

A STUDY ON THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS BASED ON LOCALE AND GENDER

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ABSTRACT

The present study intends to compare the Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary Students. The investigator used Descriptive Survey Method for the study. The sample consisted of 400 Higher Secondary Students from four Higher Secondary schools of Kottayam District. The schools are selected using Stratified Random Sampling procedure giving due representation to Gender, and Locale. The investigator collected the terminal examination marks of students for measuring the Academic Achievement. The findings of the study reveals that there is no significant difference between the means of scores on Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary Students with regard to Gender and Locale. Gender and Locale have no influence on the Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary Students.

Key Words: *Academic Achievement, Locale, Gender, Male, Female, Rural, Urban, Higher Secondary Students.*

INTRODUCTION

Academic Achievement is the accomplishment or acquired proficiency in the performance of an individual in a given skill or body of knowledge. Academic Achievement occupies a very important place in education as well as in the learning process. The main concern of all educational efforts is to see what the learner achieves. The performance of the pupil in a class is usually judged by their Academic Achievement. The learning outcomes brought in the child after a course is completed is termed as Academic Achievement. It depends on the variables such as instructional quality of the school, intelligence, environment, self-concept, self-esteem, adjustment, teaching effectiveness, etc.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Academic Achievement is the knowledge obtained or skill acquired in the school subjects usually designated as marks assigned by the teachers. In a wider sense it is the product of all the educational endeavors in the present competitive world. The people are judged not only by their personality but also by the Academic Achievement in their life. Academic Achievement means one's learning attainment, accomplishments, proficiencies, etc. Academic Achievement is an observable phenomenon constituting changes. Any positive change that takes place in the cognitive structure of a learner in any subject constitutes achievement. Usually, the teachers assess at the end of the academic year to quantify the

achievement that has taken place in the learner. Research has been conducted to locate what variables or deterrents affect achievement.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of the present study.

1. To compare the Academic Achievement of Male and Female Higher Secondary Students.
2. To compare the Academic Achievement Urban and Rural Higher Secondary Students.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The investigator used Descriptive Survey Method for the study since the study intends to compare the Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary Students. In the present study, the population is all the students of Higher Secondary Schools in Kottayam District. The sample consisted of 400 Higher Secondary Students from four Higher Secondary schools of Kottayam District.

The schools are selected using Stratified Random Sampling procedure giving due representation to Gender, and Locale. For the present study, the investigator collected the terminal examination marks of students for measuring the Academic Achievement. The investigator used statistical techniques namely, Mean, Standard Deviation and Test of Significance of the Difference between Means(*t*-test).

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE DATA

Academic Achievement of Male and Female Higher Secondary Students

The first objective of the study is to compare the means of scores on Academic Achievement Male and Female Higher Secondary Students. For analyzing and interpreting data, the investigator used inferential statistics namely the Test of Significance for large independent sample (two tailed *t*' test). The *t*-value set as 1.96 at .05 level of significance with degrees of freedom 398.

The investigator presents the data and results of the scores on Academic Achievement among the Male and Female Higher Secondary Students in the Table 1.

Table 1. Variable, Number, Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value of the Academic Achievement among the Male and Female Higher Secondary Students

Variable	Category	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	p-value	Remarks
Academic Achievement	Male	204	33.96	52.16	398	.078	.938	Not significant at.05 level
	Female	196	34.00	52.40				

From the table the investigator interprets that the obtained t -value is .078 which is less than the table value 1.96 at .05 level of significance and p value .938 which is greater than .05 with degrees of freedom 398. It shows that means of the scores on Academic Achievement among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Gender do not differ significantly. Therefore, the investigator concludes that Gender has no significant influence of on Soft Skills among the Higher Secondary Students.

Academic Achievement of Urban and Rural Higher Secondary Students

The second objective of the study is to compare the means of scores on Academic Achievement of Urban and Rural Higher Secondary Students. For analyzing and interpreting data, the investigator used inferential statistics namely the Test of Significance for large independent sample (two tailed t ' test). The t -value set as 1.96 at .05 level of significance with degrees of freedom 398. The investigator presents the data and results of the scores on Academic Achievement of Urban and Rural Higher Secondary Students in the Table 2.

Table 2. Variable, Number, Mean, Standard Deviation and t -value of the Academic Achievement among the Urban and Rural Higher Secondary Students

Variable	Category	N	Mean	S. D	df	t-value	p-value	Remarks
Academic Achievement	Urban	188	34.33	10.69	398	.814	.416	Not significant at.05 level
	Rural	196	34.00	10.69				

Rural	212	33.68	10.53
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From the above table the investigator interprets that the obtained t -value is .814, which is less than the table value 1.96 at .05 level of significance and p value .416 which is greater than .05 with degrees of freedom 398. It shows that means of the scores on Academic Achievement among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Locale do not differ significantly. The investigator concludes that Locale has no significant influence on Academic Achievement among the Higher Secondary Students.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings and conclusions of the study are the following:

- There is no significant difference in the means of scores on Academic Achievement of Male (33.96) and Female (34.00) Higher Secondary Students. Academic Achievement of the Male and Female Higher Secondary Students are almost same.
- There is no significant difference between the means of scores on Academic Achievement of Urban (34.33) and Rural (33.68) Higher Secondary Students. Academic Achievement of Urban and Rural Higher Secondary Students are almost same.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study attempts to compare the Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary Students. The findings of the study shows that there is no significant difference between the means of scores on Academic Achievement among the Higher Secondary Students with regard to Gender and Locale. Gender and Locale have no influence on the Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary Students.

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