

ADOLESCENTS SOCIAL MATURITY – A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

ANUSHA PUNIA

Research Scholar, Department of Human Development and Family Studies,
College of Home Science, CCS HAU, Hisar, Haryana, India

ABSTRACT

Social maturity is the ability to function in an appropriate responsible manner. As adolescence is the age for an individual to express mature behavior. Social maturity is an essential aspect for the individual as well as society. Results of present study depict that (50.0%) of females of B. Sc. 1st year were in medium range of work orientation. (63.3%) of females of B. Sc. 3rd year were in medium range of self-direction. Independent variables i.e. age, education, caste, occupation had non-significant correlation but only occupation is negatively correlated with social maturity while age, education, caste is positively correlated. Income is significant at 0.05 levels.

KEYWORDS: Adolescence, Social, Maturity

INTRODUCTION

Social maturity is used to measure how well a person fits into the actions and expectations of the society. A person is said to be socially mature if he is skilled, self directed and has ability to take stress, communicate, cooperate, tolerate and openness to change. Social maturity is very essential for proper adjustment in the society and is very important aspect on which the future of the child depends. Socially mature individual has the capability to make adjustment with himself and with his environments and circumstances.

Social maturity is defined as a level of social skills and awareness that an individual has achieved relative to particular norms related to an age group (Raj, 2011). It is a measure of the development competence of an individual with regard to interpersonal relations, behaviour appropriateness, social problem solving and judgment. Social responsibility, also a sub-trait of social maturity, defined as adherence to social rules and role expectations. Social maturity is a term commonly used in two ways, with reference to the behavior that conforms to the standards and expectations of the adults and secondly, with reference to the behavior that is appropriate to the age of the individual under observation. Thus, the social maturation permits more detailed perception of the social environment which helps adolescents to influence the social circumstances and develop stable patterns of social behaviour (Bretsch, 2008).

Social maturity is a personal commitment each individual must make as the attitude that will influence his/her daily lives. Individuals can opt for the socially immature attitude of self-centeredness or they can opt for the socially mature attitude of genuine concern for the total well-being of each other. The very informal atmosphere of self-help groups where the individuals discuss and share their problems and their achievements with each other within the framework of caring and sharing without the fear of being exploited (Dilts, 2013).

Lawrence and Jesudoss (2011) studied relationship between Social Maturity and Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School Students. From his study it is inferred that girls are found to have more Social Maturity and

Academic Achievement than boys, it is proved that girls attain maturity faster than the boys.

Singh *et al.* (2013) studied on Gender on Social and Emotional Maturity of Senior School Adolescents. The study revealed that girls scored significantly higher on the social adequacy component of social maturity.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

Participants of the present study were taken on a purposive basis from College of Home Science in Hisar city of Haryana state. A total of 60 females' students were taken in the study among them there were 30 adolescents from B.Sc. 1st year and 30 adolescents from B.Sc. 3rd year, their age ranged from 16 to 21 years.

Instrumentation

The selected adolescents were assessed for their social maturity by using standardized Rao's Social Maturity Scale (RSMS) (Rao, 1998). The scale measures Social Maturity along three dimensions: Personal Adequacy (includes components like work orientation, self-direction and ability to take stress), interpersonal adequacy (includes components like communication, enlightened trust, and cooperation), and social adequacy (includes components like social commitment, social tolerance, and openness to change).

Analysis of Data

Descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, correlation was used to draw meaningful inferences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Distribution of Adolescents on Social Maturity as Per Obtained Scores. (n=60)

S. No.	Social Maturity Aspects	B. Sc. 1 st year f (%) (n=30)		B. Sc. 3 rd year f (%) (n=30)		Total f (%) (n=60)
1.	Personal Adequacy	Range	Frequency (%)	Range	Frequency (%)	
	(i) WO	Low (22 – 26)	5 (16.6)	(22 – 27)	6 (20.0)	11 (18.3)
		Medium (27-31)	15 (50.0)	(28 – 33)	12 (40.0)	27 (45.0)
		High (32 – 37)	10 (33.3)	(34 – 38)	12 (40.0)	22 (36.6)
	(ii) SD	Low (16 – 21)	5 (16.6)	(19 – 23)	5 (16.6)	10 (16.6)
		Medium (22 – 27)	15 (50.0)	(24 – 28)	19 (63.3)	34 (56.6)
		High (28 – 33)	10 (33.3)	(29 – 33)	6 (20.0)	16 (26.6)
	(iii) AS	Low (12 – 14)	2 (6.6)	(15 – 17)	10 (33.3)	12 (20.0)
		Medium (15-18)	17 (56.6)	(18 – 20)	13 (43.3)	30 (50.0)
		High (19 – 24)	11 (36.6)	(21 – 24)	8 (26.6)	19 (31.6)
2.	Inter-Personal Adequacy	Range	Frequency (%)	Range	Frequency (%)	
	(i) CM	Low (19 – 23)	1 (3.3)	(26 – 29)	6 (20.0)	7 (11.6)
		Medium (24 – 29)	10 (33.3)	(30 – 33)	15 (50.0)	25 (41.6)
		High (30 – 35)	19 (63.3)	(34 – 37)	9 (30.0)	28 (46.6)
	(ii) ET	Low (18 – 22)	3 (10.0)	(23 – 26)	25 (83.3)	28 (46.6)
		Medium (23 – 27)	22 (73.3)	(27 – 31)	3 (10.0)	25 (41.6)
		High (28 – 32)	5 (16.6)	(32 – 36)	2 (6.6)	7 (11.6)
	(iii) CO	Low (15 – 18)	9 (30.0)	(15 – 19)	14 (46.6)	23 (38.3)
		Medium (19 – 23)	18 (60.0)	(20 – 24)	14 (46.6)	32 (53.3)
		High (24 – 28)	3 (10.0)	(25 – 30)	2 (6.6)	5 (8.3)
3.	Social Adequacy	Range	Frequency (%)	Range	Frequency (%)	
	(i) SC	Low (20 – 25)	4 (13.3)	(23 – 27)	13 (43.3)	17 (28.3)
		Medium (26 – 31)	15 (50.0)	(28 – 33)	12 (40.0)	27 (45.0)
		High (32 – 39)	11 (36.6)	(24 – 39)	5 (16.6)	16 (26.6)
	(ii) ST	Low (19 – 23)	10 (33.3)	(20 – 23)	4 (13.3)	14 (23.3)
		Medium (24 – 27)	16 (53.3)	(24 – 27)	13 (43.3)	29 (48.3)
		High (28 – 32)	4 (13.3)	(28 – 31)	13 (43.3)	17 (28.3)
	(iii) OC	Low (14 – 18)	6 (20.0)	(18 – 20)	2 (6.6)	8 (13.3)
		Medium (19 – 22)	5 (16.6)	(21 – 23)	11 (36.6)	16 (26.6)
		High (23 – 27)	19 (63.3)	(24 – 27)	17 (56.6)	36 (60.0)

