

Social Freedom Among Adolescent Girl Students of Chandigarh

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ABSTRACT

The human society underwent an immense struggle and has evolved into the present society over the ages. Although the society has been ever changing since the time it came into existence, one thing that has remained constant was human's desire for freedom. Freedom is something which is desired by one and all. It has become an important part of survival along with air, water, food, shelter and clothing. Freedom, though as a word has been used in many contexts such as spiritual, political as well as economic. But freedom from the social or society's context is equally intriguing. The present paper explores this social context of freedom or the social freedom of girls in their late adolescents, studying in Chandigarh. Women social freedom scale by L.I. Bhusan was used to collect data from girl students of different courses studying in various colleges of Chandigarh.

Keywords: *Adolescents, Girls, Social Freedom, Student, Colleges..*

Introduction

The human society underwent an immense struggle and has evolved into the present society over the ages. Although the society has been ever changing since the time it came into existence, one thing that remained forever was human's desire for freedom. Freedom is something which is desired by one and all. It has become an important part of survival along with air, water, food, shelter and clothing. According to Camus (1961), "Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better". Mill (1859), states that *the only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it.*

In a study conducted by Kaur in 2013 she states, "The origin of the documentation of the concept of freedom can be traced back to the Vedic times in the Indian civilization during the

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1500-500 BC. Vedas- the ancient Indian scriptures, believed in spiritual liberation that is freedom of the soul called 'salvation'. Socrates, the famous Greek philosopher believed in the freedom of the conscience as a right of an individual and his moral duty to resist the state if it interfered with this freedom. The concept of freedom by Socrates, Plato and Aristotle was essentially politically oriented. The idea of social freedom can be traced back to an essay, "On Social Freedom: or the Necessary Limits of Individual Freedom Arising Out of the Conditions of Our Social Life" by John Stuart Mill regarding individual and societal freedom."

The operational definition of social freedom in the present paper refers to women's desire to be free from social taboos, rituals, and conventional roles which render her un-free and provide her with subservient status in the society. Various dimensions of women social freedom are, a) Freedom from control or interference of parents and husband; b) Freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women; c) Freedom concerning sex and marriage; and d) Economic freedom and social equality. (Bhusan, 2014)

Like any other being or at any stage of life, our needs for freedom also changes. One such stage in a person's life is adolescence. The period of adolescence is that of stress and strain as pointed out and proved by many educationists time and again. Similarly, the need for freedom at this crossroads of life has a significance of its own. As pointed out by Pickhardt (2010), "Adolescents often say they want independence when what they really mean is social freedom-freedom from adult direction and restraint. And when they do think about social freedom, it is usually the freedom of choice to act as they wish, which of course is only one half of social freedom. The other half, which they prefer to think about, or even deny, is coping with the consequence of every choice - enjoying beneficial consequences when the choice is good, and suffering unhappy ones when it is bad."

According to UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund), "Late adolescence encompasses the later part of the teenage years, broadly between the ages of 15 and 19. The major physical changes have usually occurred by now, although the body is still developing. The brain continues to develop and reorganize itself, and the capacity for analytical and reflective thought is greatly enhanced. Peer-group opinions still tend to be important at the outset, but their hold diminishes as adolescents gain more clarity and confidence in their own identity and opinions." Further it says, "Girls in late adolescence tend to be at greater risk than boys of negative health outcomes, including depression, and these risks are often magnified by gender-based discrimination and abuse. Girls are particularly prone to eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia; this vulnerability derives in part from profound anxieties over body image that are fuelled by cultural and media stereotypes of feminine beauty." Hence social freedom and the psycho social concern for the girls in late adolescence becomes an intriguing area for study, justifying the need and significance of the present study.

Objective of the Study

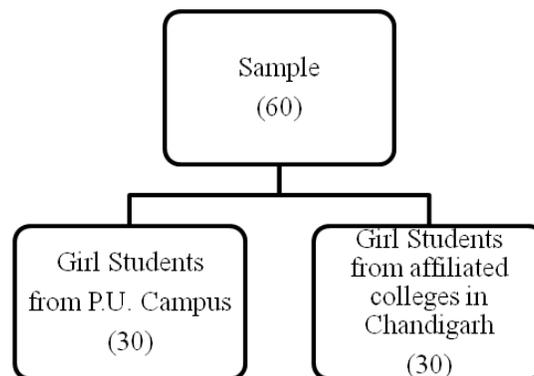
- To compare the social freedom of girl students in their late adolescence from Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges.

