



SOCIAL MATURITY OF HEARING IMPAIRED ADOLESCENT STUDENTS IN RELATION TO GENDER AND LOCALITY

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ABSTRACT

The paper projects Social Maturity of hearing impaired adolescent students in relation to gender and locality. The study consists a sample of 400(male-200 and female-200) hearing impaired adolescent students studying indifferent special schools and institutions located in Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh. Purposive and convenient sampling techniques were used to select sample for the present study. Dr. Nalini Rao's social maturity scale was used to find out the social maturity levels of the hearing impaired adolescent students. The mean scores were calculated and compared with the standard scores given in the manual. The results reveals that the selected whole group of hearing impaired adolescent student had an average level of social maturity.

KEY WORDS: Maturity, Social Maturity, Hearing Impaired, Late Adolescence, Adolescent Students.

INTRODUCTION:

The human beings are highly social and a child's faith is a social event itself. The social development depends upon the environment and experience of his/ her afterlife. Children are socially immature by nature and they grow into adults they attain. Sociability must be learnt, every social behavior is an acquired trait. Children are socially immature by nature and they grow into adults they attain maturity. During the stage of childhood social development takes place due to the interaction with parents, family members, neighbors and others, and also influenced by the nature and nurture, attitude of parents, social relationship with other family members. Through these interactions social development gets into maturity in the stage of adolescence. By the adolescence the social maturity of an individual did not stop, but it is continuous throughout the life.

There are many different maturities in human development process, among them social maturity helps to do with how well people understand the nature of the social world they live within. Social maturity enables the people to function as healthy adults without that we are facing a lot of difficulties with others in this social world. If there is a social immaturity among individuals, it leads to multiple mental disorders.

Need for the study:

Social maturity is defined as the willingness of an individual to take responsibilities for developing his/her community. During the adolescence the teenager reaches the position of person identity, whose qualities may differ from those of a child. At this stage they want to become social. After birth the babies grow into adults, they develop their social skills by interacting the members at home, school and society. The social interactions are highly depends on verbal skills. These verbal skills help in language development, communication and learning. If there is a defect in hearing sensory pathway it leads to language and communication difficulties. Hence hearing loss is caused to series effect on the child's social development. Due to their stage specific characteristics the hearing impaired adolescent students are facing many problems in adjusting the social world. Hence the researcher felt that there is a need to study the social maturity levels of hearing impaired late adolescent students. Late adolescence is a very short period and it is the doorstep of adulthood. In this period the adolescents reached to some stability in their development.

Objectives:

1. To find out the social maturity levels of Hearing impaired late adolescent students
2. To find out the Social maturity levels of Hearing impaired late adolescent students with reference to gender and locality.

Hypothesis:

1. Do the Hearing impaired late adolescent students have high level Social maturity?
2. Do the Hearing impaired male and female late adolescent students have similar levels of Social maturity?
3. Do the Hearing impaired rural and urban late adolescent students have similar levels of Social maturity?

Method of study:

The present study is descriptive survey type of research. The sample of 400 (male-200 and female-200) Hearing impaired late adolescent students (15-18 years of age group) studying in different special educational institutions located in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh state were selected through purposive and convenient sampling techniques. The researcher used a standardized tool developed by Dr.Nalini Rao, for measuring the Social maturity levels of hearing impaired late adolescent students. The mean scores of the sample were compared with the standard scores given in the manual and find out the Social maturity levels of Hearing impaired late adolescent students.

Results and discussion:**Social maturity levels of the Hearing impaired late adolescent students (whole group):**

To study the social maturity levels of Hearing impaired late adolescent students, the data was collected, scored and interpreted as follows.

Table-I: Social maturity level of hearing impaired late adolescent students (whole group)

Sample group	Sample size	Mean scores	Interpretation levels
Hearing impaired late adolescent students	400	210.58	Average level

Table-I shows the mean scores of hearing impaired late adolescent students was 210.58. The mean score of the collected samples were compared with the standard scores of the Social maturity scale. The range of standard score for average level is 194-234. Thus the whole group of hearing impaired late adolescent students had an average level of Social maturity. The mean scores of hearing impaired late adolescent students (210.58) fall within these range.

Social maturity levels of Hearing impaired late adolescent students with reference to gender:

To find out the Social maturity levels of male and female hearing impaired late adolescent students, the collected data was scored and interpreted as follows.

Table-2: Social maturity levels of male and female hearing impaired late adolescent students .

