

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SKILLS AND PROFICIENCY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT: Social skills are the skills we use to communicate with each other both verbally and non-verbally, through gestures, body language and personal appearance. Social skills are specific behaviors, exhibited by children in free play or academic situation that initiate or maintain social interaction with others. Politics is the study of class relations and class struggles in society. Social skills are very much related to political science learning. So the investigator tried to find out the relation between social skills and proficiency in political science of Higher Secondary School Students in Thiruvananthapuram District. The study sample included 200 XII students from Humanities branch. The investigator adopted survey method to collect data. Data collection tool was two questionnaires, Social Skill Attainment Test and Proficiency test on Political Science. The Social Skill Attainment Test contained twenty one questions related to three social skills components which are Effective Communication, Interpersonal Relations and Empathy. In this study the independent variable was social skills and dependent variable was Proficiency in Political Science. Based on the social skills attainment test 16% of respondents had High level of social skills, 72% had Average level of social skills and 12% had Low level of social skills. Based on the proficiency test on political science 74% Higher Secondary School Students had average level of proficiency in Political Science. 14% and 12% of students were found to have high and low level of proficiency in political science respectively. The study revealed that there is positive correlation between social skills and proficiency in political science among higher secondary school students.

KEY WORDS: Social Skills, Higher Secondary School Students, Proficiency, Political Science.

INTRODUCTION

Social skills are the skills we use to communicate with each other both verbally and non-verbally, through gestures, body language and personal appearance. Human beings are sociable creatures and we have developed many ways to communicate our messages, thoughts and feelings with others. According to Carledge and Milburn, Social Skills are defined as those social, interpersonal and task related behavior that produce positive consequences in the school class room settings.

Social skills are specific behaviors, exhibited by children in free play or academic situation that initiate or maintain social interaction with others. Social skills are discrete, teachable behaviors that are associated with direct measures of social competence and as such serve as 'building blocks' for the establishment of interpersonal relations, effective social participation, co-operation and affection with peers and others (Guralnick, 1992).

Social Skills and the ability to interact with others are considered fundamental to human development. Social Skills are the part of life skills which includes Interpersonal Relationships, Effective Communication and Empathy. Good social skills are critical to successful functioning in life. These skills enable the child to know what to say, how to make good choice and how to behave in diverse situation.

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The term 'Higher Secondary School Students' means the students studying in XI and XII standards. In this study the term Higher Secondary School Students refers to the XII standard students studying Political Science as one of their subjects.

Higher Secondary School Students are in adolescent period. They are the positive resource for the country. They have unlimited energy, vitality and idealism. It is an important opportunity to explore one's social and political views. During adolescence the physical, intellectual, and emotional characteristics and patterns of childhood are gradually replaced by adult ones, and girls and boys progressively evolve into a state of relative socio-economic independence (UNICEF, 1999). In this age they spent most of the time with their peers. They learn a lot of things from peers. Social Skills help them positive ways to interact with their friends and how to maintain this relationship till longer.

PROFICIENCY:

Cambridge Dictionary says: Proficiency is great skill, ability, and experience.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science is a branch of the social science which describes about the state, politics and government. Political Science deals with the analysis of political systems, practical and theoretical applications to politics and the examinations of political behavior. It has an important role in social curriculum. It studies state and government in relation to their past and present and also throws some focus on their probable development in time to time. Present day political science revolves primarily around the problem of the attainment, consolidation and distribution of political power, whether in an actually existing state or in a hypothetical state constructed more or less systematically by a process of abstracting the common elements to be found in a number of concrete state.

Politics is the study of class relations and class struggles in society. Society should be defined as a living organism which is in continuous development and whose vital functions are based on the development of its mode of production.

Education as a conservative force assimilates the culture of society and transmits it from one generation to the next. Every child must get a chance to escape from the limitations of the social group to which belongs. Education can promote the emergency of an egalitarian and integrated society by providing good education to all irrespective of caste, creed, community, religion, economic condition or social status.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Every country develops its system of education to express and promote its unique socio- cultural identity and also to meet the challenges of the times. An intelligent person has the ability to adjust himself to the changing circumstances with ease, efficiency and speed. He has the capacity to assimilate ideas very quickly and clearly. He can cope with new situation very successfully

Research has shown a correlation between children's' academic performance and their social behavior. Students who exhibit mature social behavior often have better academic performance than those who disregard others. Political Science is a branch of social science. Social skills are very much related to political science learning. So the investigator tried to find out the relation between social skills and proficiency in political science of Higher Secondary School Students in Thiruvananthapuram District.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the levels of social skills of Higher Secondary School Students.
2. To find out the proficiency in Political Science of Higher Secondary School Students.
3. To find out the relationship between Social Skills and Proficiency in Political Science among Higher Secondary School Students.

HYPOTHESES

1. There exists significance difference in the levels of social skills scores of Higher Secondary School Students.
2. There exists significance difference in the mean scores of Proficiency in Political Science among Higher Secondary School Students.
3. There exists significant relation between Social Skills and Proficiency in Political Science of Higher Secondary School students.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted with the aim of finding the relationship between the Social Skills and Proficiency in Political Science of Higher Secondary School Students in Thiruvananthapuram District. The study sample included 200 XII students from Humanities branch. The investigator adopted survey method to collect data.

Data collection tool was two questionnaires, Social Skill Attainment Test and Proficiency test on Political Science. The Social Skill Attainment Test contained twenty one questions related to three social skills components which are Effective Communication, Interpersonal Relations and Empathy. A person who scored 84 and above has high social skills, between 63 and 84 has moderate social skills and less than 63 has low social skills. The Proficiency Test on Political Science contains 60 questions related to the XI Political Science Test book of Humanities steam. In this study the independent variable was social skills and dependent variable was Proficiency in Political Science.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The collected data were analyzed to find out the relationship between social skills and proficiency in political science of Higher Secondary School Students.

Table 1.The level of social skills of higher secondary school students

Level of social skills	Number of students	Percentage
High	32	16
Average	144	72
Low	24	12
Total	200	100

From table 1 it was found that 16% of respondents had High level of social skills, 72% had Average level of social skills and 12% had Low level of social skills.

Table 2. The level of proficiency in political science of Higher Secondary School students

Level of achievement in political science	Number of students	Percentage
High	28	14
Average	148	74
Low	24	12
Total	200	100

Table 2 revealed that majority of Higher Secondary School Students (74%) had average level of proficiency in Political Science. 14% and 12% of students were found to have high and low level of proficiency in political science respectively.

Table 3. Correlation between social skill and achievement in political science of higher secondary School students

Σx	Σy	Σxy	Σx^2	Σy^2	Calculate d γ - value	table value at 5% level	Remarks at 5% level
16932	3928	332418	1443332	85624	0.11383	0.098	Significant

The calculated value (0.11383) of ' γ ' is greater than the table value (0.098) at 5 % level of significance for 198 df. As the value of coefficient of correlation is 0.11383, this revealed that there is positive correlation between social skills and proficiency in political science among higher secondary school students.

CONCLUSION

Social skills do not make students smarter or more knowledgeable, but they help prepare students to use learning skills and knowledge they have to demonstrate achievement. It is possible that social skills have a particularly high relationship with academic performance. This study bolsters the relationship between social skills and proficiency in political science.

The extent to which adolescents' possess good social skills can influence their academic performance. Social skills are linked to the quality of the school environment and school safety.

Education is important in our country because it promotes the knowledge, skills, habits, values, attitudes and understanding of the people in the country. It is considered as the backbone of the development of our country. School can be regarded as a natural setting in which social skills develop and contribute to children's cognitive development.

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