Hypothesis of the Study

- There is no significant difference between the social freedoms of girl students in their late adolescence from Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges.

Sampling

The present study was conducted on the girl students in their late adolescence from Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges. Data was collected from a total of 60 girl students of the age group 18 and 19 years of age (30 from Panjab University campus and other 30 from the affiliated colleges in Chandigarh). A diagrammatic layout of the sample is as shown below:



Tool Used

The following tool was used for data collection:

- Women Social Freedom Scale by Dr. L.I. Bhusan.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The above given hypothesis namely, “There is no significant difference between the social freedoms of girl students of Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges”, was tested using t-test. The results are entered in the table given below along with its graphical representation.

Table: Comparison of mean scores of Social Freedom of girl students of Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges

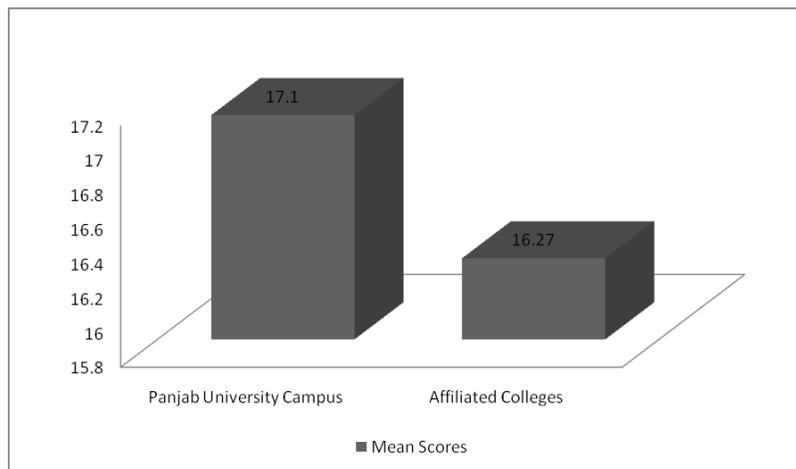
Groups	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Campus students	17.10	2.87	1.37	Not-Significant
Affiliated college students	16.27	1.68		

Results and Discussion

The mean score of social freedom of girl students in their late adolescence from Panjab University campus was 17.10 and that of girl students in their late adolescence from the affiliated colleges of Chandigarh was 16.27. The standard deviation scores of girl students of Panjab

University was 2.87 and that of girl students from affiliated colleges of Chandigarh was 1.68. The calculated t-value between the two mean scores was 1.37, which is not significant. Thus we can say that there is no difference between the mean scores of social freedom of girl students of Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges. So, the null hypothesis, “There is no significant difference between the social freedoms of girl students of Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges”, is accepted. Hence no significant difference exists in social freedom of girl students of Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges. However, higher mean scores of Panjab University campus girl students in their late adolescence shows that they have higher level of social freedom thinking as compared to the girl students in their late adolescence from the affiliated colleges of Chandigarh.

Fig: Mean scores of Social Freedom of girl students in their late adolescence from Panjab University Campus and Affiliated Colleges



Conclusion

The result is based on descriptive survey, analysis of mean, standard deviation and t-value. Conclusions are as essential as investigation. They provide a finishing touch and review to the whole of the critical work. In the present study the investigator has tried to find out the social freedom of girl students in their late adolescence from Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges in Chandigarh. On the basis of analysis and interpretation of data, following conclusions can be drawn:

- From the non-significant t-value of social freedom of girl students in their late adolescence from Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges of Chandigarh, it can be concluded that there was no significant difference in social freedom of the same. It means that girls in their late adolescence from both Panjab University campus and affiliated colleges have same level of social freedom thinking.

Recommendations

- Govt. should play an active role in promoting the education among women at all level.
- Short term/long term training in the field of education are necessary for the social growth of women. Continual social development of women at all levels must be an integral part of all educational policies and programmes.
- University and college authorities must provide them the necessary platform for the development of social freedom.
- Women should be given more freedom in the field of education as well as social setup.
- There should be arrangements of guidance and counselling programmes for promoting social freedom among women and the society.
- Seminars and symposiums should be organized for the upliftment of women's empowerment and for their social freedom. (Kaur, K. 2013)

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