



A Study of Attitude of Higher Secondary School Students on Gender Sensitivity in Relation to Certain Variables

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1. Introduction

Gender-based social discrimination starts from womb and continues throughout society, in schools, colleges and even at the workplace. Gender discrimination results in negative impacts that can undermine the efficiency and success of even the best-intended plans. Gender sensitivity is always not about pitting women against men but understanding. Education that is gender-sensitive benefits members of both sexes. It helps them regulate which assumptions in matters of Gender are valid and which are stereotyped generalizations. Gender awareness opens up the maximum possible range of life options for both women and men and builds their capabilities to be more wholesome and humane.

Gender encompasses biological sex but beyond it to the socially set roles deemed suitable for each sex by the tradition we live in. Gender-related familiarities influence and shape how we think about others and ourselves, including self-image, behaviour, mood, social advancement and coping strategies. The present study analyses various details of gender issues in the current context. This study's typical feature is that it combines self-awareness work through activities that address women's and men's self-awareness and gender awareness. This research is mainly aimed to give an overview of Gender and sensitize students about various aspects of Gender.

Gender sensitivity is the action of being conscious of the ways people always think about gender so that individuals rely less on assumptions about traditional and outdated views on the roles of men and women. Methods that ensure equitable access to resources and essential services are necessary to obtain inclusive and gender-responsive governance. In humanities, this is often stated through people's language preference. People can pick a more inclusive language that does not define gender, and a lot of new words that are Gender-neutral have entered languages like English to substitute for more gender-specific terms. For periods, many words referring to all people were particularly masculine. Terms like "man," and "mankind," which are used to define all human beings, exclude females. While some people debate that such terms include women, it's been argued that these words have a degrading effect on women. Real gender sensitivity, it is said, moves past these terms to include all and excludes none.

Always parents are not treating their sons and daughters equally because even small things make a difference. For example, we ask the younger son to accompany his elder sister. It's an insignificant thing, but somewhere we give boys a sense of superiority and feeds into forming gender power game. One should impart values in both sons and daughters. Parents should always teach them to take a stand and stand with their daughters as rock-solid support when they complain about harassment. They need to teach their children about consent, and why it is essential to stop Gender-based Violence because it's not just a woman's issue, it's a social issue, and we need to end it by working together. In present research the researcher has tried to study attitudes of higher secondary school students about gender sensitivity because the higher secondary students are future of society.

2. Statement of Problem

The statement of present research is;

'A Study of Attitude of Higher Secondary School Students towards Gender Sensitivity in Relation to Certain Variables'

3. Objectives of Research

The main objectives of present research are as following

- 1.To study the attitudes of higher secondary school students towards gender sensitivity.
- 2.To study the attitudes of higher secondary school students towards gender sensitivity in relation to types of school.
- 3.To study the attitudes of higher secondary school students towards gender sensitivity in relation to stream.

4. Variables of the Research

In present research there are two types of variables

4.1 Independent Variable

- Types of school i.e. Granted and Self-financed higher secondary schools
- Stream i.e. Science and Commerce

4.2 Dependent Variable

- Attitudes towards Gender Sensitivity

5. Hypothesis of the Research

In present research the researcher has constructed the null hypothesis

Ho₁ There is no significant difference between the attitude mean score of granted and self financed school students.

Ho₂ There is no significant difference between the attitudes mean score of science and commerce stream students.

6. Importance of the Research

The present research is helpful to the students of all field, teachers and principals, schools and society. Due to this research gender bias may reduce, the awareness may be increased and the way of thinking about female may be changed. This research can also helpful to the new and old generation.

7. Population

In present research all the higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad city studying in Science and Commerce stream are the population

8. Sampling Technique

In present research the researcher has stratified population in two parts i.e., granted and self financed higher secondary schools. Then researcher has randomly selected four school. Out of four schools the researcher has selected two granted schools and two self financed schools. The researcher has selected 200 students out of which 100 students are from science stream and 100 from commerce stream. Thus, the researcher has selected the sample by stratified random sampling techniques.

9. Research Tool

In present research the researcher has used standardized attitude scale towards gender sensitivity constructed by Dr. Prashant Vasava. The reliability of attitude scale towards gender sensitivity are 0.72 by test-retest method and 0.76 by kuder Richardson method. The validity of tool is 0.78.

10. Research Method

The researcher has used the survey method to study the attitudes of higher secondary school students.

11. Data Collection

The researcher has taken prior permission from the principal of the selected schools in sample.

12. Data Analysis

In present research the researcher has used the inferential statistics techniques to test the hypothesis. The researcher has used mean, standard deviation and t test to analyse the data.

13. Limitations of Research

The limitations of present research are as under

- 1.The present research is limited to the students of English medium only.
- 2.The present research is limited to the higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad city only.
- 3.The present research is limited to the higher secondary school students std.12th of year 2023-24 only.

14. Testing of Hypotheses

The result of testing the hypothesis are as follows

Sr. No.	Hypothesis	t value	Level of significant	Accept/Reject
Ho ₁	There is no significant difference between the attitude mean score of granted and self financed school students	2.21	0.05	Rejected
Ho ₂	There is no significant difference between the attitude mean score of science and commerce stream students	1.24	Not significant	Accepted

15. Findings of Research

The findings of present research are as under

- 1.There is difference in attitudes of granted and self financed higher secondary school students towards gender sensitivity. The attitudes of granted school students towards gender sensitivity are high in comparison to self financed school students.
- 2.The attitudes of science and commerce stream towards gender sensitivity are equal. There is no significant difference in their attitudes.

16. Educational Implications

The researcher has derived following educational implications.

- Steps must be taken to increase the awareness level among students towards gender sensitivity to promote gender equality.
- The chief and primary priority should be given to educating the students on gender which is the grass root problem.
- Measures to be taken to organize awareness programmes on gender equality for the college students need to be allowed to equally think about men and women.
- Strict implementation of programs and acts should be there to curb the malpractice prevalent in society.
- Training should be conducted for men and women students and faculties to inculcate gender sensitivity.
- Self-defence classes should be started in different departments. This would enable women to protect themselves, and moreover would instil a sense of self-confidence in them.
- Male-controlled attitudes and values are the biggest challenges, and educational institutions should combat men and women's attitudes. Effort should be made to prevent sexual violence.

17. Conclusion

In present research the researcher had tried to study the attitudes towards gender sensitivity of secondary school students in relation to types of school and stream. With the help of t score the null hypothesis is tested. We can say that the attitudes of students of granted higher secondary school

students towards gender sensitivity are high than students of self financed school students. The attitudes towards gender sensitivity found equal in both commerce and science stream students

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