

SCIENCE INTEREST AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS OF PUDUCHERRY REGION

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Abstract: This study was conducted with the aim of finding out the level of Science Interest among Higher Secondary Students of Puducherry Region. It is an attempt to see the significant difference of Science Interest scores of Higher Secondary students with respect to the Gender, Locality, Type of schools and the Educational Qualification of Father and Mother. For this study the researcher has framed objectives and hypotheses on the basis of the above context. The research was carried out on 600 samples using Simple Random Technique. For this study the Standardized Questionnaire was used to collect the relevant datas. From the systematic statistical analysis, the investigator has arrived in results that there was no significant difference found between the Gender, Type of schools, Educational Qualifications of Father and Mother with respect to Science Interest. But there was a significant difference found between Rural and Urban Students with respect to Science Interest. Based on the results obtained through this study the suitable recommendations were also made by the Investigator to improve the level of Science Interest among Higher Secondary Students.

Keywords: Science Interest and Higher Secondary Students.

Introduction

The present age is known as the “Age of Science and Technology”. Science helps man to acquire supremacy over nature. Science has brought about a lot of achievements and it has added to the comforts and pleasures of mankind. Science has transformed the structure of the society and the Individual. So much of social contacts have become very easy. In short, science has broken the barriers of distance and social structure. All these things have added to the progress of the society. It is therefore no doubt that science occupies a very important place not only in the life of an individual, but also for the betterment of the society as well. Using scientific knowledge, man has created to gratify sudden needs and desires of him. There is a rapid advancement in science and technology. Scientists, Technologists and Educationalists have made it all the more important to provide for science based education in the school curriculum.

Science Interest

Science is a process of developing and cultivating the various powers, such as, physical, mental and moral. Science is a fundamental right of every Individual. So the children should develop interest in Science. Interest should not be superimposed; On the other hand, everybody should be free to select the activity according to one’s own inner appeal. Interest also changes but becomes stable after some time. The development of Students’ Interest in Science has long been accepted as an objective of school curriculum and as an objective of Science Teaching by Science Educators alike. Science Interest extends from a mere positive feeling towards science to complete absorption in Scientific Inquiry. Science Interests influence Students’

Achievement in Science. Thus Interests are means to an end besides being an end in themselves. Therefore, they have been taken up for study in the present investigation.

Need and Importance of the Study

The need for universal scientific literacy has been felt in India as much as in any other corner of the Globe. Science is one of the greatest expressions of humanity .The lifestyle of every individual on earth is affected to some degree by aspects of this field of human endeavor. The pervasive influences of Science, makes Science a compulsory and indispensable part of the totality of fields that education seeks to address. An university System without sections that offer education in Science is now unthinkable. School Education in all countries gives a high priority and status to science education. In a multicultural and multilingual society like India, the science could well serve as a unifying force providing a common culture for all.

Today no educator would argue against the contention that the teaching / learning situation cannot be confined to the four walls of a classroom. The science education for the fullest growth and development of the child is a responsibility that should be equally shared by the parents, the school and the community. We can choose the professional courses like MBBS, BDS, BSc, Agriculture, etc. and involve themselves in scientific research influence. So It is an emerging need to create interest in science among students. Hence the investigator is intended to do research on Higher secondary students' Science Interest.

Objectives of the study

- 1) To find out the level of Higher Secondary Students' Science Interest as a whole.
- 2) To find out if there exist any significant difference between Higher Secondary Students regarding their Science Interest level on the basis of Demographic Variables.

Hypotheses of the study

1. The Higher Secondary Students Science Interest level is low.
2. There is no significant difference between the sub-samples of Higher Secondary Students under various categories with respect to Science Interest level.

Methodology in brief

For this present investigation, the Normative Survey Method is to be used.

Sample and Area of the Study

A sample of 600 Higher Secondary Students were selected by using Random Sampling Technique from various schools belonging to Puducherry Region.

Tool to be used for the study

The following tool has been used for the study

Science Interest Inventory- Standardized by K.S. Misra in 2012.

Statistical Techniques to be used

- 1) Descriptive Analysis.
- 2) Differential Analysis.

Data Analysis

Table 1: The Mean and Standard Deviation of Science Interest Scores of Higher secondary Students

Sample	N	Mean	S.D
Entire Sample	600	167.98	34.22

From the above table-1, the Science Interest level of Higher Secondary Students is high.

Table 2: Significant Difference between the Science Interest Scores with respect to the Gender, Locality and Type of Schools of Higher Secondary Students.

Sl. No.	Samples	Sub samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significance at 0.05 level
1	Gender	Male	350	167.65	32.561	0.120	Not Significant
		Female	250	167.99	35.957		
2	Locality	Rural	300	164.98	34.045	2.032	Significant
		Urban	300	170.60	33.754		
3	Type of School	Government	300	166.33	31.689	1.051	Not Significant
		Private	300	169.25	36.136		

From the above table-2, it is concluded that there is no any significant difference found between Male and Female, Government and Private Higher Secondary Students with respect to Science Interest. Therefore, the Hypotheses framed earlier are accepted and there is a significant difference between Rural and Urban School Students with respect to Science Interest. Hence the Hypothesis framed earlier is rejected.

Table 3: Significant Difference between Science Interest scores of Higher Secondary Students with respect to the Father's Educational Qualification and Mother's Educational Qualification.

Variable	Sub Variables	Groups	Sum of squares	df	Mean squares	F-Ratio	Significance at 0.05 Level
Science Interest	Father's Educational Qualification	Between Groups	72.998	144	0.507	1.094	Not Significant
		Within Groups	210.835	455	0.463		
		Total	283.833	599			
	Mother's Educational Qualification	Between Groups	68.620	144	0.477	1.147	Not Significant
		Within Groups	189.053	455	0.416		
		Total	260.800	599			

From the above table-3, it is concluded that there is no significant difference is found among Higher secondary Students science Interest with Father's Educational Qualification and Mother's Educational Qualification as Illiterate, Literate and College education. Therefore, the hypothesis framed earlier is accepted.

Findings of the study

1. The Science Interest level of Higher Secondary Students is high.
2. No significant difference found between Male and Female, Government and Private Higher Secondary Students with respect to Science Interest and there is a significant difference between Rural and Urban School Students with respect to Science Interest.
3. No significant difference is found among Higher secondary Students with Father's Educational Qualification and Mother's Educational Qualification as Illiterate, Literate and College education with respect to science Interest.

Recommendations

Based on the important findings stated earlier the following recommendations were made for the betterment of School and the Society.

1. Interest in Science subjects and excellence among higher secondary students should be developed through field trips, exhibitions, suitable, practical training, project based learning and experimentation.
2. Guidance and Counseling, yoga and Meditation practices for Higher Secondary Students can develop Science Interest.
3. Parents involvement training programmes, Education for illiterate parents, occasional visits of parents to schools, maintaining good rapport with teachers, arranging special classes should be given prime importance in the progress of students in Science Interest.
4. Higher secondary Teachers and Educational Institutions should provide harmonious environment for better level in Science Interest among Students.
5. More emphasis should be given to experimental Learning among students.

Conclusion

Through this study, fruitful results have been obtained. The Science Interest level of Higher Secondary Students is high. There is no any significant difference found between Male and Female, Government and Private Higher Secondary Students with respect to Science Interest. There is a significant difference between Rural and Urban School Students with respect to Science Interest. There is no significant difference is found among Higher secondary Students with Father's Educational Qualification and Mother's Educational Qualification as Illiterate, Literate and College education with respect to Science Interest. So the students need to be trained to get more Science Interest.

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