Variable	Group	Sample size	Mean scores	Interpretation level
Gender	Male	201	212.98	Average level
	Female	199	208.18	Average level

Figure-1: Social maturity levels of male and female hearing impaired late adolescent students

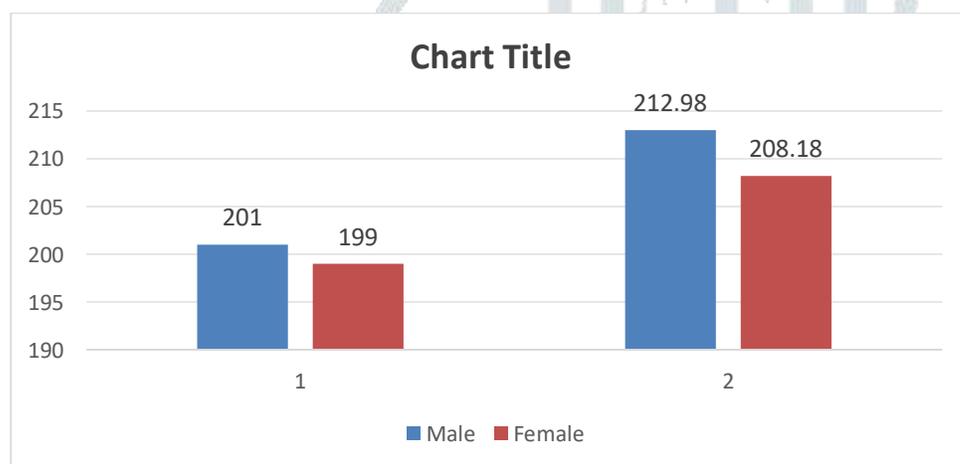


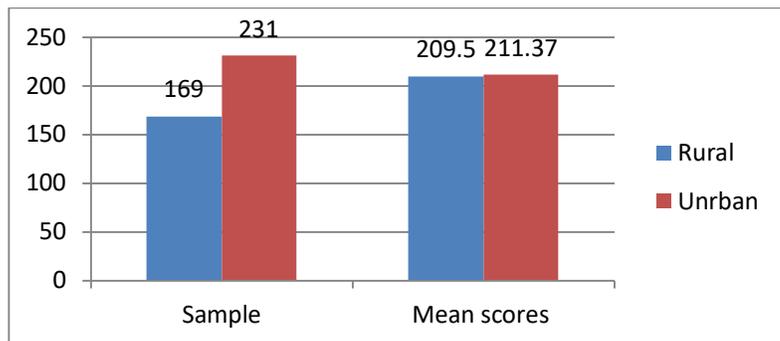
Table-2and Fig-1 indicates that the mean scores of male and female hearing impaired late adolescent students. The mean were 212.98 and 208.18 respectively. These two scores fall within the range of 194-234. Thus both male and female hearing impaired late adolescent students had an average level of Social maturity irrespective of the gender. From the scores it was also observed that the mean scores of male hearing impaired late adolescent students have slightly more than that of female hearing impaired late adolescent students. It shows that the male hearing impaired late adolescent students have better Social maturity levels than their female counterparts even though both the groups had an average level of Social maturity.

Social maturity levels of Hearing impaired late adolescent students with reference to locality:

To find out the Social maturity levels of rural and urban hearing impaired late adolescent students, the data was scored and interpreted as follows.

Table-3 Social Maturity levels of rural and urban hearing impaired late adolescent students.

Variable	Group	Sample	Mean scores	Interpretation
Locality	Rural	169	209.50	Average level
	Urban	231	211.37	Average level

Figure-2 Social Maturity levels of rural and urban hearing impaired late adolescent students.

It was observed from table-3 and Fig-2 the mean scores of rural and urban hearing impaired late adolescent students were 209.50 and 211.37 respectively. These scores fall within the range of 194-234. Hence both rural and urban hearing impaired late adolescent students had an average level of Social maturity irrespective of locality. From the scores it was also observed that the mean score of urban hearing impaired late adolescent students have slightly more than that of rural group. It shows that the urban hearing impaired late adolescent students have better Social maturity levels than their rural counterparts.

Conclusions:

From the study it was concluded that

- The whole group of Hearing Impaired late adolescent students had an average level of Social maturity.
- With reference to the variable gender, the male hearing impaired late adolescent students had slightly better social maturity scores than their female counterparts, even though both are having average level of Social maturity.
- With reference to the variable locality the urban hearing impaired late adolescent students had slightly better social maturity scores than the rural counter parts, even though both are having similar levels of Social maturity.

Implications:

From the conclusions of the study, the Hearing Impaired late adolescent students had average level of Social maturity with reference to whole group, gender and locality. From the scores the female and rural Hearing Impaired late adolescent students must be targeted through certain activities at homes, schools, colleges, institutions and society to improve their social maturity levels.

- Due to the language and communication limitations the female hearing impaired late adolescent students may have limited social interactions than male hearing impaired late adolescent students. To improve the social maturity levels, the female hearing impaired late adolescent students need to be exposed to good social environment from childhood age.

- The parents, family members, teachers, lectures and language instructors need to be provide a good social environment and social experience to the female hearing impaired late adolescent students so that they could function effectively in the society.

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