

# PERCEPTION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS SOCIAL CHANGE

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## ABSTRACT

The present study is an attempt to investigate perception towards social change of college students in Coimbatore district. Normative survey method has been used in the present investigation. Stratified random sampling technique has been used in the selection of the sample of as many as 400 college students. The study revealed that gender, locality, group of study and religion had influence in the perception towards social change of college students.

**Key words:** Perception towards social change and college students.

## INTRODUCTION

Education is the aggregate of all the process by means of which a person develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behavior of positive value in the society in which he lives. Education is a sustaining, progressive and purposive activity by which the development of consciousness and reconstruction of society occurs. According to Gandhiji "The real education is that which fully develops the body, mind, and soul of children." Education develops the individual like a flower which distributes its fragrance all over the environment Raymand (2006) has rightly remarked, "Education is that process of development which consists the passage of human beings from infancy to maturity the process where by he adopts himself gradually in various ways to his physical, social, and spiritual environment. Our perceptions are considerably influenced by what we know as the mental sets that is attitudes and expectancies. The sets and expectancies are a sort of regulatory influences on our perceptual process. They decides for us what we have to look for from moment in our life so that we are not completely submerged in the sea of stimuli.

Social perception is not one of the best ordered areas of enquiry in psychology. Some of it is hardly social, some hardly perceptual. Loosely the term social perception stands for an agglomeration of studies attempting to find some regular and predictable relationship between man's general environment and the multitude of social factors which in one way or another determine this orientation or contribute to it. These relationship may be of several kinds. For example social influence may affect our perception. Conversely changes in the physical environment may affect the way in which we react to various aspects of our social environment.

**Perception:**

Perception may be defined as the process by which sensory input is interpreted. Perception is the meaningful interpretation of sensory input.

In this study the term perception means the view of change students towards Social Change

**Social Change**

Gillin and Gillin defines “ Social change are variations from the accepted modes of life whether due to alteration in geographic conditions in culture equipment composition of the population or ideologies and whether brought about by diffusion or invention within the group”.

Evolution of society either toward or away from on improved state the progression being cyclical or passing through stages from birth to decay.

In this study Social Change means the changes taking place in various aspects of the society.

**College Students**

College students refers to those students studying in various arts and science college after completing their higher secondary course

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Torres- Harding et al (2014)** conducted a study on student perception of social justice and social justice activities. Encouraging students to engage in activities that actively seek to promote social justice is a goal of man education. This study analyzed college student perception around social justice and student related activities in a medium- size, urban university in the United state open – ended response to questions assessing their perception of social justice and related social justice activities were coded, and a set of category were developed . The result and implications of these analyse are presented and discussed.

**Willams et al (2012)** conducted a study on understanding the Relation between Social Change and its impacts: The experiences of Rural land use in south- Eastern Australia . This study investigated socio- economic impacts of land use change, giving explicit attention to relationships between independently observed land use and associated socio- economic changes, perceived land use change and socio- economic change, and experienced impacts of change. Using a case study region in south-east Australia, we examined the impacts of growth in use of land for dairy farming ,cropping, blue gum plantations and rural residential development on i). rural population trends and ii). The amount and nature of employment available in the state region results demonstrate that local residents not always aware of the extent and nature of land use change

**Paul (2009)** conducted a study on attitude of higher secondary school students towards social change constructed and validated a tool of social change inventory for measuring the attitude of

higher secondary school students and to find the nature of attitude of higher secondary school students towards social change. The sample consists of 400 students from different schools in kanyakumari district. The tool was used to collect data like attitude scale questionnaire. The major findings of the study shows that there exists significant difference between male and female higher secondary school students in their attitude towards social change.

**Syed** (2007) conducted a study on social change. The society is made of people of different tastes of social change is the result of a number of factors changes occur due to the process of formation, reformation or decay at various levels. In most of the cases social changes occurs as an imitation of the upper classes by their respective lower classes. In this process there is always an internal conflict continuously joint on excel others which give birth to unrest at mental level and a blind pursuit of availing luxury of life, which generally end upon the form of confrontation and corruption. These changes are either positive or negative in nature. This work namely social change in India serves the vary purpose of focusing on all such important issues.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:**

The purpose of the study was to find the perception of college students towards social change and is entitled as “Perception of College Students Towards Social Change”.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.**

1. To compare the mean scores of the perception of college students towards social change with respect to the background variables namely ,
  1. Gender
  2. Locality
  3. Group of studies
  4. Religion

### **HYPHOTHESES**

1. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change between male and female college students.
2. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change between rural and urban area college students.
3. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change between Arts and science group college students.
4. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change among college students based on religion.

