

Higher secondary students' life satisfaction – A study based on Gender and Residential Status of Parents.

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Date of Submission: 20-07-2023

Date of Acceptance: 30-07-2023

Abstract

The study concentrated on the life satisfaction of a random group of students at higher secondary level. Two hundred and twenty students from higher secondary schools were taken to measure their life satisfaction under eleven domains. The study reveals that life satisfaction of 13.64% higher secondary students were above in average. 72.73% students fell under average and 13.64% were below average in their life satisfaction. The study further shown a significant difference in life satisfaction of boys and girls but no significant difference in life satisfaction based on residential status of parents.

Key words.

Life satisfaction and residential status.

Students' life satisfaction and their academic achievements are very much interrelated. In the modern world little attention is given on students' life satisfaction and emotional well-being. One of the serious factor which affect the under achievers is their poor satisfaction in life. So the role of educators is to understand the level of students' life satisfaction and emotional well-being and help students to reap academic gains.

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Life satisfaction.

An overall assessment of feelings and attitudes about one's life at a particular point in time ranging from negative to positive (Buetell, 2006).

Life satisfaction is the degree to which a person positively evaluate the overall quality of his/her life as a whole. In other words, how much the person likes the life he/she leads

(Ruut Veenhoven. 1996).

Residential status

Residential status is a term coined under Income Tax Act 1961. An individual who is a citizen of India can be a Resident and Non Resident. Residential status of a person depends upon the territorial connections of the person with this country i.e., for how many days he has physically stayed in India. A Non Resident is an Indian citizen who resides in India for less than 182 days during the course of preceding financial year.

Studies reveal that the mental state of students' is positively correlated with motivation and academic achievement. Students' with good emotional well-being and better in life satisfaction seem to achieve at greater levels than those who are average and below average in life satisfaction. (Aguilar, 2015; Corradino and Forgarty, 2016; Gruener, 2011). Studies conducted by Huebner, 2010 proved a strong connection between students' life satisfaction and academic achievement. According to Corradino and Forgarty, 2016, students' positive emotions to academic achievement found that joy, hope and pride etc. are positively correlate with students' academic self-efficacy, academic interest and effort and overall achievement. Life satisfaction measures are generally subjective or based on the variable that an individual finds personally important in their own life (Gilbert, 2009).

Need and significance

The purpose of the study is to find out the level of students' life satisfaction at Higher Secondary level and compare their level of life satisfaction based on gender and residential status of parents. Students' participated in this study largely from different demographic back grounds including socio economic status of parents, educational and residential status of their parents. Residential status of parents mean whether they are living with students in their native country or living abroad for employment or business without students. In our country, especially in Kerala, a significant number of parents either father, mother or both working abroad. Majority of

Children of such parents carrying a life as they like and it results problems in their emotional well-being and academic life. If it is possible to find out the life satisfaction of such students and compare with others will help educators to develop suitable strategies to increase their achievement in academic and personal lives of students. Students with poor life satisfaction and emotional well-being report risk behaviors like alcohol and drug addiction, sex and violence related behavior, poor relation with parents and friends and tendency to suicide.

Objectives

1. To find out the level of life satisfaction of Higher Secondary Students.
2. To find out the life satisfaction score of Higher Secondary Students based on gender and residential status of parents.
3. To compare the life satisfaction score of Higher Secondary Students based on gender and residential status of parents.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in life satisfaction among Higher Secondary Students.
2. There is no significant difference in students life satisfaction score between male and female.
3. There is no significant difference in life satisfaction score between students based on residential status of parents.

Methodology

Sample

The study conducted on students' life satisfaction at higher secondary level. Two hundred and twenty students from different higher secondary schools is being taken randomly to measure their life satisfaction under eleven domains. The sample consisting of 106 male students and 114 female students. Out of the total sample 78 students from non-resident parents' (NRI) family and 142 from non non-residential (Non NRI) family.

Tool

Students' life satisfaction scale consisting 37 questions under 11 domains prepared and standardised by the researcher and sored using five point scale.

Statistical techniques

Mean and standard deviation is used for percentage analysis and test of significance (t) is used for comparison of sub samples. Mode, median, skeweness and kurtosis are also used for measuring normality of samples.

Analysis and interpretation.

Higher secondary student's life satisfaction level shown by the study are given below.

Satisfaction level of higher secondary students towards life.

Life satisfaction level of higher secondary students is shown in the given table.

Life satisfaction level	Number of students	percentage
Above average	30	13.64
average	160	72.72
Below average	30	13.64
total	220	100

The table shows that the life satisfaction of 13.64 percentage higher secondary students have above average satisfaction in life and 13.64 percentage of higher secondary students have below average satisfaction in life. 72.72 percentage higher secondary students have average satisfaction in life considering mean 148.89 and standard deviation 10.55 of the total sample.

Gender difference in life satisfaction.

The difference in life satisfaction of higher secondary students between boys and girls is as the following.

Sub sample	N	mean	SD	t-value	Level of significance
Boys	106	145.91	10.87	4.168	0.01
Girls	114	151.67	9.53		
Total	220				

The obtained t-value is 4.168. It shows that there exists a significant difference between boys and girls in life satisfaction at higher secondary level. The life satisfaction score of girls (151.67) is higher than that of boys (145.91).

Difference in life satisfaction based on residential status of parents.

The difference in students life satisfaction in life based on residential status of their parents is given below.

Sub sample	N	mean	SD	t-value	Level of significance
NRI	78	149.41	11.89	0.509	NS
Non NRI	142	148.61	9.82		

The above table reveals that the calculated value $t=0.509$ is less than the tabled value (1.96) at .05 level. So there is no significant difference between students of NRI and Non NRI parents, in their satisfaction in life. The mean score of NRI (149.41) is slight higher than Non NRI (148.61) parent's higher secondary students.

Major findings.

1. The percentage distribution of 220 samples according to life satisfaction reveals that 13.64%, 72.72% and 13.64% of higher secondary students show above average, average and below average in their life satisfaction.
2. The comparison of mean score based on gender shows significant difference in life satisfaction. The mean score and SD of boys are 145.91 and 10.87 and for girls 151.67 and 9.53 respectively. The t-value (4.168) is significant at .01 level. While comparing life satisfaction based on gender, girl students have higher satisfaction in life than boys.
3. The comparison of mean score based on residential status of parents' show no significant difference in life satisfaction. The mean score and SD of NRI are 149.41 and 11.89 and for Non NRI 148.61 and 9.82 respectively. The t-value (0.509) is not significant at .05 level. While comparing life satisfaction based on residential status of parents, higher secondary students' life satisfaction does not affect the residential status of their parents.

Educational implications of the study.

The present study is an attempt to explore the life satisfaction among higher secondary students. The study shows that the life satisfaction of 13.64% higher secondary students lies below average and 72.73% of students fall under average life satisfaction. The teachers and educators must consider this in serious because life satisfaction of students strongly related to their academic performance. It is reasonable to believe that emotional well-being is very much needed to be more productive. Students with poor life satisfaction and emotional well-being report personality and discipline problems. Besides this such students show lower self-efficacy and self-esteem. They have lower goal orientation motive also. Therefore knowledge of life satisfaction level of students help the teachers and policy makers to develop suitable strategies to motivate, develop and make the students more productive and responsible to academic and social matters to a great extent.

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