



Value orientation and academic achievement: A comparative study of male and female college students

Dr. Najmah Peerzada

Sr. Assistant Professor, School of Education & Behavioural Sciences, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Jammu & Kashmir, India

Abstract

The present study was carried out to study the values and academic achievement of college students. The sample of the study comprised 200 college students (100 male and 100 female students) selected randomly from government colleges of Srinagar. N.Y. Reddy's Indian Adaptation Value Scale was employed for collection of data. Aggregate marks obtained in 12th class examination were treated as the index of Academic Achievement. The results of the study highlights that male college students have higher theoretical value and political value whereas female college students are higher in aesthetic and social value. No such difference was found on Academic Achievement.

Keywords: values, academic achievement, college students

Introduction

Values are the socially accepted norms to be practiced by each one and they form the backbone of the human society. Values may change from one society to another and also from time to time. Our values influence many aspects of our lives, affecting both the way we construe and evaluate situations and the actions that we take in pursuit of important goals. Values involve general belief about desirable and undesirable goals. Values are regarded desirable, important and held in high esteem by a particular society in which a person lives. Values give meaning and strength to a person's character by occupying a central place in his life. Values reflect one's personal attitudes and judgments, decisions and choice, behavior and relationships, dreams and vision. They influence our thought, feelings and actions. They guide us to do the right things.

Values literally means something that has a price, something precious, dear and worth hence something one is ready to suffer and sacrifice for. Value is the object of the individual effort. Generally speaking anything that satisfies human desire, is considered to possess value. Values are cultural standards that indicate the general goals desirable for organized social life.

Values are something which prevails everything in the world. It determines the meaning of the world as a whole. Value contain judgmental elements in that they carry an individual's ideas as to what is right, good, one's personal conduct, interaction with others and involvement in career. Values provide standards or criteria that can be used to evaluate actions and outcomes, to justify opinions, conduct plan and guide behavior to decide between alternatives, to compare self with others, to engage in social influence and to present self to others. (Rokeach 1993) Value is one of those wonderful terms in the social science that has scores of meanings. Corey, Corey and Callahan (2003) Values are assumed to more specific attitudes towards objects and situations but they influence the form those attitudes take.

Values are empirical elements in human behavior arising out of experience and hence may be affected by any condition, including social conditions. Values may, therefore, be analyzed as variables, subject to change that are consequent to changes in population, technology, economic production and so on. Values are concepts that conserve life, that confront life, that promote life and protect life.

Academic achievement is of permanent importance and occupies a very important place in education as well as in the learning process. It has become an index of child's future in this highly competitive world. Academic achievement is a key mechanism through which adolescents learn about their talents, abilities and competencies which are an important part of developing carrier aspiration. One of the most important outcomes of any educational setup is achievement of the students. Depending on the level of achievement, individuals are of characterized as high achievers, average achievers and low achievers. Balasubramaniyam (1992)^[6] Achievement is the end product of all educational endeavors. The main concern of all educational efforts is to see what the learner's achieves.

Objectives of the study

The following objectives were formulated for the present study.

1. To study the Values of male and female college students.
2. To study the Academic Achievement of male and female college students.
3. To compare male and female college students on Values.
4. To compare male and female college students on Academic Achievement.

Hypothesis

1. Male and female college students differ significantly on Values.
2. Male and female college students differ significantly on Academic Achievement.

Methods and Procedure

Sample

200 college students (100 male and 100 female) consists the sample for the present investigation. The sample has been taken from various colleges of District Srinagar. It needs to mention that only science stream students have been involved in this study. Random sampling strategy was followed to draw the sample for the study.

Tools

The following tools have been used to collect the data.

Value orientation scale

Values of college students were measured with the help of

Value orientation scale

Table 1: Showing significance of mean difference between Male college students and Female college students on six dimensions of Value Orientation Scale (N = 100 in each group)

S. No.	Dimensions	Group	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of significance
01	Theoretical	MCS/FCS	43.66/38.16	8.7/6.5	5.09	0.01 level
02	Economic	MCS/FCS	37.13/36.33	5.5/6.5	0.95	Insignificant
03	Aesthetic	MCS/FCS	36.66/42.33	8.40/9.42	4.53	0.01 level
04	Social	MCS/FCS	40.2/46.06	7.5/9.6	3.95	0.01 level
05	Political	MCS/FCS	36.86/32.06	4.6/5.4	7.5	0.01 level
06	Religious	MCS/FCS	37.42/37.11	5.36/5.32	0.41	Insignificant

* MCS – Male college students

** FCS – Female college students

Table 1 depicts the mean comparison between male and female college students on six dimensions of Value Orientation Scale namely Theoretical Value, Economic Value, Aesthetic Value, Social Value, Political Value and Religious Value. A quick look at the table reveals that there is significant difference between male college students and female college students on theoretical, aesthetical, social and political dimensions of values. The significant difference is at

Indian Adaptation Values Scale constructed by N.Y. Reddy. This scale assesses six dimensions of values viz. i) Theoretical ii) Economical iii) Aesthetic iv) Social v) Political vi) Religious

Academic Achievement

For the purpose of present investigation Academic Achievement was measured in terms of marks secured by college students in their previous examination (12th Class).

Statistical Analysis

The data was subjected to statistical analysis by computing Mean, SD and test of significance. The interpretation of the result is presented in the following order.

0.01 level. The table indicates that the male college students have higher theoretical and political values than female college students whereas female college students are better on aesthetic and social values. The table further shows that there is no significant difference between male college students and female college students on economic and religious dimensions of values. Both the groups of college students are similar on economic and religious values.

Comparison on academic achievement

Table 2: Showing significance of mean difference between Male college students and Female college students on Academic Achievement (N = 100 in each group)

Group	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significant
Male College Students	64.53	8.5	0.24	Insignificant
Female College Students	64.07	8.4		

* MCS – Male college students

** FSC – Female college students

The perusal of above table shows the mean comparison between Male college students and Female college students on academic achievement. The table reveals that the two groups when compared on academic achievement no such significant difference was found. The table further reveals that both the groups have similar academic achievement.

Major findings

On the basis of the analysis and interpretation of data, the following conclusions have been drawn.

1. Male college students have high theoretical and political values than female college students.

2. Female college students have shown better in social and aesthetic values than male college students.
3. There was no such significant difference found between male college students and female college students on economic and religious values. Both the groups has been found to be similar on economic and religious values.
4. Male college students and female college students have been found to be similar so far as their academic achievement is concerned.

Educational Implications

1. Value education means inculcating in the children a sense

of humanity, a deep concern for the well-being of others. This can be accomplished only when we instill in the children a deep feeling of commitment to values and by this society will function in constructive directive.

2. Various workshops, seminars, conference should be organized in institutions to bring awareness regarding different social, political and religious values.
3. Teachers should inculcate different values among the students so that they can become valuable members of the society.

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