

Risk Taking Behaviour of Adolescent Students - A Comparative Study

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Abstract

The present study examined Risk taking behavior of adolescent students. The population in this study comprises of 300 adolescent boys of Government and Private higher secondary schools with equal distribution of 150 from Govt. and 150 from private schools each from three districts of Kashmir division namely Baramulla, Kupwara and Srinagar, where from 150 adolescents were selected from two rural districts, 75 from Baramulla and 75 from Kupwara districts each. 150 adolescents were selected from urban district namely Srinagar. The higher secondary schools were randomly selected in the districts and stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample for the study.

KEYWORDS: Risk, Adolescents, Behavior

INTRODUCTION

Education has a great role in the life of human beings. No human being is able to survive properly without education. By the means of education only one's potential can be used to maximum extent. Education tells men how to think, how to work properly, how to make decision. It is possible only through education that one can make separate identity. It is most important in life like our basic needs food, cloth and shelter. With the beginning we learnt how to interact with others, how to make friends because of education only. Education is not just restricted to teaching a person the basic academics, say computers, mathematics, geography or history education is a much larger term. Risk is sometimes seen as the probability of an unwanted event occurring, but here risk is taken to mean the probability of an unwanted event occurring and severity of potential lost. The perception and assessment of risk are essentially phenomenological based; the nature of risk is fundamentally interactive. Risks exist because things considered to have value are placed at risk, and as such the nature of risk concerns the interaction of people in their environment. Some, but not all risks in the result of our own behaviors, and risks vary in the degree that they can be controlled by our action.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Risk taking behaviour among adolescent is one of the most crucial issues needs to be investigated intensively and purposefully. Manifestation of risk taking behaviour depends upon a number of social and psychological issues. Our society is evolving in a rapid rate and planning to take advantages from globalisation. Such changes in society will prompt adolescents to take up behaviour that will affect the development process of individual Vis-a-Vis society. Social and affective factors are most prominent which directly or indirectly influence the risk taking behaviour among adolescents. It is the adolescent who develops belongingness, friend circle, and self centred belief. This study will act as the facilitating factor to suggest the right direction for the risk taking ability of adolescents.

Many children who are exposed to high-risk environments do not develop serious violent behaviour as adults, and researchers have long attempted to pinpoint the protective factors at work. Various groups of such factors are discussed in the researches like biological factors, temperament characteristics, cognitive competencies, childrearing and attachment, school achievement and bonding, peer groups and social networks, self-perception, and neighbourhood or community factors. More research is needed to understand the interaction of various levels of risk and protection. Risk taking behaviour as an area of investigation has not been explored explicitly in the field of education. Available studies are in piece meal and fail to provide empirical basis.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem under investigation reads as under “Risk Taking Behaviour of Adolescent Students –A comparative Study”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the risk taking behaviour of adolescents in relation to their social factors.
- To study the risk taking behaviour of adolescents in relation to their affective factors.
- To study the difference in the risk taking behaviour of rural and urban adolescents.

HYPOTHESES

- There is no significant relationship between risk taking behaviour of adolescents and their social factors.
- There is no significant relationship between risk taking behaviour of adolescents and their affective factors.
- There is no significant difference in the risk taking behaviour of rural and urban adolescents.

SURVEY OF RELATED LITERATURE

Rolish (2002) examined in his study entitled factors affecting risk taking behaviour of adolescents and the study presents the findings from an investigation into the effects of sensation-seeking and locus of control, as well as perceived benefit and cost, on risk taking. First, theories of adolescent risk taking, risk taking studies, sensation seeking, locus of control, and risk taking from a decision making perspective are reviewed.

(Richey, 2004) Researcher studied the relationship between risk-taking and adolescent pubertal status. The study expresses that it has been suggested that biological brain changes associated with puberty may play a role in such increases (Spear, 2000), as well as decreases in fear levels. Richey examines whether adolescent pubertal status is related to their levels of temperamental surgency, a construct encompassing individual differences in high intensity pleasure, fear, and shyness. Ninety middle school students in the Western United States (38 males and 52 females) ranging from age 11.5 – 14.5 (mean = 13.1) completed self-report measures of pubertal status and surgency. Results indicate that adolescent levels of surgency increase as pubertal status increases. Age, however,

was not significantly associated with surgency levels. These results suggest that biology (specifically puberty) may be a significant factor in adolescent behaviour.

John et al (2005) examined the Relationship between Life Satisfaction, Risk-Taking Behaviours, and Youth Violence. This study builds on existing criminological theories and examines the role of life satisfaction and self-control in explaining youth violence. Using data from a stratified cluster sample of 5,414 public high school students who responded to the South Carolina Youth Risk Behaviour Survey, the study examines the relationship between adolescents' perceptions of life satisfaction, behavioural risky acts, and self-reported acts of violence. Analyses indicate that higher levels of life satisfaction are associated with lower violence. Participation in work and involvement in health-related risk-taking behaviours pertaining to sex, drugs, and alcohol are also associated with increased violence. The implications of these findings for criminological theory and for school-based violence prevention programs are discussed.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

Research methodology is a way to systematically investigate the research problem. It gives various steps in conducting the research in a systematic and a logical way. It is essential to define the problem, state objectives and hypotheses clearly. Every piece of research must be planned and designed carefully so that the researcher proceeds ahead without getting confused at the subsequent steps of research.

