



Social Maturity Among Adolescents

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Abstract

Social Maturity is the indication of mastery in social behaviour in terms of human relationships, social techniques and social institutions. Social maturity is a key to handle social relationships. The present research study was undertaken to assess the social maturity of adolescents. To achieve this objective, Social Maturity scale (SMS) developed by Dr. R. P. Srivastava (1983) was used. The results revealed no significant difference of social maturity of adolescents on the basis of gender and area and also reported that adolescents students belonging to private schools have higher social maturity than those belonging to government schools. The study has implications for the parents, teachers and policy makers.

Key words- Social Maturity, Adolescents

As the child takes birth, he enters in the web of relationship. He is always bound by the social relations. Biologically and psychologically he is compelled to live in society. He has to live in society for his existence and welfare. Many physical, social, moral, emotional, biological changes occurred when he reaches at the age of adolescent. At this stage parents, family members, neighbours, peer groups, society etc. expects from him to behave in a socially acceptable manner and to learn the ways to interact with them. At this stage adolescents are demanded for social maturity, the ability and understanding of the social rules and norms in prevailing culture. Social maturity helps them to adjust to frustration and stress while attaining satisfactory life philosophy to satisfy their physical and psychological needs.

SOCIAL MATURITY

Words ‘Social Maturity’ is comprised of two words, “Social Means living in communities”, which means an individual continually adjusts himself to the social world around him. ‘Maturity’ means a stage at which an organism has reached full development or completion of the process of growth. Thus social maturity refers to attain maturity in social relationship. Social maturity is the process of appropriate attitude for personal, interpersonal and social adequacies of an individual which are essential for functioning effectively in the society. Social maturity does not require the formal joining of a group. It is a personal commitment, based on cold hard facts of life or nature, as old as time, which we see around us every day. It is a constantly evolving open ended concept. It goes beyond transcends the narrow or parochial limitations. Social maturity is the ability to function in an age in appropriate responsible manner. Self care, skills, healthy social interactions and an appreciation for other’s feelings are some indicators of social maturity in certain age group.

So social Maturity means attaining maturity in social relationships that is it establish good relations with family, nighbours, friends, relations and other members of the society.

OBJECTIVES - The study was carried out with the following objectives:

- i. To find out the difference in the mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relations to their gender.
- ii. To find out the difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their area.
- iii. To find out the difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to this type of school.

HYPOTHESES

- i. There exists no significant difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their gender.
- ii. There exists a significant difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their area.
- iii. There exists a significant difference in means scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their type of school.

METHOD

Keeping in view the nature of the study, the descriptive research method was used in the present study.

SAMPLE

The present study was conducted on sample of 200 adolescents of school of Ludhiana district of Punjab, India. The sample was selected by stratified sampling technique.

TOOLS USED

- Social Maturity scale (SMS) by Dr. R. P. Srivastava (1983) was used to assess the social maturity of adolescents.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

Mean, S.D's and t-test were used to compare social maturity of adolescents.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The results of the present study are elucidated as below:

Table I - Comparison of mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their gender

Sr. No.	Sample	Mean	S.D.	S.ED	t-ratio	Level of Significance
1.	Boys	66	35.04	4.62	1.65	NS
2.	Girls	73.6	30.06			

NS-Non significant at both levels

Graph I: Showing the comparison of mean of social maturity of adolescent boys and girls

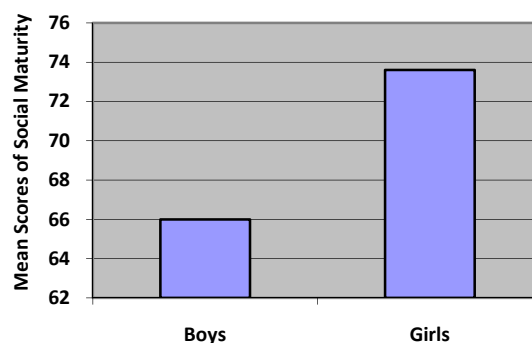


Table I exhibits mean scores of social maturity of adolescent boys and girls.

The mean scores of social maturity of adolescent boys and girls are 66.0 and 73.6 respectively. S. D. is 35.04 and 30.06 respectively, Hence the obtained t-ratio is 1.65 which is

not significant at both the levels i.e. 0.05 and 0.01 level. Thus hypothesis “There exists a significant difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their gender” is rejected. So it is concluded that there is no difference in social maturity of adolescent boys and girls.

Table II-There exists a significant difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their area.

