



A comparative study of political interests of rural and urban adolescents

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to find out the political interests of Rural and Urban adolescents. A sample of 100 adolescents (50 Rural and 50 urban), from different private and government schools of Jalandhar district of Punjab were selected. Political Interest Scale by Singh and Pandey was used for data collection. Results revealed that rural adolescents have higher political interest. Findings also reveal that boys are more interested in politics than girls. Findings also show that rural girls are more interested in politics than urban girls also Rural boys are more interested in politics as compared to urban boys. It shows Rural are more interested in politics in different areas than urban adolescents.

Keywords: political interest, adolescents, rural and urban

Introduction

Education plays a pivotal role in socio-economic empowerment of Persons. In India, for the development of the citizens the Government of India mentioned a many policies and strategies in five year plans. General interest in politics can be considered the basis both for a democratic political belief system and for identity achievement as the outcome of the process of identity development. Political interest is crucially relevant not only for the existence, but also for the emergence of a democratic political identity. As described in detail in the introduction to this volume, identity achievement requires exploration as well as commitment. Political interest serves as the underlying force for exploration, and without exploration there is no identity achievement. Interest raises questions about the political process, the political system, and incumbents in political positions.

Discussion

Review of related literature

“Developing Interest in Politics: The Effect of Early Life Socialization”

offers an alternative perspective, defining interests “the motivation to engage in politics” which consists of both the desire to learn about politics and the desire to participate in politics, Social Networks and the development of political interest (Shani, 2007) [6].

The study: “Social Networks and the Development of Political Interest” found that friends, parents, teachers and other agents of socialization influence on change in political interest of the teenagers (Dostie-Goulet, 2009) [2]

“Students' Political Engagement: A Comprehensive Study of University of Ottawa Undergraduate Students” revealed that the student's program of study, year of study, academic performance, and payment for their own tuition fees as well as the political participation of their parents impact individuals' political interest, which then increases their likelihood to become politically involved (Daniel, 2012) [1].

“An Empirical Exploration of Factors Related to Adolescents' Political Efficacy” observed that one of the strongest predictors of political participation is political

efficacy - the belief that individuals' actions can influence political processes. A wide variety of factors that contributing to political efficacy such as persistence, political interest and political trust also were noted (Levy, 2013) [4].

In the study by Singh (2014): “Political interest and leadership quality of senior secondary school students in relation to their home environment”, family environment was found to be a strong instrument effecting the political interest of the students. The present study was directed towards studying what are the differences in the political interests of Rural and urban children.

Significance of the study

The school plays a vital role in educating the child. The existing schools are not fully equipped in terms of human resources, material resources and proper literature to develop the leadership quality and political interest among adolescents. Although there are many studies done on political interest, not much work has been done on political interest of urban children. The present study helps us to analyze, synthesize and evaluate the factors that are prevailing at home, school and society that creates and develops the political interests in the adolescents.

India, a democratic country emphasizes on providing equal opportunities to learn and grow to all members without any sort of discrimination. In order to achieve this target was introduced the concept of inclusive education, which has its roots in the ideas and principles governed through equity and equality of opportunities to all without differentiation and discrimination. The present study had relevance with regard to the current scenario which emphasizes on education. The paucity of research in political interest of urban adolescents and Rural Adolescents encouraged the investigator to take up the present comparative study of them with Rural ones.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the political interests of urban and Rural adolescents
2. To compare the political interests of urban and Rural

- adolescents
- To compare the political interests of urban and rural adolescents with respect to gender.
 - To find out the difference in political interests of urban adolescents with respect to gender
 - To find out the difference in political interests of Rural adolescents with respect to gender

Hypotheses of the study

- There is no significant difference in the mean score of political interest of urban adolescents and Rural adolescents
- There is no significant difference in the mean scores of political interest of urban adolescents and Rural adolescents with respect to gender
- There is no significant differences in the mean scores of political interest of urban adolescents with respect to gender
- There is no significant differences in the mean scores of political interests of Rural adolescents with respect to gender

Sample

A sample of 100 adolescents (50 Rural and 50 urban) was selected randomly from private and government schools of Jalandhar district of Punjab.

Tools used

Political Interest scale by S. K. Singh and B. B. Pandey. (Hindi). This test contains 75 items which measure the political interest of students. This tool published by National Psychological Corporation, Agra. (India).

