A Comparative Study of Social Competence and Attitude towards Computer among Undergraduate Students

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Abstract

The present investigation was undertaken to compare the social competence and attitude towards computer among undergraduate students. For this purpose, descriptive survey type of research was used. Data was collected from randomly selected 320 undergraduate students of the urban and rural areas of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). Social competence scale and Computer attitude scale were administered on the selected sample. The result showed that Social Competence of Undergraduate male students was more than that of Undergraduate female students. Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban students was more than that of Undergraduate Rural students. Significant difference was found in attitude towards computer between Undergraduate urban and rural students but there was no significant difference between male and female students.

Key-words: Social Competence, Attitude towards Computer

The success of an individual in the society depends largely upon the extent to which he has acquired the richness and potency of social competence desirable for his self-actualization, growth and development. For a successful interpersonal interaction, a high order social competence is an essential disposition of an individual. Social competence refers to the social, emotional, and cognitive skills and behaviors that student need for successful social adaptation. A student's social competence depends upon a number of factors including the student's social skills, social awareness, and self-confidence.

Four types of attitude toward computers are thought to be important for end users: anxiety or fear of computers; confidence working with computers; computer liking or enjoying working with computers; and the perceived usefulness of computers in present or future work. The main and the most urgent problem of the attitude towards computer is that all students have different level of computer usage abilities, and it is very difficult to address all students need through one basic computer course, therefore students might be grouped according to their computer usage level and take computer courses based on their levels. This might help students to improve their computer attitude and social competency.

Need and Importance of study

Francoise (2009) analyzed the conceptual approaches to competence and practice in competence management in France. It was found that the conceptual approach to competence is formally comprehensive and incorporates key dimensions of the other dominant competence models. Cheung,C.K & L,Tak (2010) in their quasi-experimental study found that Character education is supposed to meet early adolescents' need for strengthening social competence. Sunha, K. (2009) examined the effects of computer access and

computer use on the science achievement of elementary school students. The results revealed that access to home computers and purposeful computer use had positive effects on the science performance of English-speaking students. Yavuj, E.(2009) compared the effects of paper-based and computer-based concept mappings on computer hardware achievement, computer anxiety and computer attitude of the eight grade secondary school students. The findings indicate that paper-based and computer-based concept mapping strategies produce better results than the conventional method. Zippy, E., et al (2010) indicated that the use of technologies as teaching aids and tools for self-study is influenced by students' attitudes toward computers and their applications. Cristian, P. (2011) estimated the effect of home computers on child and adolescent outcomes. The presence of parental rules regarding computer use and homework appear to mitigate the effects of computer ownership, suggesting that parental monitoring and supervision may be important mediating factors. These studies revealed that the treatments differentially and significantly affect participants' social competence and attitude towards computer.

But no study have been undertaken to compare the social competence and attitude towards computer among undergraduate students. So the present study focuses specifically on the socio-demographic variables like gender, age and field of study had any effect on social competence and computer parameters among Undergraduate students. The present study also tries to reveal if there are differences in the social competence and attitude towards computer among male and female as well as rural and urban students. It also explored the possibility of being able to predict students' computer characteristics from computer efficacy, computer anxiety and demographic variables. Computer Science is the frontier of all the streams, so research activity in computer science is the most effective process to make people and society stronger in all the aspects. Computer Science research is extremely fast growing field. So investigator has chosen this area for the study.

Objectives of the study

1. To compare the Social Competence of Undergraduate Male and Female students.
2. To compare the Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.
3. To compare the Attitude towards Computer of Undergraduate Male and Female students.
4. To compare the Attitude towards Computer of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between the Social Competence of Undergraduate Male and Female students.
2. There is no significant difference between the Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.
3. There is no significant difference between the Computer Attitude of Undergraduate Male and Female students.
4. There is no significant difference between the Computer Attitude of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.

Methodology

The detais of the method used for this study are given below.

Method of the study: Descriptive Survey method of research was used.

Population of the study: Population of the present study involves the Undergraduate students of Higher Educational institutes of Urban and Rural areas of Kanpur.

Sample of the study : In this study the investigator used the simple random technique of Probability sampling. It was Undergraduate students to take at least 320 students for final analysis of study. For this purpose 15 institutes were selected randomly by lottery method. There were 160 male and 160 female Undergraduate students in sample.

Tools : The following tools were used for this study:

1. Dr. Sharma, Shukla & Shukla's Social Competence scale was used to measure the Social competence of Undergraduate students. Test-Retest reliability of the tool was 0.67. It has been validated against Kohn's Social Competence scale at the extent of r=.84.
2. Dr. Tahira Khatoon & Monika Sharma's Computer Attitude scale was used to measure the Computer Attitude of the Undergraduate students.

Statistical technique applied : In this study t-test was used to compare the social competence and Attitude towards Computer among Undergraduate students.

Analysis and Interpretation

Hypothesis- wise details of the analysis and interpretation has been given below.

Ho1: There is no significant difference between Social Competence of Undergraduate male and female students.

To test above Null Hypothesis, t- Test was used and the results are shown in the table-1 as below:

Table 1: Comparison between the Social Competence of Undergraduate male and female students.

S.No.	*Variables*	*N*	*Mean*	*S.D.*	*df*	*t-Value*	*Level of Significance*
1.	MaleStudents	160	194.41	15.82	318	4.21	Significant at 0.01 level
2.	FemaleStudents	160	186.50	17.69			

Table-1 clearly shows that mean score of Male Students is 194.41 and mean score of Female Students is 186.50. S.D. of Male Students is 15.82, and S.D. of Female Students is 17.69. The calculated value was 4.21 and checked at level 0.01. This was above table value of 2.59. So Null Hypothesis-1 was rejected.

