

STUDY INVOLVEMENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract:

Study involvement (Student involvement) refers to the amount of physical and psychological energy that the student devotes to the academic experience. It arises among the students based on the many factors. Involvement in studies not only makes the learning a pleasant activity but also develops positive attitudes towards learning and facilitates creative productivity. A good and healthy environment boosts the study involvement of the students. Education is important for everyone to lead successful life, especially for the college students as their progress in education marks the criteria for their future. The objective of the present investigation is to study the adjustment of the college students in respect of study involvement according to gender and the Descriptive Survey Study method of research has been used. The total sample for the present study consisted of 650 college students of which the total numbers of male and female students are 325 (50%) and 325(50%) respectively from of 7 provincialised general degree colleges in Nagaon district. The Self-prepared Interview Schedule is used for data collection and the simple percentages of the obtained data are calculated for analysis and interpretation. The analysis revealed that the adjustment of the female students is better than the male students in the area of study involvement.

Index Terms: Study Involvement, college student, gender.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Involvement is very essential in all the activities to complete a particular work/task with success. Student involvement in the campus community is vital to a successful college life. The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) studies show that student success is directly link to student involvement. According to NSSE, when students are involved and engaged, they feel like they are a part of something. This sense of belonging fosters loyalty and pride in their college as well as academic achievement and community involvement. There are five benchmarks laid out by the NSSE to gauge a successful student involvement environment and they are such as sufficient level of academic challenge, favourable amount of active collaborative learning options, quality faculty and student involvement, abundant amount of enriching community interaction and existence of a supportive campus environment.

In education, students can achieve only when they totally involve in their studies. Study involvement is an important factor, which helps in the enhancement of scholastic pursuits of students. Study involvement (Student involvement) refers to the amount of physical and psychological energy that the student devotes to the academic experience. It is not so much what the individual thinks or feels, but what the individual does, how he or she behaves, that defines and identifies involvement (Astin, A.W., 1999). Study involvement is defined as “the relationship between the personal involvement of individual in any academic activity and satisfaction of their needs. Through study involvement the skills, capacities and competencies of the students are enhanced during the process of task accomplished or achievement of goals” (Goldenson, R. M. 1970). In view of Morse, G.M. and Wingo, W.C. (1970), study involvement implies keen interest in the task, working with persistence and imagination and sharing the responsibility for own learning. Yan Off, J.M. (1973) defined study involvement as a degree of affect or feeling of being actively involved in one's own learning process. Involvement in studies not only makes the learning a pleasant activity but also develops positive attitudes towards learning and facilitates creative productivity.

Study involvement arises among the students based on the many factors. Interest may be referred to as the key factor and a driving force that helps in paying attention as well as remaining engaged in the attended activities. Motivation as a process or behaviour refers to reinforced, selective and goal-directed behaviour initiated and energized by a motive that aims to maintain balance and equilibrium of the person in his/her environment by keeping his/her basic needs satisfied. When all the needs of a student are fulfilled then the student automatically shows their involvement in studies. A good and healthy environment boosts the study involvement of the students. Teachers play a vital role in the academic activities of students. Students believe their teachers more than any other sources. So, the study involvement of a student is identified with the nature of his/her teacher. The nature of curriculum or the subject(s) of study also determines the study involvement of students. Parents play a major role in every one's life. Parents should be a role model for their children. In this condition, education of a child is mainly in the needs of the parents when the parents are more enthusiastic to educate their children. In adolescence age, students have their own group and they are very intimate with each other in their group. Such relationship in a classroom is one of the components in developing the student's study involvement. Students that join the college come from diverse social backgrounds. Their Socio-economic status is varied in terms of family income, parental level of education and the nature of occupation. The students from low socio-economic status tend to isolate from those higher socio-economic status thus affecting their overall adjustment to college environment. Therefore, socio- economic status has its own specific place in student involvement towards studies.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Education is important for everyone to lead successful life, especially for the college students as their progress in education marks the criteria for their future. Hence, the undergraduate level is one of the crucial stages in the academic life of a student. It is said to be a foundation stage for postgraduate studies and further learning and to establish successful career. Every student should be enlightened with right way to attain an interest in the field of education. The students of colleges are mainly the post adolescence period of human life. The period of adolescence, as being the focal point in human development and education, has always claimed attention since the days of primitive people. It is a great responsibility of the state and society to provide the adolescent's with every possible opportunities for their healthy and all round development. The widespread interest in the experiences of adolescents and serious concern with their problems, are of relatively recent origin. The adjustment problems of the college students have gained wide attention now days.

The investigator feels that with the change in science and technology and to cope up with the demanding world or society, the students have to pass through various problems in relation to college, family, society and personal as well as study involvement problems. Thus, keeping in view all these problems and demands of society, the investigator thought of selecting the problem as under.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The research problem undertaken for the present study has been entitled as "Study Involvement of College Students".

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

The objective of the present investigation is to study the adjustment of the college students in respect of study involvement according to gender.

5. METHOD OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

In the present study, the Descriptive Method of research has been used. The type of descriptive research method applied in the present study is the "Survey study" method.

