

DECISION MAKING ABILITY OF B.Ed STUDENTS AT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT

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Abstract: *All of us have to make decision every day. Some decisions are relatively straight forward and simple while some others are difficult. Simple decision usually need a simple decision making process and difficult decision involve factors like attention, careful, observation, inductive and deductive thinking, verification and conclusion. It is the role of teacher to help the students for taking right decision at right time and for better adjustment in life. A prospective teacher will be tomorrow's classroom teacher. For educational administration and teaching the teacher must be a good decision maker. The present study is aimed to find out the decision making ability of B.Ed students in Thiruvananthapuram district. The result showed that there is significant difference in the decision making ability of male and female B.Ed students but no significant difference is observed in the case of urban and rural students. The study suggested that the level of decision making of prospective teacher needs to be enhanced through suitable curriculum modification so that they can instil the same to the future generation.*

Index Terms: Decision Making Ability, B.Ed Students, Thiruvananthapuram District.

1. INTRODUCTION

“As breathing is to living, decision-making is to management”. Decision-making is an integral part of the management process. Decision making is a major responsibility of all administrators. It is the quality of decisions that either make or break the organization. “Decision-making is a conscious and human process, involving both individual and social phenomenon based upon factual and value premises, which concludes with a choice of one behavioral activity form among one or more alternatives with the intention of moving toward some desired state of affairs”.

“Decision making means assessing and choosing among the alternatives. It is the process of choosing behaviour alternatives selecting or rejecting available options. Decision making is defined as “the process of selecting a logical choice from the availability options” and “the process of coming to a conclusion or making a judgment” (Gupta.R.N, 2001). Decision making is defined as the selection of one course of action from two or more alternative courses of action. Moreover it is the cognitive process of reaching a decision. It is a skill or proficiency in a particular area. Colleges like all formal organizations is basically a decision making structure. The process of making decisions involves the cycle of step, starting with the definition of the problem, selecting alternatives for action and implementing. Information monitoring and reporting must be built in the action for continuous evaluation. It is the process by which decisions are not only arrived but also implemented. Until the decision is converted into action, it can only create good intension.

The ability to make right decisions plays a key role in building relationships. To improve the sociability one must definitely have right decision making ability. The people who have good understanding and the interpretation of the events that occur are capable of judging the situation and taking an apt decision. Such people are said to have good decision making ability. They acquire it by their education, confidence, status, positive attitude, emotional intelligence, social awareness etc.

The ability to comprehend the good and bad, and to stick on to truth and justice, can be attributed to good decision making skills. Higher education plays a vital role in developing the personality of the students in order to do any work and complete it in successful way. It is the duty of the students to develop their decision making for setting their goals and achievements.

As college and the educators have become the social agents towards students, the educators should present the good attitude in shaping element of social awareness among students. It is hence necessary that a B.Ed., student be well informed of the happenings going around them in the society. The students with their own decisions in their society can be considered as the role model for other students.

2. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Every day people are inundated with a number of big and small problems. Understanding how people arrive at choice is an area of interest that has received attention. Decision making is the need of the hour for the students as well as teachers. Students of this age are too impulsive to make decision. They are easily carried away by their own decisions. Besides, many people believe that decision making is one of the most important factors for preventing social problems. The level of good decisions of the students is proportionate to achievement level of those students.

Theories has been formulated to explain how people make decisions and what type of factors influence decision making in the present and future. In addition purists have been researched to understand the decision making process. Several factors influence decision making, these factors including past experience cognitive biases, age and individual difference, belief in personal relevance and escalation of commitment, influence what choices people make. Understanding what decision making process is important to understand what decision are made, i.e. the factor that influence the process may impact the outcome.

Teachers need to be able to get along with students who understand later to their needs. A prospective teacher should be able to reach up to them, and no their capacity, standard, background and understanding of the society essential too, students learning outcome is ultimately to fulfill the needs of the society. To bring up a correlation in the learning and the expectation and need of the society, the teachers need to extract the essence of the needs from the social member either directly or indirectly. All these can achieved only if the prospective teachers is sociable and adjustable.

B.Ed students have to be as good as in decision making. The B.Ed., students must be motivated both affectively and cognitively to precise decision making. They can recover quickly even after the failures, while making an effort to attain their goals. Lack in the sense of decision making blocks the personal growth and affects the self - esteem of the individual. The decision making in the students helps to improve the skills like leadership, communication and competitive etc. They are in a position to take good decisions in life. Students those who have good decision making ability, adjust to most of the situation in life.

Taking into consideration of this situation, the researcher felt a need to conduct a study to know about the decision making ability of B.Ed., students in Thiruvananthapuram District in relation to their gender and locality. In the present study decision making ability refers to decision making ability of B.Ed students based on the dimensions of decision making ability such as **organizational decisions, personal, basic, routine, programmed decision and non-programmed decision.**

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- a. To find out whether there exists any significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their decision making ability.
- b. To find out whether there exists any significant difference between urban and rural B.Ed students in their decision making ability.

4. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their decision making ability.
2. There is no significant difference between urban and rural B.Ed students in their decision making ability.

5. METHOD

The method adopted in the present study is *Normative survey Method*. It is the most popular method which attempts to describe and interpret what exists at present in the form of condition, practices, processes, trends, effects, attitudes, beliefs and so on.

6. SAMPLE

In the present study, the sample consisted of 300 B.Ed students from different colleges of Teacher Education in Thiruvananthapuram District.

7. TOOLS USED

Decision Making Ability Scale (Prepared by the Researcher)

The researcher prepared and standardised a Decision Making Ability Scale for measuring the decision making ability of B.Ed students. This decision making inventory consists of 25 statements arranged under six dimensions such as organizational decisions, personal, basic, routine, programmed decision and non-programmed decision. There are positive and negative statements to ensure suitability. Each items in this tool was rated on a 5 point scale the option were strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree. The scoring procedure of the scale is therefore given as for positive statement; a score of 5,4, 3, 2 and 1 was given for ‘Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree and Strongly Disagree’. For negative statement, the scoring procedure was in the reverse order.

8. PROCEDURE

The researcher made necessary arrangement with the head the colleges and sought permission well in advance to administer the tools. The data were collected through the administration of the Personal Data Form and Decision Making Scale to selected B.Ed students in Thiruvananthapuram District. The researcher personally administered the tools with the co-operation of the teachers in the selected colleges. The method of answering each item in the tools was clearly explained and the doubts were cleared before collecting the tools back.

9. STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The researcher used the statistical techniques such as Arithmetic mean, Standard deviation and t test, for analyzing the data.

10. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Comparison of male and female B.Ed students in their decision making ability: The data and results of the test of significance

Gender	Number	Mean	S.D	CR	Level of Significance
Male	135	118.89	10.02	3.25	Significant at 0.01 level
Female	165	122.44	14.21		

The ‘t’ value obtained for male and female B.Ed students with respect to their decision making ability is 3.25 which is significant at 0.01 level of significance. Since the obtained ‘t’ is (3.25) greater than the table values at 0.01 level, there is significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their decision making ability

($C.R=3.25;p<0.01$) and the difference being more in favour of female students. Since the result not confirms the hypothesis framed in this context, hypothesis 1 is **rejected**.

Table 2. Comparison of urban and rural B.Ed students in their decision making ability: The data and results of the test of significance

Locality	Number	Mean	S.D	CR	Level of Significance
Urban	140	121.81	13.17	1.44	Not significant
Rural	160	120.24	11.03		

From the Table it is clear that 't' value obtained is 1.44 which is not significant at any level of significance. Since the obtained t is (1.44) less than the table value at any level, there is no significant difference between urban and rural B.Ed students in their decision making ability ($C.R=1.44;p>0.05$). Since the result confirms the hypothesis framed in this context, hypothesis 2 is **accepted**.

11. CONCLUSION

From the study it is found that there is significant difference between male and female B.Ed students in their decision making ability and the difference being more in favour of female students. This may be because female students are very quick in their decision making without much thinking. The study further revealed that there is no significant difference between urban and rural B.Ed students in their decision making ability.

As decision making process is sometimes quick and is primarily based on the ability, nature, skill and experience of the individual concerned opportunities should be given for developing the capacities of the individual. Students make wrong decisions quite often. They have limited capacities to process information accurately and thoroughly. Individuals often focus on irrelevant information when making decisions. So care should be taken to provide relevant information to students in order to make correct decisions.

Many organizations are trying to respond to this challenge through various techniques like diversity training programme. This technique helps the members to understand each other and acquire an awareness of each other's diversities so that they can effectively make better decisions despite their differences.

Use of brain storming is an effective approach for solving creative problems commonly used by groups. The technique is participative in nature also.

Several techniques were designed to train the individual in making better decisions.

a. Delphi technique: This technique is used when the group members do not meet face to face. It is also a form of decision making which is found to be very effective. It allows the collection of expert judgement without the need to bring all the experts together, which can be very cost effective

b. Nominal group technique: This technique is a group decision making method in which individual members meet face to face to pool their judgement in a systematic but independent fashion. In this method small groups of individuals present and discuss their ideas or opinions before privately voting on their preferred solution.

12. SUGGESTIONS

- The goals of education need to be reoriented towards reorganizing the importance of sustainable development which is the highest priority of the society.

- Level of decision making of prospective teacher needs to be enhanced through suitable curriculum modification so that they can instil the same to the future generation.
- Greater level of social awareness can be emphasized through education for the affective domain and psychomotor domain. For these prospective teachers can be indulged in activities like planting of saplings, maintaining a nursery, neighbourhood and college clean.
- B.Ed students of every discipline should be accomplished in their decisions and should be able to direct learning in their subject.
- All teachers (prospective teachers) should apart from teaching, motivated to participate in social activities in order to develop decision making ability.

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