
ATTITUDE TOWARDS DISCIPLINE AMONG THE HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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Need for the Study

The amount of poor behavior in certain schools is still quite a lot we need to put in an effort into creating new disciplinary practices that are more effective and will reduce behavior problems in schools. Yes discipline in schools should be definitely improved because the students are getting spoilt and no sense of respect is left among them! They have been not understanding the importance of school in their future.

Research shows that a zero tolerance approach to school discipline does not promote school safety. In fact, punitive approaches that exclude children and youth from schools can actually increase behavior problems, the risk of substance use and violence, and the likelihood of academic failure. The result is that struggling students are being pushed out of school, leading many on a path to the juvenile or criminal justice systems.

A Positive School Discipline approach, however, creates a supportive learning environment where all students can thrive. Reserving suspension and expulsion as measures of last resort and employing alternative programs and practices that support student needs and hold students accountable, yet keep them engaged in the classroom, leads to higher achievement and improved graduation rates.

Discipline has become a real problem in schools these last twenty years. Unfortunately, it seemed to fall in proportion to the recognition of children's rights. Let's be clear, there was a need to upgrade children's rights to the 21st century standards, but unfortunately, the government never thought about matching this increase with a radical reform of school discipline. Children's rights correctly eliminated certain types of physical punishment with more humane forms of discipline, but educational discipline was forgotten and this state of affairs remained up till a few months ago with the implementation of the new Educational Framework that does not discuss discipline. How can a new Educational Framework be introduced without new forms of discipline to implement it?

Another problem was the school-leaving certificate that for decades could not be used as a lever to control certain student's problematic behaviour and is only being reformed now.

Successive Nationalist administrations fed this mismatch to the extent that the local education system was bereft of any effective way to discipline problem students. Keep in mind that classes also had students with special needs some of whom also displayed problematic

behaviours and difficult students with social problems. Coupled to large student populations, this became a real problem.

Large schools are more difficult to patrol than smaller ones. They have many more nooks and crannies where students can hide and make mischief. They need many more teachers to supervise them. So lumping all class forms together leads to a greater incidence of bullying especially from higher forms towards younger students. Smaller schools are easier to patrol and need less staff for supervision. Why these advantages were not taken into consideration is a mystery? The investigator wanted to verify the attitude towards discipline among higher secondary students. Hence the need for the present study.

Terms and Definitions

Attitude towards Discipline - refers to the positive or negative beliefs towards the system of rules, punishments, behavioural strategies adopted in the school for controlling the students actions & behaviour as measured by the scale of Attitude towards Discipline Rating Scale, used in this study.

Higher secondary students - refer to the students who are studying in XI and XII standard in Madurai district under Tamil Nadu State Board.

Variables of the Study

The study has been designed with the following variables:

Dependent Variables

- Attitude towards discipline

Independent Variables

- Gender
- Standard
- Tuition undergoing
- Medium of instruction
- School locality
- School kind
- School management
- Participation in sports and games
- Participation in extra curricular activities

Objectives of the Study

1. To measure the level of Attitude towards discipline among the Higher secondary students.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference in Attitude towards discipline among the Higher Secondary students in terms of select Independent variables.

Hypothesis of the Study

Each of the independent variables exert a significance influence on Attitude towards discipline among the Higher secondary students.

Methodology – in – Brief

Sample

A sample consists of 375 Higher secondary students from schools in Madurai District studying under Tamil Nadu State Board constituted with due representation given to the variables, viz., Gender & School locality.

Tool Used

Attitude towards discipline– Rating Scale Constructed and Standardized by **Sureshkumar, M. (2009)**.

Technique

Survey

Statistical Treatment

1. Test of Significant Difference – “t” test

Attitude Towards Discipline Among Higher Secondary Students

The empirical average score of Attitude towards discipline of the higher secondary students involved in this study is found to be 41.70, while the theoretical average is 40 only. Thus the Attitude towards discipline of the higher secondary students is found to be little above the average level.

Attitude towards Discipline and Gender

The statistical measures and the results of test of significance of difference between the mean scores of Attitude towards discipline among higher secondary students in terms of Independent variables are presented in Table.

Table: Statistical Measures And Results of Test of Significance For Difference Between The Means of Attitude Towards Discipline: Independent Variables – Wise

Sl. No.	Variable	Sub-variables	N	M	SD	't' - value	Significance At 0.05 level
1	Gender	Male	221	39.54	3.61	13.99	Significant
		Female	154	43.92	2.34		
2	Standard	XI	270	39.31	3.10	9.21	Significant
		XII	105	43.11	3.71		
3	Tuition undergoing	Yes	255	38.67	2.69	17.95	Significant
		No	120	44.82	3.437		

4	Medium of Instruction	Tamil	271	43.12	3.10	6.40	Significant
		English	104	40.63	3.64		
5	School locality	Rural	199	38.07	2.08	28.90	Significant
		Urban	176	45.40	2.69		
6	School kind	Unisex	163	39.60	2.46	18.55	Significant
		Mixed	212	44.30	2.10		
7	School management	Govt/aided	270	39.66	3.05	11.56	Significant
		Private	105	44.39	3.55		
8	Participation in sports and games	Yes	107	30.83	1.06	6.84	Significant
		No	268	32.39	3.79		
9	Participation in extra curricular activities	Yes	79	39.82	2.87	6.54	Significant
		No	296	42.43	3.41		

Hypothesis Verification

Each of the independent variables exerts a significant influence on attitude towards discipline among Higher Secondary Students.

It is revealed that all the nine variables used in the current study are found influencing higher secondary students' attitude towards discipline. **Hence hypothesis is Accepted.**

Conclusions

The major conclusions arrived at from the study are listed below

- Higher secondary students' Attitude towards discipline is found above the average level.
- The Attitude towards discipline among the Higher secondary students is found dependent upon
 - Gender
 - Standard
 - Tuition undergoing
 - Medium of instruction
 - School locality
 - School kind
 - School management
 - Participation in sports and games
 - Participation in extra curricular activities
- The Attitude towards discipline among the Higher secondary students is found higher among the students
 - who are female than male
 - who are XI standard than those who are XII standard
 - who undergo tuition than those who do not undergo tuition

- who belongs to Tamil than English medium
- who belongs to rural schools than urban
- who belongs to mixed schools than unisex
- who belongs to Govt./Aided schools than private
- Who do not participate in sports and games, than those who participate in it.
- Who do not participate in extra curricular activities than those who participate in the same.

Educational Implications

This study states that attitude towards discipline among higher secondary students is found low among the male students, those who are studying XII standard, those who do not undergo tuition those who belongs to English medium, those who belong to rural schools, those who belong to unisex schools, those who are studying in government and aided schools, those who are participate in sports and games and those the participants in extracurricular activities than their respective counterparts. To improve the attitude towards the discipline the school has to provide leadership activities headed by the students, train to organize small programmes in the school premises, provide responsibilities to take care of lower class students.

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