5.1 STUDY AREA:

The study has been conducted in the provincialized colleges of Nagaon district of Assam.

5.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY:

The population of the present study comprises the students of all the 21(twenty one) provincialized general degree colleges (5 urban and 16 rural) of Nagaon district of Assam.

5.3 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING DESIGN:

In the present study sampling has been done at two stages as (A) Selection of sample of colleges and (B) Selection of sample of students.

(A) SELECTION OF SAMPLE OF COLLEGES:

The Stratified Random Sampling method has been employed in selecting the sample of colleges and the total sample of colleges for the present study consisted of 7 provincialised general degree colleges in Nagaon district.

(B) SELECTION OF SAMPLE OF STUDENTS.

The present study has included 'Gender', as the variables for analysis; stratified random sampling method (proportionate allocation) has been followed for selection of sample of students from each of the selected colleges. Taking 30% from each of the stratum, the total sample for the present study consisted of 650 undergraduate students of which the total numbers of male and female students are 325 (50%) and 325(50%) respectively.

5.4 TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION:

To carry out any research the selection of research tools must be such that data can be gathered to test the hypothesis effectively. The data gathering tools used for the present study is Self-prepared Interview Schedule.

5.5 SELF-PREPARED INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:

Interview schedule is one of the most comprehensive means of collecting data. In the present study, the investigator used structured Interview schedule with 'close-ended' questions to know the study involvement of the students those are selected as samples of the study. The self-developed interview schedule has been used in the present study consist of all total 10 questions

(excluding general information) focusing mainly on study involvement. On the basis of their responses and suggestions, the draft was modified and consist 10 questions which are answered as 'Yes' and 'No'.

The Scoring of the interview schedule is very easy. One has to count the number of responses of 'Yes'. For each 'Yes' response 1 Score is to be given. The total number of 'Yes' scores thus make total score of the individual in the category. Accordingly, the highest and lowest score will be 10 and 0. In relation to study involvement of the students, the response 'Yes' are used to identify the weaknesses of the students. The reliability coefficient of the interview schedule has been determined by Split-half method and it is found to be 0.82.

5.6 PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION:

The main aim of the present research work is to Study the adjustment of the college students in respect of study involvement according to gender. For this purpose, the Principals of the selected institutions are personally contacted and permission was taken for data collection or conducts the study. After taking the permission, the necessary informations like number of students, size of classroom, seating arrangement etc. are obtained and a convenient day was fixed for the administration of the tools without affecting the normal activities of the sampling institution.

Thereafter, in the fixed day, the sample students are briefed about the test in detail before administering the test. They are assured that their responses would be kept confidential and that the research is for educational purpose. Consent has been also taken from the respondents after explaining to them the purpose of the research as well as the academic use of the data later on. The investigator read instructions clearly. After rapport formation, the tools are administered one by one. Though there is no time limit for answering the questions, but it took 5-10 minutes to complete all the tools by the students.

5.7 STATISTICAL METHOD APPLIED FOR ANALYSIS OF DATA:

In the present study, the Simple percentages of the obtained data are calculated for analysis and interpretation.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

In order to study the objective, the data are collected by applying the Self- prepared interview schedule. After tabulation of the collected data, the percentages are calculated. The percentage distribution of the college students in respect of study involvement according to gender is presented in the Table-1.

Table-1
Percentage Distribution of the College Students in respect of Study Involvement According to Gender

Serial No	Statement	Male (N=325)		Female(N=325)	
		Percentage of Yes response	Percentage of No response	Percentage of Yes response	Percentage of No response
1	Do you get difficult to concentrate your mind in the classroom?	58.46 (190)	41.54 (135)	39.69 (129)	60.31 (196)
2	Do you think that lack of proper library facilities in your college put you in trouble?	25.85 (84)	74.15 (241)	20.92 (68)	79.08 (257)
3	Do you feel that your friends get better result in the examinations because they have better facilities?	47.08 (153)	52.92 (172)	41.85 (136)	58.15 (189)
4	Is it difficult for you to express your views in writing?	60.00 (195)	40.00 (130)	44.62 (145)	55.38 (180)
5	Do you often get less mark in examination?	50.77 (165)	49.23 (160)	41.85 (136)	58.15 (189)
6	Are you getting difficulty with the teaching method of your teachers in the class?	30.77 (100)	69.23 (225)	24.62 (80)	75.38 (245)
7	Do you think that the teachers do not pay any attention to your problems?	56.92 (185)	43.08 (140)	38.15 (124)	61.85 (201)
8	Do you think that the subject chosen are not appropriate for you?	46.46 (151)	53.54 (174)	40.31 (131)	59.69 (194)
9	Do you think the infrastructure facilities of your college are not adequate?	32.31 (105)	67.69 (220)	28.92 (94)	71.08 (231)
10	Do you think the economic condition of your family creates problem for you?	47.08 (153)	52.92 (172)	44.92 (146)	55.08 (179)

Figures in the parentheses indicate number.

