



Attitude of Govt. aided and private secondary school students towards geography education in Purba Medinipur District of West Bengal: A comparative study

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Abstract

The study compares the attitude of Govt. aided and Private school students towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur districts of West Bengal State. The present researches like to see whether the attitude of the students towards geography has been developed in consonance with the growing importance of the subject in the society. The researcher followed Descriptive Survey Method for the purpose of the study. The researcher collected data from five Govt. aided and five private schools in purbamedinipur of west Bengal State, India. Researcher administrated his test on 100 students, out of which 25 boys and 25 girls were Govt.aided school and 25 boys and 25 girls were private school of class viii. For the analysis of the collected data, investigator used the mean, standard deviation and 't' test as statistical techniques. The study reveals that the students of govt. aided and private schools significantly differ in respect of their attitude towards Geography Education.

Keywords: Geography Education, significantly, researcher

Introduction

Geography education is an essential part of arts education. Modern studies related to education reveals that the socio economic status, civilization, attitude, aptitude interest etc, totally differ from Government aided and Private school students. On the basis of Psychological studies, attitude is one of the most important factors of the learning process (Buch, MB. (Ed) 1986) [3]. The problem of the Present study entitled as "Attitude of Government aided and Private secondary school students towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur districts of West Bengal-a comparative study". Male and female students of the above school significantly differ in their attitude towards (Aggarwal, J.C. 1996) [1]. Arts education especially Geography and History education. Santosh Kumar (2006) studied "Attitude of secondary school students towards English as a medium of instruction in Keonjhar district of Orissa"-a comparative study. The study reveals that there is a close relationship between the attitude and achievement in English Learning as a personal experience of the researcher of the last ten year, Govt. aided school students have positively attitude towards both arts and science education. At the same time Private school students have better attitude towards science education than arts education.

The geography education in the school of west bebgal has change radically during the four decades as discussed erlier. such change might bring out a corresponding change in attitude of the students towards the subject also their achievement in the subject. In west Bengal very little researches on the teaching learning, attitude and achievement in geography have been reported. Some researches on the attitude of the students towards geography done in Turkey, Maldives, Malaysia and African countries demonstrates adequate attitude among the school students towards geography. However similar works seem to be necessary in India and more particularly in WB estimate to the attitude of students towards geography and corresponding in the subjects

after remodelling of geography education in school in recent times. A study is therefore, necessary to ascertain the attitude of students towards geography in the school of WB and its contribution towards augmenting the achievement of the students in the subjects.

Student is one of the elements that are indispensable to education. Every student, in the process of education, is an individual, so they must be treated as individuals. The individuals with different biological structure, who come from various environments, naturally have different point of view about events, and they comment on them differently. These differences result from various factors such as their past experiences, their interest and abilities and the way they learn etc. One of the major characteristics of modern education is that is students centred. In this system, students are placed in the centre of education so that they become the principal focus on attention. John Dewey, who had an important part in adoption in this method, developed the principal of "child centred education". As is clear from the explanations, students physical and social traits are some of the most effective elements in education. These features are quite effective on the kind of attitude that a student's takes to a particular lesson. However, a student's attitude towards a lesson is not only connected with his/her personality traits.

Attitude in a broad sense, means somebody tendency to react to any events or object in his/her environment. In others words, attitude can be defined as an individual possible behaviours in situation, occasion or towards any phenomena (Inceoglu, 2004). From this point of view, it is quite natural that science of behaviour deals with "attitude" as one of the key concept. Investigations and inquires about attitude are not confined only to the science of behave such as psychology and social psychology. In many others field, with in the frame of social science such as politics, economics, history, geography etc. Examination of attitude in givens a good deal of importance.