Sr. No.	Sample	Mean	S.D.	S.ED	t-ratio	Level of Significance
1.	Rural School adolescents	68.8	31.8	10.64	0.12	NS
2.	Urban School adolescents	70.0	32.0			

NS-Non significant at both levels

Graph II : Showing the comparison of mean scores of social maturity of adolescents of rural and urban schools

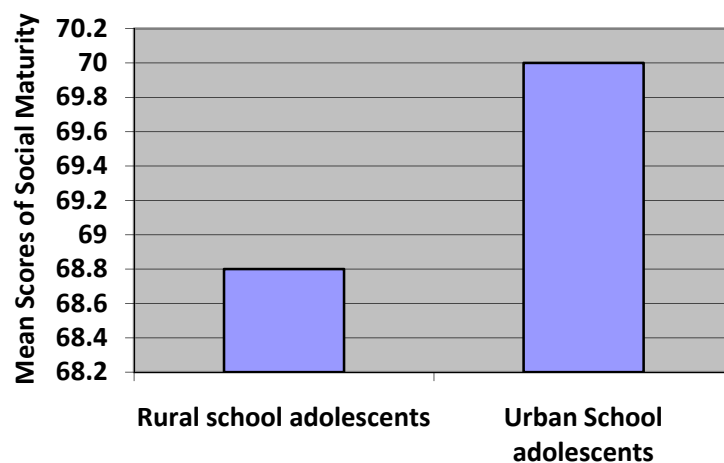


Table II exhibits the mean scores social maturity of adolescents or rural and urban schools.

The mean scores of social maturity of adolescent rural and urban area are 68.8 and 70.0 respectively. S. D. is 31.8 and 30.0 respectively, Hence the obtained t-ratio is 0.12 which is not significant at both the levels i.e. 0.05 and 0.01 level. Thus hypothesis “There exists a significant difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their

area” is rejected. So it is concluded that there is no difference in social maturity of adolescent rural and urban area.

Table III - Comparison of mean scores of social maturity of adolescents of government and private schools

Sr. No.	Sample	Mean	S.D.	S.ED	t-ratio	Level of Significance
1.	Government School adolescents	62.0	27.6	4.46	3.49	**
2.	Private School adolescents	77.6	35.0			

** Significant at both the levels

Graph III : Showing the comparison of mean scores of social maturity of adolescents of government and private schools

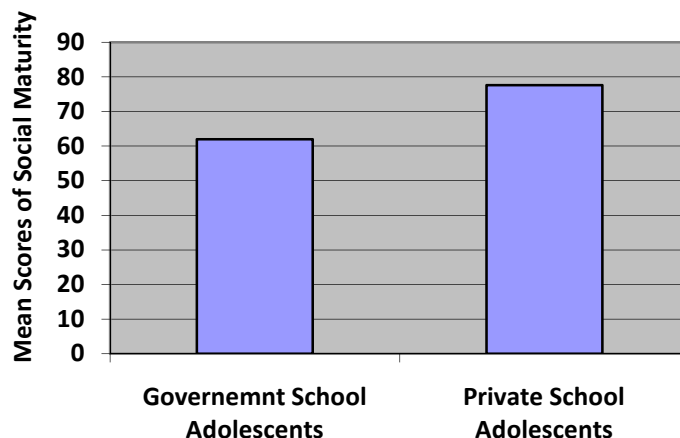


Table III exhibits the mean scores of social maturity of adolescents of government and private schools.

The mean scores of social maturity of adolescent government and private are 62.0 and 77.6 respectively. S. D. is 27.6 and 35.0 respectively; hence the obtained t-ratio is 3.49 which is significant at both the levels i.e. 0.05 and 0.01 level. Thus hypothesis “There exists a significant difference in mean scores of social maturity of adolescents in relation to their type of school” is accepted. So it is concluded that there is a highly significant difference in social maturity of adolescents of government and private schools.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- i. There is no significant difference in social maturity of adolescents' boys and girls.
- ii. There is no significant difference in social maturity of adolescents of rural and urban area.
- iii. There is significant difference in social maturity of adolescents of government and private schools.

CONCLUSION

In the present study the investigator found that there is no significant difference in social maturity of adolescents in relation to their gender and area and it is also found that there is a significant difference in social maturity of adolescents in relation to their type of schools. Adolescents of private schools have high social maturity than the adolescents of government schools.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- i. The study will be helpful to teachers to know the development level of social behaviour among the students.
- ii. It will be helpful for school administrator to organize activities that will lead to develop social responsibilities among students.
- iii. It will help the parents to develop insight for the solution of various social needs and problems of adolescents.

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