

SUPERSTITIONS AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO MODERNIZATION

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ABSTRACT

The present study is an investigation to the level of superstitions among adolescents in relation to modernization. The present study has been conducted on 200 adolescents taken randomly from Patiala District of Punjab. In the present study for the collection of data the tools were used Superstition Scale by Dubey and Dixit (2020) and A standardized questionnaire–Comprehensive Modernization Inventory (CMI-AK) developed by Ahluwalia and Kalia (1973). There is a significant difference in the level of superstition of male and female adolescents and no significant difference in the level of superstition of urban and rural adolescents. There is a significant difference in the level of modernization of urban and rural adolescents and no significant difference in level of modernization of male and female adolescents.

Keywords: Superstitions, Modernization.

Universe as a whole is going under a change. Change is a process by which the future invades into our lives and it is important to look at it closely, not merely from the grand perspective of history, but also from the vantage point of the living, breathing individuals who experience it. The rate of change is much faster these days than ever before. Like a series of rockets carrying us out of the past, plunging us deeper into the new society. For the individual, who wishes to live in this time has to be a part of a super industrial revolution. It offers no return to a familiar past. Modernization and social change lies with the periphery of modernization. Modernization is a long but slow process involving change in political, social, economical, educational and technological fields.

Superstition is any belief or attitude that is inconsistent with the law of science or with what is generally considered in the particular society as true and rational, especially such a belief in charms, omens and supernatural etc. Superstition has been defined in a variety of ways by different people as supernatural, irrational fear of the unknown, or a practice ritual or belief based on mysterious and misdirected reference.

In short superstitious individuals erroneously

believe that the future or the outcome of certain events can be caused or influenced by certain specific behaviors despite the lack of casual relationship in reality. All human beings believe in the existence of connections or relationships between things. This is not something which can be proven true or false. The term superstitions denote the tendency to direct one's behavior with an irrational and mysterious fear of gaining privilege from the supernatural power. Superstition is also known as old wives tales, legends and traditions. Superstition is an integral part of almost every culture around the world. Even people don't believe in superstition may still pause before walking under a ladder or may think of a wish when they see a falling star. People have go to luck charms, such as lucky piece of jewelry, horse shoe.

Superstition weather believed by a whole culture or just one person, still have some sway over people lives, with or without having any actual power. It can be supposed that younger people might be more strongly influenced by superstition as they have less social stakes and experience and are more easily influenced. Adolescent is the time when the individual is expected to prepare for adulthood by replacing the childish attitude and behaviour pattern with those

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of an adult type (Gupta, 2009). EbrahimiZad, (2014) examine the range and influence of some aspects related to superstition that exists among Gachsaran citizens. Accordingly using the questionnaire and survey method, it was conducted that: women's tendency to superstition belief is much more than man's.

Modernization is regarded as a process of change of traditional society in a society based on science and technology. It is the application of new knowledge and technology in every field of production consumption, thinking and action. It is a process that brings desired type of change in social, economic, industrial, technological, cultural, moral and educational structural value orientation. It involves a change in the outlook. Thus modernization refers to change in all aspects of individual and social life.

Modernization includes various processes like industrialization, urbanization, introduction of effective communication and transportation, western education and mass media. Modernization refers to a temporal character of change. It does not necessarily mean that better environmental forces (Physical, social, emotional, political, intellectual etc) affect the attitude and behavior of the individual resulting in a modernized society. At individual level modernization involves changes in attitude and behavior (Chandalia, 2015). Modernization refers to the adaptability to challenges and willingness of a particular society to change its old indention and beliefs if they so desire. Modernization is not in philosophy or a movement with a clearly articulate value system. The concept of modernization as modernization means a revolutionary change leading to transformation of a traditional or pre-modern society into an advanced economically prosperous and relatively politically stable society.

Further Kaur (2007) conducted a study on effect of superstition on the value patterns of adolescents and she concluded that sex and area does not affect the superstitions. These are significant relationship in superstitions and value pattern of adolescents. Kaur (2013) in her study her study investigated the influence of modernization in causing frustration among school going adolescents

found that a significant relationship exists in influence of modernization and frustration among school going adolescents. Kaur and Kaur (2014) in her study found that there is a significant positive correlation between aggression and modernization in all the stories of adolescents i.e. Adolescents boys, adolescents girls, urban adolescents and except the group of rural adolescents. This indicates that the process of modernization is leading to the development of feelings of aggression among adolescents.

Superstition is an irrational, invalid and unreasonable belief. That means we believe in superstitions without considering whether they are reasonable or not. Origin of superstitions is ignorance. Superstitions originated when we had no knowledge of the law of 'cause' and 'effect'. At that time the mind of man was not so developed as to be capable of analyzing facts and events and of seeing their cause in nature. But today we are living in the modern era and we need scientifically oriented people who can think irrationally and make right decisions which are not based upon superstitions. For the country's real progress the society must leave the irrational, orthodox ways. Modernization demands that Indian. Men and women should use the new and scientific methods of thinking, understanding and decision making.

