

SOFT SKILLS AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS: INFLUENCE OF TYPES OF MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE OF STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Soft Skill is an intangible skill set which is all about how people learn and think. The present study is to study the Soft Skills among Higher Secondary Students using Descriptive Survey Method. The sample consists of 400 Higher Secondary Students selected from six Higher Secondary Schools of Kottayam District. The technique used for selecting the sample is Stratified Random Sampling giving due representation to Type of Management and Discipline. The investigator used a scale- Soft Skills Scale for measuring Soft Skills among Higher Secondary Students. For analysis statistical techniques like Mean, Standard Deviation and Analysis of Variance are used. The findings of the study shows that there is significant difference between the means of scores on Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Type of Management and Discipline. The study reveals that Type of Management and Discipline of Study has great influence on the Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students.

Key Words: Soft Skills, Type of Management, Discipline, Higher Secondary Students.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a process which draws out of the best in man with the aim of producing a well-balanced personality culturally refined, emotionally stable, ethically sound, logically correct, mentally alert, intellectually competent, technically advanced, morally up right, physically strong, socially efficient, spiritually mature, vocationally self- sufficient and internationally liberal. Education is not filling a versed but lighting a fire. It is the light meant for enlightening the world. Education provides opportunities to develop the inborn potentialities in man. Education is an internship in community life. Education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills, and also something less tangible but more profound: the imparting of knowledge, skills, positive judgments and well-developed wisdom. School education should embrace Soft Skills, also called '21st century skills.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Soft Skill is one of the most important and useful skills ever one should possess. This skill is essential in every area of life, and though most people get its importance, very few do something to strengthen it. By molding Soft Skills, the student can have the ability to concentrate in studies and it

will lead to academic achievement. Student motivation and engagement play an important role in learning and academic achievement. Soft Skills is the ability of students to monitor and control their own behaviors. People have started acknowledging the importance of Soft Skills. Soft Skills are as important as traditional hard skills regardless of industry. Soft Skills do complement hard skills and needs to be clearly understood. At the same time hard skills cannot be replaced with Soft Skills. Soft Skills play very important role in personal and professional life. Education is the most important activity that can promote Soft Skills.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The investigator formulated the following objectives for the present study.

1. To study the Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Type of Management.
2. To study the Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Discipline of study.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

To study the Soft Skills among Higher Secondary Students the investigator used Descriptive Survey Method. The sample consists of 400 Higher Secondary Students selected from six Higher Secondary Schools of Kottayam District using Stratified Random Sampling Technique giving due representation to Type of Management and Discipline of study. The investigator used the Soft Skills Scale for measuring Soft Skills selecting five top Soft Skills-Communication Skills, Personal Management Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Problem Solving Skills and Team work Skills. For analysis statistical techniques like Mean, Standard Deviation and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) are used.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Soft Skills with regard to Type of Management

The first objective of the study is to study the Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Type of Management. Analysis was done using Analysis of Variance. The value of 'F' was set as 3.02 at .05 level with degrees of freedom between groups as 2 and that within group as 399. The investigator presents the Number, Mean and Standard Deviation of scores of Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary School with regard to Type of Management in Table 1.

Table:1. Variable, Number, Mean and Standard Deviation of scores of Soft Skills of the Government, Aided and Unaided Higher Secondary Students

Variable	Number	Mean	SD	Type of Management
Soft Skills	128	14.16	16.41	Government
	138	14.62	11.55	Aided
	134	14.26	20.41	Unaided

From the table the investigator observes that Mean and Standard Deviation of the scores on Soft Skills among the students in Government schools are 14.16 and 16.41, students in Aided Schools are 14.62 and 11.55 and students in Unaided Schools are 14.26 and 20.41. The investigator presents the difference in the means of scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary students with regard to Type of Management in Table 2.

Table 2: The Variable, Category, Sum of Squares, Mean Square and F value of the Scores on Soft Skills with regard to Type of Management

Variable	Category	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F-value	Remarks
Soft Skills	Between Groups	10683.038	2	5341.519	19.648	Significant at .05 level
	Within Groups	107928.552	397	271.860		
Total		11611.59				

From the table the investigator interprets that the obtained 'F' value 19.648 is greater than the table value 3.02 at .05 level of significance with degrees of freedom 397. It shows that Means of Scores on Soft Skills with regard to Type of Management differ significantly. Thus, the investigator concludes that Type of Management has significant influence on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students.