Geography has a multidisciplinary feature because of being in relation with both natural and human science. Because of this reason geography can provide qualification that enable students to solve problems, think in multi dimensionally, have an independent and poor point of view and turn their acquisition into habits in their daily lives. This is possible only with accurate planning with learning conditions and strategies and applying them in accordance with educational process. Students preparedness level to the lesson and learning style, teacher method or approach preference, teaching materials or teaching endeavour also physical conditions of the classroom are significant variants. In students turning the lesson acquisition into behaviour the mentioned variants should be revised carefully by the teacher. Now a days a teacher with the role of a leader, specialist, guide a model for students and classroom director undertake severe responsibility in the classroom environment. Newly designed 2005 geography teaching curriculum takes the team with the use the method and techniques of the constructivist paradigm as activity based learning. Constructivised geography teacher should prefer suitable method and approaches and teaching materials according to the programme and prepare the activity based learning atmosphere. Objectivists view has turned to constructivist approach with the recent learning approaches. To provide necessary qualifications for students and to maintain positive attitude towards the geography lessons can be possible only by realistic and accurate geography teaching. Geography course has a distinct position for its possible contributions to critical thinking skills. As a discipline Analysing and synthesizing the information collected in the context of human-natural environment interaction, geography requires students to structure the acquired information by questioning it using these criteria at all stages. Thus, they improve their critical thinking skills through a questioning and synthesizing approach.

Physical & economic geography which is the study of the earth and man's adaptation to its varied environment and resources should be a fundamental element of every child's school education. Geography study at any level brings pupil to face with issues and problems which have ethical, moral and social values. Geography basically provokes and answers to questions about the natural and human world, using different enquiry to view them from different perspectives. Attitude is a mental set or disposition, readiness to respond on the basis of their performance, their learned nature and their characteristics. Geography as a subject becomes a priority area in education. For this right attitude towards Geography is the greatest need of the hour. Involvement in study help an individual to achieve the best, but involvement in study not only makes the learning a pleasant activates but also yields enhancement in learning and facilitates higher productivity.

Geography education is an essential part of arts education. Modern studies related to education reveals that the Socio-Economic status, civilization, attitude, aptitude, interest, etc. totally differs from Government and private school students. On the basis of Psychological studies, attitude is one of the most important factors of the Learning Process. The problem of the present study entitled as "Attitude of Govt. Aided and Private Secondary School Students towards Geography Education".

Background of the Study

There are many definitions of the term "attitude". The researcher adopted the following definition of the term "attitude" as it is convenient to the context of the present study, "the positive or negative changes that may happen in MA TEFL students towards the application of the multimedia in their English classes". (Glazewski, Newby, & Ottenebeit, 2010, p. 1325). When students use an exciting curriculum with high motivation, the curriculum will improve their learning. Their motivation and satisfaction in using the technology is embedded in their perceptions and attitudes toward it. Simpson *et al.* (1994, p.47) noted that "the key to success in education often depends on how a student feels toward home, self, and school." Attitudes towards learning and teaching language have been found significant in predicting success in the learning or acquisition process. The educational technology a student receives can be a determining factor of satisfaction. So, researchers have given much attention to attitudes because of the relationship between attitudes and other variables, such as academic achievement. Ajzen and Fishbein (1980) stated the most important reason for studying attitudes in the relationship of attitude to behaviour. The behaviour a student exhibits during a learning process can be associated with student's satisfaction of a course (Arbaugh, 2000).

Four studies are reviewed in this section. Bose's (1970) study was on the general interest patterns of students specializing in different subject science, humanities and commerce. Gupta's (1953) study was about the apathy of students and teachers towards learning and teaching history. Population education has gained importance of late and there were two studies on the attitude of students and teachers towards this subject. This study established that-"Attitude of Govt. Aided and Private Secondary School Students towards Geography Education".

Emergence of the Problem

The main aim of teaching geography is not to know the elements in the cognitive domain. The students should transfer knowledge in solving problems which they are confronted with in every step life. Problem solving is a goal of geography. The students should be motivated to apply knowledge in geography to solve problem in everyday life. Geography should not be considered as an isolated social science subject. It is vitally related to climatology, zoology, environmental study other science & subject of social science.

So every teacher most develops a positive attitude towards the subject in Govt. aided and private school student. The aim of the teacher is to develop the student's attitude and achievement in different branches of Geography. Geography education is crucial to entire developmental process of the country. The knowledge of geography helps children to know this planets man, physical, resource, culture, economic etc distribution. The government as well as Govt. aided & Private educational institutions should take step to develop attitude and achievement of students in geography. With this end in view the present investigator has selected a problem of "Attitude of Govt. Aided and Private Secondary School Students towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur District of West Bengal -A comparative Study".

Statement of the Problem

Indian's people are facing various social, economic, and educational difficulties regarding the structure of their school system. Students who have a sound understanding of their country's culture and historical development will be more inclined to address recent societal problems. To help the Indian people to cope with rapid economic, social, and political developments, and to bring about meaningful participatory citizenship among younger students, a vital geography curriculum is needed.

