**Assessment of social maturity level among adolescent from city Bikaner, Rajasthan**

**Abstract:** Adolescence is the age of expressing mature behaviour of an individual. Being socially mature is the process of developing a satisfying relationship between a person and his surroundings. Adolescents from different cultural backgrounds may have different norms, values, and expectations for social behaviour, which may affect their social maturity and how they are perceived by others. The goal of the current study was conducted to investigate the level of social maturity of adolescent students. The sample size consists of N=100 (50 boys ,50 girls) which had equal number of both male and female adolescent students also equally distributed in urban and rural area living in Bikaner city of Rajasthan state. Purposive sampling method was used to gather data for this study. An assessment of the chosen subjects ‘social maturity’ was conducted by using Dr. Nalini Rao’s Social Maturity Scale whereas age, gender, residential area, family income and marital status etc taken as independent variables for the study. The data analysis was done by using suitable statistical methods i.e. mean, standard deviation, frequency and percentage etc. The overall data for total social maturity revealed that majority of both male and female belong from rural and urban area had the medium level of social maturity. All the three sub components of the social maturity i.e. Personal adequacy, Inter-personal adequacy and social adequacy also had almost all the respondents accounted for medium level of social maturity. Therefore, the study represented the respondent were becoming socially mature.

**Key words:** Adolescent, Social Maturity, Society, Behaviour, Development

**Introduction**

Social maturity is a measure of how well someone fits into the rules and behaviours of society. When someone has the capacity to handle stress, communicate, cooperate, tolerate, and be open to change, they are considered to be socially mature. The social group believes that by the time a person enters adolescence, they will have formed more mature friendships with peers of their own age, leading to socially responsible behaviour, as well as the knowledge and skills necessary for civil competency, as well as a more independent state. Adolescence serves as a transitional stage of physical, psychological and social growth between childhood and adulthood, NCERT (1999). This particular stage of human development is important in laying the groundwork for future health. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines adolescents those between the ages of 10 and 19. It is a stage of human development that is marked by a variety of physical, psychological, and emotional changes.

This stage of life is essential for growth and progress. Since a person's formative years are when significant physical, psychological and behavioural changes occur, this period of time is crucial. A person's ability to tolerate and their ability to respond effectively to unfamiliar situations or circumstances are both signs of maturity. During this time, the transition from childhood to adulthood occurs. Growth and progress go hand in hand with maturity. Adolescents who are mature are able to understand things and other people and treat them with respect. Society cannot tolerate a person who lacks life experience and is unable to take care of his family's needs.

The process through which a person develops the appropriate behaviours necessary for effective social functioning is known as social development. Social development need not be a factor in starting a group. It is a commitment that each individual makes based on the universal truths about nature or life that we observe every day. Social development is thought to be largely dependent on achieving social growth and cultivating positive relationships with family, friends, neighbours and everyone else in our community. Once a person enters adulthood, they must make a decision about maturity. One must be aware, accept the views of others and appreciate their intentions.

Adolescents can influence social situations and, thanks to their social development, can create patterns of social behaviour that provide a complete analysis of the social environment. People who lack emotional maturity do not exhibit the social behaviour society expects of people their age. It makes sense to assume that a teenager will be able to consider other people's emotions and influences. How well a person fits into societal norms and behaviours is a measure of social maturity. A person is considered to be socially mature if they are competent, self-reliant, and have the capacity to handle stress, communicate, work with others, tolerate, and be open to change. The destiny of the kid depends heavily on social maturity, which is necessary for successful societal acculturation. A person who is socially mature is capable of adapting to his or her surroundings and situations as well as to themselves (Singh, H. and Singh, M. 2015).

The study of a learner's social maturity, particularly at the lower secondary level, is crucial since at this level, students started to develop their learning capacity, reasoning power, and vocational capacity, all of which are useful for making life decisions in the future. This period serves as a transition between childhood and adolescence, which is thought to be the most important time in a person's life. Therefore, this phase needs to be managed cautiously. Students who are socially mature are better able to make wise decisions about their lives and fit in with their friends, families, communities, and society. So, the present study was conducted with the following objectives-

**Objective-**

1. Analyses of the profile of respondents
2. Exploration of the level of social maturity among adolescents

**Methodology**

The goal of the current study was to investigate the level of social maturity of adolescents. The sample size consists of 100 adolescent students (N=100) 50 boys and 50 girls living in Bikaner city of Rajasthan state. The school/college students for the final sample were approached according to their availability in Bikaner. The purpose of the study was explained to them and requested to fill up the questionnaires. They were also ensured that whatever information they provide will be used purely for research purposes only and would be kept confidential. Purposive sampling method was used to gather data for this study, students who expressed interest in participating in this study were taken into consideration. An assessment of the chosen subjects ‘social maturity assessment’ was conducted by using Dr. Nalini Rao’s Social Maturity Scale which has 90 different items. Independent variables taken in the study were Personal variables of respondent: Age (chronological age), Gender, Academic class, Marital status etc. Parental variables: Parental age & Occupation. Socio-economic variables: Caste category, Religion, & Monthly income, etc. whereas social maturity was taken as Dependent variable.

