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ANALYSIS ON SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE OF STUDENTS AT HIGHER STAGE

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Abstract

In this rapidly changing society, the academic excellence alone is no longer sufficient to ensure success in personal, professional and social life. Apart from general intelligence; social intelligence nowadays considered as the utmost important aspect for a person's success. A person might be academically excellent but that does not mean that he will do good in other sphere of life. Social skills like – problem solving ability, communication skills, adaptability, handling relationship, understand others, empathy etc. are most important skills to survive and succeed in a everchanging society. Social Intelligence simply means the capacity to manage emotion and feeling, it helps to make decision, think precisely and analyses every situation, and interact effectively with other people. The undergraduate and postgraduate students' faces various challenges in their day-to-day life such as high academic pressure, loneliness, mental health issues, adjustment problem etc. Thus, they need high social intelligence to tackle with those challenges. So, it is necessary to know students' social intelligence to help and guide them to solve their problems and make them ready for the future profession. The present study focuses on the levels of Social Intelligence of undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as compare the social intelligence of undergraduate students with postgraduate students.

Keywords: Emotions, Interaction, Social intelligence, Undergraduate & Postgraduate. Students

Introduction: The terminology 'Social Intelligence' was initially emphasized by Dewey in 1909 on his work 'Moral Principles in Education'. He believed that it is the ability to observe or understand social-situations.

In 1920, Edward Lee Thorndike conceptualized the idea of Social Intelligence. As per Thorndike apart from other intelligence, it is the capacity to understand girls, women and men and manage own act, to behave wisely in human relations. He had mentioned about three forms of Intelligence such as: Abstract Intelligence which is about interpreting ideas; Mechanical Intelligence which is about handling with concrete objects and Social Intelligence which is concerned with dealing with the people around.

Deniel Goleman also explained that Social Intelligence is a skill to maintain cordial relationship, interaction skill, and empathize with other people. It is the capability to handle emotions or feelings and it assists to make decision and enable to effectively interact with others. As per Goleman social intelligence has two components: social awareness and social facility.

Gardener has also given the theory of Multiple intelligence. According to him Interpersonal intelligence is equivalent to social intelligence. He believes that interpersonal intelligence is a person's capability to identify as well as to react suitably to feelings, situations, motivations and needs of the others.

Thus, social intelligence perhaps considered as the capability to understand emotions, and feelings, make decision, effective social behavior, communicate with others, empathize with others, form relationship with others and most importantly to act accordingly in social circumstances.

Social intelligence nowadays regarded as one of the most important aspects for the growth and development of a person. To get along with others or to achieve success in life one must have social intelligence along with general or traditional intelligence. Undergraduate and postgraduate students at this stage of life goes through various challenges. Hence, to overcome those problems and challenges of being a part of complex society one must be aware of social intelligence. It is the ability which will help them to adjust in a changing society, adapt new situations, understand own as well as others' emotion, handle relationships effectively, communicate with others and manage their actions accordingly.

Need of the Study: We live in a society which is dynamic and complex in nature. Human beings are social animal. Hence, cannot thrive in isolation. To survive in a society, one must have Social Intelligence. The capability of a person to maintain cordial and warm inter-relation with other members of society, to understand emotions of others, to form and maintain relationships, to communicate effectively with others, to empathize with people, to act accordingly in social surroundings, to influence others, to collaborate with others etc. are considered as social intelligence.

Apart from general intelligence nowadays social intelligence is also considered as the utmost important aspect for a person's success. Academic achievement without social skills or intelligence may not guarantee success. But person with good social intelligence and skills might survive in every circumstance of life. They can adapt or adjust to every kind of social change.

Nicholas Humphrey also considered social intelligence different from general intelligence which is measured in terms of Intelligence Quotient scores. He explained that some autistic kids are very intelligent as they are good at analyzing and storing information but not good in social intelligence. Hence, it can be considered that highly intelligent kids in terms of IQ; might not have high social intelligence or lack social skills. Thus, it is necessary to study the stage or level of Social Intelligence of undergraduate and postgraduate students to make them ready for future employability.

