



A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DEGREE OF ACTIVISM OF POLYTECHNIC AND ARTS DEGREE STUDENTS

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Abstract

Activism is a social concept which stands for the non-conformist, inconsistent and disruptive behavior of youth. In the present research this phenomenon is used for the activities of student activists whose activities cause trouble in the normal and smooth functioning of the system of the institution. This study aims to compare the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students. The findings revealed that there is significant difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students. There is significant difference between the Degree of Activism of male and female Arts Degree students. There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of male and female Polytechnic students. There is significant difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic male and Arts Degree male students. There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic female and Arts Degree female students.

Keywords: *Activism, Non- Conformist, Disruptive Tactics, Democracy, Arts Degree College, Polytechnic College.*



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Concept Development

Activism is a social concept which stands for the non-conformist, inconsistent and disruptive behavior of youth. In the present research, this phenomenon is used for the activities of student activists whose activities cause trouble in the normal and smooth functioning of the system of the institution. The behavior of student activities deviate from adapted societal ethics and norms. Sometimes the student activist use the disruptive tactics such as strikes, violence, demonstrations, disturbing roadways and railways, misconduct with teachers, building takeovers and property destruction etc. But these student activists are not always engaged in disruptive tactics, some of them also participate in social services and democratic activities. The institutions may take initiative to accommodate student activists within institution and society. The institutions which prefer to grant civic education and democratic education to its students can maintain an association between their activism and their roles as citizens within a democracy. Generally, it is found that student activists have demonstrated for the interest of society to a larger extent.

Literature Review and Rationale of the study

Heffernan (1992) concluded that as soon as students gain entrée in college, a difference in activists and volunteers view regarding community service can be seen. According to Heffernan, involvement of student activities in service activities provide training ground to be the social change agents, on the other hand, community service participants involve themselves in service activities in order to connect with an issue locally. Hirsch (1993) found 26% college students who are involved in volunteering are found to be engaged in protest activities, while 81% student protesters are found to be engaged in volunteering. Hamilton (2003) opined that now a days, student activist used less disruptive tactics than those were used during 1960s. Levine & Cureton (1998b) reported that now a days, the student activist don't use the disruptive tactics such as strikes, disturbing roadways and railways, building takeovers and property destruction. The student activities are found to have higher academic abilities than that of remaining students (Heffernan, 1992). Although the researcher has found that there are number of researches which have explored the involvement of students in civic engagement, the degree of activism of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students has not been elucidated. The researcher intended to conduct a comparative study of the degree of activism of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students. This research will be helpful to provide insight into related concept.

Objectives of the Study

1. To compare the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students.
2. To compare the Degree of Activism of male and female Arts Degree students.
3. To compare the Degree of Activism of male and female Polytechnic students.
4. To compare the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic male and Arts Degree male students.
5. To compare the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic female and Arts Degree female students.

To fulfill the objectives of the study, following hypotheses were formulated:

1. There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students.
2. There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of male and female Arts Degree students.

3. There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of male and female Polytechnic students.
4. There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic male and Arts Degree male students.
5. There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic female and Arts Degree female students.

Research Methodology

In the present study descriptive survey method is used to study degree of Student Activism in Arts and Polytechnic College students. Keeping the limited source of time and money only 200 college students were randomly selected from different degree colleges of Sirsa district. Out of 200 college students, 100 (50 Male & 50 Female) were Arts students and 100 (50 Male & 50 Female) were Polytechnic Students. The investigator used Sharma Student Activism Scale (SSAS) developed by Dr. R.R. Sharma to collect data for analysis. The responses of Sharma Student Activism Scale (SSAS) are scored as: (a) 0 for the responses of passive nature (response alternative) (b) 1 for the responses of interactive nature (response alternative) (c) 2 for the responses of active nature (response alternative).

Analysis and Results

In order to analyze data and realize the objectives of the study, the statistical technique: t-test was used.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic and Arts degree students.

Table 1 showing mean difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic and Arts degree students.

Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	't' value
Arts Students	100	66.85	14.79	3.72
Polytechnic Students	100	58.58	8.77	

It was observed from the table 1 that as far as the degree of activism in Polytechnic and Arts students is concerned, the mean score of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students is 58.58 and 66.85 respectively and the S.D. of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students is 8.77 and 14.79 respectively. The calculated 't' value is 3.72 which is greater than the table value of 't' at both levels i.e. at 0.05 level 1.97 & 0.01 level 2.60. As the calculated 't' value is greater than table value, so the Hypothesis No. 1 is rejected. Thus it may be interpreted that there is significant

difference between the degree of activism of Polytechnic and Arts Degree students. As the mean value of Arts students is more than the mean value of Polytechnic Students, so it can also be concluded that Degree of Activism of Arts students is higher than that of Polytechnic student.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of male and female Arts Degree students.

Table 2 showing mean difference between the Degree of Activism of male and female Arts Degree students.

Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	‘t’ value
Arts Students Male	50	75.36	13.52	5.45
Arts Students Female	50	58.33	10.48	

It was observed from the table 2 that as far as the degree of activism is concerned, the mean score of male and female Arts Degree Students is 75.36 & 58.33 respectively and the S.D. of male and female Arts Degree Students is 13.52 & 10.48 respectively. The calculated ‘t’ value is 5.45 which is greater than the table value of ‘t’ at both levels i.e. at 0.05 level 1.98 and at 0.01 level 2.63. As the calculated t value is greater than table value, so the Hypothesis 2 is rejected. Thus it may be interpreted that there is significant difference between the degree of activism in male and female Arts Degree students. As the mean value of Arts male students is more than the mean value of Arts female students. Therefore, it can also be concluded that Degree of Activism in Arts male students is higher than that of Arts female students.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism of male and female Polytechnic students.

