

Gender And Locality Differences in Altruism Among Higher Secondary Students

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Abstract—This study aimed to examine the level of altruism among higher secondary school students with respect to gender and locality. The survey method was adopted for the study. A sample of 300 XI standard students from selected higher secondary schools in Chennai district, Tamil Nadu, was selected using a random sampling technique. The collected data were analyzed using Mean, Standard Deviation, and t-test. The findings revealed that there is no significant difference in altruism with respect to gender. However, a significant difference was found with respect to locality, where rural students showed higher altruism compared to urban students. The study highlights the influence of environmental and social factors on the development of altruistic behavior among adolescents.

Index Terms—Altruism, Higher secondary school students, Survey Method, Adolescents.

I. INTRODUCTION

Altruism is an important pro-social behaviour that reflects an individual's willingness to help others without expecting any reward. It involves selfless concern for the welfare of others, even at a personal cost. During adolescence, especially at the higher secondary level, students undergo significant emotional, social, and moral development. The cultivation of altruistic behaviour during this stage contributes to healthy interpersonal relationships and social harmony. Higher secondary school students, typically aged between 16–18 years, are at a crucial stage of personality formation. Their attitudes and behaviours are shaped by various factors such as family environment, peer influence, school climate, gender roles, and locality. Locality, particularly rural and urban settings, may influence students' helping behaviour due to differences in social structure,

cultural values, and community bonding. Therefore, understanding differences in altruism with respect to gender and locality is essential for promoting positive youth development.

II. DEFINITION

Altruism

Altruism is a state that it can be a form of pro-social behavior in which a person will voluntarily help another at some cost to themselves. Altruism is the “degree of obligation felt in situations involving helping others at expense.”

Higher secondary school students:

Higher secondary school students refer to adolescents enrolled in Grade XI and Grade XII in recognized educational institutions, typically within the age group of 16–18 years.

III. REVIEW SUPPORT

Johnson and Sinha (2023) aimed to explore the relationship shared between altruism and burnout among working adults. Both the altruism scale and the burnout questionnaire were conducted on a group of 107 young adults who were selected at random. The results of the correlational analysis conducted on the data indicate that there is no noteworthy correlation between altruism and burnout among young adults. This analysis offers a more comprehensive comprehension of the notion that engaging in altruistic behaviors does not contribute to the perception of weariness among individuals who are employed.

Bodziany and Kaluzny (2021) aimed to identify the inclination of military students towards prosocially and altruistic behavior, and the environmental factors that play a role. The study included 246 (85 women & 161 men) military first-year trainees recruited through a random sampling technique. The results revealed gender differences in altruistic behavior, mentioning females being less altruistic as compared to males. The results also highlight that the altruistic deeds of the participants were not associated with their military specialties but to their personality attributes that motivated them to be engaged in such activities.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out whether there is any significant difference in Altruism among higher Secondary students with respect to Gender.
- To find out whether there is any significant difference in Altruism among higher Secondary students with respect to Locality.

V. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- There is a significant difference in Altruism among higher Secondary students with respect to Gender.
- There is a significant difference in Altruism among higher Secondary students with respect to Locality.

VI. METHODOLOGY

Survey method was adopted for the study. Data was collected from the higher secondary school students using random sampling method. The sample consists of Three hundred XI standard students studying in Chennai district, Tamil Nadu. Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test used to analyse the data.

VII. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

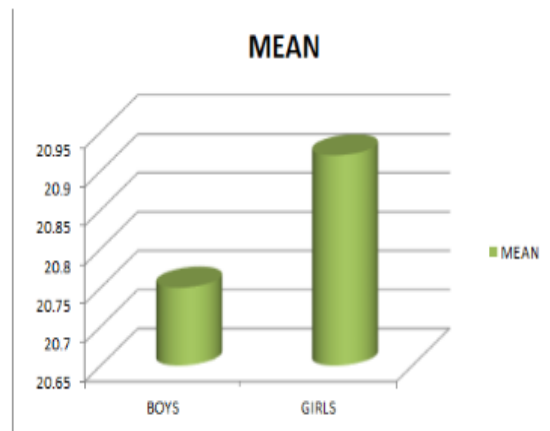
Hypothesis 1: There is a significant difference in Altruism among higher Secondary students with respect to Gender.

