



A STUDY ON AWARENESS ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE LEARNERS BASED ON CERTAIN PRESAGE VARIABLES

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INTRODUCTION

A fundamental right defines the freedom which is entitled by individuals. Government is regarded as a possible source of liberty by creating condition to enable their subjects to enjoy greater liberty than they otherwise would. This concept regards liberty as sometimes threatened not only by individuals and corporations, but also by governments. Sometimes the governments abuse their powers and trespass the individual liberty. Through fundamental rights the state must promote and protect the individual's liberty instead of interference therein. State should keep off from certain areas of individual's life and liberty, and should avoid interfering with them to promote their freedom.

Fundamental Rights are inviolable civil and political rights guaranteed by the Constitution as they are most essential for the safeguard of individual liberty and attainment by the individual of his full intellectual, moral and spiritual status and to ensure social, economic and political justice for every member of the community. The legislature of any country should not have any interference with these rights. To quote PN Bhagwati 'The fundamental rights are calculated to protect the dignity of the individual and create conditions in which every human being can develop his personality to the fullest extent. They weave a pattern of guarantee on the basic structure of human rights, and impose negative obligations on the State not to encroach on individual liberty in its various dimensions'.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The title of the study is "A study on awareness on Fundamental Rights among undergraduate learners based on certain presage variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE STUDY

Awareness on fundamental rights: Awareness is the ability to directly know and perceive, to feel, or to be of events. More broadly, it is the state or quality of being conscious of something. Awareness on Fundamental rights is defined as the knowledge and understanding of the fundamental rights and role and responsibilities of the citizen of India. In the present research study, it is assessed by Awareness on Fundamental Rights Questionnaire prepared and validated by the investigator and the supervisor.

Undergraduate learners: It refers to the students studying in graduation courses, leading to graduation in Arts, Science, Medicine, Law and Engineering streams.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

As a good citizen of the country, it is essential to know and learn all the rights and duties for the welfare of our society and country. It is vital to understand that all are responsible for good or bad condition of the society. It is must to change our thinking into action to bring some positive effect in our society and country. If the individual action performed by a person can change the life; collaborative actions have positive effects over the society and country. So, the duties of citizens matters a lot for the prosperity and peace of society and entire country. Hence it is indispensable factor to have complete knowledge about the salient features of the fundamental rights. Hence this study has made an attempt to study awareness of fundamental rights in undergraduate Students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives have been set in the present study.

- To assess the level of awareness on fundamental rights of the undergraduate learners.
- To find out the significant differences on awareness on fundamental rights and its dimensions among undergraduate learners with respect to certain demographic variables such as gender, type of colleges and type of family.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following hypotheses have been framed in the present investigation.

1. The level of Awareness on Fundamental Rights and its dimensions of Undergraduate Learners is average in nature.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean scores of Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions among undergraduate learners with regard to Gender.

3. There is no significant difference between the mean scores of Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions among undergraduate learners with regard to type of colleges.
4. There is no significant difference between the mean scores of Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions among undergraduate learners with regard to type of family.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

For the present study, the investigator adopted the survey method. Survey research is the most widely used non-experimental type of educational research.

Population and Sample

The population for the present study consists of students of Medicine, Engineering, Law, Arts and Science Colleges. The investigator used simple random sampling method as the sampling technique. The investigator collected 1196 samples from various colleges.

Tools used

To collect the pertinent data for the present investigation, the Investigator had developed the Awareness of Fundamental Rights Questionnaire (2014) for data collection.

Analysis of Data:

The collected data are analyzed using the relevant statistical procedures, the details of which are given in the following tables.

Hypothesis-1

The level of Awareness of Fundamental Rights of the undergraduate learners is average in nature.

Table -1 Showing the distribution of low, average and high Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its Dimension groups in the sample

| Variable | Low | | Average | | High | |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|---------|------|------|------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Right to Equality | 349 | 29.2 | 480 | 40.1 | 367 | 30.7 |
| Right to Freedom | 365 | 30.5 | 484 | 40.5 | 347 | 29.0 |
| Right to Education | 316 | 26.4 | 525 | 43.9 | 355 | 29.7 |
| Right against Exploitation | 318 | 26.6 | 554 | 46.3 | 324 | 27.1 |
| Right to Constitutional Remedies | 388 | 32.4 | 419 | 35.0 | 389 | 32.5 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Right to Freedom of Religion | 377 | 31.5 | 519 | 43.4 | 300 | 25.1 |
| Awareness of Fundamental Rights - Total | 322 | 26.9 | 550 | 46.0 | 324 | 27.1 |