Procedure of collection of data

After selection of the suitable tools to generate information about the selected variables of the target group orthopaedically impaired and rural children, the subsequent task was the collection of data. For this purpose investigator first investigator visited the different private, government schools of the Jalandhar district and explained the purpose of visit to the principal of each school. Due permission was taken from the concerned persons to administrator the selected tools on the children. Before the administer of the test, the investigator was established a good rapport with the children and explained instructions related to the test. Thus the data from 50 rural children and 50 urban children was conducted. The data was evaluated with proper method and scores given to the students according to the scoring procedure of the test. To compare to the political interest of the students t-test statistical method was used for the present study.

Delimitations of the study

The study is confined to a sample of 100 adolescents only, selected from private and government schools of Jalandhar district only.

Results and Discussion

For convenience the data are presented in Tables 1 with explanation of inferences below each.

Table 1: Political interest of Rural and urban adolescents

Groups	N	Mean	S. D.	t-value	Significance level
Urban adolescents	50	60.66	3.54	6.45	0.01
Rural adolescents	50	65.60	3.36		

The t-value calculated between Rural and urban adolescents for political interest was found to be 6.45 (significant at 0. 01 level of significance). The significant t-value shows that there exists significant difference in the political interest of Rural and urban. It can thus be concluded that the rural adolescents are more interested in politics than the urban ones. Hence the hypothesis: “There will be no significant differences in the mean score of political interests of Rural and urban adolescents” is rejected.

Table 2(a): Political interest of Rural and urban boys

Groups	N	Mean	S. D.	t-value	Significance level
Urban boys	25	3.37	0.77	4.75	0.01
Rural boys	25	4.28	0.99		

The t-value calculated between Rural and urban boys for political interest was found to be 4.75 (significant at 0.01level of significance). This shows significant difference in the political interest of Rural and urban boys. Rural boys are more interested in politics than the urban boys. Therefore the hypothesis: “There is no significant difference in the mean scores of political interests of Rural and urban adolescents with respect to gender” is rejected.

Table 2(b): Political interest of Rural and urban girls

Groups	N	Mean	S. D.	t-value	Significance level
Urban girls	25	4.97	0.95	3.16	0.01
Rural girls	25	5.68	1.09		

The t-value calculated between Rural and urban girls for political interest was found to be 3.16 (significant at 0. 01 level of significance). It indicates that there exists significant difference in the political interest of Rural and urban girls. Also, it can be concluded that the rural girls are more interested in politics than the urban girls. Thus, the hypothesis: “There will be no significant difference in the mean scores of political interests of urban adolescents and rural adolescents with respect to gender” is rejected.

Table 3(a): Political interest of rural girls and boys

Groups	N	Mean	S.D	t-value	Significance level
Rural girls	25	15.91	3.01	4.47	0.01
Rural boys	25	18.84	2.90		

The t-value calculated between rural boys and girls for political interest was found to be 4.47 (significant at 0. 01 level of significance). The significant t-value shows that there exists considerable difference in the political interest of rural boys and girls. It can be further concluded that the boys are more interested in politics than girls in the rural group. Therefore the hypothesis: “There will be no significant differences in the mean scores of political interests of rural adolescents with respect to gender” is rejected.

Table 3(b): Political interest of urban girls and boys in various areas

Groups	N	Mean	S. D.	t-value	Significance level
Urban girls	25	4.99	0.96	3.20	0.01
Urban boys	25	5.69	1.09		

The t-value calculated between urban girls and boys for political interest was found to be 3.20 (significant at 0.01 level of significance). It reveals that there exists significant difference in the political interest of urban boys and girls. One can conclude that the urban boys are more interested in politics than their girl counterparts. Hence the hypothesis: "There is no significant difference in the mean scores of political interests of urban adolescents with respect to gender" is rejected.

Conclusion

Results of the study show that rural adolescents have higher political interest compared to urban ones. According to Levy (2013) ^[4], "There are many factors that influence the development of political interest among adolescents, like family environment, school activities, friends, etc". Singh (2014) is of the opinion that home environment is the powerful factor that creates and develops political interest and political efficiency in adolescents. Results of this study reveal that boys are exhibiting more political interest than girls, because most of the time boys are out of home than girls. They see, hear, analyze and learn many things from practical social life. Also, findings point to the higher political interest for rural girls and boys than urban girls and boys. It shows Rural adolescents have higher political interest in different areas than urban adolescents. Many times due to their differently-abled nature urban adolescents take less interest in politics, compared to other areas, because they think that politics is not an easy area for them to showcase their talent and ability; still there are a few adolescents taking interest in politics, despite their disability.

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