Table 1

Variab le	Gend er	N	Mea n	Standa rd deviati on	't' - valu e	Remar ks (@95 %)
Altruis m	Boys	147	20.75	3.641	0.397	NS
	Girls	153	20.92	3.625		

(@5% level of significance the table value of 't' is 1.96)

Figure 1



From the above table, it shows that the Altruism mean score of boys (20.75) is lesser than the Altruism mean score of girls (20.92). The Calculated t-value (0.39) is lesser than the table value (1.96) at 0.05% level of significance. Thus, there is no significant difference in Altruism of higher secondary students with respect to gender. Hence, the alternative hypothesis is rejected.

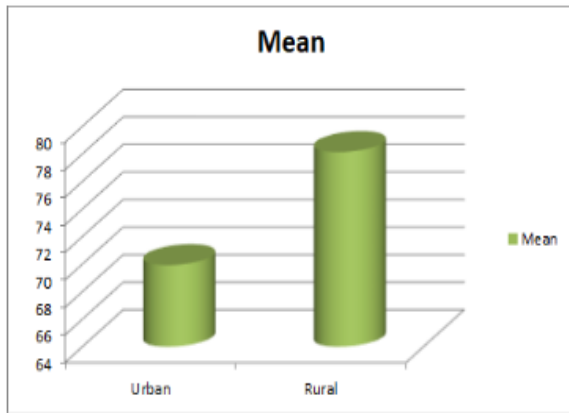
Hypothesis 2: There is a significant difference in Altruism among higher Secondary students with respect to Locality.

Table 2

Variab le	Locali ty	N	Mea n	Standa rd deviati on	't' - valu e	Remar ks (@95 %)
Altruis m	Urban	123	69.92	8.40	7.21	S
	Rural	176	78.13	11.20		

(@5% level of significance the table value of 't' is 1.96)

Figure 2



From the above table, it shows that the Altruism mean score of urban (69.92) is lesser than the Altruism mean score of rural (78.13). The Calculated t-value (7.21) is lesser than the table value (1.96) at 0.05% level of significance. Thus, there is a significant difference in Altruism of higher secondary students with respect to locality. Rural students' life often depends on shared responsibilities and collective support, which naturally develops helping behavior to compare urban students. Hence, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

VIII. MAJOR FINDINGS

- There is no significant difference in Altruism among higher secondary students with respect to gender.
- There is a significant difference in Altruism among higher secondary students with respect to locality. Rural students' life often depends on shared responsibilities and collective support, which naturally develops helping behavior to compare urban students.

IX. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- Schools should organize value education programs to promote altruistic and pro-social behavior among students.
- Teachers should encourage group activities, cooperative learning, and community service programs to develop helping attitudes.

- Moral education and life skills training can be integrated into the curriculum to strengthen empathy and social responsibility.
- Special attention may be given to urban students to provide opportunities for social interaction and community engagement.

X. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The sample was limited to XI standard students only.
- The sample was restricted to 300 students from selected higher secondary schools in Chennai district, Tamil Nadu.
- This study consists only one variable, Altruism.

XI. CONCLUSION

The present study investigated the level of altruism among higher secondary school students with respect to gender and locality. The findings indicate that gender does not have a statistically significant influence on students' altruism. In contrast, a significant difference was observed based on locality, with rural students demonstrating higher levels of altruism compared to their urban counterparts. The higher altruistic tendencies among rural students may be associated with contextual factors such as stronger community ties, shared social responsibilities, and collective patterns of living that are more prevalent in rural settings. These social dynamics may contribute to the development of prosocial attitudes and behaviors.

The study underscores the importance of fostering altruistic values within educational settings to promote holistic personality development and social well-being among students. Educational institutions may consider integrating value-based and community-oriented activities to cultivate empathy, cooperation, and social responsibility.

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