A STUDY OF PEER GROUP ADJUSTMENT OF THE SCHOOL STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE SCHOOL SITUATED IN VELLORE DISTRICT

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Abstract

The present study aimed to investigate the peer group adjustment of the school students studying in the school situated in Vellore district. The demographical variables such as like gender, locality, medium of study and type of management in a sample of 300 higher secondary students studying in Vellore District. The survey method had been followed and simple random sampling technique was used in administration of the research tools. The result also revealed that higher secondary students shows high level of peer group adjustment, there is significant difference in the Peer Group Adjustment of Higher Secondary Students with regard to the demographic variables gender, medium of study and type of management. There is no significant difference in the Peer Group Adjustment of Higher Secondary Students with regard to the locality of the School.

Keywords: Peer Group Adjustment and Higher Secondary Students

Introduction

Education is the spinal column of the nation. Education is essentially a human virtue. With the help of education, man can be malformed into a human being. Without it, he is not qualified for social life. Education is the apprenticeship of life.

Adjustment, in psychology, the behavioral process by which humans and other animals maintain an equilibrium among their various needs or between their needs and the obstacles of their environments.

Peer group it is known as group in equal age. It has several common aims, stimulations and emotions together with mutual social relations and social interaction. Through the medium of all these members of a social group influence each other and are tied to each other. Peer pressure refers to the influence exerted by a peer group in encouraging a person to change his/her attitudes, values in order to conform to group norms. Peer influence is used in this research as people of equal standing; age group, classmate or people of the same character on member of the same group. Peers are likely to influence one another's beliefs and people of the same character on member of the same group.

Need and Importance of the Study

Students are the backbone of the educational process. Education is a process and acts as an instrument to bring out the innate behavior of the individual. The destiny of a nation lies in its classrooms. The strength of our nation depends on the teacher's ability to rear well-educated, responsible, well-adjusted youth who will step forward when the adult generation passes on to retirement. The students of today are the youths of tomorrow and future citizens of the country, therefore it is the responsibility of teachers, society and government to see that they are physically, mentally, emotionally and educationally healthy. The needful steps taken at this period ensures a healthy democracy in the country.

Operational Definitions of the Terms

Peer Group Adjustment

The peers groups are defined as social groups that are made of people with similar age, education or social status and which are primarily consisted of persons that share similar or same status and mostly they are almost the same age.

Review of Related Studies

Mgboro, Chibueze U et al. (2024) focused on finding out the relationship between peer group pressure, study habit and academic achievement of secondary school students in Ebonyi North Education Zone of Ebonyi State. The population of the study was twenty-four thousand three hundred and sixty-nine (24,369) secondary school students. Multistage sampling procedure was adopted for the study. 300 students were randomly sampled for the study. The results revealed a negative relationship between peer group pressure and academic achievement; a strong relationship between study habits and academic achievement, and a high relationship between peer group pressure, study habits and academic achievement.

Sandeep Talluri (2023) conducted a study on social adjustment and academic achievement of secondary school students. The study was conducted on a sample of 100 students studying 8th class in Government and Private Schools of Guntur District. For data collection, the investigator had used questionnaire consists of 40 questions, constructed and standardized by the researcher. The collected data was analyzed by using Mean, S.D. and "t" values. Results revealed that there is no significant difference in the social adjustment of students.

Mohamad Rafi (2019) investigated the peer group adjustment of the education college students of Hyderabad. The demographical variables such as like sex, locality, medium of study etc. in a sample of 300 education college students. Data was analyzed by using Standard Deviation, Mean, and t-test. The result of the study indicated that there were no significant differences in respect of their sex, locality and medium of study. The result also revealed that

education college students shows average level of peer group adjustment. The study has implications for students of adolescence period, teacher, parents and policy makers as well.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the level of Peer Group Adjustment of the Higher Secondary Students.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
3. To find out whether there is any significant difference between Rural and Urban school Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
4. To find out whether there is any significant difference between Tamil Medium and English Medium Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
5. To find out whether there is any significant difference among the Government, Aided and Private Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Hypotheses of the Study

1. The level of Peer Group Adjustment of the Higher Secondary Students is low.
2. There is no significant difference between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
3. There is no significant difference between Rural and Urban school Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
4. There is no significant difference between Tamil Medium and English Medium Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
5. There is no significant difference among the Government, Aided and Private Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Method of the Study

For this present investigation, the normative survey method was used.