As could be seen from the above table, it is found that 46 % of undergraduate learners have average level of Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions. Moreover, they have average level in all the dimensions of Awareness of Fundamental Rights namely Right to Equality (40.1%), Right to Freedom (40.5%), Right to Education (43.9%), Right against Exploitation (46.3%), Right to Constitutional Remedies (35%) and Right to Freedom of Religion (43.3%). The high and low Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its Dimension groups are almost equal in size, suggesting that the scores in the sample are more or less normally distributed. Hence, the hypothesis-1 stating that “The levels of Awareness of Fundamental Right and its dimensions namely Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right to Education, Right against Exploitation, Right to Constitutional Remedies and Right to Freedom of Religion are average in nature” is accepted.

Hypothesis-2

Table 2 Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Male and Female in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions

| Variable | Gender | N | Mean | SD | 't' Value | Level of Significance |
|---|--------|-----|-------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Right to Equality | Male | 682 | 15.21 | 3.197 | 2.875 | 0.05 |
| | Female | 514 | 14.66 | 3.423 | | |
| Right to Freedom | Male | 682 | 14.83 | 3.197 | 2.693 | 0.05 |
| | Female | 514 | 14.33 | 3.126 | | |
| Right to Education | Male | 682 | 14.33 | 3.130 | 1.561 | NS |
| | Female | 514 | 14.04 | 3.112 | | |
| Right against Exploitation | Male | 682 | 14.96 | 3.219 | 3.066 | 0.05 |
| | Female | 514 | 14.38 | 3.270 | | |
| Right to Constitutional Remedies | Male | 682 | 14.53 | 3.098 | 0.813 | NS |
| | Female | 514 | 14.39 | 3.090 | | |
| Right to Freedom Religion | Male | 682 | 14.64 | 3.240 | 1.685 | NS |
| | Female | 514 | 14.32 | 3.285 | | |
| Awareness of Fundamental Rights - Total | Male | 682 | 88.50 | 10.357 | 4.306 | 0.01 |
| | Female | 514 | 86.11 | 8.173 | | |

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference between undergraduate Male and Female learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total

and its dimensions, except for the dimensions Right to Education, Right to constitutional Remedies and Right to Freedom of Religion. Hence, the formulated hypothesis-2, “There is no significant difference between undergraduate Male and Female learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions.” is partially verified.

Hypothesis-3

Table -3 Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Undergraduate Learners studying in Arts, Science, Engineering, Medical and Law colleges in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions

| Variable | Type | of | N | Mean | SSb | SSw | ‘F’ | Level | of |
|--|------|-------------|-----|-------|----------|-----------|--------|-------|----|
| Right to Equality | to | Arts | 209 | 14.55 | 106.736 | 12954.408 | 2.453 | 0.05 | |
| | | Science | 208 | 14.94 | | | | | |
| | | Engineering | 193 | 14.96 | | | | | |
| | | Medical | 187 | 14.99 | | | | | |
| Right to Freedom | to | Arts | 209 | 14.51 | 219.915 | 11825.846 | 5.537 | 0.01 | |
| | | Science | 208 | 14.17 | | | | | |
| | | Engineering | 193 | 14.22 | | | | | |
| | | Medical | 187 | 14.39 | | | | | |
| Right to Education | to | Arts | 209 | 14.15 | 236.808 | 11426.820 | 6.171 | 0.01 | |
| | | Science | 208 | 13.83 | | | | | |
| | | Engineering | 193 | 13.73 | | | | | |
| | | Medical | 187 | 13.88 | | | | | |
| Right against Exploitation | to | Arts | 209 | 14.52 | 125.899 | 12516.090 | 2.995 | 0.05 | |
| | | Science | 208 | 14.33 | | | | | |
| | | Engineering | 193 | 14.35 | | | | | |
| | | Medical | 187 | 14.92 | | | | | |
| Right to Constitutional Remedies | to | Arts | 209 | 14.12 | 325.496 | 11116.359 | 8.718 | 0.01 | |
| | | Science | 208 | 14.05 | | | | | |
| | | Engineering | 193 | 13.94 | | | | | |
| | | Medical | 187 | 14.34 | | | | | |
| Right to Freedom of Religion | to | Arts | 209 | 14.31 | 141.120 | 12573.839 | 3.342 | 0.05 | |
| | | Science | 208 | 14.08 | | | | | |
| | | Engineering | 193 | 14.20 | | | | | |
| | | Medical | 187 | 14.60 | | | | | |
| Religion Awareness of Fundamental Rights - Total | to | Arts | 209 | 86.15 | 6116.281 | 102871.7 | 17.703 | 0.01 | |
| | | Science | 208 | 85.40 | | | | | |
| | | Engineering | 193 | 85.12 | | | | | |
| | | Medical | 187 | 87.12 | | | | | |
| | | Law | 399 | 90.54 | | | | | |

