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Social Competence among Student Police Cadets and Non-Cadets in Secondary Schools

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Abstract

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This study compares Social competence among Student police cadets and Non-cadets in secondary schools. The sample consists of 800 students drawn from 10 secondary schools of Malappuram and Kozhikode districts of Kerala. The instruments used for the study was Social Competence Scale. The results showed that Student Police Cadets have more Social Competence than Non Cadets. The study also highlights that there is no significant difference between the mean scores of Social Competence among Student Police Cadets with respect to Gender and Locality of institution. Result also revealed that there exist significant difference between the mean scores of Social Competence among Government and Unaided school Student Police Cadets. Government schools Student Police Cadets have a lesser social Competence than aided and unaided school student police cadets.

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Keywords:

Student Police Cadets, Kerala, Secondary School, Social Competence.

Education is considered as one of the most potent instrument of social change and also a significant means to prepare people to adjust to the emerging needs of the society. In a democratic country like India, education plays important role to bring political, social, cultural and emotional change (Agarwal, 2012). The true wealth of our nation lies in its citizen especially in its youth. So the modern education is concerned with the development of the 'Whole man'. For building a developed India apart from resources and human power which we have in abundance, we need young leader or youth who can comment the transformation (Laxman, 2004).

In our society we generally observed that there is a lack of respect towards our culture, religion, moral and social values among the youths. Due to the rapid growth of scientific and sociological development the relation between teacher-students and parent-children are deteriorating. The growth of the nuclear family in the society has influenced in creating problems among youths. During the present decade, speedy erosion of moral, social and spiritual values has been created hurdles in the path of progress of the nation. Today, newspapers, magazines and other news media are flooded with reports of crime, murder, agitations, violence, immorality, rape, corruption, bribery, self-centered egoism, youth unrest, communal violence, cybercrime, etc. Everyone reads such occurrences which have adversely affected the development of knowledge, creative attitude, positive thinking, literature, culture and the formation of well-balanced personality of the future generation.

The objective of education in a country like India which has a glorious heritage and culture in its real sense is not met in our society. Education should educate a student with a value system which is dispensable to live a successful life. A balanced approach towards a student academic career will enhance one's life and make him/her a better contributor to our society, country and human civilization. To function fruitfully and efficiently within the society as individuals one needs to balance and integrate the individual desires and personalities with the requirements which can be both implicit and explicit of the group. In order to achieve this balance, children need to develop certain social competencies, some of which look inward towards themselves and some of which look to the other individuals in the group. Children

need to be able to monitor and control their own emotions and behaviours. Social competence is the foundation upon which expectations for future interaction with others are built, and upon which individual develop perceptions of their own behavior. That is, "Social competence is social success" (Atteli,1990).

With a view to develop social values among the future generation of the nation, our Government is striving for the smooth functioning of various programmes like NCC, NSS, Scouts and Guides and Student Police Cadets project in schools. The Student Police Cadet project (SPC) is a far-sighted youth development programme that facilitates development of today's youth into disciplined, capable and leading citizen of tomorrow through a well-planned school-level training regimen. SPC Project is meant for developing the fundamental virtues of citizenship such as adherence to law, respect for other's rights, empathy for needy sections of the society, commitment towards the betterment of the community among the younger generation (SCERT, 2010). The vision of SPC Project is a humane and just society where citizens respect and follow laws willingly, practice responsible behaviour towards others, demonstrate empathy for weaker sections of society, participate in tackling community issues and resist threats to the natural environment. The project trains high school students to respect the law, practice discipline and civic sense, and develop empathy for vulnerable sections of society. It also strengthens commitment towards family, community, and the environment, enabling them to resist negative tendencies such as substance abuse, deviant behaviour, intolerance, and other social evils. The Project was launched on 2 August 2010 in 127 high schools/higher secondary schools across Kerala. Now the project approximately covers a total of 450 high schools across Kerala.

The need for a school-level intervention viz., Student Police Cadet (SPC) project derives from a combination of philosophic, demographic, sociological and economic factors that are expected to influence the future global standing of our nation. The project comprises a structured two-year training programme to develop students as responsible citizens who manifest respect for the law, civic sense, empathy for vulnerable sections of society, and resistance to social evils as lifelong personal habits. Even though this structured project was being taken by many schools working under various managements, the status of the functioning of SPC is different for different institutions.

In such a situation the investigators made an attempt to find out whether this project inculcate the true spirit of Social Competence among its members.

Objectives

1. To find out whether there exists significant difference in the extent of Social Competence among Student Police Cadets between the subgroups based on, gender, locality and type of management of institution
2. To find out whether there exists significant difference in the extent of Social Competence between Student police cadets and non-cadets in total sample and in subsamples based on gender, locality of the institution and type of management of institution

Participants

The study is conducted on a sample of 800 secondary school students from different schools of Kerala drawn by stratified sampling technique giving due representation to the various strata viz, Gender, Locality of the institution and Type of school management. Out of 800 students, an equal representation to both Student Police Cadets and Non Cadets was ensured.

