

COMPERATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Dr. Santosh Kumar Pandey

Assistant Professor, Kalpi College, Kalpi, Dist: Jalaun (U.P.)

Abstract: As Information Technology becomes ubiquitous in our everyday lives, educational settings are being transformed where educators and students are expected to teach and learn, using the technology. Educational institutions around the world are beginning to recognize the potential of Information Technology in pedagogy. Introductory Information Technology courses are compulsory for first year students in most of the institutions of higher learning around the world where students are taught to integrate IT tools and applications into their own learning process. The researcher undertook the study to determine the attitude of students of Physical Education towards Information Technology in Institutions of Higher Learning.

The subjects were chosen randomly from the different Institutions of India offering Master's Degree in Physical Education. A total number of 600 students were initially chosen as subject study of Physical Education from the different Institutions of India who were responded by filling of the attitude scale finally selected as a subject for the study. The students were also divided into two categories each i.e. male and female students.

To find out the attitude of students of Physical Education towards Information Technology. For students, Computer Attitude Scale (CAS) developed by Tahira Khatoun & Manika Sharma (2007), was used. CAS consists of twenty questions which were divided into five areas, namely computer anxiety, computer confidence, computer interest, computer as a useful tool and computer career. Each area contains four items in five-point Likert response format.

To analyze the attitude towards Information Technology among male and female students, researcher firstly converted responses into average common scores. Further, the scores were converted into simple percentage for the analysis and interpretation of data. To compare the groups of students 't' test was used.

Keyword: Information Technology(IT), Institution, Pedagogy, Computer Attitude Scale(CAS)

1. INTRODUCTION

Technology surrounds us and influences our lives in profound ways. It would be impossible to imagine a world without technology. Educational experiences and training in diverse field of knowledge and skills prepares one to face multiple challenges. Individuals become empowered to modify their environment and meet their needs and desires. Though technology education has been an emerging discipline in many countries across the globe, it is still to establish itself in Indian Educational system. In such a context unaffected by influence of antecedent disciplines, it would be interesting to know what students and Teachers perceive of technology and what attributes they ascribe to technology.

Technology has turned out to be a necessity rather than a luxury in education. The institutions are built according to the technological needs and equipped with the necessary network for internet access. Now computer hardware in many schools is completed and the developing process of the required educational software is still being carried out. The Institutions are willing to improve the quality of the education for the students and are supplying more financial and human resources for the hardware, software and other technological facilities. [Shouse, Roger and Zhu, Jingfen, 2003]

Computers and information technologies are rapidly developing and children are growing up with the technology. The researches on the effects of the technology on education have proved that under the ideal conditions educational technology contributes very much in all subjects to all students. [Winn, William]

2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The primary purpose of the study was to compare the attitude between students and teachers of Physical Education towards Information Technology in Institutions of higher learning in India.

The secondary purpose of the study was to compare the attitude of male and female teachers of Physical Education towards Information Technology; attitude of male and female students pursuing Master of Physical Education towards Information Technology; University and non-University based teachers as well as student towards Information Technology.

2.1. METHORDLOGY

For the purpose of this study were carefully selected 367 male students and 233 female students of physical education from higher education. Computer Attitude Scale (CAS) developed by Tahira Khatoon & Manika Sharma, Department of Education, Aligarh Muslim University (2007), were used to know the attitude of students towards Information Technology. The CAS consists of five areas as computer anxiety (2, 7, 11, and 18), computer confidence (3, 9, 14, and 19), computer interest (1, 8, 12, and 17), computer as a useful tool (5, 6, 15, and 16) and computer career (4, 10, 13, and 20). Attitude towards Information Technology in this study were referred by the combined influence of these five attitudinal constructs. The aim of the statements was to assess the fear while dealing with computer, while that of computer confidence was to assess the confidence in the ability of dealing with computer. Computer interest statements assess the enjoyment of dealing with computers. Computer as a useful tool to assess the perception of computers as an instrument to benefit humankind and computer career assesses the perception of the proliferation of computers on future jobs. Each area contains four items in five-point Likert response format. The reliability of the attitude scale is .93 as well as the test possesses content and constructs validity.

The responses obtained from Students of different Physical Education institutions were converted into average common scores from each respondent. Further, the data were converted into simple percentage for the purpose of analysis and interpretation of the data. The raw scores were statistically analysed in terms of means and standard deviation. Later, 't' test was used to compare attitude of male and female students. Statistical analysis were performed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 19, a product of IBM.nic in order to compare all the above. The level of significance was set at .05.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. TABLES AND FIGURES

All the male and female students were compared for their attitude towards Information Technology by using 't' test. Their mean score, standard deviation, standard error mean Difference and 't' value was computed between male and female students and has been presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

Groups	N	Mean	SD	SEDM	't'
Male Students	367	3.8669	.47780	.04113	-.455NS
Female Students	233	3.8856	.51110		

*NS-Non Significant

As per the mean scores shown in table 1 comparing male and female students on attitude towards Information Technology, a statistically Non-Significant difference was found between them, as the obtained 't' value .455 is much lower than the tabulated value 1.96 at 0.05 level of Significance with 598 degree of freedom.

4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The insignificant difference between male and female students of Physical Education towards Information Technology may be because the modern generation is Teksavvy. Now any student may be placed under the category of illiterate if he/she is unable to use computer as well as internet in discharging day today functions of life. Gone are the days when male students were given preference but today male and females are treated alike and all such facilities that are provided to males are equally provided to females also. The government agencies too have played a significant role in making females realise their worth that they are as good as male population if not better.

The finding of the study are in consonance with the findings of Wong and Atan (2007) and Evangelos and Panagiotis (2008).

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

On the basis of statistical analysis, finding of study and scholars' critical understanding about literature sources the following conclusions were made Male and female students pursuing Master of Physical Education possess a similar attitude towards Information Technology in Institution of Higher Learning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on statistical findings and the conclusions are drawn from the study, the research scholar would like to recommend the following prospects:

- The similar study may be undertaken by selecting subjects from other professional courses.
- A study employing more number of subjects and varying age may be undertaken.
- A comparative study involving parents and the children may be conducted in order to find the difference in attitude towards Information Technology.
- A study involving teachers from metropolitan cities and other cities may be undertaken in order to find the difference in attitude towards Information Technology.
- A study involving students and teachers from Government and Private Institutions may be carried out to find out the difference in attitude towards Information Technology.

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