



A study on attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students of Vellore district

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Abstract

In the present study attitude towards democracy scale constructed and validated by Bhuvanewari and Visvanathan (2007) was used. For conducting the study simple random sampling technique has been used in the selection of the sample of as many as 300 higher secondary students in Vellore district. The results found that the level attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students is highly positive attitude. It was also found that there is no significant difference in attitude towards democracy scores with regard to gender, group of study and community.

Keywords: attitude towards democracy, gender, group of study, community and higher secondary students

Introduction

Democracy is more than a set of constitutional rules and procedure that determine how a government functions. In a democracy, government is only one element coexisting in a social fabric of many and varied institutions, political parties, organizations, and associations. This diversity is called pluralism, and it assumes that the many organized groups and institutions in a democratic society do not depend upon government for their existence, legitimacy, or authority. In an authoritarian society, virtually all such organizations would be controlled, licensed, watched, or otherwise accountable to the government. In a democracy, the powers of the government are, by law, clearly defined and sharply limited.

Definition of democracy

Democracy thus means "Power of the People". The following are the definitions of the democracy. Dicey explains "Democracy is a form of government in which the governing body is a comparatively large fraction of the entire nation". Yet the term democracy has gained significance only through the words of president Abraham Lincoln Democracy is a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Objective of the Study

The following are the objectives formulated for the present study.

1. To study the attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students.
2. To study the significance of the difference in the attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
3. To study the significance of the difference in the attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to group of study.
4. To study the significance of the difference in the attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to community.

Hypotheses of the Study

The following were the hypotheses framed from the formulated objectives

1. The attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students is highly positive.
2. There is significant difference in the attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
3. There is significant difference in the attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to group of study.
4. There is significant difference in the attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to community.

Methodology and sample of the study

The normative survey method has been adopted in this study. The simple random sampling technique has been used in the selection was used to collect the data from a sample of 300 higher secondary students in Vellore District of Tamilnadu in India.

Scoring procedure

For this purpose the attitude towards democracy scale is 42 statements is five point scale, the maximum score is 210 and the minimum score is 41.

Analysis and interpretation data

The following statistical techniques have been used in the present study

- (i) Descriptive Analysis and
- (ii) Differential Analysis

The analysis and interpretation are given the following tables

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Attitude towards Democracy of Higher Secondary Students

| Variable | N | Mean | S.D |
|----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|
| Attitude towards Democracy | 300 | 123.42 | 20.29 |

To sum up, the following important conclusion has been reached in respect of the hypothesis formulated under objective 1 of the study. It may be concluded that the attitude towards democracy among the higher secondary students is highly positive. Hence, it can be concluded that higher

secondary students have more positive attitude towards democracy. This is very much healthy trend for the developing nation like India. Hence the research hypothesis No. 1 is accepted.

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation scores of attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to gender

| Variable | Sub-Samples | N | M | SD | 't' value | Level of Significance at 0.05 level |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----|--------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Attitude Towards Democracy | Boys | 116 | 125.68 | 17.27 | 1.54 | Not Significant |
| | Girls | 184 | 121.99 | 21.90 | | |

It is found from table 2, that the 't' value 1.54 of attitude towards democracy is found to be not significant. Hence the research hypothesis No.2 is rejected and it is concluded that

boys and girls students do not differ significantly in their attitude towards democracy.

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation scores of attitude towards democracy of higher secondary students with regard to group of study

| Variable | Sub-Samples | N | M | SD | 't' value | Level of Significance at 0.05 level |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----|--------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Attitude Towards Democracy | Arts | 135 | 124.48 | 24.49 | 0.82 | Not Significant |
| | Science | 165 | 122.55 | 16.08 | | |

It is found from table 3, that the 't' value 0.82 of attitude towards democracy is found to be not significant. Hence the research hypothesis No.3 is rejected and it is concluded that

students who study arts and science group do not differ significantly in their attitude towards democracy.

Table 4: ANOVA for the attitude towards democracy of students belonging to different communities

| Variable | Sub-Samples | N | M | SD | 'F' value | Level of Significance at 0.05 level |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----|--------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Attitude Towards Democracy | BC | 111 | 122.35 | 19.43 | 1.37 | Not Significant |
| | MBC | 95 | 126.25 | 21.14 | | |
| | SC/ST | 94 | 121.82 | 20.32 | | |

A close look at table 6 indicates that the 'F' value 1.37 of attitude towards democracy is not significant. The research hypothesis No.4 is rejected. Hence it is concluded that the difference in the level of attitude towards democracy among the four different communities of higher secondary students is not significant, since the 'F' value is lower than the table value.

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Findings of the study

1. Higher secondary students have more positive attitude towards democracy.
2. Boys and girls students do not differ significantly in their attitude towards democracy.
3. Arts and science group do not differ significantly in their attitude towards democracy.
4. Attitude towards democracy among the four different communities of higher secondary students is not significant.

Conclusion

The attitude towards democracy among the higher secondary students is highly positive. Boys, Girls, Arts group, Science Group, BC, MBC and SC/ST community higher secondary students do not differ significantly in their attitude towards democracy.

References

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