



STUDY OF ALIENATION WITH RESPECT TO GENDER AND TYPE OF STREAM

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Abstract : This investigation was undertaken to investigate alienation in relation to gender and stream type. For this objective, the descriptive survey method is implemented. Through convenience sampling, a sample of 100 undergraduate students from Ferozepur district was selected. The student alienation scale, developed by Dr. R. R. Sharma, was used in this investigation. The t-test was employed to determine the significance of the differences in the alienation of college students based on gender and the type of stream. The findings of the study revealed that no significant difference was found in the alienation of undergraduate students based on gender and type of stream.

Keywords - Alienation, gender, undergraduate students, type of stream

INTRODUCTION

Modern society deals with many societal issues. Individual's lives are significantly affected by alienation. One definition of alienation is when people try to live their lives while being cut off from their social, psychological, cultural and natural environments. In cities, people feel alienated due to technological progress, industrialization and intense competitiveness; in rural regions, meanwhile, people feel alienated due to poverty, societal discrimination and unemployment. Alienation from values is an additional issue that affects contemporary youth. Some of the contributing factors include: excessive reliance on technology, a lack of social skills, distant parents, an extremely rigid curriculum, an unwelcoming environment in school and a sense of helplessness in the face of economic, political and social pressures as well as unfavorable public opinions (Kaur, 2017).

According to Merriam Dictionary, "A withdrawing or separation of a person or a person's affections from an object or position of former attachment."

According to Cambridge English Dictionary, "The feelings that you have no connection with the people around you or you are not part of a group."

Seeman (1959, as cited in Sahu, 2012) has explained the features of alienation in the following way.

1. **Powerlessness:** A person cannot take appropriate actions towards the problems of life. In a state of powerlessness, a person feels detached from one's personality.
2. **Meaninglessness:** The impression in which a person faces difficulty in correct decision making among the choices.
3. **Normlessness:** This feature is based on Emile Durkheim's idea of anomie. An individual's belief system does not match with the school norms (i.e. getting good grades, attending class, no behavioural problems, being a part of the in-crowd etc.).
4. **Isolation:** It refers to a person who feels alienated from society because their intellectual alienation does not associate with the mainstream cultural norms.
5. **Self-estrangement:** When an individual just cares for himself because he believes that whatever he does is for his good worth not for the sake of others.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Kaur (2016) employed the descriptive survey method to assess the levels of alienation in relation to gender and age. A sample comprising 52 students enrolled in Master's and Doctorate programs in Education at Punjabi University, Patiala was selected utilizing a convenience sampling method. The data was gathered utilizing the "Alienation Scale," which was devised by Hardeo Ohja in 2010. The gathered data was subjected to analysis utilizing statistical measures including mean, median, mode, standard deviation and t-test. The findings of the study revealed the presence of differences among adults based on both gender and age.

Bala (2018) examines the impact of birth order and gender on feelings of alienation among senior secondary students in both government as well as private schools. A random sample containing 160 students from the Jhajjar district of Haryana was selected. The data was gathered utilizing the "Alienation Scale," which was developed and standardized by Sharma. The data were subjected to analysis utilizing the mean, standard deviation and t-test. The findings of the study revealed that students of government schools experience a higher degree of alienation compared to their counterparts in private schools. Male and female students exhibited a comparable degree of alienation. Students who were born later in the birth order experience a greater sense of alienation compared to those who were first-born. Students who were later-born in government schools experience a greater sense of alienation compared to their first-born students. Students who were later-born in private schools exhibit a greater degree of alienation when compared to their first-born students.

Gupta (2018) employed the survey method to investigate the alienation experienced by male and female adolescents in relation to their locus of control. A sample comprising 100 individuals was obtained through using of a simple random sampling technique. The data was gathered utilizing the "Student Alienation Scale," which was developed by Dr. R. R. Sharma in 1988, and the "Locus of Control Scale," created by Dr. N. Hasnain and Dr. D. D. Joshi in 1992. Data analysis was conducted utilizing the mean, standard deviation, correlation, standard error of the mean and two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The results of the study indicated that adolescents exhibited moderate levels of alienation. The locus of control exerted a substantial influence on feelings of alienation. There exists a negative correlation between alienation and locus of control. No substantial differences were observed between male and female adolescents regarding feelings of alienation.

Bhat and Joshi (2019) examined the alienation based on gender. A sample comprising 320 youths (160 males and 160 females) from Kashmir was selected for the current investigation. The data was gathered utilizing the alienation scale developed by Hardeo Ojha in 2010. The data were subjected to analysis utilizing a t-test. The findings of the study demonstrated that gender exerted a significant influence on feelings of alienation.

Mahajan (2020) did a study to find the alienation among college students based on gender. A sample of 100 college students was selected from the Aurangabad district in Maharashtra. The study employed a 2x2 factorial design. The independent variables include Gender, while the dependent variables consist of alienation, which encompasses powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, meaninglessness and normlessness. The data was gathered utilizing the "Students Alienation Scale" developed by Dr. R.R. Sharma in 1988. The gathered data was analyzed through the application of mean, standard deviation and analysis of variance (ANOVA). The study's findings indicated that female students experienced greater feelings of alienation related to powerlessness and isolation compared to male students. The analysis revealed no significant differences between male and female students regarding self-estrangement and meaninglessness. Additionally, male students exhibited higher levels of normlessness compared to female students.

