

Personality Differential between General Caste and Scheduled Caste Students : An Analytical Study

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the personality differential between general caste and schedule caste B.Ed. students. A sample of 100 students 50 general and 50 schedule caste students were selected from Colleges of Education of Kaithal district. In order to fulfill the objectives 't' test was applied. Results of the study indicate the scheduled caste students are more neurotic than general caste students. However, no significant difference was found in the overall personality of the general caste and schedule caste B.Ed. students.

Keywords: *Personality difference, General Class, Schedule Class, College students*

Introduction

It is well known that personality plays an important role in determining not only the behavior of an individual but also his overall success and prosperity in life. Allport (1937) has defined personality as “a dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determines his unique adjustment to his environment.” Interest in personality is as old as civilization: For ages person-situation interaction has played an important role in the development of an individual's personality. In this context not only the family environment but also the society and the culture in which the children are brought up becomes important. In every culture and society, children and adolescents are subjected to various kinds of pressures, both personal and social. These pressures exert great influence on the personality development of the children, which ultimately influences not only the all-round development of that particular society but also affects the future development of the country.

Indian society and culture is unique, and has the credit of being one of the oldest civilizations of the world. It has developed a social system, which is unique in the world.

The “Varna Vyavastha” of ‘Vedic’ times produced a caste division determined by birth which was an important aspect of Hindu Dharma. However the segregation determined by system became a tool of discrimination and oppression against the scheduled castes (SC). Overall

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personality development of children belonging to scheduled castes (SC). The socio cultural and economic challenges that individuals of certain sections of society have and had to face over the years have made a deep impact on their personalities. Due to this segregation from the mainstream society disadvantaged children have been found to possess negative self-image (Witty, 1967; Tannenbaum, 1969). Jiloha and Kishore (1998) found that SC and ST students are high on depressive tendency, emotional instability and low on social desirability traits. Vansteel and Van Mechelen (1999) found that although personality factors play a significant role but our behavior in any given situation is a complex function of both our personality and situational factors in the world around us. Society and the culture, to which an individual belongs, always play a major role in shaping the personality.

Need of the Study

With the advent of independence many social, economical and political reforms were initiated for the up liftment of the down trodden. A policy of 'protective discrimination' was initiated in the constitution to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The ultimate goal of this 'protective discrimination' was to provide 'social justices, and 'social equality' to the masses so that all the factors hampering the personality development of children belonging to lower castes can be removed. No doubt, the legislative measures of the government have ensured numerical reservations of the scheduled caste students. But it is worth exploring whether these provisions helped them in improving their personality. Does caste factor affect their personality development? This study attempts to find the answer of these questions.

Objectives of the Study

- To investigate the personality differential between general Caste and scheduled caste B.Ed. students.

Hypotheses

1. The Scheduled caste B.Ed. students are likely have higher Neuroticism scores as compared with General caste B.Ed. Students.
2. The Scheduled caste B.Ed. students are likely to have lower score on extroversion dimension of personality as compared to General caste B.Ed. students.

Sample

The sample of the present study consisted of one hundred (100) students, drawn randomly from 50 general caste and 50 Scheduled caste B.Ed. students from Colleges of Education of kaithal district.

Tool Used

- Eysenck personality inventory (EPI) by H.J Eysenck and Hindi version by B.S Gupta and Manju Podder.

Analysis and Interpretation

t-ratios were calculated to find out whether any difference exists in the personality scores of general caste and scheduled caste students.

Difference between General and Scheduled caste B.Ed students on Extroversion-Introversion

To find out whether any difference exists in the mean extroversion/introversion scores of General caste and scheduled caste B.Ed. students, 't' ratio was calculated which is presented in the table – 1

Table – 1: Significance of Difference on Extroversion-Introversion Scores of General and Scheduled Caste B.Ed Students

Sr. No.	N	Caste	Mean	SD	't'	Significance
1	50	General Caste	12.78	2.59	1.22	Insignificant
2	50	Scheduled Caste	12.14	2.66		

The table I reveals that the calculated 't' ratio is 1.22 which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence general caste and scheduled caste students do not differ significantly on Extroversion-Introversion dimension of personality. The reason could be that with the time they learn to build relations in the society, also taking part in different activities together helps them in becoming happy and social persons.

Difference between General and Scheduled Caste B.Ed Students on Neuroticism

To find out whether any difference exists in the mean Neuroticism scores of General caste and Scheduled caste B.Ed. Students, t-ratios was calculated which is presented in the table-2.

Table-2: Significance of Difference on Neuroticism scores of General and Scheduled Caste B.Ed Students

Sr. No.	N	Caste	Mean	SD	't'	Significance
1	50	General Caste	11.94	2.71	2.35	Significant**
2	50	Scheduled Caste	13.58	2.35		

The table 2 reveals that the calculated 't' ratio is 3.23, which is significant at .01 level of significance. It means general caste and scheduled caste B.Ed. students differ significantly in neuroticism behavior. It further indicates scheduled caste B.Ed. students are more neurotic than general caste students. The probable reason could be that SC students do not get equal recognition in the society, as a result feels fear, guilty, anger and feels depressed.

Difference between General and Scheduled Caste B.Ed students on Total Personality.

To find out whether any difference exists in the mean total personality scores of General caste and Scheduled caste B.Ed. students 't' ration was calculated is presented in the table -3

Table-3: Significance of Difference on Total Personality Scores of General and Scheduled Caste B.Ed Students

Sr. No.	N	Caste	Mean	SD	't'	Significance
1	50	General Caste	29.96	3.42	.526	Insignificant
2	50	Scheduled Caste	29.52	2.82		

The table 1 reveals that the calculated 't' ratio is .526 which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence general caste and scheduled caste do differ significantly on total personality. The reason could be that SC students get benefits of the policies made by the government from time to time, which helps them in developing their personality.

Conclusion

The problem of caste, adjustment, socio-economic status is inseparable and bound up with the nature of human personality. Result of the present study shows that the schedule caste students are similar except on neuroticism with the general caste in their personality. However, a consciousness should be inculcated in the heart of the parents of schedule caste students about their home problems. They should take care of their children properly and understand their problems. Further, government should take care if any problem exists and efforts should be made to make them well adjusted so that they can lead their further life happily without any distortion of their personality.

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