

# A Comparative study of Moral Judgement among Adolescents Studying in Different Schools.

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## INTRODUCTION

All regardless of race, class or economic status are entitled to have a fair chance and the tools for developing their individual powers of mind and spirit to the utmost. This promise means that all children by virtue of their own efforts, competently guided, can hope to attain the matured and informed Judgement needed to secure gainful employment and to manage their own lives thereby serving not only their own interests but also the progress of society itself.

During recent years a deep concern has been expressed by Government as well as public that the graph of moral values in our society is showing declination. Everybody is in the grip of corruption and violence, narrow selfish interests, communalism and linguistic considerations have taken the place of National interests. Humanism is thrown away in the fake light of materialistic thinking. Natural and spiritual values have lost their significance due to which present ills of the world, political tension and economic crises are rising. In the National policy on education 1986 deep concern has been expressed over the sinking social, spiritual and moral values in society. Remedial steps have been taken in the policy by making changes and corrections in curriculum to make the education a forceful tool for the cultivation of social spiritual and moral values. Every Intellectual, eminent persons, communities, Government and Non-Government organization (NGO'S) all are trying their best to enhance the level of social, spiritual and moral values by their own ways and uproot all the evils from the society. Actually morality is a system of learned personal beliefs about right and wrong that people use to evaluate situations or behaviour. Attitudes about morality develop throughout life. From a very early age, children learn from their parents the behaviour, attitudes and values that are considered appropriate and correct. As children mature these attitude changes to accommodate an increasingly complex view of the world and of what constitutes reality.

Moral Judgement refers to the kind of reasoning involved in assessing actions or behaviour based on an individual's intention. Piaget (1932) reasoned that children's use of rules provides the foundation for their moral development. He identified four steps of moral development i.e., egocentric, heteronomy, transition and autonomy.

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Kohlberg (1964) was of the view that the content and condition of Moral Judgement is essentially a rational cognitive process. He identified three levels. The three levels are preconventional, conventional and post conventional. These three levels included the following stages:

- Punishment and obedience orientation.
- Instrumental relativist orientation.
- Interpersonal concordance.
- Law and order orientation.
- Social contract and legalistic orientation.
- Universal ethical principle orientation.

In spite of all the efforts made, we can't ignore the fact that social work especially school social work is a helpful method in enhancing the social, moral and spiritual values from school age. It can help students to choose right directions and take correct decisions. It supports the students to decide their future because they are the future of the countries they belong.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- (1) To compare the Moral Judgement among the adolescents studying in schools run by various educational agencies.
- (2) To find out gender difference on Moral Judgement among the adolescents studying in schools run by various educational agencies.

#### **DESIGN OF THE STUDY**

The present study belongs to the category of descriptive field research and includes composite characteristics of casual comparative and correctional survey researches. The sample for the present study consisted of 400 students of both sexes studying in schools run by different educational agencies as government, aided, private and minority schools.

#### **TOOLS**

In order to attain the objective of the study, Moral Judgement questionnaire by Pal and Mishra was used.

#### **Result & Discussion**

Table 1 showing comparison of moral judgement among the adolescents studying in various educational agencies.



|                | Mean  | SD   | Compared Group | t      |
|----------------|-------|------|----------------|--------|
| Government (G) | 36.4  | 3.69 | GP             | 0.436  |
|                |       |      | GA             | 1.48   |
| Private (P)    | 36.18 | 3.43 | GM             | 0.061  |
|                |       |      | PA             | 1.41   |
| Aided (A)      | 35.63 | 1.67 | PM             | 0.4042 |
| Minority (M)   | 36.37 | 3.25 | AM             | 1.9473 |

Observation of the table 1 shows that while comparing the moral judgement among the adolescents studying in various educational agencies it was found that there exists no significant difference among them.

Table 2 showing, the comparison of Moral Judgement between adolescent boys and girls studying in schools run by various educational agencies.

| Schools       | Boys  |      | Girls |      | t      |
|---------------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|
|               | Mean  | S.D. | Mean  | S.D. |        |
| Government    | 35.82 | 2.95 | 36.98 | 4.25 | 1.58   |
| Aided         | 36.20 | 1.76 | 35.16 | 2.05 | 2.69** |
| Private       | 35.50 | 2.53 | 36.86 | 4.06 | 1.98   |
| Minority      | 36.22 | 1.90 | 36.52 | 4.20 | 0.46   |
| Total Schools | 35.93 | 2.34 | 36.38 | 3.80 | 1.42   |

\*\* Significant at .01 level.

Observation of the table 2 shows that there exists significant gender difference in aided school.

## CONCLUSION

Findings of the present study shows that no significant difference were found in Moral Judgement among adolescents studying in schools run by different educational agencies such as Government, Aided, Private and Minority schools. The probable reason behind it may be that though we are teaching Moral Science as a subject in our schools despite this its practical impact in the behaviour of the adolescents are not developed to the extent required. Today discrimination between moral and immoral is negligible everyone wants to achieve his goal by hook or crook. Therefore the issue, moral judgement is unfortunately not being handled in the right manner.

Similarly no significant gender differences were found in Moral judgement among adolescent boys and girls of Government, Private and Minority schools. The finding of this study is related with the finding of Padhan and Thakkar (1994) who observed no significant difference in the moral judgement of the students studying in segregated and coeducational school. The probable reason of this finding may lie in the fact that



Moral Science is taught in our school as a subject. Despite that no required moral development has been observed in their behaviour. In Aided school the value of  $t = 2.69$  which is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. The reason behind it is that by birth there is difference in the upbringing of boys & girls. Boys get more freedom and exposure in society than girls. This aspect of behaviour develops in girls naturally where as boys have to acquire it. It might be possible that aided school may be giving emphasis on boys than girls. We know that aided schools are getting aid from the government & if proper improvement will not be observed aid may be cancelled.

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