



A study on religious tolerance of higher secondary students of Vellore district

Dr. V Vasudevan

Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, TNTEU, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

In the present study religious tolerance scale constructed and validated by Williams (1999) was used. For conducting the study simple random sampling technique has been used in the selection of the sample of as many as 300 higher secondary students in Vellore district. The results found that the level religious tolerance of higher secondary students is good. It was also found that there is no significant difference in religious tolerance scores with regard to gender and community, there is significant difference in religious tolerance scores with regard to type of the school management.

Keywords: attitude towards democracy, gender, community, type of the school management and higher secondary students

Introduction

Religious toleration, a principle accepted without question by most people in the 21st cent., came about more by a process of exhaustion than by the triumph of reasoned argument. Few people in the 16th century doubted that state and church had not only the right but the duty to put down religious dissent. They assumed that religious truth was God-given and absolute; that a country divided in religion would be fatally weakened; that nonconformists were potential traitors; that the exercise of private judgement would, in the end, undermine all authority and produce a shattered and anarchic society, in which everything was permissible. Only Catholicism or Lutheranism were permitted choices and there was no provision for toleration. But in practice political considerations sometimes made rulers embrace toleration. Countries like Prussia, which were chronically short of labour, might find it imprudent to drive out subjects and might welcome refugees from less tolerant states.

Definition of Religion

A strong belief in a supernatural power or powers that control human destiny; "he lost his faith but not his morality".

Objective of the Study

The following are the objectives formulated for the present study.

1. To study the religious tolerance of higher secondary students.
2. To study the significance of the difference in the religious tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
3. To study the significance of the difference in the religious tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to community.
4. To study the significance of the difference in the religious

tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to type of the school management.

Hypotheses of the Study

The following were the hypotheses framed from the formulated objectives

1. The religious tolerance of higher secondary students is good.
2. There is significance of the difference in the religious tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
3. There is significance of the difference in the religious tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to community.
4. There is significance of the difference in the religious tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to type of the school management.

Methodology and Sample of the Study

The normative survey method has been adopted in this study. The simple random sampling technique has been used in the selection was used to collect the data from a sample of 300 higher secondary students in Vellore District of Tamil Nadu in India.

Scoring Procedure

For this purpose the religious tolerance scale is 70 statements is five point scale, the maximum score is 350 and the minimum score is 70.

Analysis and Interpretation Data

The following statistical techniques have been used in the present study

- (i) Descriptive Analysis and
- (ii) Differential Analysis

The analysis and interpretation are given the following tables

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of religious tolerance of higher secondary students

Variable	N	Mean	S.D
Religious tolerance	300	43.89	21.23

The research hypothesis no 2 in analysed in the light of the mean scores for the total group. One can score the maximum of 75 for religious tolerance score. The higher the mean score

is the indication of positive religious tolerance. The mean score for the present study is found to be 43.89 which are higher than the mid value of 37.5 To sum up, the following important conclusion has been reached in respect of the hypothesis formulated under objective 2 of the study. It may be concluded that the religious tolerance among the higher secondary students is positive. Hence, it can be concluded that higher secondary students have good religious tolerance. This is very much healthy trend for the developing nation like India. Hence the research hypothesis No. 1 is accepted.

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation scores of religious tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to gender

Variable	Sub-Samples	N	M	SD	't' value	Level of Significance at 0.05 level
Religious Tolerance	Boys	116	44.02	12.48	0.08	Not Significant
	Girls	184	43.80	25.26		

It is found from table 2, that the 't' value 0.08 of attitude towards democracy is found to be not significant. Hence the research hypothesis No.2 is rejected and it is concluded that

boys and girls students do not differ significantly in their religious tolerance.

Table 3: ANOVA for the religious tolerance of students belonging to different communities

Variable	Sub-Samples	N	M	SD	'F' value	Level of Significance at 0.05 level
Religious Tolerance	BC	111	44.47	13.19	0.13	Not Significant
	MBC	95	41.06	12.49		
	SC/ST	94	46.07	32.74		

A close look at table 13 indicates that the 'F' value (0.13) of religious tolerance is not significant. The research hypothesis 3 is rejected. Hence it is concluded that the difference in the

level of religious tolerance among the four different communities of higher secondary students is not significant, since the 'F' value is lower than the table value.

Table 4: Mean and Standard Deviation scores of religious tolerance of higher secondary students with regard to type of the school management

Variable	Sub-Samples	N	M	SD	't' value	Level of Significance at 0.05 level
Religious Tolerance	Private	161	47.01	26.04	2.77	Significant
	Government	139	40.27	12.86		

It is found from table 4, that the 't' value 2.77 of religious tolerance is significant. Hence the research hypothesis No.4 is accepted and it is concluded that private and government higher secondary students differ significantly in their religious tolerance.

Findings of the Study

1. Higher secondary students have good religious tolerance.
2. Boys and girls students do not differ significantly in their religious tolerance.
3. Religious tolerance among the four different communities of higher secondary students is not significant
4. Private and government higher secondary students differ significantly in their religious tolerance.

Conclusion

The present study higher secondary students have good religious tolerance. Boys, Girls, BC, MBC, SC/ST community higher secondary students do not differ significantly in their religious tolerance, Private school and Government school higher secondary students differ significantly in their religious tolerance.

References

1. Agarwal YP. Statistical Methods Concepts, Application and Computation, Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1986.
2. Henry E Garrett. Statistics in Psychology and Education, Surjeet Publication, New Delhi, 2006.
3. Kothari CR. Research Methodology, Methods and Techniques (2nd Revised Edition), New Age International Publishers, New Delhi, 2004.