

Social Competence of Secondary School Students in Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya

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Abstract: Social competence is the ability of the individual to adjust comfortably with the society. The study attempts to (a) study the Social Competence of Secondary School Students (b) compare the Social Competence of Secondary School Student between (i) Male and Female (ii) Government, Government Aided and Private Secondary School Students. The study found that majority of the secondary students has average level of Social Competence in all categories. There is no significant difference between male and female Secondary School Student, and between Government, Government aided and Private Secondary categories. There is no significant difference between male and female Secondary School.

Keywords: Social Competence, Secondary School student.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social Competence is a very broad term which encompasses many other terms like social skills. Social competence is defined as the ability to handle social interactions effectively. In other words, social competence refers to getting along well with others, being able to form and maintain close relationships, and responding in adaptive ways in social settings (Orpinas, 2010). The desire to learn and adjust played a very important role in the individual's progress in Social Competence. Each individual has his/her own dilemma, problems and difficulties but at the same time, it is highly required that they too learn and be on the foot of the other people in the society. Social Competence is a complex phenomenon. It involves many social activities in the families as well as in the society. Besides, social customs and beliefs too differ from one society to another. Socially competent adolescents have a sense of belonging, are valued, and are given opportunities to contribute to society (Gullotta, 1990).

The review of related literature reported the following findings: LaFreniere and Dumas (1996) reported that boys were rated substantially lower on Social Competence than girls. Further, Annamalai (2015) found majority of students have low level of Social Competence, that Female higher secondary school students (M=163.41) are found to be better than male students (M=153.48) in their social competence. Students studying in private school (M=155.35) have better social competence than Government school students (M=152.56) and Aided schools (M=135.55). Also, Annamalai found that there is a significant difference between male and female students, no significant difference between students studying in Government and Aided schools, there is a significant difference between students studying in Government and Private schools, and that there is a significant difference between students of Private and Aided schools.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives guide the investigator so that he may not be led astray. In the present study, the objectives are the following:

1. To study the Social Competence of Secondary School Students.
2. To compare the Social Competence of Secondary School Student between (i) Male and Female (ii) Government, Government Aided and Private Secondary School Students.

Null Hypothesis:

Ho1: There is no significant difference in Social Competence between (i) Male and (ii) Female Secondary School Students

Ho2: There is no significant difference in Social Competence between (i) Government (ii) Government Aided, and (iii) Private Secondary School Students

2. METHODOLOGY**Population and Sample:**

The population of the present study are 2,647 secondary school students (from 2 government schools, 29 Government aided schools, and 32 private schools) of Ri-Bhoi district. While, the sample of the study are 200 secondary school students drawn from 14 schools (2 government schools, 6 Government aided schools, and 6 private schools). From the 200 schools students the numbers of male and female students are 100 each. Again, from the 200 schools students the numbers of Government, Government aided and Private school students are 32, 84 and 84 respectively.

Tools:

The tool used in the study is the Social Competence Scale (SCS) developed by V.P. Sharma, Prabha Shukhla and Kiran Shukhla.

Statistical Technique:

The Statistical techniques used in the study are percentage, descriptive statistics and t-test.

3. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Analysis of Objective 1: To study the Social Competence of Secondary School Students. The levels of Secondary School Students are as follows:

Table 1: Social Competence of (i) Overall (ii) Male students (iii) Female students (iii) Government students (iv) Government Aided students and (v) Private students

Social Competence	Score	Frequency	Percentage	Level
Overall students	177 - 250	32	16.00	High
	150 - 176	141	70.50	Average
	0 - 149	27	13.50	Low
	Total	200	100%	
Male students	177 - 250	18	18.00	High
	150 - 176	68	68.00	Average
	0 - 149	14	14.00	Low
	Total	100	100%	
Female students	177 - 250	14	14.00	High
	150 - 176	73	73.00	Average
	0 - 149	13	13.00	Low
	Total	100	100%	
Government school students	177 - 250	5	15.62	High
	150 - 176	23	71.88	Average
	0 - 149	4	12.50	Low
	Total	32	100%	
Government Aided school students	177 - 250	16	19.05	High
	150 - 176	58	69.05	Average
	0 - 149	10	11.90	Low

	Total	84	100%	
Private school students	177 - 250	11	13.09	High
	150 - 176	60	71.43	Average
	0 - 149	13	15.48	Low
	Total	84	100%	

The Table 1 above indicated that majority of Secondary School Students (SSS) have an average level of Social Competence in all categories, i.e. Overall SSS with 70.50%, Male SSS with 68.00%, Government SSS with 71.88%, Government Aided SSS with 69.05%, and Private SSS with 71.43%.

