

Awareness on Right to Information among College Students Studying at Pudukkottai

^aP. Muthusamy, ^bP. Paul Devanesan

^aPost Doctoral Fellow (Dr.S.Radhakrishnan Award) Dept. of Education

^bProfessor of Education & Director Curriculum Development Cell Alagappa University Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu

Abstract

The study was conducted on awareness of right to information among college students and the sample of the study were collected from 125 students studying in various arts and science college located in pudukkottai district. The questionnaire was constructed on identification of the level awareness on right to information among college students and it was also validated by investigators. It was found that the male students attained higher level of awareness than the female students. Further, the study revealed that the students studying in urban located colleges are found to be more awareness than the rural located college students in using the act of right to information in collegiate environment.

KEYWORDS: Awareness, Rights, Information, Arts, Science and College.

Introduction

Man is limited in his action without right and complete information available to him. Such information can either be available to him that he can use or can be created by his right in a societal in which he is placed by nature, circumstance or situation. In Educational aspects, student's existence and adjustment in life, study and in social relation is possible if wider awareness, proper information and right knowledge are available to him. When the students were aware of their rights they will clear their doubts on various fields related to their studies like academic and administrative aspects.

The students can make use of it at any moment or any time. In this process it can be called as mechanism of attaining information, knowledge, education and wisdom.

Need and significance of the study

The level of awareness among the college students about their rights now days said to be low. Each and every individual student should have adequate knowledge about the right to information act. If the students know about their rights they will aware of the right and clime their rights in a proper way. By considering the importance of the students' rights, the investigators felt that this study may helpful to identify the level of awareness on right to information among the college students.

Operational definitions of key terms

Awareness

The state of being aware or conscious.

Rights

A thing one may legally and morally claim.

Information

Items of knowledge, news about something.

College students

Students who are studying their under graduate courses after completing their higher secondary level.

Objectives

- To find out the level of awareness among college students in right to information.
- To find out whether there is any significant different between the biographical variables and level of awareness of right to information among college students.

Hypotheses

- There is a significant difference between the male and female students on right to information awareness.
- There is a significant difference between the students belongs to Government and Private college and location of college in rural and urban area and awareness of right to information.

Research method

Investigators used normative survey method to collect data form Arts and Science College students studying at Pudukkottai.

Research tool

The investigator himself framed a research fool on identification of level of awareness on right to information among college student.

Construction of research tool

Before constructing the research tool the investigator collected materials related to present study and also collected some opinion from the expert in the field of human rights. Since the investigators them self knew some ideas about the present investigation. These ideas are converted in the form of statements that are given as an item of the questionnaire.

Description of research tool

A questionnaire on awareness of right to information among college students has twenty one items. All the items of the questionnaire are on covering various areas of right to information related to college students. All the items are closed entered type. The respondent who answers for these items should specify known or unknown. If the

respondent indicates “known” it carries one frequency. These frequencies revealed the level of awareness of right to information among college students.

Pilot study

The investigators conducted pilots study in nearby colleges of Sri Bharathi Arts & Science College, Kaikuruchi and H.H. the Rajah’s College, Pudukkottai. Before administrating the research tool, the investigators gave some instructions regarding how to answer for all questions then allowed all students to raise their difficulties related to some questions and difficult items were discussed and clarified to students for better understanding. The investigators also clarified all the doubts that are raised by students. After getting responses for all the items, the investigators gave frequencies to each and every items and these frequency were tabulated and used to find out reliability in order to find out usability of the proposed study, the investigator felt that the pilot study is an essential study.

Reliability of the tool

The reliability of the test refers to the consistency of scores obtained by the same individual on different occasion or with different sets of equivalent items. The reliability of the research tool was established by using “split-half method”. The odd and even items of the questionnaire were taken and the frequencies were given to these items based on the “known” responses. This total frequencies of odd and even item considered to find out the correlation and then the investigators used the “Spearman, Brown prophecy” formula of split - half method to find out reliability. The reliability established was found to 0.54 and hence the test questionnaire possesses average reliability.

