DIFFERENTIAL EFFECT OF SEX FACTOR ON PERSONAL VALUES

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ABSTRACT

An empirical study was conducted to examine the effect of sex difference (sex factor) on four personal values, namely social value, economical value, political value and religious value. An incidental-cum purposive sample of 100 adolescent boys and 100 adolescent girls selected from intermediate colleges was used. PDS, SES Scales and Hindi version of Allport–Vernon-Lindzey Scale of values were used for data collection related with personal information, socio-economic status and personal values respectively. The obtained data relating to all the four personal values under study were analysed statistically. Critical ratio test (t) was used to examine the effect of sex factor on personal values. In the light of the drawn: (a) sex difference failed to show any significant effect on social value, (b) female respondents excelled their male counterparts in terms of economic value, (c) sex factor failed to show any significant effect even on political value, (d) sex difference of the respondents failed to show any significant effect on religious value. The surprising findings were interpreted in terms of modernization, globalization and technical advancement.

Key Words: Continuum, field dependent, field independence, globalization, PDS, Pragmatic, SES, value.
INTRODUCTION:

Personal values form central principles around which individual can become integrated just as social values form central principles related to societal goals. Value refers to the quality or property of a thing that makes it useful, desired or esteemed by the person concerned. The pragmatic aspect implied by this definition is that the value of a thing is given by its role in a social transaction; the thing itself does not possess value. Value is an abstract and general principle concerning the patterns of behaviour within a particular culture or society which, through the process of socialisation, the members of that culture or society hold in high regard. These form central principles around which individual goals become integrated just as social values form central principles related to social goals. (Reber, Allen & Reber, 2009).

In the present study four personal values have been used as dependent variable. They are social value, economic value, political value and religiosity value. Social value refers to kind, sympathetic and unselfish relationship with other people. Economic value refers to materialistic gain through production, marketing, consumption of goods etc. Political value is a more complex concept. It refers to political power with a view to achieving place, prestige, fame, dominance and the like. Religious value refers to involvement, interest and participation in religion. It properly refers to a continuum of degree of participation in religious ritual and practice, and one may also correctly characterize a person as displaying low or moderate religiosity (Reber, Allen and Reber, 2007). In the context all the four personal values sex factor has been used as single independent variable.

Several empirical studies relating to personal values have been conducted without any reference to sex deference in Indian context. Rossen (1955) found significant deference in achievement value between different social classes. Kale (1964) reported that personal value includes value system, value attitudes and value responses of the person. Pestonjee and Akhtar conducted study on occupational values of university teachers. Verma (1977) reported a positive relationship between social values and extraversion. He also found negative correlation between extraversion and religiosity.

Rahman and Haidri (1997) reported significant difference between socially advantaged and disadvantaged groups of children in terms of creativity. Rijwana Tarannum (2005) found significant between socially advantaged and socially disadvantaged children in aesthetic, social scientific and mechanical interests. Verma (2001) found that socially advantaged children are more field independent, while socially disadvantaged children are more field dependent. Singh(2005) found that tribal children have more religious value than their non-tribal counterparts, while non-tribal children have more social value than their tribal counterparts. Himbala (2004) in her empirical study found that the advantaged
group of respondents excelled the disadvantaged group in terms of economic, theoretical, aesthetic and political values.

In view of literature stated above it is obvious that little has been done to examine the effect of sex factor on personal values in Indian context. Hence the undertaking of the present study seems justified and useful in view of increasing women empowerment and social freedom in Indian context.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

(1) Firstly, the proposed study intended to examine the effect of sex factor on social value of male and female adolescent respondents.

(2) Secondly, the study intended to examine the effect of sex difference on economic value of the respondents.

(3) Thirdly, the study intended to examine the effect of sex factor (sex difference) on political value of the respondents.

(4) Fourthly, the study intended to examine the effect of sex difference (sex factor) on religious value of the respondents.

HYPOTHESES:

Keeping in view the objectives of the proposed study the following hypotheses were formulated for experimental verification:

(1) It was hypothesized that there would be significant difference between the male and the female adolescent respondents in terms of social value.