Table 3 showing mean difference in Degree of Activism of male and female Polytechnic College students.

Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	‘t’ value
Polytechnic Students Male	50	59	8.93	0.36
Polytechnic Students Female	50	58.16	8.58	

It was observed from the table 3 that as far as the degree of activism in Polytechnic male students and Polytechnic female students is concerned, the mean score of Polytechnic male and Polytechnic female students is 59 and 58.16 respectively and the S.D. of Polytechnic male and Polytechnic female students is 8.93 and 8.58 respectively. The calculated ‘t’ value is 0.36 which is lesser than the table value at both levels i.e. at 0.05 level 1.98 and at 0.01 level

2.63. As the calculated value is lesser than table value, so the Hypothesis 3 is accepted. Thus it may be interpreted that there is no significant difference between the degree of activism in male and female Polytechnic Students.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism Polytechnic male students and Arts Degree male students.

Table 4 showing mean difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic male and Arts Degree male students.

Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	‘t’ value
Art Male Students	50	75.36	13.52	5.53
Polytechnic Male Students	50	59	8.98	

It was observed from the table 4 that as far as the degree of activism in Arts male students and Polytechnic male students is concerned, the mean score of Arts male and Polytechnic male students is 75.36 and 59 respectively and the S.D. of Arts male and Polytechnic male students is 13.52 and 8.98 respectively. The calculated ‘t’ value is 5.53 which is greater than the table value at both levels i.e. at 0.05 level 1.98 and at 0.01 level 2.63. As the calculated value is greater than table value, so the Hypothesis 4 is rejected. Thus it may be interpreted that there is significant difference between the degree of activism in Arts male students and Polytechnic male students. As the mean value of Arts male students is more than the mean value of Polytechnic male students, so it can also be concluded that Degree of Activism in Arts male students is higher than that of Polytechnic male students.

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant difference between the Degree of Activism Polytechnic female and Arts Degree female students.

Table 5 showing mean difference between the Degree of Activism of Polytechnic female and Arts Degree female students.

Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	‘t’ value
Art Female Students	50	55.33	3.66	0.06
Polytechnic Female Students	50	55.16	2.45	

It was observed from the table 5 that as far as the degree of activism in Arts female students and Polytechnic female students is concerned, the mean score of Arts female and Polytechnic female Degree students is 55.33 & 55.16 respectively and the S.D. of Arts female and Polytechnic female Degree students is 3.66 and 2.45 respectively. The calculated ‘t’ Value is 0.06 which is lesser than the table value at both levels i.e. at 0.05 level 1.96 & at 0.01 level 2.63. As the calculated ‘t’ value is lesser than table value, so the Hypothesis 5 is accepted.

Thus it may be interpreted that there is no significant difference between the degree of activism in Arts female students and Polytechnic female students.

Main Findings and Conclusion:It is concluded that arts students have more degree of activism than polytechnic students. Arts students are generally of more revolting nature than Polytechnic students. Arts students mostly do not remain silent whenever their views are objected. They do not tolerate any kind of torture or exploitation and are always ready to revolt violently. They are ready to argue with their teachers and authorities. They like to participate in movements, strikes etc. They willingly participate in student elections, become the members of student unions. But on the other hand, Polytechnic students generally keep themselves busy in their study and do not like the activities like strikes, movements etc. Polytechnic students are mostly of calm nature and do not revolt the things going on. The study shows that the Arts Male Students have more degree of activism than Arts Female students. Male students are generally interested in opposing the decisions or activities which they think not to be fair. They try to oppose the authorities when they increase the fee structure illogically without caring the conditions of needy students. They like to come forward openly against the partiality in selection and recruitment. But Arts Female students are generally remain calm and peaceful. They do not like to revolt the decisions taken by their teachers or college authorities. There is no significant difference in the activism between Polytechnic male students and Polytechnic female students. Both generally do not involve themselves in any kind of violent or revolting activity. They like to go with the system and tradition. Sometimes they know that the decision of college authorities is not fair but they cannot oppose it and accept it readily. Thus the degree of student activism in Polytechnic Male Students and Polytechnic Female students is equal. The study shows that there is significant difference in activism of Arts male students and Polytechnic male students. Arts male students have higher degree of student activism in them than Polytechnic male students. Arts male students openly oppose the unfair things. They generally revolt against the irregularities of their college. When college authorities try suppress the students fair demands, they revolt violently and like to oppose by strike etc. Artstudents revolt aggressively against the teachers who do not come to class regularly. Arts male students willingly become the members of student committees. As far as the activism of Arts female students and Polytechnic female students is concerned, there is no significant difference in their level of activism. Both behave equally against the various activism of the college.

Whenever they find any irregularity in the college or in their surroundings, they just like to discuss in with their friends but do not oppose that irregularity openly. Both Arts and Polytechnic female students do not involve themselves easily in revolting activities. Whenever they are exploited or insulted by any clerk, teacher, and principal or by any other authority, they accept it as a part of system and do not oppose it openly. They do not want to the members or representatives of committees of student welfare.

It is concluded that there is a need to utilize the energy of college students for social activities. The authorities should design some policies and guidelines which will be helpful to satisfy the needs of the students and prohibit them to engage in disruptive activities.

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