Students at higher stage face various kinds of problems such as academic pressure, mental health issues, loneliness, adjustment problems, depression etc. So, to overcome these problems they need to be socially intelligent. By understanding their problems teachers will able to help them to overcome those problems and improve their social intelligence. Undergraduate and postgraduate students are those who will join workforce after completing their respective course. Thus, it is necessary to make them ready for the future workforce or job. So, along with their academic achievement social skills also need to be polished to make them ready for future professions.

Hence, the present study focuses on the social-intelligence of higher stage students; especially students of undergraduate and postgraduate course. It will help teachers to determine the various levels of social intelligence of students and help teacher to strategize teaching process according to the needs of students and guide the students for better future and most importantly to make them ready for future.

Research Objectives:

- To know the level of social intelligence of Undergraduate and Postgraduate students.
- To compare the social intelligence between undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Research Hypothesis:

- $H_{01:}$ There is no significant difference on social intelligence between undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Review of the related literature:

Tiakala & Kapil Dhingra's (2016) study reveals that boys and girls differed significantly on various dimensions of social intelligence. Girls are more co-operative and sensitive compare to boys. But boys are more confident than girls. No gender influence on confidence tactfulness & sense of hunger found. The study found that personality traits of boys and girls are significantly different in terms of temperament and adjustment; boys were found to be higher than girls. There exists no significant difference on life skills among boys and girls.

Parmar, Amitkumar B. (2016) in their study 'social intelligence in relation to family and learning behavior in adolescent students' found that there is a positive correlation between social intelligence and family relation but negative correlation was found between social intelligence & learning behavior and family relation & learning behavior.

Many studies on social intelligence with other variables so far has been explored but comparative studies on social intelligence among undergraduate and post-graduate students is limited.

Methodology of the study: For the present study the investigator has selected Descriptive survey method. It is a method of inquiry that focuses on observing, documenting, and analyzing the current state of a particular phenomenon, group, or condition without altering or influencing it. It gives an accurate, objective and comprehensive account of the situation as it naturally occurs as it collects data systematically and summarizes it in a meaningful way to draw meaningful conclusion. The investigator used stratified disproportionate sampling technique to determine sample size and used Social Intelligence Scale developed by Dr. Bindhu Joseph and Dr. Prem Prabha Singh for data collection.

Population & Sample of the Study: The population of current study comprises of undergraduate as well as postgraduate students of education department of cotton university.

The size of sample of the present study is 60 students. Here, 24 students belong to undergraduate and other 36 students belong to postgraduate course.

Tools used in the study: Social Intelligence Scale developed by Dr. Bindhu Joseph and Dr. (Mrs.) Prem Prabha Singh was used by the investigator in the current study.

Description of the tool: Social Intelligence Scale (SIS – JBSPP) was developed by Dr. Bindhu Joseph and Dr. (Mrs.) Prem Prabha Singh. The tool consists of total 60 question. For each question there are 5 alternative answers. The items were distributed in 7 different areas. There are 35 positive and 25 negative questions.

Table 1: Scoring System

Sr. No.	Type of Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	POSITIVE	5	4	3	2	1
2	NEGATIVE	1	2	3	4	5

Statistical Analysis used for the study: The investigator had used mean, standard deviation, percentage, graphical representation and z-test for the analysis of the data.

Analysis and Discussion: The analysis and discussion has its relevance because a raw data does not signify any meaning unless and until it is being thoroughly elaborated and interpreted.

Objective 1: To know the level of social intelligence of Undergraduate and Postgraduate students

Table 1.1: Social Intelligence Level (Overall)

Range of Z Score	Grade	Social Intelligence Level	No. of Students	%
+2.01 & above	A	Extremely High	02	3.33
+1.26 to +2.00	B	High	05	8.33
+0.51 to +1.25	C	Above Average	12	20
-0.50 to +0.50	D	Average	25	41.67
-1.25 to -0.51	E	Below Average	08	13.34
-2.00 to -1.26	F	Low	06	10
-2.01 & below	G	Extremely Low	02	3.33

Interpretation: From the above table, it is found that only 3.33% students have extremely high social intelligence, 8.33% students have high level of social-intelligence, 20% students have above average, most of the students i.e. 41.67% students have average, 13.34% students have below average, 10% students have low and 3.33% students have extremely low social-intelligence.

