A STUDY OF POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

The present study aimed at investigating the political awareness among senior secondary school students. The data were collected randomly on the 200 sample subjects selected from rural and urban areas of Amritsar District. A self devised test had been employed as a tool. Results revealed that no significance difference was found between male and female of urban and rural or Govt. and non-Govt. school students. There was significance difference in relation to their academic stream.

Key words: - Political awareness, senior secondary students, rural-urban, stream of studies

Introduction

The word ‘Politics’ is derived from Greek word ‘Polis’ which means ‘citystate’ or ‘Politeria’. Some are of the opinion that political science deals with Government and some are of the opinion that political science deals with both the state and Government. But in the modern sense, the term ‘Political Science’ has broader meaning. According to Virnial political science is the study of act of human and social control or the study of act of human and social control or the study of control, relationship of wills. Developing a political ideology is not the most important goal for many high school students. Many high school students believe political awareness and being politically active as an adult duty. High school students, who often have these feelings, are unaware of their own personal political beliefs. Thus, many high school students tend to accept the view of their parents/guardians or close relatives as their own. Often times without giving any real or meaningful thought to the political issues at hand (Willia et. al). For a democratic country like India, political awareness is a basic necessity. In this type of Government, functions of the policy making remain in the hands of people. The state has on the one hand extended its functions from a purely political one to the vast social and economic service through new idea of education of the community and for the community. So get rid of illusions that are created by demagogues’ politicians, it is the indispensable for a man to be politically aware.

Review of related literature

students were more politically aware than female students. Students and teachers related to humanities faculty were more politically aware than science stream. Urban students were more aware than rural students. Abonu. et. al (2013) revealed that there was significance difference in the performance of the students from geopolitical zones on the political awareness and citizenship. Kouts & Kumar (2014) found that the students with high political awareness groups viva viz. commerce, humanities, non-political science groups, science whereas political science, groups did not differ on the political awareness.

Rationale of the study

In a democratic society people from associations with pressure groups and interest groups with like-minded people 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. Over and above in case if India, where we have universal adult franchise according to which right to vote has been granted to each individual of 18 years of age or above, political awareness is required. Students if (+1) are the voters of these days. So, they must be politically aware in order to produce efficient leadership creed and to meet the obstacles in the way of democracy. The present study is an attempt to access the level of political awareness of (+1) grade students.

Objectives of the study

1. To study and compare the political awareness of male and female Senior Secondary (+1) school students.
2. To study and compare the political awareness of rural and urban Senior Secondary (+1) school students.
3. To study and compare the political awareness of Govt. and Non-Govt. Senior Secondary (+1) school students.
4. To study and compare the level of political awareness of Senior Secondary (+1) school students in relation to their Parental qualification- Under Graduation/Graduation/ Post Graduation.
5. To study and compare the level of political awareness of Senior Secondary (+1) school students in relation to their academic stream- Science/Humanities/Commerce.

Hypotheses

1. There exists no significance difference in political awareness of male and female Senior Secondary (+1) school students.
2. There exists no significance difference in political awareness of rural and urban Senior Secondary (+1) school students.
3. There exists no significance difference in political awareness of Govt. and Non-Govt. Senior Secondary (+1) school students.
4. The level of political awareness of Senior Secondary (+1) school students is independent of their Parental qualification - Under Graduation/Graduation/ Post Graduation.
5. Political awareness among Senior Secondary (+1) school students is independent of their academic stream - Science/Humanities/Commerce.

Delimitation

1. The study was delimited to the school of Amritsar District only.
2. The study was delimited to (+1) students only.
3. The study was delimited to only 200 students.
4. The study was delimited to the schools affiliated to Punjab School Education Board.

Method

The descriptive survey method was used to achieve the objectives of the study.

Statistical Techniques Used

Mean, S.D. & t-ratio were used as statistical techniques.

Sample

A representative sample of 200 students (male and female) from Govt. & Non-Govt. Senior Secondary (+1) school students of Rural and Urban areas of Amritsar District was drawn on random basis.

Tool

A self-devised tool was employed to collect the data. Test had been prepared to access the level of political awareness of the students. The investigator visited all the schools personally to collect the relevant information.

Results and Conclusion

1. There exists no significance difference in political awareness of male and female Senior Secondary (+1) school students. This further signifies the independence of the political awareness from sex differences.
2. There exists no significance difference in political awareness of rural and urban Senior Secondary (+1) school students. This further implies that political awareness is independent of areas viz-rural & urban.
3. Political awareness of Govt. and Non-Govt. Senior Secondary (+1) school students is independent of the type of institutions - Govt. & Non-Govt.
4. The level of political awareness of Senior Secondary (+1) school students is independent of their Parental qualification - Under Graduation/Graduation/ Post Graduation. This highlights the independence of variables of political awareness and parental qualification from each other.
5. The Senior Secondary (+1) school students from Humanities group were more politically aware than their counterparts from Commerce.

References