(2) It was hypothesized that the male and the female respondents would differ significantly in terms of their economic value.

(3) It was hypothesized that the male respondents would excel their counterparts in terms of political value.

(4) It was hypothesized that the female respondents would excel their male counterparts in terms of religious value.
METHODOLOGY:

(a) Sample:

An incidental – cum purposive sample consisting of 100 male and 100 female adolescents of urban region was used in the present study. They were selected from the students of Intermediate classes of the colleges located in urban area of Patna town. They were in the age group of 15 – 17 years. They were matched in respect of inhabitation, educational level and socio-economic status as far as practicable.

(b) Research Tools:

1. A Personal Data Sheet prepared by the researcher was used for collecting relevant information about the respondents.
2. Kulshrestha SES Scale (2003) was used for measuring the socio-economic status of the respondents.
3. Hindi version of Allport – Vernon - Lindzey Scale of values was used for measuring social value, economic value, political value and religious value of the respondents.

(c) Procedure:

The study was conducted in five phases, each phase consisting of 40 respondents. The date and time for data collection were fixed with the consultation of the principal and the concerned class teacher of the institution and accordingly the researcher visited the concerned institution and administered PDS, SES Scale and Scale of values to the awaiting students. After the completion of work the researcher collected the field up PDS, SES Scale and scale of values from the respondents and left the place. Following the same procedure the work of remaining phases was completed. Data relating to social value, economic value, political value and religious value of both the male respondents (N=100) and the female respondents (N=100) were collected and then t-test was used to examine the significance of difference between the male and female respondents in terms of their personal values under reference. The obtained results were recorded in four tables given below.
RESULT AND INTERPRETATION:

TABLE – I

‘t’ showing the significance of the difference between the male and the female respondents in terms of social value.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>46.92</td>
<td>5.26</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>&gt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>46.22</td>
<td>6.37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results displayed in table-1 showed insignificant difference between the male and the female respondents in terms of social value (t= 1.22,df=198,P>.05). Thus the first hypothesis, claming significant difference between the male and the female respondents, was rejected. The finding might be interpreted in the light of changing attitudes and cognitions of females as a function of social freedom, modernization and globalization.
‘t’ showing the significance of the difference between the male and the female respondents in terms of economic value.

The results recorded in table –II showed significant difference between the male and the female respondents in terms of economic value (t= 13.90, df 198, P<.01). Thus the second hypothesis was retained. The female respondents excelled their male counterparts in terms of economic value to a significant extent. The finding might be interpreted in terms of the fact that females emphasize more on economic aspect of the job than their male counterparts. Females are more motivated by money as compared to males (Sinha and Niwas, 2005).
TABLE – III

‘t’ showing the significance of the difference between the male and the female respondents in terms of political value.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>37.55</td>
<td>5.41</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>&gt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>36.65</td>
<td>6.49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results recorded in table III showed insignificant difference between male and the female respondents in terms of political value (t=1.47,df=198,P>.05). Thus the hypothesis that the male respondents would excel their female counterparts in terms of political value was strongly rejected. On the contrary the female respondents excelled their male counterparts very strongly. The findings might be interpreted in terms of growing political consciousness as well as eagerness in women.
TABLE – IV

‘t’ showing the significance of the difference between the male and the female respondents in terms of religious value.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>35.08</td>
<td>5.69</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>&gt;.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>34.80</td>
<td>5.88</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results displayed in table- IV showed significant difference between the male and the female respondents in terms of religious value (t=0.55,df=198,P>.05). Thus the fourth hypothesis claiming more religious value in female than in males was strongly rejected. The finding might be interpreted in term of modernization, globalization and technical advancement leading to rapid changes in religious beliefs and attitudes of even in Indian context.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Sex factor does not have any significant differential effect on social value in Indian context.

2. Female sex is more conducive to economic value than male sex in the present scenario.

3. Political value has been found more in females than in males in the Indian context.
4. Sex factor failed to show any differential effect on religious value to a significant extent.

**REFERENCES:**


Verma, M (1977) : Study of Values , Bhagalpur University, Adaptation of Allport-Vernon Lindzey Scale of Value.