Table1.2: Social Intelligence Level of UG & PG

Range of Z score	Grade	Social Intelligence Level	Under-Graduate		Post-Graduate	
			No. of students	%	No. of Students	%
+2.01 and above	A	EXTREMLY HIGH	1	4.17	01	2.78
+1.26 to +2.00	B	HIGH	3	12.5	02	5.55
+0.51 to 1.25	C	ABOVE AVERAGE	3	12.5	09	25
-0.50 to +0.50	D	AVERAGE	11	45.83	14	38.89
-1.25 to -0.51	E	BELOW AVERAGE	3	12.5	05	13.89
-2.00 to -1.26	F	LOW	1	4.17	05	13.89
-2.01 to below	G	EXTREMELY LOW	2	8.33	--	--

Interpretation: From the above table regarding under-graduate students it is found that 4.17% students have extremely high social intelligence, 12.5% students have high social-intelligence, 12.5% students have above average social-intelligence, most of the students i.e. 45.83% students have average social-intelligence, 12.5% students have below average social-intelligence level, 4.17% students have low social-intelligence level and 8.33% students have extremely low social-intelligence.

On the other hand for postgraduate students it is found that 2.78% students have extremely high social intelligence, 5.55% students have high social intelligence, 25% students belong to above average social intelligence stage, most of the students which is 38.89% students have average social intelligence, 13.89% students have below average social intelligence, 13.89% students have low level of social intelligence and no students from postgraduate course or 0% students have extremely low level of social intelligence.

Objective 2: To compare the social intelligence between undergraduate and postgraduate students.

$H_{01:}$ There is no significant difference of social intelligence between undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Table 2.1: Table showing Z value and Level of significance

Variable	N	Mean	SD	Z - Value	Level of significance
Undergraduate students	24	219.79	17.32	0.26	Not significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 significance level
Postgraduate students	36	218.64	15.17		

Interpretation: Above table no. 2.1 demonstrates that the calculated value is 0.26 which is lesser than the table value which is 1.96 at 0.05 and 2.58 at 0.01 level of significance. Thus, we can safely accept the hypothesis and can say that there exists no significant difference on social intelligence between undergraduate & postgraduate students.

Findings of the Study:

- The current study reveals that most of the students that is 41.84% falls under the average social intelligence level. It is also found that only 3.33% students have extremely high social intelligence, 8.33% students have high social intelligence, 20% students have above average social intelligence. On the other hand, 13.34% students have below average social intelligence, 10% students have low social intelligence and 3.33% students have extremely low level of social intelligence.
- There are 8.33% undergraduate student who have extremely low level of social intelligence and 4.17% students have extremely high social intelligence. Furthermore, it is found that 45.83% undergraduate students have average social intelligence.
- From the above data analysis and discussion, it is found that 38.89% postgraduate students have average social intelligence and 2.78% students have extremely high level of social intelligence and no students from postgraduate course have extremely low social intelligence.
- Furthermore, the study found that there is no difference on social intelligence level among undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Educational Implications:

- The findings of the study will help the teacher to understand the students in a better way. It will help the teacher to identify those students who have low level of social intelligence and which aspects are affecting their social intelligence.
- The teachers will also able to strategizes their teaching techniques and methods on the basis of the students' needs to improve their social intelligence and social skills; as social intelligence can be improved through effective and quality teaching.
- The findings of the study will also help the government to make educational reforms in the country, by taking necessary steps to improve social intelligences and social skills of the students.
- Apart from above discussions, it is also observed that the study will also help to modify educational curriculum according to the requisite demands of the global scenario.

Conclusion: Social intelligence is nowadays considered one of the most important aspects of one's life. Social Intelligence is the capacity to know and understand own along with others feelings, to communicate effectively with others, to express own feelings without hurting others, to co-operate and empathize with others. In a simple term, it is the ability which help an individual to get along with other people of the society and societal norms, believes and values. Apart from general intelligence, social intelligence is most pivotal aspect for an individual to succeed in a complex and everchanging social scenario. An individual might be academically excellent but that does not guarantee that he will also socially intelligent. So, to survive in a competitive society one must improve one's social skill. Thus, it is very much necessary to know the levels of social-intelligence of the students, especially students of undergraduate and postgraduate programs as they real social scenario after completing their courses. So, that the teachers and the educational authorities could take appropriate steps to improve their social intelligence at the initial stage.

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