Data in table 1 further revealed that slightly higher percentage (50.0%) of females of B. Sc. 1st year were in medium range of work orientation against 40.0 per cent of females of B. Sc. 3rd year. A good percentage of females of B. Sc. 3rd year (40.0%) and females of B. Sc. 1st year (33.3%) also fall in high range of work orientation.

Higher percentage (63.3%) of females of B. Sc. 3rd year was in medium range of self-direction against 50.0 per cent of females of B. Sc. 1st year.

Results with regard to ability to take stress (AS) the percentage of B. Sc. 1st year students was higher (56.6%) than B. Sc. 3rd year students (43.3%).

Slightly higher percentage (63.3%) of students of B. Sc. 1st year was in high range of communication against 30.0 per cent of B. Sc. 3rd year students. However, 50.0 per cent of 3rd year students fall in medium level of communication.

A good percentage of females of B. Sc. 1st year (73.3%) fall in medium range of enlightened trust and (83.3%) of B. Sc. 3rd year fall in low range of enlightened trust.

In cooperation, 60.0 per cent females of B. Sc. 1st year fall in medium range while females of B. Sc. 3rd year (46.6%) fall in medium and low range.

Table also depicts data about social adequacy. In this, three aspects were taken – social commitment, social tolerance and openness to change. A good percentage of B. Sc. 1st year females (50.0%) were in medium range of social commitment and females of B. Sc. 3rd year (43.3%) fall in low range of social commitment.

53.3 per cent of B. Sc. 1st year females were on medium range of social tolerance against 43.3 per cent of B. Sc. 3rd year was in medium and high range.

Slightly higher percentage (63.3%) of female's of B. Sc. 1st year against 56.6 per cent of B. Sc. 3rd year was in high range of openness to change.

Table 2: Correlation of Social Maturity with Personal Profile of Respondents (n=60)

S. No.	Social Maturity Aspects	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation	Income
1.	Personal Adequacy	-0.001	0.156	0.144	0.015	0.235
2.	Inter-personal Adequacy	0.048	0.185	0.045	-0.004	0.245
3.	Social Adequacy	0.029	0.150	0.107	-0.170	0.122

Correlation of adolescents' social maturity aspects with personal variables of adolescents has been presented in table 2.

It is evident from the data that social maturity of adolescents had non-significant correlation with personal variables of adolescents (age, education, caste, occupation, income) but are negatively correlated.

Age of adolescents was negatively correlated with personal adequacy which shows with increase in age personal adequacy will go on decreasing but age is positively correlated with inter- personal adequacy and social adequacy.

Further positive correlation between caste and educational level of adolescents which shows that highly educated adolescents had high social maturity.

Income of family is positively correlated with social maturity aspects. Occupation of family is positively

correlated with personal adequacy but negatively correlated with inter- personal adequacy and social adequacy.

Table 3: Correlation of Social Maturity (n=60)

Social Maturity	Age	Education	Caste	Occupation	Income
Social Maturity	0.030	0.211	0.135	-0.072	0.258*

*Correlation is significant at 0.05 levels (2-tailed)

Results presented in table 3 revealed that age, education, caste, occupation had non- significant correlation but only occupation is negatively correlated with social maturity while age, education, caste is positively correlated. Income is significant at 0.05 levels.

CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the data following conclusions have been drawn:

- Female students of first year have good work orientation, ability to take stress, communication, cooperation, social commitment, social tolerance, openness to change.
- Females of third year also have good self-direction.
- There is –ve correlation in age of adolescents with personal adequacy but + ve correlation between age of adolescents and inter-personal adequacy, social adequacy.

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