Keeping in view the research evidences, objectives and hypotheses, the researcher found it suitable to go through descriptive survey method, through which data was collected from the adolescents. Descriptive research is a type of research that is primarily concerned with describing the nature or conditions and degree in detail of the present situation.

SAMPLING

Sampling is the method through which representative sample is selected from the population. The sampling frame of the study comprises of 300 adolescent boys of Government and Private higher secondary schools with equal distribution of 150 from Govt. and 150 from private schools each from three districts of Kashmir division namely Baramulla, Kupwara and Srinagar, where from 150 adolescents were selected from two rural districts, 75 from Baramulla and 75 from Kupwara districts each. 150 adolescents were selected from urban district namely Srinagar. The higher secondary schools were randomly selected in the districts and stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample for the study

TOOLS USED

The tools used are

1. Risk Taking Behaviour Scale (2015): Constructed by the investigator.
2. Social And Affective Factor scale (2015): Constructed by the investigator.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Analysis of data means studying the tabulated material in order to determine the inherent facts or meanings. It involves in breaking up of the complex factors into simpler parts and

putting them in new arrangements for the purpose of interpretation. The findings prove the tentative hypotheses and finally lead to conclusions. The research has no meaning of its own if the data are not analysed and interpreted. The whole scheme of research methodology revolves round the analytical interpretation of the reality of methodological approach to deal with the situation is meaningless, unless it moves in the path of allotment of mathematical digits for the purpose of analysis and interpretation. Therefore, analysis is very essential to study problem carefully. The data analysis result and interpretation of findings have been presented through the statement of hypotheses and their testing.

3.1 Risk Taking Behaviour among Adolescents and Social Factors:

The results about the above statement whether there is any significant relationship between risk taking behaviour of adolescents and social factors are presented in the Table-3.1 below:

Table 3.1
Mean, S.D and Co-efficient of Correlation between Risk Taking Behaviour and Social Factors among Adolescents (N)=300.

| Variables | Mean | S.D | df | Co-efficient of correlation |
|---|--------|-------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Risk Taking Behaviour | 263.13 | 38.73 | 298 | 0.16** |
| Social Factors | 111.33 | 10.99 | | |
| **Significant at 0.01 level of significance | | | | |

The table 3.1 reveals that co-efficient of correlation between risk taking behaviour of adolescents and social factors computed was 0.16 higher than table value 0.14 at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore the hypothesis that “there is no significant relationship between risk taking behaviour of adolescents and their social factors” was rejected.

Hence, it may be interpreted that the social factors are positively related with the risk taking behaviour of Kashmiri Muslim Adolescent boys. As much social factors may be strong, higher the risk taking behaviour of adolescents may be and vice-versa as low risk taking behaviour. The mean scores of risk taking behaviour among adolescents was found to be 263.13 with S.D=38.73 which is high level of risk taking and the mean score of social factors was 111.33 with S.D= 10.99 which shows high level of influence on the life of adolescents. The co-efficient of correlation which was found to be 0.16 shows significant relationship, therefore the social factors and risk taking behaviour of adolescent in Kashmir are positively related.

Therefore, from the above tabulation and interpretation it may be concluded that, the adolescents of Kashmir are financially weak, not having avenues for jobs available and socially very much connected with each other in their neighbourhood. They love the social gathering, they are devoted to relations and above all ready to scarify for the dignity of their society and community and are also dominated by their religion. Religion as a social factor is strongly influencing their thinking also, as it doesn't allow anyone to fall prey to social evils. The reasons like these may be the factors responsible for their high risk taking behaviour.

3.2 Risk Taking Behaviour among Adolescents and Affective Factors:

The results pertaining to the above mentioned statement whether there exists any significant relationship between risk taking behaviour of adolescents and their affective factors or not is given below in Table-3.2

Table 3.2

Mean, S.D and Co-efficient of Correlation between Risk Taking Behaviour and Affective Factors among Adolescents (N)=300.

| Variables | Mean | S.D | df | Co-efficient of correlation |
|---|--------|-------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Risk Taking Behaviour | 263.13 | 38.73 | 298 | 0.24** |
| Affective Factors | 111.32 | 11.63 | | |
| **Significant at 0.01 level of significance | | | | |

The table 3.2 depicts that co-efficient of correlation between risk taking behaviour and affective factors of adolescents came out to be 0.24 which is higher than table value 0.14 at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore the hypothesis that “there is no significant relationship between risk taking behaviour of adolescent boys and their affective factors” was rejected. Hence it may be interpreted that as much the affective factors may be strong the higher will be the risk taking behaviour of Kashmiri Muslim Adolescent boys and vice versa as low risk taking behaviour. The mean score of the risk taking behaviour shows of the adolescents is 263.13 with SD=38.73 which depict that, Kashmiri adolescents are high risk takers. The mean score of affective factors was found to be 111.32 with SD=11.63 which shows high level of influence on the risk taking behaviour of adolescents as significant relationship has been found between risk taking behaviour of adolescent boys and their affective factors.

