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## **Commitment to Democratic Values among Higher Secondary School Students**

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### **Abstract**

The present investigation to study the commitment to democratic values among higher secondary school students. Sample of the present study consist of 809 higher secondary school students from Malappuram, Palakkad, and Thrissur districts. The Scale of commitment to democratic values (Gafoor and Thushara,2007) Statistical techniques used for the study. Findings of the study revealed that gender wise boys have higher commitment to democratic values than the girls. Commitment to democratic value is higher in students of Urban than Rural. In type of management, Commitment to democratic values is higher in the Unaided school students greater than the Govt, Aided and CBSE.

### **Introduction**

Democracy has been defined in various ways by different people. According to Lincon “Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people, government with the consent of the governed, and a form of regime that derives from popular sovereignty in which ordinary citizens are endowed with the right and ability to govern themselves”.

India is the largest democratic country in the world. In India more than hundred core people having different religion, different culture, different food habits, different style of living and they speak different languages. Even though, each and every individual have freedom to

live their life themselves. Indian constitution provides the protection by different laws to the people of India. The maintenance and development of a democracy depends, however, on more than legislation and the verbal affirmation of democratic principles. It also requires informed citizens who possess certain virtues.

It is a recognized fact that democracy cannot be sustained by mere governmental decision. So, any nations pledged to democracy may assert to need analysis. The same is true for both values education strategies of self-confrontation and clarifying response based on belief system, theory and values clarification theory. Studies revealed that the value clarifying strategies were more effective on behavior change as compared to attitudinal change, value change and change in self concepts.

We are aware about the democratic values in our country. We have to live in accordance with the democratic principles. Everyone had a sense of national pride and patriotism along with the moral values. Democratic awareness should be cultivated at earlier stage. This is easily possible only through education. In this context, education is not only to impart information and to teach skills to the students but also inculcate the values of democracy because today students are the future citizens and they will be the leaders, administrators and advisers of nation.

One of the national objectives is the building of democratic social order. It is based on the nationalism, liberty, equality, gender equality, secularism, social justice, fraternity, faith in democracy and tolerance. People should be aware of the democratic values to live as a good citizen of the country. The students are the future citizens, their personalities, activities and qualities like leadership, co operative attitudes, sincerity etc will reflect in the society. A value based democratic knowledge may enable them to go ahead in the field of social service and this

may lead to future progress and prosperity of nations.

The National Policy on Education (1986) stated that “India’s political and social life is passing through a phase which poses the danger of erosion to long accepted values. The goal of secularism, socialism, democracy and professional ethics are coming under increasing strain”

The existing scenario indicates not only the ineffective social process but also the lack of opportunities for getting value education pertain to the democratic way of life have left generations starved for democratic values and floundered in existential vacuum of ignorance and blind belief. Men in society have not understood the important of their inter relationship with each other as their brothers at local, regional or national level. They are not yet aware of their own rights and responsibilities. It reveals the democratization at the government level would not ensure the creation of a free democratic society unless people get education on democratic values and commit to be abided by them in a responsible manner.

The educational scenario also changed recently. The curriculum, acts, policies all aims at increasing democratic awareness among people. What is its present situation to be analyzed. The investigator attempts to find out the commitment of students to democracy or democratic values through the study.

Higher secondary school students’ involvement in democracy has created a lot of debates in academic circle. In such a context it would be a worthwhile to explore these are more scientifically and vigorously. The present approach, constructivism provides the learner, a lot of provisions for self development. The investigator could identity, from reviews, a study on commitment to democratic values among higher secondary school students, done seven years before. In this context the investigator decided to find out the effect of all changes in the education system in the commitment to democratic values among higher secondary school

students.

### **Objective of the Study**

To compare the Commitment to Democratic Values for the sub samples based on Gender, Locale, Type of Management and Subject of specialization

### **Hypothesis of the Study**

There will be significant difference of commitment to democratic values among higher secondary school students for the subsamples based on Gender, Locale, Type of Management and Subject of specialization

### **Methodology**

#### **Sample of the Study**

The present study was conducted on a representative sample of 809 higher secondary school students from Malappuram, Palakkad, and Thrissur districts. The samples were selected using stratified sampling techniques.

#### **Tool used for the Study**

Scale of commitment to democratic values (Gafoor and Thushara,2007)

#### **Statistical Techniques Used for the Study**

Test of significance of difference between means for large samples.

## Results and Discussion

**Table 1**

*Result of Test of Significance of Differences between Boys and Girls*

Gender	Number	Mean	Standard deviation	T
Boys	353	177.22	21.28	
Girls	456	174.67	22.77	1.62

Table 1 shows the mean scores of boys and girls, 177.22 and 174.67 respectively. The standard deviation is 21.28 and 22.77 for boys and girls. The t-is 1.62 which shows that there is no significant difference between boys and girls in their commitment to democratic values even in 0.05 level.

### Comparison of Mean Scores of Democratic Values Between the Urban and Rural Sample

The mean and standard deviation of the sub samples based on locale is calculated. The comparison of the mean between urban and rural were done by calculating the t. The result of the t-test is given in table 2

**Table 2**

*Result of the Test of Significance of Differences between Means of Urban and Rural Students*

Locality	Number	Mean	SD	T
Urban	280	176.71	24.78	
Rural	529	175.27	20.59	0.880

Table 2 shows the mean scores of urban and rural, 176.71 and 175.27 respectively. The



standard deviation is 24.78 and 20.59 for urban and rural. The t-values 0.880 which shows that there is no significant difference between urban and rural in their commitment to democratic values even in 0.05 level.

**Comparison of Mean Scores of Democratic Values Between Government and Aided School Students**

The mean and standard deviation of the sub samples based on Government and Aided is calculated. The comparison of the mean between Government and Aided were done by calculating the t. The result of the t-test is given in table 3

**Table 3**

*Result of the Test of Significance of Difference between Means of Government and Aided School Students*

Type of Management	Number	Mean	SD	T
Government	225	179.96	26.29	
Aided	354	171.96	19.18	4.04

Table 3 shows the mean scores of Government and Aided, 179.96 and 171.96 respectively. The standard deviation is 26.29 and 19.18 for Government and Aided. The t-value 4.04 which shows that there is significant difference between Government and Aided in their commitment to democratic values in 0.01 level.

Though the critical ratio of the democratic values indicate that the Government school students are higher in democratic values than the Aided school students.

## Conclusion

- In gender wise boys have higher commitment to democratic values than the girls.
- Commitment to democratic value is higher in students of Urban than Rural.
- In type of management, Commitment to democratic values is higher in the Unaided school students greater than the Govt, Aided and CBSE
- In the subject of specialization, the commitment to democratic values are more in the science students than the humanities and commerce

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