Validity

The validity of test may be defined as the accuracy with which it measure that which it is intended to measure. The Investigators established content and face validity of the research tools. The Items in the questionnaire were given to experts in the field of human rights and educationalist to seek their opinion in relation to its objectivity and the worthiness of items. Further, the experts viewed each and every items of the questionnaire and provide some opinions to modify some of the items based on their opinions. Some of the items are eliminated and modified. The above process brought a sufficient content and face validity to the research questionnaire of the study.

Sampling technique

The investigators used the simple random sampling technique. Five colleges were selected randomly and from each college, the students studying in undergraduate were selected randomly.

Sample

The population for the present study consisted of undergraduate students studying in Arts and Science colleges located in Pudukkottai.

Statistical techniques used

- Mean
- Standard deviation
- ‘t’- test.

Data analysis

Hypothesis – 1

There is a significant difference between the male and female students an awareness of right to information.

TABLE – 1

S.NO	SEX	N	M	SD	‘t’ Value	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
1	Male	44	10.11	0.56	11.94	At 1% level
2	Female	81	8.2	1.33		

Since the calculated ‘t’ value of 11.94 is greater than the table ‘t’ value at 1% level. There is significant difference between the mean scores of male and female students in the awareness of right to information. Hence the research hypothesis is accepted.

Finding

The awareness on right to information of male students is found to be higher than the female students.

Hypothesis - 2

There is a significant difference between the awareness on right to information among students studying in Government and Private Colleges.

TABLE – 2

S NO.	TYPES OF COLLEGE	N	M	SD	‘t’ value	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
1	Govt.	51	8.77	2.06	0.03	Not significant

2.	Private	74	8.76	1.15		
----	---------	----	------	------	--	--

Since the calculated 't' value of 0.03 is lesser than the table 't' value at 5% level. There is a no significant difference between the mean scores of Government and Private College students in the awareness of right to information. Hence the research hypothesis is rejected.

Finding

The level of awareness on right to information of students studying at government and private colleges are found to be same.

Hypothesis - 3

There is a significant difference between the awareness on right to information of the students studying at the rural and urban colleges.

TABLE – 3

S No.	Locality of College	N	M	SD	't' Value	Level Of Significance
1	Rural	65	7.86	3.1	3.78	At 1% level
2.	Urban	60	9.6	1.87		

Since the calculated 't' value of 3.78 is greater than the table 't' value at 1% level. There is a significant difference between the mean scores of rural and urban area students in the awareness on right of information. Hence the research hypothesis is accepted.

FINDING

The awareness on right to information of urban students is higher than the rural students.

Summary of the findings

- i) The awareness on right to information of male students are found to be higher than the female students.
- ii) The level of awareness on right to information of students studying at government and private colleges are found to be same.
- iii) The awareness on right to information of urban students are higher than the rural students.

De-limitations of the study

- i) In this research, the questionnaire was administered only arts and science college students.
- ii) The data was collected only from the students studying private and government arts college located in pudukkottai district

Conclusion

The research study concluded that Male students had higher level of right to information awareness than the Female students. Further, the study also revealed that the students studying in urban areas had higher level of awareness than the rural areas. It also reveals that the level of awareness on right to information among Government and Private college students are found to be same.

References

- Aggarwal (1998) “ statistical methods -concepts application and computation” sterling publishers Private limited, New Delhi - 110016
- John, Best and James,Kahn (2003) “Research in Education” 7th Edition, Prentice Hall of india Pvt. Ltd.,New Delhi – 11001.
- Narasaiah (2004) “Education and Human right” Discovery Publishing House,New Delhi – 11002.
- Sharma et.al (2010) “Philosophical, Sociological and Economical Bases of Education”, Twenty first century publication, opposite main Gate, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab – 147002.