From the above interpretation it has been concluded by the researcher that the people of Kashmir are very much emotional in nature and getting easily ready and motivated for some risky act because of it. Hence the factors like violence, orientation towards peer group, relatives, neighbours, friends, classmates makes them motivated to take risk even the risk of death for these people. The disturbed conditions of Kashmir like incidents of human rights violation have given the great blow to the talent and potential of Kashmir. The large number of factors which are connected with emotional aspects of the adolescents may be responsible for this relationship between risk taking behaviour and affective factors of adolescents.

3.3 Risk Taking Behaviour among Rural and Urban Adolescents:

To study the difference in mean scores of risk taking behaviour among rural and urban adolescents, t-value was calculated and the results pertaining to it are stated below in the Table-3.3.

Table 3.3
Mean, S.D and t-value of Risk Taking Behaviour among Rural and Urban Adolescents

| Rural/Urban | Number of Adolescent Boys (N) | Mean | S.D | SED | t-value |
|--|-------------------------------|--------|-------|------|---------|
| Rural | 150 | 268.08 | 36.29 | 4.44 | 2.23* |
| Urban | 150 | 258.2 | 40.53 | | |
| *Significant at 0.05 level of significance | | | | | |

It is evident from above table that the calculated value of 't' with df= 298 came out to be 2.23 which exceeds the table value 1.97 at 0.05 level of significance, depicting that two groups differ in their mean scores of risk taking behaviour. Therefore the hypothesis that "there is no significant difference in risk taking behaviour of rural and urban adolescents" was rejected.

Hence it may be interpreted from the results mentioned above that the rural and urban adolescents of Kashmir are high risk takers as per their mean scores on risk taking behaviour scale which for rural adolescents is 268.08 and for urban adolescents is 258.2. The mean scores indicate that rural adolescents of Kashmir are high risk takers as compared to urban adolescents of Kashmir. The S.D computed for rural adolescents was 36.29 and for urban adolescents was 40.53, standard error deviation computed between two groups was found 4.44 and t-value calculated was 2.23, which depicts that the two group's rural and urban adolescents of Kashmir differ significantly at their mean scores of risk taking behaviour.

The rural life in Kashmir is very much hard as compared to urban life. The life is very much risky there. The dense forests, large trees, beautiful hills and mountains, charming water streams and rivers are the key elements of risky behaviour. The rural adolescents are enjoying risky life by climbing trees, mountaineering; playing in rough playgrounds means adventurous life they are living. In their comparison the life of urban adolescents is less risky and easy to live without any strong hardship. Thus, these may be the factors responsible for high risk taking behaviour of rural adolescents of Kashmir in comparison to their urban counterparts. The below mentioned Figure-3.1 can make it more clear that, which group is high risk taking group.

CONCLUSION

It has been found that there is a significant relationship between risk taking behaviour of Kashmiri Muslim adolescents and their social factors, because there are some social factors like religious factor, financial weakness, unemployment etc. which dominates the thinking and behaviour of the Muslim adolescents hence stronger the social factors may be higher will be the risk taking behaviour of adolescents and vice versa as low risk taking behaviour.

The risk taking behaviour of Kashmiri Muslim adolescents and their affective factors are significantly related as it has been found that the kashmiri people are very emotional in nature and distrbing conditions of Valley like incidents of human rights

violation are the strong reasons of relationship between their risk taking behaviour and affective factors. The adolescents are taking even risk of death when their rights are infringed or when someone is killed or beaten in their relationship or neighbourhood.

The rural adolescents are high risk takers as compared to urban adolescents. The two groups differ significantly at their mean scores of risk taking behaviour as the mean score of risk taking behaviour of rural adolescents is 268.08 and S.D= 36.29 and that of urban adolescents is 258.2 and S.D= 40.53 as shown in the Figure-3.1 . The rural life is more adventurous and risky as compared to urban life which may be responsible for high risk taking behaviour among rural adolescents as compared to their urban counterparts.

SUGGESTIONS

The researcher by the experience in the field of this study offers the following suggestions for further research that can be taken by researchers in future.

1. The study of risk taking behaviour can be undertaken with the natural and geographical factors for further study.
2. The study can be carried out with adolescent boys of other communities apart from muslims so that we can compare their risk taking behaviour.
3. The female adolescents can be undertaken for the further research.
4. The study can also be conducted on adults.
5. An exploratory study can be conducted to find out the ways to make proper nourishment of the risk taking behaviour of adolescents.

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