary life into a perfect one. The knowledge about the adjustability of higher secondary students can help them avail proper guidance and strategies to develop their adjustment among students and teachers so as to improve their life style which may reflect in their studies.

It is very fundamental to understand their level of adjustment to impart knowledge and skills to this unique population. The high level of adjustment can help an individual to be aware of one's own strengths and limitations, respecting himself / herself and others, and enabling them to set proper level of aspirations, achieve satisfaction of basic needs, manifest flexible behaviour, enjoy realistic perception, capacity to deal with adverse conditions, projecting healthy self esteem, showing affection towards others, being emotionally stable, not confronting with tension, exhibiting high cooperation, etc. in the life of a higher secondary student every movement in educational system / personal and social life is determined by his/her adjustment. Hence the researcher has developed an intention to study the level of adjustment of higher secondary students in relation to the selected background characteristics.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are

- To find the level of adjustment of higher secondary commerce students in Pudukottai district.
- To find whether there is any significant difference in adjustment of higher secondary commerce students with regard to gender, medium, locality, type of school, fathers' education and occupation.

HYPOTHESES

The hypotheses of the study are

- The level of adjustment of higher secondary commerce students in Pudukottai district is moderate.
- There is no significant difference in adjustment of higher secondary commerce students with regard to gender, medium, locality, type of school, fathers' education and occupation.

METHOD USED

The research has used survey method of study to assess the adjustment of higher secondary commerce students in Pudukottai district.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

- The population of this investigation comprises of the higher secondary students studying commerce in eleventh and twelfth standards in the higher secondary schools in Pudukottai district.
- The sample of the study comprises of 720 higher secondary students randomly chosen from the commerce group in the higher secondary schools in Pudukottai district.

TOOL USED

The investigator has used information blank to collect background information of the sample and Adjustment Scale prepared and validated by Srivastava and Goving Tiwari (0000).

STATISTICAL METHODS USED

The investigator has used percentile analysis, large sample independent't' test, and ANOVA test to get meaningful findings and interpretations from the collected data.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

HYPOTHESIS 1: *The level of adjustment of higher secondary students is Pudukottai district is moderate.*

Table 1
Level of adjustment of higher secondary students is Pudukottai district

Variable	*No.*	*Low*		*Moderate*		*High*	
		N	*%*	*N*	*N*	*%*	*%*
Male	311	98	31.5	115	37.0	98	31.5
Female	409	146	35.7	136	33.3	127	31.1
Total	720	244	33.9	251	34.9	225	31.3

From the table it is understood that the majority of higher secondary commerce students are found to fall under the moderate category (34.9%) of adjustment for the total sample as well as for the subsample male (37%). In the case of female higher secondary students, the majority of them falls under low category of adjustment (35.7%).

HYPOTHESIS 2a: *There is no significant difference in adjustment of higher secondary commerce students with regard to gender, medium, and locality.*

Table 2
Difference in adjustment of higher secondary commerce students with regard to gender, medium, and locality

Variable	*Gender*	*N*	*Mean*	*S.D*	*Calculated 't' value*	*'p' value*	*Statistical Result*
Gender	*Male*	311	42.96	7.24	1.30	0.19	NS
	Female	409	42.22	7.82			
Medium	*Tamil*	467	42.33	7.49	0.98	0.32	NS
	English	253	42.92	7.74			
Locality	*Rural*	483	42.27	7.80	1.33	0.18	NS
	Urban	237	43.08	7.10			

NS – Not Significant

From the table, it is known that there is no significant difference between male and female, Tamil medium and English medium, and rural and urban higher secondary commerce students in their adjustment.

HYPOTHESIS 2b: *There is no significant difference in adjustment of higher secondary commerce students with regard to type of school, fathers' education and occupation.*

Table 3
Difference in adjustment of higher secondary commerce students with regard to type of school, fathers' education and occupation

Variable	Source	Sum of squares	df	Mean score	Calculated F value	'p' value	Result
Type of school	Between	217.76	2	108.88	1.89	0.15	NS
	Within	41142.90	717	57.38			
Fathers' education	Between	30.29	2	15.14	0.26	0.76	NS
	Within	41330.37	717	57.64			
Fathers' occupation	Between	116.42	4	29.10	0.50	0.73	NS
	Within	41244.24	715	57.68			

From the table, it is known that there is no significant difference among higher secondary commerce students in their adjustment with regard to the type of school, fathers' educational qualification and fathers' occupation.

FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Most of the higher secondary students studying commerce as a main subject are found to fall under moderate category of adjustment. This finding of the study clearly reveals that the range of adjustment exhibited by the higher secondary commerce students does not seem to be a healthy one. As it is established already, adjustment is not just a psychological factor but that contributes to every behaviour manifested by an individual especially higher secondary students in their performances in school, home, society, and everywhere.

Differential analysis of the study clearly shows that no significant difference was found in adjustment of higher secondary students between male and female, Tamil and English medium, and rural and urban students. It shows that the various subgroups of higher secondary students have no significant difference in their adjustment. As already shown in the percentile analysis, the adjustment of higher secondary students is just a moderate one. It seems to make sure that the entire population of higher secondary students are of equal range in adjustment. Hence, it is the need of the hour that efforts should be initiated from the all stakeholders of education and family to improve the adjustment of higher secondary students as they are the young and energetic ones, to shoulder the future responsibilities in the community.

The further analysis makes it clear that no significant difference was found among higher secondary students studying in government, aided and private schools, students with fathers having no education, school education, and college education, and students with fathers having occupation as coolie, agriculture, government, private, and self employed in their adjustment. It makes clear that the status of father in terms of educational qualification and occupation doesn't make any difference in the adjustment of higher secondary students.

CONCLUSION

The present study concludes that the nature of adjustment of higher secondary students is yet to be improved to be healthy so as their competencies can be made constructive and helpful for the individuals as well as for the society. The level of adjustment has to be improved with the combined effort of the educational bodies of the government, teaching community, management people, as well as the parents (Farris, 2013). Without the contribution of any one of the above said people, the intention for developing adjustment among higher secondary students may not be possible. Involvement and participation of the students in all sorts of activities to develop adjustment has to be ensured by the teachers.

Making all subgroups among the students to interact among themselves may help to improve their adjustment. (Shin, 2014). Efforts have to be made to eliminate shyness and withdrawal so as to be ready to participate in any conversations or activities or to express their suggestions. Healthy interactions and initativeness among the higher secondary students may greatly improve their participation in cultural activities and stage programmes which are greatly helpful to develop a highly acceptable adjustment. Above all, the environment on the campus should be comfortable for the students to be socially adjustable for exhibiting their true competency without any fear complex.

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