Instrument

1. Social Competence Scale (Mumthas& Safna,2015) was used. Social Competence Scale was developed giving due representation to items concerning with civic sense, leadership quality, social value and environmental awareness. The scale consists of 58 items and possesses face validity. The reliability coefficient of the scale is 0.87 and this reasonably high reliability coefficient shows that the scale is a reliable instrument to measure the extent of Social Competence among secondary school students.

Results and Discussion

Comparison of mean scores of Social Competence of Student Police Cadets between the relevant sub groups.

The mean scores of Social Competence of Student police cadets were compared with respect to their gender, locale of the institution and type of school management and the details are given in Table 1.

Table 1

Mean, Sd and critical ratio of Social Competence of Student Police Cadets by different category

Group compared	Mean	Std. Deviation	Critical ratio
Male Student Police Cadets(N=200)	158.76	11.74	1.6
Female Student Police Cadets(N=200)	160.48	9.77	
Urban school Student Police Cadets(N=200)	159.11	11.14	0.95
Rural school Student Police Cadets(N=200)	160.13	10.5	
Government school Student Police Cadets(N=134)	155.89	11.14	5.10**
Aided school Student Police Cadets(N=134)	162.27	9.31	
Government school Student Police Cadets(N=134)	155.89	11.14	3.57**
Unaided school Student Police Cadets(N=132)	160.72	10.95	
Aided school Student Police Cadets(N=134)	162.27	9.31	1.24
Unaided school Student Police Cadets(N=132)	160.72	10.95	

** p< .01

The results show that there is no significant difference between the mean scores of Social Competence between the Student Police Cadets with respect to their gender and locality of institution. Both the Aided school Student Police Cadets and Unaided school student police cadets have significantly higher Social Competence than the Government school Student Police Cadets.

Comparison of the mean scores of Social Competence between Student Police Cadets and Non- Cadets in the relevant subgroups

The mean scores of Social Competence between Student Police Cadets and Non- Cadets in the relevant subgroups were compared and the details are given in Table 2.

Table 2

Mean, Sd, and Critical ratio of Social Competence of Student Police Cadets and Non Cadets between the relevant sub groups

Group compared	Mean	Std. Deviation	Critical ratio
Members of Student Police Cadet project(N=400)	159.62	10.82	14.02**
Non -Members of Student Police Cadet project(N=400)	148.19	12.2	
Male Student Police Cadets (N=200)	158.76	11.74	8.79**
Male Non- Student Police Cadets (N=200)	148.24	12.19	
Female Student Police Cadets (N=200)	160.48	9.78	11.15**
Female Non -Student Police Cadets(N=200)	148.14	12.23	
Rural School Student Police Cadets (N=200)	160.13	10.45	11.77**
Rural School Non- Student Police Cadets (N=200)	146.77	12.15	
Urban School Student Police Cadets (N=200)	159.11	11.14	8.17**
Urban School Non -Student Police Cadets (N=200)	149.61	12.11	
Government School Student Police Cadets (N=134)	155.88	11.14	5.81 **
Government School Non -Student Police Cadets (N=134)	147.07	13.56	
Aided School Student Police Cadets (N=134)	162.27	9.31	10.58**
Aided School Non -Student Police Cadets (N=134)	148.54	11.79	
Unaided School Student Police Cadets (N=132)	160.72	10.95	8.66**
Unaided School Non Student Police Cadets (N=132)	148.96	11.1	

**p< .01

While comparing Social competence among the members and non-members of SPC, Table 2 reveals that Student Police Cadets have significantly more Social Competence than non-cadets in the total sample and also in the relevant subgroups with respect to gender, locality and the type of management of the institution .

Conclusion

The major findings of the study revealed that there exists significant difference in the extent of Social Competence between Student Police Cadets and non-cadets in secondary schools. It means that Student Police Cadets have more Social Competence than Non- Cadets. The study also highlights the result that there is no significant difference between the mean scores of Social Competence among Student Police Cadets with respect to their gender and locality of institution. But government school Students Police Cadet have a lesser social competence than aided and unaided school student police cadets.

It is found that SPC programme help the students to develop various kinds of personality traits, leadership quality, social commitment etc . So Government should take necessary steps to propagate the importance of this program and made provision to make all



the students as member of Student Police Cadet Project. The programme should be made mandatory in government, aided and unaided schools too. The Government may recommend that all schools should provide greater opportunities for Student Polices cadets for developing their leadership ability, civic sense, nature awareness etc. It will be better to provide grace marks to the students for motivating them to actively participate in Student Police Cadet Project activities and gradually this programme is to be made compulsory for all students. For having a positive attitude towards Student Police Cadets it is better to provide extra academic coaching to those who are participating in Student Police Cadets. Authority should take keen interest to implement special programs like training, communication games, and other skill developmental activities under Student Police Cadet Project. Curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities should be organized and ensure their participation to develop co-operation and social qualities through SPC.

The school authority should take care to enhance the participation of all students in SPC Project and thereby make them aware of the importance of social competence in day- to-day life.

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