

SOCIAL MATURITY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

The study aims to find out the Social Maturity of elementary school students. The sample for the present study consisted of 500 elementary school students. In this study the investigator used Social Maturity scale to measure the Social Maturity of elementary school students. The study reveals that elementary school students possess an average level of Social Maturity and also found that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity with respect to Gender and type of management, but no significant difference exists in the mean scores of Social Maturity with respect to locale.

Introduction

Education plays an important role in shaping an individual's behaviour. It helps people to earn recognition and respect in the society. Education is not just restricted to teaching a person the basic academics, say computers, mathematics, geography or history, education is a much larger term. It is really a means to discover new things which we don't know about and increase our knowledge. Undoubtedly education is both socially and personally an indispensable part of human life. An educated person has the ability to differentiate between right and wrong or good and evil. Education helps you to understand yourself better; it helps you realize your potential and qualities as a human being. It helps you to tap into latent talent, so that you may be able to sharpen your skills. It is the foremost responsibility of a society to educate its citizens. A person becomes perfect with education as he is not only gaining something from it, but also contributing to the growth of a nation.

In psychology, maturity is the ability to respond to the environment in an appropriate manner. Social Maturity refers to a person's ability to function in an appropriate responsible

manner and understanding of the social rules and norms in place in a given culture and the ability to use that knowledge effectively. Self-care skill, healthy social interactions and an appreciation for others feelings are some indicators of Social Maturity in certain age group. A man becomes socially mature through the qualities that he receives either through genetic heritability or the environment in which he raises and educates. In the process of growing up, we become more and more social, for which Social Maturity is needed. Social Maturity refers to a person having a quality of friendship and adjustable quality of mature person in society. Social Maturity is evidence by an individual's capacity for making and keeping friends.

Adolescence is the stage of development which produces a number of social problems for a person. These problems arise out of adolescent adjustment with social group. Social Maturity is evidence by an individual's capacity for making and keeping friends. High degree of Social Maturity has something to do with a high degree of social skill. Developing social competencies enhances a person's ability to succeed in school and work, improves mental health, and makes people better citizens. Adolescence is a critical period in social development because adolescents can be easily influenced by the people they develop close relationships with them. Social Maturity is also an important aspect of adolescent's life, because society cannot tolerate socially immature individuals Social Maturity is needed for the socialisation of an individual, to decline ego centrality, to develop self-confidence and social value. And Social Maturity helps us to shares the feelings, attitudes and interest with others. Social Maturity help to develop share and care for others, respect the norms and values of the society. One of the more significant concerns of modern society is how to produce competent and self-respecting citizens. Social Maturity is the index of social interaction. It is a measure of the developmental competence of an individual with regard to interpersonal, relation, behavioural appropriateness, social problem solving and judgement. Today's children faces a wide chain of challenges before him and he has to have the ability to counter these numerous challenges if he wants to remain an active member of the society .For

this he has to acquire the characteristics of a socially mature person. Social Maturity is one of the major components of an integrated personality. Hence the investigator felt the need of studying the Social Maturity of today's adolescents.

Objectives

- To find out the level of Social Maturity of elementary school students.
- To find out whether there exists any significant difference in Social Maturity of elementary school students based on
 - Gender
 - Locale
 - Type of Management

Method

In order to accomplish the objectives of the study survey method was adopted.

Sample for the study

The present study was carried out on a sample of 500 elementary school students, drawn by stratified random sampling method, giving due representation of factors like gender, locale and type of management.

Tool used for Investigation

For measuring the variables of the study, Social Maturity Scale was prepared by the investigator.

In order to find out Social Maturity of elementary school students the investigator developed and standardized the Social Maturity Scale. By reviewing different scales, theories and studies investigator decided to select five dimensions for constructing Social Maturity Scale.

It is a five point Likert type scale. It includes 52 statements, among them 39 positive statements and 13 negative statements. The scoring adopted for the scale is as follows. For positive statements Scores of 5, 4, 3, 2 & 1 were given to responses ranging from Always, Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never. Reverse scoring procedure was adopted in the case of negative statements. The reliability coefficient of the tool is 0.973 and Face validity was also ensured.

Procedure

After administering the tool to elementary school students the responses were scored carefully and subjected to statistical analysis. Percentage analysis, *t* test and ANOVA were the statistical Techniques used.

Results

Classification of elementary school students according to their Social Maturity is given in Table 1. The table also contains the number and Percentage of elementary school students with different levels of Social Maturity.