**Result and Discussion: -**

**Obj. 1.** **Analyses of the profile of respondents**

* 1. **Personal profile of students**

**Table 1.: Personal profile of students-**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Personal variables** | **Total (N=100)** |
| **1.** | **Age (Chronological Age)** | Frequency  | Percent  |
|  | 16-17 years | 20 | 20.00 |
|  | 18-19 years | 57 | 57.00 |
|  | 20-21 years | 23 | 23.00 |
| **2.** | **Sex** |
|  | Male | 50 | 50.00 |
|  | Female | 50 | 50.00 |
| **3.** | **Education**  |
|  | 11th /12th | 4 | 04.00 |
|  | B.Sc/B.A./B.Com. 1st year | 76 | 76.00 |
|  | B.Sc/B.A./B.Com. 2nd year | 20 | 20.00 |
| **4**. | **Marital status**  |
|  | Unmarried  | 99 | 99.00 |
|  | Married  | 1 | 01.00 |
| **5**. | **Residential area** |
|  | Rural  | 50 | 50.00 |
|  | Urban  | 50 | 50.00 |
| **6.** | **Caste**  |
|  | General  | 37 | 37.00 |
|  | OBC | 41 | 41.00 |
|  | SC/ST | 22 | 22.00 |

**Note:** Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Adolescents’ personal profile via frequency distribution has been depicted in Table 1. Results portrayed that on an overall basis, 20 percent of adolescents were between the age range 16-17 years old followed by 57 percent and 23 percent 18-19 years old and 20-21 years old respectively. Half of the adolescents were male and another half were female. It is clearly indicated that respondents from 11th &12th standard (4 %) were very less than the B.Sc/B.A./B.Com. 1st year and B.Sc/B.A./B.Com. 2nd year standard 76 percent and 20 percent respectively. Information regarding marital status of the respondents indicated that 99% was unmarried. The respondent were 50 percent each from rural and urban area. With regard to caste, majority of the respondents of belonged to OBC category (41.00%), followed by 37 percent of respondents were in general category and only 22 percent were in SC/ST category.

**1.2. Parental profile of students**-

The income status of the families highlighted that more than half (61%) of the families were from low monthly income up to Rs.40,000 and 29 percent had medium monthly income up to 70,000 whereas 10 percent had high monthly income up to 1 lakh.

**Table 2: Parental profile of students**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** |  **Parental variables** | **Total (N=100)** |
| **1.** | **Paternal occupation** | Frequency  | Percent  |
|  | Private job | 51 | 51.00 |
|  | Govt. job | 17 | 17.00 |
|  | Farmar  | 32 | 32.00 |
| **2.** | **Paternal income** |  |  |
|  | Low | 61 | 61.00 |
|  | Medium | 29 | 29.00 |
|  | high | 10 | 10.00 |

 **Note:** Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Turning to paternal occupation, data revealed that 32 percent of respondent’s parents were farmers, followed by business/service oriented and labourer 51 percent, 17 percent respectively.

**Obj. 2. Level of social maturity among adolescents**

**2.1 Level of personal adequacy among adolescent**

The data furnished in Table 3 depicts gender wise distribution of adolescents for personal adequacy a component of social maturity on the basis of residential area and gender. The overall data pertaining to males and females divulged that although gender differences existed for personal adequacy dimensions yet large percentage of both gender adolescents were highest in medium level on most of the personal adequacy dimensions.

**Table 3. Distribution of level of personal adequacy among adolescent**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** |  **Residential area** **Personal adequacy** | **Rural****(n=50)** | **Urban****(n=50)** | **Total****(n=100)** |
| **Male****(n=35)** | **Female****(n=15)** | **Male****(n=15)** | **Female****(n=35)** | **Male****(n=50)** | **Female****(n=50)** |
| **1.** |  Low | 2 (5.71%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 2(4%) | 0(00%) |
| **2.** | Medium | 30(85.71%) | 15(100%) | 13(86.66%) | 33(94.28%) | 43(86%) | 48(96%) |
| **3.** | High | 3(8.57%) | 0(00%) | 2(13.33%) | 2(5.71%) | 5(10%) | 2(4%) |

Turning to inter and intra gender wise comparison of adolescents’, personal adequacy data unfolds that in rural area 8.57 percent of males and not a single of females accounted for low level of personal adequacy, while 85.71 percent of males and 100 percent of females had medium level and only 2 % of male had low level of personal adequacy. On the contrary in urban area no males and females had low category personal adequacy whereas 86.66 percent of males and 94.28 percent of females accounted for medium level and 13.33 percent of males and 5.71 percent of female had high level of personal adequacy aspect. Majority of male and female have medium level of personal adequacy.

**2.2 level of inter-personal adequacy among adolescent**

Table 4 regarding to Inter-personal Adequacy component of social maturity on the basis of residential area unfolds that in Inter-personal Adequacy’s low level there was no male and female accounted from both rural and urban area, while 97.14 percent of males and 98 percent of females had medium level and 2.86 percent of male and 2 percent had low level of inter-personal adequacy.