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference among the Undergraduate Learners studying in Arts, Science, Engineering, Medical and Law colleges in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions. On the whole, law college students have exhibited significantly higher Awareness of Fundamental rights and its dimensions than students studying in medical, engineering, arts and science colleges. Hence,

the formulated hypothesis-3, “There is no significant difference among the Undergraduate Learners studying in Arts, Science, Engineering, Medical and Law colleges in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions.” is rejected.

Hypothesis-4

Table -4 Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Undergraduate Learners hailing from Nuclear and Joint families in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions

| Variable | Gender | N | Mean | SD | ‘t’ Value | Level of Significance |
|---|---------|-----|-------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Right to Equality | Nuclear | 713 | 14.77 | 3.405 | 2.607 | 0.05 |
| | Joint | 483 | 15.28 | 3.133 | | |
| Right to Freedom | Nuclear | 713 | 14.30 | 3.133 | 4.110 | 0.01 |
| | Joint | 483 | 15.07 | 3.185 | | |
| Right to Education | Nuclear | 713 | 13.94 | 3.064 | 3.542 | 0.01 |
| | Joint | 483 | 14.59 | 3.175 | | |
| Right against Exploitation | Nuclear | 713 | 14.48 | 3.141 | 2.977 | 0.05 |
| | Joint | 483 | 15.05 | 3.386 | | |
| Right to Constitutional Remedies | Nuclear | 713 | 14.26 | 3.107 | 2.874 | 0.05 |
| | Joint | 483 | 14.78 | 3.052 | | |
| Right to Freedom Religion | Nuclear | 713 | 14.27 | 3.290 | 3.076 | 0.05 |
| | Joint | 483 | 14.86 | 3.191 | | |
| Awareness of Fundamental Rights - Total | Nuclear | 713 | 86.02 | 8.365 | 6.507 | 0.01 |
| | Joint | 483 | 89.62 | 10.724 | | |

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference between the Undergraduate Learners hailing from Nuclear and Joint families in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions. Hence, the formulated hypothesis-4 “There is no

significant difference between the Undergraduate Learners hailing from Nuclear and Joint families in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions.” is rejected.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The levels of Awareness of Fundamental Right and its dimensions namely Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right to Education, Right against Exploitation, Right to Constitutional Remedies and Right to Freedom of Religion are average in nature.
2. The male undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the female undergraduate learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions - Right to Equality, Right to Freedom and Right against Exploitation.
3. The undergraduate learners studying in Law College are found to be higher than the undergraduate learners studying in medical college, followed by arts, engineering, and science undergraduate learners in the Right against Exploitation and Right to Freedom of Religion - dimensions of Awareness of Fundamental Rights. It is also seen from the table that the undergraduate learners studying in Law College are found to be higher than the undergraduate learners studying in medical college, followed by arts, science and engineering undergraduate learners in the Right to constitutional Remedies – a dimension of Awareness of Fundamental Rights and Awareness on Fundamental Rights in total. The Law college undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the undergraduate students studying in medical College, followed by engineering, science and arts college students in the Right to Equality – a dimension of Fundamental rights. The Law college undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the undergraduate students studying in Arts College, followed by medical, engineering and science college students in the Right to Freedom – a dimension of Fundamental rights. In the same line, the Law college undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the undergraduate students studying in Arts College, followed by medical, science and engineering college students in the Right to Education – a dimension of Fundamental rights.
4. It is observed that the undergraduate learners hailing from joint family are found to be higher than the undergraduate learners hailing from nuclear family in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

From the present investigation, as it is evident that College authorities may organize seminars and workshops for arts, science and medical undergraduate

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learners in order to create awareness of the fundamental rights. Proper awareness should be provided for female undergraduate learners on awareness of their fundamental rights.

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