The descriptive statistics in Social Competence of (i) Overall SSS (ii) Male SSS (iii) Female SSS (iii) Government SSS (iv) Government Aided SSS and (v) Private SSS are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics in Social Competence of (i) Overall SSS (ii) Male SSS (iii) Female SSS (iii) Government SSS (iv) Government Aided SSS and (v) Private SSS

Measure	Gender	N	M	SD
Social Competence	Overall	200	163.34	13.721
	Male	100	163.53	14.744
	Female	100	163.15	12.688
	Government SSS	32	163.91	12.327
	Government Aided SSS	84	164.39	14.109
	Private SSS	84	162.07	13.882

On observing Table 2, it may be interpreted that in Social Competence, the Overall SSS has $M = 163.34$ ($SD = 13.721$, $n = 200$), Male SSS has $M = 163.53$ ($SD = 14.744$, $n = 100$), Female SSS has $M = 163.15$ ($SD = 12.688$, $n = 100$), Government SSS has $M = 163.91$ ($SD = 12.327$, $n = 32$), Government Aided SSS has $M = 164.39$ ($SD = 14.109$, $n = 84$), and Private SSS has $M = 162.07$ ($SD = 13.882$, $n = 84$).

Analysis of Objective 2: To compare the Social Competence of Secondary School Student between (i) Male and Female SSS (ii) Government, Government Aided and Private SSS.

The difference in Social Competence between (i) Male and Female SSS is seen in Table 3. The Null Hypothesis stated is, H_0 : There is no significant difference in Social Competence between (i) Male and Female Secondary School Students

Table 3: Difference in Social Competence between Male and Female SSS

Measure	Gender	N	M	SD	df	t	Sig.
Social Competence	Male	100	163.53	14.744	198	.195	.875
	Female	100	163.15	12.688			

The t-test in the Table 3 reflected that there is no significant difference in Social Competence between Male and Female SSS. The result of the table is given below:

An independent sample t-test showed the difference in Social Competence between Male SSS ($n = 100$, $M = 163.53$, $SD = 14.744$) and Female SSS ($n = 89$, $M = 163.15$, $SD = 12.688$) was not statistically significant, $t(198) = .195$, $p = .875$. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected at .05 level.

The difference in Social Competence between (ii) Government, Government Aided and Private SSS is shown in Table 4. The Null Hypothesis stated is H_0 : There is no significant difference in Social Competence between (i) Government (ii) Government Aided, and (iii) Private Secondary School Students

Table 4: Difference in Social Competence between Government, Government Aided and Private SSS

Measure	Gender	N	M	SD	df	t	Sig.
Social Competence	Government and Government Aided SSS	32	163.91	12.327	114	.172	.864
		84	164.39	14.109			
	Government and Private SSS	32	163.91	12.327	114	.655	.514

		84	162.07	13.882			
	Government Aided and Private SSS	84	164.39	14.109	166	1.075	.284
		84	162.07	13.882			

The t-test in the Table 4 reflected that there is no significant difference in Social Competence between Government, Government Aided and Private SSS. The result of the table is given below:

An independent sample t-test showed the difference in Social Competence between Government SSS ($n = 32$, $M = 163.91$, $SD = 12.327$) and Government Aided SSS ($n = 84$, $M = 164.39$, $SD = 14.109$) were not statistically significant, $t(114) = .172$, $p = .864$. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected at .05 level.

An independent sample t-test showed the difference in Social Competence between Government SSS ($n = 32$, $M = 163.91$, $SD = 12.327$) and Private SSS ($n = 84$, $M = 162.07$, $SD = 13.882$) were not statistically significant, $t(114) = .655$, $p = .514$. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected at .05 level.

An independent sample t-test showed the difference in Social Competence between Government Aided SSS ($n = 84$, $M = 164.39$, $SD = 14.109$) and Private SSS ($n = 84$, $M = 162.07$, $SD = 13.882$) were not statistically significant, $t(198) = 1.075$, $p = .284$. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected at .05 level.

4. DISCUSSION

Findings of the study showed that majority of students have average Social Competence which is contrast to the findings of Annamalai (2015) where majority of students have low level of Social Competence. The present study found that Social Competence Mean is highest in Government Aided SSS ($M = 164.39$) and lowest in Private SSS ($M = 162.07$), Social Competence of Female SSS ($M = 163.15$) is lower than Male SSS ($M = 163.53$). LaFreniere and Dumas (1996) and Annamalai (2015) found that Female students have higher Mean than Male students. The findings of the present study is that there is no significant difference in Social Competence between Male and Female SSS, whereas Annamalai found that there is significant difference between male and female students. Also, the present study found no significant difference in Social Competence between Government and Government Aided SSS, between Government and Private SSS, and between Government Aided and Private SSS, while Annamalai found that no significant difference exist between students studying in Government and Aided schools, that there is a significant difference between students studying in Government and Private schools, and that there is a significant difference between students of Private and Aided schools.

5. CONCLUSION

With the research findings of the present study, it may be concluded that there is a need to raise the level of Social Competence of the students for their own and the country fruitful future. This is a call and a joint venture for teachers, parents and the students themselves.

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