Data and results of percentage Analysis of the scores of Social Maturity are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1

Data and Results of Percentage Analysis of the Scores of Social Maturity for the Total Sample

Variable	Category	N	Percentage
Social Maturity	High	85	17
	Average	334	66.8
	Low	81	16.2

From the above table it is evident that 17% of the elementary school students possess High level of Social Maturity, 66.8 % possess Average level of Social Maturity and 16.2% possess Low level of Social Maturity. From the table it can be concluded that majority of elementary school students possess average level of Social Maturity. It points out the need to improve the Social Maturity of elementary school students.

To find out whether there exists any significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of elementary school students with respect to gender, locale t test was used. ANOVA was used to find out the significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of elementary students with respect to type of management.

Comparisons of the mean scores of different subsamples on the Social Maturity are presented under the following heads.

Between male and female elementary school students. Data and results of the test of significance of difference between the mean scores of Social Maturity of male and female elementary school students are represented in Table 2.

Table 2

Data and Results of the Test of Significance of Difference in the Mean Scores of Social Maturity between Male and Female Samples

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	Critical ratio t
Social Maturity	Male	231	187.51	21.52	3.979*
	Female	269	194.71	18.95	

Note. *Indicates mean difference is significant at 0.05 level

From the above table it is evident that the t value 3.976 is significant even at 0.05 level. This indicates that there exists a significant difference in the mean scores of Social

Maturity between male and female elementary school students. Thus the hypothesis stating that there exists a significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of elementary school students with respect to gender was accepted. Thus it may be concluded that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of male and female students. Females possess higher Social Maturity than males.

Between elementary school students of rural and urban schools. The data and results of the test of significance of difference between mean of Social Maturity of students of rural and urban schools are represented in Table 3.

Table 3

Data and Results of the Test of Significance of Difference in the Mean Scores of Social Maturity between Rural and Urban Samples.

Variable	Locale	N	Mean	SD	Critical ratio t
Social Maturity	Rural	295	190.74	21.27	0.399
	Urban	205	192.31	19.28	

From the above table it is evident that the t value 0.399 is not significant even at 0.05 level. This indicates that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity between the rural and urban elementary school students. Thus the hypothesis stating that there exists a significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of elementary school students with respect to locale was rejected. Thus it may be concluded that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of students of urban and rural schools.

Between subsamples based on type of management. Summary of one-way ANOVA of Social Maturity for the subsamples based on type of management is represented in Table 4.

Table 4

Summary of one way ANOVA of Social Maturity for the Sub Samples Based on Type of Management

Sources of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F
Between Groups	2648.58	2	1324.29	
Within Groups	206580.4	497	415.65	3.1860 *
Total	209229	499		

Note. *Indicates mean difference is significant at 0.05 level

From the above table it is evident that the F value is 3.1860 significant even at 0.05 level. This indicates that there exists a significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of elementary school students belonging to different type of management. Thus the hypothesis stating that there exists a significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of elementary school students with respect to type of management was accepted. Thus it may be concluded that there exists a significant difference in the mean scores of Social Maturity of students of government, aided and unaided schools.

Further, to find out the area where significant difference shows investigator used the Scheffe's Post Hoc Test. Comparison of mean scores of Social Maturity based on type of management is represented in Table 5.

Table 5

Comparison of Mean Scores of Social Maturity Based on Type of Management

Sl. no	Type of management	Type of Management (J)	Mean difference (I-J)	p
1.	Government	Aided	3.538	0.09
2.	Aided	Unaided	1.987	0.40
3.	Unaided	Government	5.525	0.015*

Note *Indicates mean difference is significant at 0.05 level

From the table it is clear that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Ego Strength of students of government and unaided schools. There exists no significant difference in the case of government and aided school students. And also the difference in the mean scores of Ego Strength is not significant in the case of aided and unaided school students.

The mean scores of Social Maturity of elementary school students with respect to type of management is presented in Table 6.

Table 6

The Mean Scores of Social Maturity of Elementary School Students with respect to Type of Management

Type of Management	No	Subset for alpha=0.05
Government	202	188.75
Aided	165	192.29
Unaided	133	194.27

From the above table it is evident that the mean scores of Social Maturity of students of unaided management are 194.27 which are significantly higher than that of aided and government elementary school students. Thus it can be concluded that students of unaided management possess high Social Maturity than students of other type of management.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that Elementary school teachers possess Average level Social Maturity. And found that there exists a significant difference in Social Maturity of elementary school students with respect to classificatory variables of gender and type of management. But there exists no significant difference in the means scores of Social Maturity with respect to locale. Hence the study points out the need for improving the level Social Maturity of elementary school teachers.

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