Saikia and Padmavathy (2022) employed a descriptive survey methodology to assess the levels of alienation in relation to gender, habitat, field of study, caste, level of education, age and the behaviours of both fathers and mothers among university graduates. A sample comprising 160 graduates from universities in Assam was obtained using of a simple random sampling method. The data was gathered utilizing the "Alienation Scale" developed by Hardeo Ojha, alongside a self-reported personal data sheet and a parental behaviour scale developed by the researchers. The findings showed that there was not a significant difference in the levels of alienation among university graduates according to gender, habitat, stream of study, caste, education level, or age; however, there were significant differences according to parental behaviour. The overall level of alienation among university graduates was moderate.

REVIEW OF STUDIES

The examination of the previously mentioned literature revealed that gender significantly impacted alienation among college students (Bhat & Joshi, 2019; Mahajan, 2020).

However, the research conducted by Kaur (2016) concluded that gender did not influence the alienation experienced by adults. Saikia and Padmavathy (2022) concluded that neither gender nor field of study exerted any influence on the alienation experienced by university students.

The above discussion indicated that gender exerted a substantial influence on the alienation experienced by college students. However, a limited number of studies have indicated that alienation is not influenced by gender. However, only one study suggested that neither gender nor field of study exerted any influence on the alienation experienced by college students. The influence of stream of study on the alienation among college students has not been thoroughly examined. Consequently, the proposed investigation appears to be entirely justifiable.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

Alienation: Alienation refers to powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, isolation and self-estrangement and is assessed through the student alienation scale.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Alienation is the main concern in the learning process. A condition in which students experience feelings of isolation from their classmates, colleagues and family members are known as alienation. Feeling disconnected can lead to problems like students dropping out of school and people feeling helpless and meaningless. It is often noted that when people feel alienated, they are unable to effectively manage several aspects of life, such as their family, school, community, job and society as a whole. It is imperative that individuals establish connections with one another. Hence, researcher explored the study of alienation with respect to gender and type of stream.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

STUDY OF ALIENATION WITH RESPECT TO GENDER AND TYPE OF STREAM

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the difference between mean scores of alienation of college students based on gender.
2. To find out the difference between mean scores of alienation of college students based on the type of stream.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of alienation of college students based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of alienation of college students based on the type of stream.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The investigator used the descriptive survey method for study of alienation with respect to gender and type of stream.

SAMPLE

The participants in this study consisted of undergraduate students enrolled in degree colleges located in the Ferozpur district. The sample of the study comprised undergraduate students enrolled in art and science subjects. A sample of 100 undergraduate students was drawn from the Ferozpur district using convenience sampling method.

TOOLS USED IN RESEARCH

To collect data, the "Student Alienation Scale" developed by Dr. R.R Sharma in 1988 was utilized.

DELIMITATIONS

1. The study is delimited to the students of the Ferozpur district.
2. The study is delimited to arts and science stream students of the Ferozpur district.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

The analysis of the collected data employed statistical techniques such as mean, standard deviation and t-test.

DATA ANALYSIS

Ho1 “There is no significant difference in the mean scores of alienation of college students based on gender”

To study the significant difference in the mean scores of alienation of male and female college students, a t-test was applied and results are given in Table 1.

Table 1 significance of the difference in the mean scores of alienation of college students based on gender

| Variable | Gender | N | Mean | Standard deviation | t-ratio |
|------------|--------|----|-------|--------------------|------------|
| Alienation | Female | 48 | 30.75 | 11.03 | 1.95 (N.S) |
| | Male | 52 | 26.38 | 11.24 | |

N.S means non-significant

($t_{0.05}=1.98$, $t_{0.01}=2.62$)

Table 1 reveals that the values of the mean of male and female college students are 26.38 and 30.75 respectively. The computed t-ratio is 1.95 which is not significant as compared to the critical value at 0.05 level of significance. This reflects that male and female students do not differ significantly on the mean score of alienation. This leads to no rejection of null hypothesis Ho1.

Ho2. “There is no significant difference in the mean scores of alienation of college students based on the type of stream”

A t-test was conducted to assess the significant difference in alienation scores between arts and science students, with the results presented in table 2.

Table 2 significance of the difference in the mean scores of alienation of college students based on the type of stream

| Type of stream | N | Mean | Standard deviation | t-ratio |
|----------------|----|-------|--------------------|------------|
| Science | 32 | 31.34 | 10.74 | 1.75 (N.S) |
| Arts | 68 | 27.13 | 11.38 | |

N.S means non-significant

($t_{0.05}=1.98$, $t_{0.01}=2.62$)

The mean scores of science and art students in alienation are 31.34 and 27.39, respectively, as presented in Table 2. The computed t-ratio is 1.75, which is not significant as compared to the critical value at the 0.05 level of significance. The findings suggest that the mean score of alienation shows no significant differences according to the type of stream, resulting in no rejection of the null hypothesis Ho2.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There was no significant difference in alienation between male and female undergraduate students.
2. There was no significant difference in alienation between undergraduate students of science and art.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

1. This study provides valuable insights for parents and teachers to foster confidence in students.
2. The dynamics of family and educational settings influence feelings of alienation. It is essential for parents and teachers to foster a supportive atmosphere both at home and in the classroom to enhance the sense of belonging among students.
3. The school curriculum should to develop the ability to solve problems among learners, enabling them to address challenges encountered in their daily lives.
4. This study offers valuable insights for professionals aiming to assist students who feel isolated from their communities.

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