



A comparative study of empowerment in adolescent girls of Chhattisgarh: With reference to type of school

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Abstract

This comparative study was conducted to assess empowerment of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools operational in Chhattisgarh. To conduct the study, 800 adolescent school girls studying in class XI and XII were selected as sample. Out of these selected adolescent school girls, 400 were studying in government schools while 400 were studying in private schools. Stratified proportionate random sampling method was used in the present study. To assess empowerment in selected adolescent girls, Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Scale (AGES) prepared by Sisodia and Singh (2009) was used. Independent sample 't' test was used as statistical tool to compare data. Results reveal that the adolescent girls from private school were found to be significantly more empowered as compared to adolescent girls from government schools at .01 level of statistical significance. It was concluded that private schools offer more meaningful atmosphere through which adolescent girls can practice their rights as men as compared to government schools.

Keywords: empowerment, adolescent girls, government schools, private schools

Introduction

Women empowerment since ages is a burning issue in our society. Principle of equality in gender are there in the form of preamble, fundamental rights and directive principles in India constitution. The constitutional law strengthens Indian state to stop discrimination on the basis of gender. Empowerment of women denotes development of women as more aware individuals, who are politically active, independent and economically productive and are able to take intelligent and valuable discussion in matters that influences them. It is even more important for adolescent girls. It is the process through which girls gain knowledge of themselves and what is happening in their environment, acquire skills and competence, and solve problems by using or generating resources for themselves and their communities. Empowerment of adolescent girls promotes attitudes of independence, responsibility and risk avoidance, which in turn encourages them to care for their own health, sexuality and reproductive lives. Bennett (2002) [2] defined empowerment as "the enhancement of assets and capabilities of diverse individuals and groups to engage, influence and hold accountable the institutions which affect them." Sen (1993) [8] defines empowerment as "altering relations of power which constrain women's options and autonomy and adversely affect health and well-being."

Women empowerment has been studied by researchers such as Batliwala (1994) [1], Malhotra *et al.* (1995) [5], Jejeebhoy (2000) [4], Rathee (2014) [6], Sarna (2015) [7], Fleming (2016) [3], Sinha (2016) [9] in the light of personality, type of school, socio economic status, education, women's autonomy in rural India, patriarchy etc. Still due to cultural diversity in India, it is necessary to analyse empowerment in adolescent girls in

that particular region. In this context it is worthwhile to assess empowerment in adolescent girls studying in government and private schools operational in the State of Chhattisgarh. The present study is important in a sense that it will throw light on environment provided by government and private schools towards adolescent girl empowerment.

Objective

The objective of the present study is to compare empowerment in adolescent girls studying in government and private schools of Chhattisgarh.

Hypothesis

It was hypothesized that no significant difference will be observed in empowerment of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools.

Methodology

Sample

To conduct the study, 800 adolescent school girls studying in class XI and XII were selected as sample. Out of these selected adolescent school girls, 400 were studying in government schools while 400 were studying in private schools. Stratified proportionate random sampling method was used for selection of subjects.

Tools

To assess empowerment in selected adolescent girls, Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Scale (AGES) prepared by Sisodia and Singh (2009) was used. The areas used to assess girl empowerment in this scale are (a) power and entitlement, (b) autonomy and self reliance, (c) decision making, (d)

participation, (e) capacity building, (f) social, political and legal awareness and lastly (g) exposure to information media respectively. The final form of scale consists of 49 statements which assess adolescent girl empowerment. The internal consistency of the scale was scientifically reliable with reliability coefficient of 0.71. The scale is fairly valid justified by norms established for this scale.

Procedure

800 adolescent school girls studying in class XI and XII were selected as sample as per the inclusion criteria of the present study. A written consent was obtained from each selected subject to voluntarily participate in the study. They were assured of the fact that responses given by them would only be used for research purpose and it will be treated as confidential otherwise. Adolescent Girls' Empowerment Scale was administered to each subject. The response given by the subjects were scored as per the instruction manual. Afterwards all the scores related with adolescent girl's empowerment scale in case of each member of sample of 800 cases were segregated in their respective groups. Independent sample 't' test was used to compare empowerment of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools. Results shown in table No. 1.

Result

Table 1: Comparison of Girls Empowerment among Adolescent Students of Government and Private Schools

Type of School	Girl Empowerment		Mean Diff.	't'
	Mean	S.D.		
Government Schools (N=400)	137.96	52.43	14.77	3.88, p<.01
Private Schools (N=400)	152.73	55.00		

$t_{(df=798)} = 2.59$ at .01 level and 1.96 at .05 level

Results presented in table 1 indicate statistically significant difference in empowerment of adolescent girls from government and private schools. The calculated $t=3.88$ confirms this fact that the adolescent girls from private school are significantly more empowered ($M=152.73$) as compared to adolescent girls from government schools ($M=137.96$) at .01 level of statistical significance.

Discussion

Result reveal that adolescent girls studying in private schools were more empowered as compared to adolescent girls of government schools. This may be due to environmental and socio-demographic factors. Adolescent girls of private schools came from families which are somewhat better in social status as compared to adolescent girls of government schools. The other reason may be added support that is provided in private schools to adolescent girls in terms of security, special grooming classes etc. In the similar lines Smriti Lata Sinha (2016) [10] also reported slightly better empowerment for adolescent girls from private schools as compared to adolescent girls from government schools.

Conclusion

It was concluded that private schools offer more meaningful atmosphere through which adolescent girls can practice their rights as men as compared to government schools.

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