



A STUDY ON POLITICAL AWARENESS OF UNDER GRADUATE LEARNERS BASED ON CERTAIN PRESAGE VARIABLES

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INTRODUCTION

Political Awareness referred to the knowledge about political phenomena. Political process is a key concept in understanding the political system. Lack of political awareness and passivity of general masses make the political system irresponsible and ultimately non functioning. Nature of perceptions and evaluations of the voter towards objects of political world such as parties, issues, leaders and candidates, in a sense, can be regarded as end result of a process of complex working of these factors and forces within the individual. In understanding the voting behavior of individual, these perceptions, evaluations and attitudes are of great significance: firstly, because their empirical ascertainment is the only way of getting at the motivations of individuals who have voted in a particular way, and secondly, they immediately precede the voting act and in this sense are related to it.

If one is to know why an individual voted as he did, as a part of explanation one can know what he perceived, how much did he perceive, and what was the manner in which he appraised what he perceived. These questions relate to substantive, quantitative and qualitative dimensions of what one can mean "Political Awareness". The substantive aspect examines the voters' awareness of parties, issues and political leaders. The quantitative dimension relating to the size of image is as important as affecting the range of choices. For example, the fact that a voter knows only about the Congress Party, its leaders and candidates may be the reason why he or she voted for the Congress because others did not have a chance to enter in this choice making process at all. It is the qualitative dimension, which is important more than the quantity of awareness in explaining the posture of voter in preferring one party to the other. The available research literature shows a number of variables which may tend to affect political awareness levels. This research as indicated earlier shows time

and educational attainment is probably the most important factor in determining a person's political knowledge.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The title of the study is "A study on Political Awareness among undergraduate learners based on certain presage variables"

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE STUDY

Political Awareness: The knowledge and understanding on electorates of political institutions like government, political parties, legislatures, political forces and political mechanisms that operate in democracy and awareness on local politics, observation, attitudes and opinion on national politics and administration and their role as a citizen are defined as political awareness in the present study. In the present investigation, it is measured by the Political Awareness Questionnaire, constructed and validated by the investigator.

Undergraduate learners: It refers to the students studying in graduation courses, leading to graduation in Arts, Science, Medicine, Law and Engineering streams.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

In a democratic society, people from associations with pressure groups and interest groups with like-minded people are having common interests, because no man can be extremely self-sufficient. Therefore a person must get others in their interest groups, pressure groups, business organizations or any other organization that secure their interests. Because these organizations or interest groups have ample strength to generate public opinion, so policy makers cannot over look their suggestions. Now our main concentration is that which are the basic necessities to form these pressure groups and interest groups and answer of this question comes to over gray matter abruptly is that political awareness. This is the main cause that political awareness assumes significance and it could also be helpful for a splendid democracy, because with the help of political awareness, leaders and politicians can made accountable. Students of today are the leaders of tomorrow. So, they must be politically aware and know that when to support and when to oppose the system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives have been set in the present study.

- To assess the level of political awareness of the undergraduate learners.

- To find out the significant differences if any, on political awareness among undergraduate learners with respect to certain demographic variables such as gender, type of colleges and locality of the learners.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following hypotheses have been framed in the present investigation.

1. The level of Political Awareness of Undergraduate Learners is average in nature.
2. There is no significant difference on political awareness among undergraduate learners with respect to gender.
3. There is no significant differences on political awareness among undergraduate learners with respect to type of colleges
4. There is no significant difference on political awareness among undergraduate learners with respect to locality of the learners.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

For the present study, the investigator adopted the survey method. Survey research is the most widely used non-experimental type of educational research.

Population and Sample

The population for the present study consists of students of Medicine, Engineering, Law, Arts and Science Colleges. The investigator used simple random sampling method as the sampling technique. The investigator collected 1196 samples from various colleges.

Tools used

To collect the pertinent data for the present investigation, the Investigator had developed the Political Awareness Questionnaire (2014) for data collection.

Analysis of Data:

The collected data are analyzed using the relevant statistical procedures, the details of which are given in the following tables.

Hypothesis-1

The level of Political Awareness of the undergraduate learners is average in nature.

Table 1 Showing the distribution of low, average and high Political Awareness groups in the sample

Variable	Low		Average		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Political Awareness	305	25.5	554	46.3	337	28.2

From the above table, it is found that 46.3 % of undergraduate learners have average level Political Awareness; the high and low political awareness groups are almost in equal size, suggesting that the scores in the sample are more or less normally distributed. Hence, the above hypothesis-1 stating that, “The level of Political Awareness of Undergraduate learners is average in nature” is accepted.

Hypothesis-2

There is no significant difference between the mean scores of Political Awareness among undergraduate learners with regard to Gender.

Table 2 Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Male and Female in their Political Awareness

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	‘t’ Value	Level of Significance
Political Awareness	Male	682	62.64	13.011	3.189	0.01
	Female	514	60.28	12.200		

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference between undergraduate Male and Female learners in their Political Awareness. Hence, the above hypothesis-2 “There is no significant difference between the mean scores of Political Awareness among undergraduate learners with regard to Gender.” is rejected.

Hypothesis-3

There is no significant difference among the Undergraduate Learners studying in Arts, Science, Engineering, Medical and Law colleges in their Political Awareness.

Table 3 Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Undergraduate Learners studying in Arts, Science, Engineering, Medical and Law colleges in their Political Awareness

Variable	Type of Colleges	N	Mean	SSb	SSw	'F' Value	Level of Significance
Political Awareness	Arts	209	60.67				
	Science	208	59.37				
	Engineering	193	59.38	6262.800	187016.6	9.971	0.05
	Medical	187	60.85				
	Law	399	64.76				

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference between the Undergraduate Learners studying in Arts, Science, Engineering, Medical and Law colleges in their Political Awareness. Hence, the formulated hypothesis-3 "There is no significant difference among the Undergraduate Learners studying in Arts, Science, Engineering, Medical and Law colleges in their Political Awareness." is rejected.

Hypothesis-4

There is no significant difference between the Undergraduate Learners residing in Rural and Urban areas in their Political Awareness.

Table 4 Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Undergraduate Learners residing in Rural and Urban areas in their Political Awareness

Variable	Locality	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of Significance
Political Awareness	Rural	441	60.16	12.327	3.064	0.05
	Urban	755	62.49	12.871		

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference between the Undergraduate Learners residing in Rural and Urban areas in their Political Awareness. Hence, the formulated hypothesis-4 "There is no significant difference between the Undergraduate Learners residing in Rural and Urban areas in their Political Awareness." is rejected.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 46.3 % of undergraduate learners have average level Political Awareness.
- Male undergraduate learners are found to be higher than their counterparts in their political awareness.
- The undergraduate learners studying in law colleges are found to be higher than the medical college students, followed by arts, engineering and science undergraduate learners in their political awareness.
- The undergraduate learners residing in urban are found to be higher than the undergraduate learners residing in rural in their political awareness.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

From the present investigation, as it is evident that male undergraduate have significantly higher political awareness than their counter parts, female students may be encourages to develop and share their own opinions about political issues and engage in debate, discussion and critique of those issues in the college campus. All undergraduate learners except law students may be encouraged to participate actively in conversations and decisions about the current political phenomenon and make them good citizens of the country. Undergraduate learners from rural areas may be invited in developing and implementing community – based projects, possibility in partnership with other agencies to promote qualities related to socially adjustable.

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