## Method

The method adopted for the present study was normative survey method.

## Sample

The sample for the present study consisted of 400 students studying in various Arts and Science colleges of Coimbatore district. The students selected for the investigation differ in their gender, locality, group of studies and religion.

## TOOLS

The tools used for the study were the following.

1. Perception of Social Change Scale constructed and validated by the investigator
2. General data sheet prepared by the investigator.

## STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

1. Arithmetic Mean
2. Standard Deviation
3. test of significance (t-test)
4. Analysis of variance –(ANOVA)

### Comparison of college students perception towards social change based on Gender

| Gender | Mean  | SD   | Count<br>(N) | t value | p value | Level of<br>significance |
|--------|-------|------|--------------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| Male   | 21.13 | 3.70 | 207          | 2.62    | 0.009   | 0.05                     |
| Female | 20.15 | 3.76 | 193          |         |         |                          |

The calculated value ( $t=2.62$ ;  $P<0.05$ ) is significant at 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis there exists no significance difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change between male and female college students is rejected. Social change of college students statistically differ with respect to gender. The mean value (21.13) shows that male students possess higher perception than that of female students towards social change.

**Comparison of college students perception towards social change based on Locality**

| Locality | Arithmetic Mean | SD   | Count (N) | t value | p value | Level of significance |
|----------|-----------------|------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Rural    | 21.02           | 3.79 | 223       | 2.21    | 0.027   | 0.05                  |
| Urban    | 20.19           | 3.67 | 177       |         |         |                       |

The calculated value ( $t=2.21$ ;  $P<0.05$ ) is significant at 0.05 level .Therefore the null hypothesis there exists no significance difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change between rural and urban area college students is rejected. Social change of college students statistically differ with respect to locality. The mean value (21.02) shows that rural area students possess higher perception than that of urban area students towards social change.

**Comparison of perception towards social change based on group of study**

| Group of studies | Mean  | SD   | N   | t value | p value | Level of significance |
|------------------|-------|------|-----|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Arts             | 21.29 | 3.96 | 131 | 2.29    | 0.02    | 0.05                  |
| Science          | 20.35 | 3.62 | 269 |         |         |                       |

The calculated value ( $t=2.29$ ;  $P<0.05$ ) is significant at 0.05 level .Therefore the null hypothesis there exists no significance difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change between Arts and Science group college students is rejected. Social change of college students statistically differ with respect to group of studies. The mean value (21.29) shows that Arts students possess higher perception than that of Science group students towards social change.

**Comparison of college students in their perception towards social change based on Religion**

| Religion  | Mean  | SD   | Source     | Sum of sqrs. | df  | Mean square | F    | p    | Level |
|-----------|-------|------|------------|--------------|-----|-------------|------|------|-------|
| Hindu     | 20.87 | 3.85 | Between Gp | 158.15       | 2   | 79.08       | 5.73 | .004 | 0.05  |
| Christian | 20.04 | 3.73 | Within Gp  | 5476.24      | 397 | 13.79       |      |      |       |
| Muslim    | 22.19 | 2.74 | Total      | 5634.39      | 399 |             |      |      |       |

The calculated value ( $F=5.73$ ;  $p<0.01$ ) is significant at 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis, there exists no significance difference in the mean scores of perception towards social change among college students based on religion is rejected. It shows that there exists significant difference among students of various religions in their perception towards social change.

The result does not help to identify exactly the pairs of which group differ significantly. Hence scheffe's multiple comparison is used for further analysis.

**Table:4.6**

**Result of scheffe's procedure towards perception of social change based on Religion**

| Religion     | N   | Pair   | Scheffes<br>p | Level |
|--------------|-----|--------|---------------|-------|
| Hindu(A)     | 199 | A vs B | 0.107         | NS    |
| Christian(B) | 164 | B vs C | 0.007         | 0.05  |
| Muslim(C)    | 37  | A vs C | 0.141         | NS    |

The result shows that there is significant difference in the perception towards social change based on their Religion. The students perception based on religion Hindu and Christian (A vs B) and Hindu and Muslim (A vs C) do not differs significantly. The other pair of college students Christian and Muslim (B vs C ) differ significantly in their perception towards social change.

### CONCLUSION

From this study, it is found that perception towards social change of college students of Coimbatore District. The findings of that revealed that college students from different colleges. The study revealed that gender, locality, group of study and religion had influence in the perception towards social change of college students.

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