So, there is a need to explore the superstitions among adolescents in relation to modernization which is an age of moral, spiritual and character development and it is the stage when whatever they perceive is retained in their minds for their whole life. So they need a proper attitude to be developed. We should check the undesirable and irrational attitude of adolescents.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the difference between the level of Superstitions of adolescents with respect to gender.
2. To find out the difference between the level of superstition of adolescents with respect to gender.
3. To find out the difference between the level of

- modernization of adolescents in terms of locale.
- To find out the difference between the level of modernization of adolescents with respect to gender.
 - To find out the relationship between superstitions and modernization of adolescents.

Measures

Superstition scales by Dubey and Dixit (2008) important principles of knowledge and solution of significant problems concerning local, state, national and international issues. A standardized questionnaire—Comprehensive Modernization Inventory (CMI-AK) developed by Ahluwalia and Kalia (1973).

Sample

Sample in the present study selected 200 students (100 male & 100 female) belonging to urban & rural areas schools of Ludhiana district. The sample is randomly selected.

Method

Descriptive studies are more than just a collection of data; they involve measurement, classification, analysis, comparison and interpretations.

Results and Discussions

There were mainly two groups of boys and girls, the raw scores obtained have been statistically analyzed and interpreted with the use of proper statistical techniques to test according to the objectives of the study.

Hypothesis-I: There will be no difference in level of superstitions of urban and rural adolescents.

Table 1: Mean standard deviation and t-value of superstition of urban and rural adolescents

Area	N	Mean	S.D.		T-Value	Level of Significance
Urban	100	62.44	12.28	1.830	1.114 ^N _S	Non-Significant
Rural	100	60.4	13.56			

Table 1 showing mean scores of superstition of urban and rural adolescents are 62.44 and 60.4

respectively and standard deviation of the scores of superstition of urban and rural adolescents are 12.28 and 13.56 respectively. The value of t-ratio in case of superstition in urban and rural is 1.114 which is non-significant.

Hence, Hypothesis 1 states, “There will be no difference in level of superstition of urban and rural adolescents”, stands accepted.

Hypothesis-II: There will be no difference in level of superstition of male and female adolescents.

Table 2: Mean, standard deviation and t-value of superstition of male and female adolescents

Gender	N	Mean	S.D.		T-Value	Level of Significance
Male	100	68.13	11.397	1.271	13.932**	Significant at 0.01 level
Female	100	50.42	5.628			

Table 2 shows the mean scores of male and female adolescents are 68.13 and 50.42 respectively. Standard deviation of Male and female adolescents are 11.397 and 5.628 respectively. The value of t-ratio in case of superstition in regard to gender is 13.932 which is significant at 0.01 level.

Hence, Hypothesis 2 States, “There will be no difference in level of superstition of male and female adolescents”, Stands rejected

Hypothesis III: There will be no difference in level of modernization of urban and rural adolescents.

Table 3: Mean, standard deviation and t-value of modernization of urban and rural adolescents

Area	N	Mean	S.D.	SED	T-Value	Level of Significance
Urban	100	160.69	8.340	1.175	2.040*	Significant at 0.05 Level
Rural	100	158.29	8.289			

Table 3 shows mean scores of modernization of urban and rural adolescents are 160.69 and 158.29 respectively. Standard deviation of modernization of urban and rural adolescents is 8.340 and 8.289 respectively. The value of t-ratio in case of urban and rural adolescents is 2.040 which is significant at 0.05 level.

Hence, Hypothesis III states, “There will be

no difference in level of modernization of urban and rural adolescents” stands rejected.

Hypothesis IV: There will be no difference in level of modernization of urban and rural adolescents.

Table 4: Mean, standard deviation and t-value of modernization of male and female adolescents

Area	N	Mean	S.D.	SED	T-Value	Level of Significance
Male	100	159.28	9.306	1.121	1.792	Non-Significant
Female	100	157.27	6.252			

Table 4 shows mean scores of modernization of male and female adolescents are 159.28 and 157.27 respectively. Standard deviation of the male and female adolescents is 9.306 and 6.252 respectively. The value of t-ratio in case of male and female is 1.792 which is non-significant.

Hence, Hypothesis IV states, “There will be no difference in level of modernization of male and female adolescents”, stands accepted.

Hypothesis-V: There will be no relationship between superstitions and modernization of adolescents.

Table 5: Relationship between superstition and modernization of adolescents

Variable	N	'r'
Superstition	200	0.0056
Modernization	200	

Table 5 shows the relationship between superstition and modernization is 0.0056 which shows positive relationship but non-significant relationship between these variables.

Hence, Hypothesis V states, “There will be no relationship between superstition and modernization of adolescents” stands accepted.

Conclusions

1. There is no significant difference in the level of superstition of urban and rural adolescents.
2. There is a significant difference in the level of superstition of male and female adolescents.
3. There is a significant difference in the level of modernization of urban and rural adolescents.

4. There is no significant difference in level of modernization of male and female adolescents.
5. There is no significant relationship between superstitions and modernization of adolescents.

Educational Implications

A research is meaningful only if benefits are taken from the conclusions drawn from its results. The present research also throws up several results and certain conclusions drawn from this:

1. Teachers can provide an academic environment to enhance the modernization of students.
2. Keeping in mind the level of modernization, teachers can guide the students through proper channels.
3. This study is important from the counseling point of view the counselor will have deeper insight into the relationship between personality and modernization.
4. This will help the students to adjust in school as well as home according to level of modernization.

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