It is observed from the Table-1 that 58.18 per cent male and 39.76 per cent female students get difficult to concentrate mind in the classroom in the area of study involvement. The percentages of male and female students which are not satisfied with the library facility of their colleges are 26.10 and 20.78 respectively. Among the students, 47.17 per cent male and 41.87 per cent female feels that their friends get better result in the examinations because they have enjoy better facilities. The percentages of male and female students get difficult to express their views in writing are 60.06 and 44.58 respectively in the area of study involvement. In the same area, 50.63 per cent male and 41.87 per cent female students often get less mark in examination. The percentages of male and female students get difficulty with the teaching method of teachers in the classroom are 30.82 and 24.40

respectively in the area of study involvement. Among the students, 56.92 per cent male and 37.95 per cent female feels that the teachers do not pay any attention to their problems in the same area. The percentages of male and female students thinks that the subject chosen are not appropriate for them are 46.54 and 40.06 respectively. In the area of study involvement, 32.08 per cent male and 28.92 per cent female are not satisfied with the infrastructure facilities of their colleges. Among the students, 46.86 per cent male and 44.88 per cent female thinks that poor economic condition of their family creates problems for them in the area of study involvement. It is observed that the percentages of male students are higher than the female students in all the 10 items of the area of study involvement. Therefore, it could be concluded that the adjustment of the female students is better than the male students in the area of study involvement.

The percentage distribution of yes responses of the college students in respect of study involvement according to gender is presented with the help of bar diagram (Figure-1).

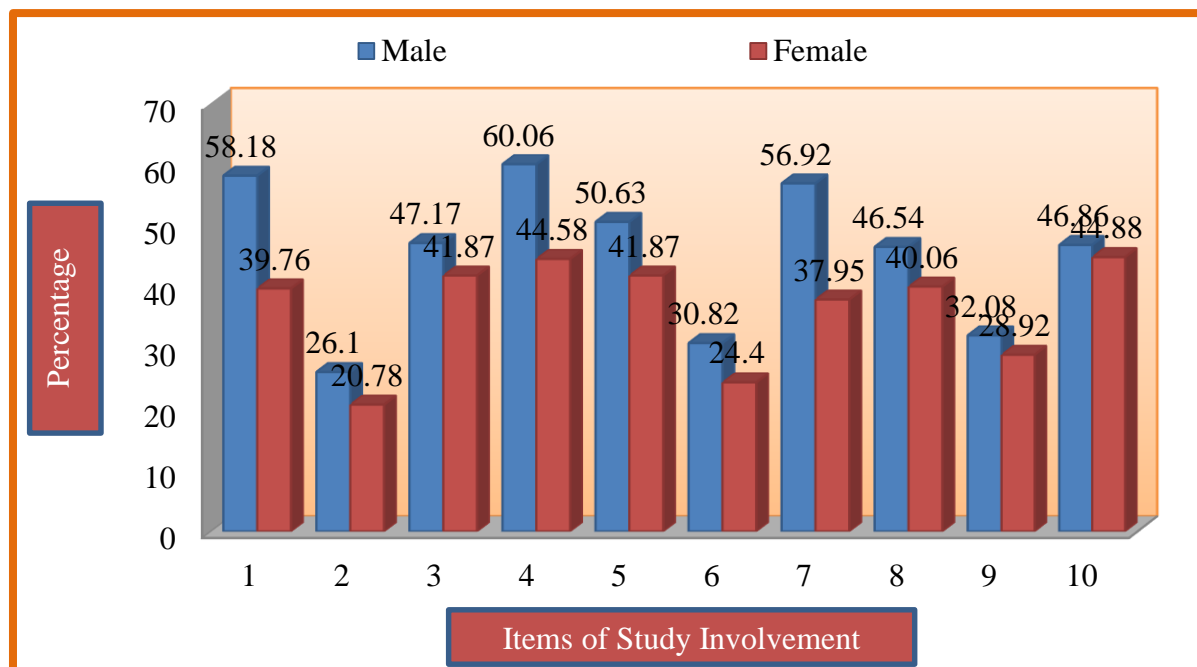


Figure-1

Percentage Distribution of Yes responses of the College Students in respect of Study Involvement According to Gender

7. CONCLUSION:

Adjustment is the process of arriving at a balanced state between the need of individual and their satisfaction. Adjustment is an essential characteristic of living a happy and peaceful life. The psychology of adjustment is in fact based on our concern with the quality of life, it focus on particular aspects of understanding one's self, understanding others and living in harmony with ourselves and others. The present study was undertaken to study the adjustment problems among the undergraduate college students related to home, health, social, emotional and study involvement. The comparative study between male and female students of undergraduate level revealed that the adjustment of the female students of undergraduate level is better than the male students in the area of study involvement.

The students of undergraduate level who are also the basic pillars of the educational system of India needs to be provided all kind of support from the family, college, society and the nation, to establish a strong community bond desirable for the progress of human kind. However, whatever is needed is an understanding of the adjustment problems of them and then does our best to help them in difficulties. The education system of India should have an important aim to keep the students of undergraduate level in making adjustment with the changing environment. This study is relevant and meaningful for the educational planner and policy makers, educational institutions, parents and guardians, education departments, researchers and social scientists. It has many implications for practice and theory of education.

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