Ho2: There is no significant difference between Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.

To test above Null Hypothesis, t-test was used and the results are shown it the table-2 as below:

Table 2: Comparison between the Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.

S. No.	*Variables*	*N*	*Mean*	*S.D.*	*df*	*t-Value*	*Level of Significance*
1.	UrbanStudents	180	192.90	15.42	318	3.41	Significant at 0.01 level
2.	RuralStudent	140	186.28	19.32			

Table -2 shows that mean of Urban Students is 192.90 and mean of Rural Students is 186.28. S.D. of Urban Students of colleges is 15.42, and S.D. of Rural Students is 19.32. The calculated value was 3.41 and was checked at level 0.01. This was above table value of 2.59. So Null Hypothesis-2 was rejected.

Ho3: There is no significant difference between the Computer Attitude of Undergraduate male and female students.

To test above Null Hypothesis, t- test was used and the obtained results have been shown in the table 3 as below.

Table-3 : Comparison between the Attitude towards Computer of Undergraduate male and female students.

S. No.	*Variables*	*N*	*Mean*	*S.D.*	*df*	*t-Value*	*Level of Significance*
1.	UrbanStudents	160	82	11.52	318	1.53	Not Significant
2.	RuralStudent	160	80	11.82			

Table-3 shows that Mean of Male Students is 82 and Mean of Female Students is 80. S.D. of Male Students of colleges is 11.52, and S.D. of Female Students is 11.82. The calculated value was 1.53 and was checked at level 0.01. This was below the table value of 2.59. So, Null Hypothesis related to this was accepted.

Ho4- There is no significant difference between Attitude towards Computer of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.

To test above Null Hypothesis, t- Test was used and the results are shown it the table -4 as below.

Table-4: Comparison between the Attitude towards Computer of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students.

S. No.	*Variables*	*N*	*Mean*	*S.D.*	*df*	*t-Value*	*Level of Significance*
1.	UrbanStudents	180	82.72	11.59	318	3.19	Significant at 0.01 level
2.	RuralStudent	140	80.51	11.91			

Table-4 shows that mean score of Urban Students is 82.72 and mean score of Rural Students is 78.51. S.D. of Urban Students of colleges is 11.59, and S.D. of Rural Students is 11.91. The calculated value was 3.19 and at level 0.01 it was above table value of 2.59. So Null Hypothesis was rejected.

Findings of the study

The analysis, interpretations given above led to the following findings:

1. There is significant difference between the Social Competence of Undergraduate male and female students. Social Competence of Undergraduate male students are more than Undergraduate female students.
2. There is significant difference between the Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students. Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban students are more than Undergraduate Rural students.
3. There is no significant difference between the Attitude towards Computer of Undergraduate male and female students.
4. There is significant difference between the Attitude towards Computer of Undergraduate Urban and Rural students. Computer Attitude of Undergraduate Urban students is more than Undergraduate Rural students.

Discussion of the results

Social competence presents problems for conceptualization and assessment. At times, people have tried to circumvent these problems by defining competence in terms of specific capacities or skills, with the consequence that the integrative potential of the concept is lost. Social Competence of Undergraduate male students are more than Undergraduate female students. It may be due to their high Social Appreciation ability, Social Skills, Social Involvement, Social Leadership, Social Acceptability, Social Authority, and Adult-Resource Exploitability etc. Social Competence of Undergraduate Urban students are more than Undergraduate Rural students. It may be due to their high Social Maturity, Social Commitment, Socio-Emotional Integrity, Social Involvement, Social Respectability, Social Cooperation, Social Acceptability, Social Tolerance, Social Competition, Pro-Social Attitude and Composite Social Competence etc.

Computer attitude is determining constructs of success with computer related work. These factors are Computer Anxiety, Computer Confidence, Computer Interest, and Less Utilization of Computer and its peripherals. There is no significant difference in the attitude towards computer on the basis of gender. This may be due to the reason that these factors are almost similar among male and female students. These factors may be responsible for the difference in the attitude towards computer of Urban and Rural students. So computer attitude should be improved and computer anxiety should be minimized in order to enhance the learning process and reduce computer resistance. It was found that, although an instrument can still appear to be internally consistent, it may have different factors than originally intended by the compilers.

Conclusion

The findings of this research has shown that effective management of personality variables like social competence and attitude towards computer could significantly predict how learners will relate to the computer, their persistence at studying computing and its allied courses as well as the development of interest in computer and computer related vocations. It may be possible by counseling them in gender relations to vocations and knowledge acquisition, usefulness of computers to students in all fields of study, counseling for confidence in handling computer and overcoming anxiety when using it. If these are properly managed, students attitude towards computer, computing and computer vocations will be improved and many more will like to be involved in adopting computers and computing as a tool in the global march towards computerization and technological advancement.

Educational Implication of the study

Present study suggests that institutions, counselors and vocational guidance specialists have important roles to play in developing positive attitude towards computer among Undergraduate students. This study also suggests that the psychological basis of gender differences and contribution of these factors require the attention of researchers as this will enable school counselors to design appropriate guidance and counseling programs which could be tailored towards improved social competence. Further, it reveals that Undergraduate students should develop the art of managing relations in peers and society so that, they can see the brighter side of any situation to put new ideas and discuss these ideas and discuss these ideas with peers.

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