**Table 4 Distribution of level of inter-personal adequacy among adolescent**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** |  **Residential area****Inter-personal****Adequacy**  | **Rural****(n=50)** | **Urban****(n=50)** | **Total****(n=100)** |
| **Male****(n=35)** | **Female****(n=15)** | **Male****(n=15)** | **Female****(n=35)** | **Male****(n=50)** | **Female****(n=50)** |
| **1.** |  Low | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) |
| **2.** | Medium | 34(97.14%) | 14(98%) | 14(98%) | 34(97.14%) | 48(96%) | 48(96%) |
| **3.** | High | 1(2.86%) | 1(2%) | 1(2%) | 1(2.86%) | 2(4%) | 2(4%) |

On the contrary in urban area no males and females had low category inter-personal adequacy whereas 98 percent of males and 97.14 percent of females accounted for medium level and 2 percent of males and 2.86 percent of female had high level of inter- personal adequacy aspect. Total male and female have medium level of inter personal adequacy.

**2.3 Level of social adequacy among adolescent**

Table 5 Regarding to Social adequacycomponent of social maturity on the basis of residential area unfolds that in Social adequacy’s low level, there was no male and female accounted from both rural and urban area, while almost 86 percent of male and 80 percent of female respondent have medium level and almost 15 percent of male and 20 percent of female from rural area had high level of social adequacy.

**Table 5 Distribution of level of social adequacy among adolescent**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** |  **Residential area****Social adequacy**  | **Rural****(n=50)** | **Urban****(n=50)** | **Total****(n=100)** |
| **Male****(n=35)** | **Female****(n=15)** | **Male****(n=15)** | **Female****(n=35)** | **Male****(n=50)** | **Female****(n=50)** |
| **1.** |  Low | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) |
| **2.** | Medium | 30(85.71%) | 12(80%) | 13(86.66%) | 29(82.85%) | 18(36%) | 32(64%) |
| **3.** | High | 5(14.28%) | 3(20%) | 2(13.33%) | 6(17.14%) | 37(74%) | 21(42%) |

Whereas almost 87 percent of male and around 83 percent female also have medium level of social adequacy and 13 percent of male and 17 percent female from urban have high level of social adequacy. So the majority of both male female from rural and urban area have the medium level of social adequacy. In total social adequacy majority of male respondents had high level of social maturity as compared to females.

**2.4 Level of total social maturity among adolescent**

Table 6 depicts the overall data for total social maturity revealed that irrespective of area, almost all respondent from rural and urban area has medium level of social maturity.

**Table 6 Distribution of level of total social maturity among adolescent**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** |  **Residential Area****Total** **Social maturity**  | **Rural****(n=50)** | **Urban****(n=50)** | **Total****(n=100)** |
| **Male****(n=35)** | **Female****(n=15)** | **Male****(n=15)** | **Female****(n=35)** | **Male****(n=50)** | **Female****(n=50)** |
| **1.** |  Low | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 0(00%) |
| **2.** | Medium | 35(100%) | 15(100%) | 14(93.33%) | 33(94.28%) | 49(98%) | 48(96%) |
| **3.** | High | 0(00%) | 0(00%) | 1(6.66%) | 2(5.71%) | 1(2%) | 2(4%) |

**Note:** Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Majority of both male female from rural and urban area had the medium level of social maturity. So, in this study almost all the respondent were better socially matured. The possible reason may be that most of the students now a days play in teams at schools and colleges and they get chance to interact in informal environment in schools and colleges as well as at home, so most of them are socially mature.

Similarly, Kumar (2013), studied on "Social Maturity of Senior Secondary School Students in relation to their Personality" and found that there was a positive relationship between social maturity and personality of senior secondary school students. Wartynghah (2013), studied on "A Study on Social Maturity of Secondary School Students in Shillong Town" and found that most of the secondary school students in Shillong Town are having average social maturity i.e. 82% followed by above average category 12.5% below average category 4.5% students and only 1% students are fall under superior category. On the same line, Rao & Suneela (2019) reported that majority of the secondary school students possess average level of social maturity. Mishra *et al.* (2017), studied on "A Study on Social Maturity of Adolescent in Sultanpur City" and found that maximum number (66.66%) boys respondent were had high social maturity and (70%) girls respondent were had high social maturity. As per data most of the (68.33%) respondent had high social maturity.

**Conclusion:**

In the findings of this study majority of respondents of both genders from rural and urban area had the medium level of social maturity. So, in this study almost all the respondent were becoming well socially mature. Through peer group connections, the adolescents learn to cooperate, lead and follow, think for the common good, and adjust to difficult social situations. It instils a sense of loyalty, a sympathetic attitude, and a willingness to follow the laws and regulations of society. They should be placed in an appropriate setting and allowed to connect with their classmates for achieving proper social maturity level at this stage of life span.

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