Sample and Sampling Technique of the study

In the present study, the students studying in different higher secondary schools of Vellore District were taken as the sample and size of the sample is 300. Simple Random sampling technique have been used in the collection of schools and samples for the present study.

Tools Used

Peer Group Adjustment Assessment Scale (PGAAS) developed by Prabhu, H., (2012)

Statistical Techniques used

The data collected were descriptively analyzed by employing the following statistical techniques:

1. Descriptive Analysis
   i. Measures of Central Tendency (Mean)
   ii. Measures of Variability (Standard Deviation)
2. Differential Analysis ('t' test and 'F' test)

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Descriptive Analysis

Hypothesis 1

The level of Peer Group Adjustment of the Higher Secondary is low

Table 1 Mean and Standard Deviation of Peer Group Adjustment Scores of the Entire Sample

Variable	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation
Peer Group Adjustment	300	109.20	20.14

It can be seen from the Table-1, that the mean and standard deviation scores of the Peer Group Adjustment of the entire sample were found to be 109.20 and 20.14 respectively, one can get a maximum score of 160 on Peer Group Adjustment tool. The mean score lies in the high value is (above 86), so the framed hypothesis (1) is rejected and it is concluded that the level of Peer Group Adjustment of Higher Secondary Students is high.

Differential Analysis

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Table 2 Mean Difference of Peer Group Adjustment Scores of Higher Secondary Students with regard to Gender

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of Significance at 0.05 Level
Peer Group Adjustment	Male	104	112.70	19.79	3.27	Significant
	Female	196	102.24	22.35		

Table-2 shows that the computed 't' value for the mean Peer Group Adjustment scores between male and female Higher Secondary Students[$t_{(300)} = 3.27 > p$] is significant. Hence, the framed null hypothesis 2 is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant difference between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment. It is also inferred that male students are having more Peer Group Adjustment than the female students.

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference between Rural and Urban school Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Table 3 Mean Difference of Peer Group Adjustment Scores of Higher Secondary Students with regard to Locality of the School

Variable	Locality of the School	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of Significance at 0.05 Level
Peer Group Adjustment	Rural	120	107.43	22.03	0.68	Not Significant
	Urban	180	109.43	20.39		

Table-3 shows that the computed 't' value for the mean Peer Group Adjustment scores between rural and urban school Higher Secondary Students[$t_{(300)} = 0.68 < p$] is not significant. Hence, the framed null hypothesis 3 is accepted and it is concluded that there is no significant difference between Rural and Urban school Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Hypothesis 4

There is no significant difference between Tamil and English medium Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Table 4 Mean Difference of Peer Group Adjustment Scores of Higher Secondary Students with regard to Medium of Study

Variable	Medium of Study	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of Significance at 0.05 Level
Peer Group Adjustment	Tamil	118	105.73	22.80	2.10	Significant
	English	182	112.46	18.40		

Table-4 shows that the computed 't' value for the mean Peer Group Adjustment scores between Tamil and English medium Higher Secondary Students [$t_{(300)} = 2.10 > p$] is significant. Hence, the framed null hypothesis 4 is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant difference between Tamil and English medium Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment. It is also inferred that English medium students are having more Peer Group Adjustment than the Tamil medium students.

Hypothesis 5

There is no significant difference among the Government, Aided and Private Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Table 5 ANOVA results for Peer Group Adjustment Scores of Higher Secondary Students with regard to School Management

Variable	Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	'F' Value	Level of Significance at 0.05 Level
Peer Group Adjustment	Between Groups	443.170	2	213.086	4.09	Significant
	Within Groups	6250.300	297	79.323		
	Total	6693.470	299			

From Table-5, ANOVA results show that the computed 'F' value[$F_{(2,297)} = 4.09 > P$ at 0.05] is significant. Hence, the framed null hypothesis 8 is rejected and it is concluded that there is significant difference among the Government, Aided and Private Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment. It is also inferred that private school students are having more Peer Group Adjustment than the government and aided school students.

Findings of the Study

1. The level of Peer Group Adjustment of Higher Secondary Students is high.
2. There is significant difference between Male and Female Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
3. There is no significant difference between Rural and Urban school Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
4. There is significant difference between Tamil and English medium Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.
5. There is significant difference among the Government, Aided and Private Higher Secondary Students with regard to the Peer Group Adjustment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, adjustment is an important process requires to all successful people. The level of adjustment may be differing from individual to individual but the outcome of adjustment will be fruitful. Peer group adjustment will help the individual to do well in their education, employment and in life.

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