The investigator uses Multiple Comparison for the different pairs of Soft Skills, since there exists a significant difference in the Means of Scores on Soft Skills with regard to Type of Management. The investigator presents it in Table 3.

Table:3. Multiple Comparison of different pairs of Soft Skills

Type of Management (I)	Type of Management (J)	Mean Difference	Std. Error	p value
Government	Aided	-4.60632*	2.02334	.076
Aided	Unaided	7.81192*	2.03782	.001
	Government	4.60632*	2.02334	.076
Unaided	Unaided	12.41823*	1.99970	.000
	Aided	-7.81192*	2.03782	.001
	Government	12.41823*	1.99970	.001

***Significant at 0.05 level**

From the table the investigator interprets that;

- There is significant difference between the Means of Scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students of Government and Unaided schools.
- There is significant difference between the Means of Scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students of Aided and Unaided schools.
- There is significant difference between the Means of Scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students of Unaided and Government schools.

Soft Skills with regard to Discipline

The second objective of the study is to study the Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Discipline of Study. Analysis was done using Analysis of Variance. The value of 'F' was set as 3.02 at .05 level with degrees of freedom between groups as 2 and that within group as 399. The investigator presents the Number, Mean and Standard Deviation of scores of Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary School with regard to Discipline in Table 4.

Table 4. Variable, Discipline Number, Mean and Standard Deviation of scores of Soft Skills

Variable	Discipline	Number	Mean	SD
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Soft Skills	Science	139	13.67	17.12
	Commerce	136	14.58	15.02
	Humanities	125	13.9	18.31

From the table the investigator observes that Mean and Standard Deviation of the scores on Soft Skills among the Science Students are 13.67 and 17.12, Commerce students are 14.58 and 15.02 and Humanities students are 13.9 and 18.31. The investigator presents the difference in the means of scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students with regard to Discipline in Table 5.

Table 5. The Variable, Category, Sum of Squares, Mean Square and F value of the Scores on Soft Skills with regard to Discipline

Variable	Category	Sum of Squ.	df	Mean Square	F-value	Remarks
Soft Skills	Between Groups	6109.071	2	3054.536	10.776	Significant at .05 level
	Within Groups	112502.519	397	283.382		
	Total	118611.590				

From the table the investigator interprets that the obtained 'F' value 10.776 is greater than the table value 3.02 at .05 level of significance with degrees of freedom 397. It shows that Means of Scores on Soft Skills with regard to Discipline differ significantly. Thus, the investigator concludes that Discipline has significant influence on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students.

The investigator uses Multiple Comparison for the different pairs of Soft Skills, since there exists a significant difference in the Means of Scores on Soft Skills with regard to Discipline. The investigator presents it in the Table 6.

Table 6. Multiple Comparison of different pairs of Soft Skills

Discipline (I)	Discipline (J)	Mean Difference	Std. Error	p value
Science	Commerce	-9.10553*	2.03037	.000
	Humanities	-2.31983*	2.07503	.536
Commerce	Science	9.10553*	2.03037	.000
	Humanities	6.78571*	2.08584	.005

Humanities	Science	2.31983*	2.07503	.536
	Commerce	-6.78571*	2.08584	.005

***Significant at .05 level**

From the Table 6 the investigator interprets that;

- There is significant difference between the Means of Scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students of Commerce and Humanities.
- There is significant difference between the Means of Scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students of Science and Commerce.
- There is significant difference between the Means of Scores on Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students of Science and Humanities.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- There is a significant difference in the means of scores on Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Type of Management. Aided School (14.62) students have more Soft Skills than that of Government (14.16) and Unaided (14.26) School students.
- There is a significant difference in the means of scores on Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Discipline. Commerce (14.58) students have more Soft Skills than that of Science (13.67) and Humanities (13.91) students.

CONCLUSION

The present study attempts to analyze the Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students. The findings of the study shows that there is significant difference between the means of scores on Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Type of Management and Discipline. Aided School students have more Soft Skills than that of Government and Unaided School students and Commerce students have more Soft Skills than that of Science and Humanities students. Therefore, Type of Management and Discipline of Study has great influence on the Soft Skills of Higher Secondary Students.

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