Sample in this research project, and the attitude and achievement in difference branches of geography among these students and show it there exists only correlation between achievement and attitude in difference branches of geography. Shown that it there exists only significant difference between physical and economic geography and also show that it there exists only significant difference between boys and girls.

So the researcher has selected the problem of "Attitude of Govt. Aided and Private Secondary School Students towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur District of West Bengal -A comparative Study"

Objectives of the Study

1. To compare the attitude of Govt.aided and Private school students towards Geography education in PurbaMedinipur Districts.
2. To compare the attitude of male and female students towards Geography Education of Govt. aided schools in PurbaMedinipur Districts.
3. To compare the attitude of male and female students towards Geography Education at Private schools in PurbaMedinipur Districts.
4. To compare the attitude of male students of Govt. aided and Private schools towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts.
5. To compare the attitude of female students of Govt.aided and Private Schools towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts.

Significance of the Study

Geography education is an essential part of arts education. Geography education is related to physical features of earth surface and human behavior (Behr, 1973). That is co-related with cultural landscape. Modern studies related to education reveal the socio-economic status, civilization, attitude, aptitude, interest etc, totally differ from Govt. and private school student. On the psychological studies, attitude is one of the most important factors of the learning process (Koul Lokesh,2007).This study was conducted to the attitudes secondary school students toward the geography education because students are most involved daily in the delivery of geography subject. This is significant because the knowledge base and its implications could influence the geography subject curricula nationwide due to the centralized nature of curricula designed and planned in the country. India have lot of religion, cultural, languages, dress code, variety of foods, landscape, different climates, etc., so the researcher has to prove the secondary school students attitude and achievement towards geography. Geography is very significant role in the human life so without geography has not constructive for the school curriculum. The continuing importance of the geography to increasing responsibility of geomorphic feature,

physical feature(climate,soil,biom etc.), increasing industrialization of society, readjustment in family life; suburbanization, rapid growth in communication and transportation, increasing personal responsibility for democratic living, etc.

Hypotheses

Hypotheses of the present study are as follows:-

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of student towards Geography Education at Govt. aided and private schools in PurbaMedinipur Districts.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female student of Govt. aided school towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts.
3. There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female student of Private school towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts.
4. There is no significant difference between the attitudes of male student of Govt. aided and private school towards Geography Education in Purba Medinipur Districts.
5. There is no significant difference between the attitude of female student of Govt. aided and private school towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts.

Methodology

The method adopted according to the nature and objectives of the present study is "Descriptive Survey Method". Descriptive is concerned with the present and attempts to determine the status of phenomena investigation. Descriptive studies are more than just a collection of data. They involve measurement, classification, analysis, comparison and interpretation.

Population of the Study

The researcher has selected the purbamedinipur district of west Bengal as the geographical area for the survey. He has chosen this district because the research resides near this. For this study, the population was constituted by five types of the Bengali medium school affiliated by the WBBSE & five types private school.

Variables in the Present Study

The variables involved in the present study are divided into two variables:-

➤ major variable

1. Students attitude in geography of govt. aided & private school.
2. Categorical variable : sex

Administration of the Final Tools

For the present study the researcher used a tool to measure the attitude of Govt.aided and private school students which is prepared by under the guidance of supervisor. The final test administration the total 100 sample. The head of the institution are conduct before the administration of the test. The maximum times required to answer the all items are 50 minutes, there are no interval or Tiffin during answering question. The class room environment are favourable condition of the students were normal.

Statement of the Sample

For this purpose researcher at first selected five Private and five Govt. aided schools for the administration of the attitude test. Researcher administrated his test on 100 students, out of which 25 boys and 25 girls were Govt.aided school and 25 boys and 25 girls were private school. So the total students of Govt. aided and Private school in PurbaMedinipur are 100.

Table of the Data Sample

Variable	School Types	Students Types	No.of Students
Attitude	Govt.aided	Boys	25
		Girls	25
	Private	Boys	25
		Girls	25
Total No. of Students			100

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

All the item for both the sets of questionnaire have three options Good, Medium and Bad. Questionnaire for students consists of 20 item. Out of the total score 67.23% students good opinion about the attitude of geography subject and 24.65% students medium opinion and 8.01% students bad opinion about the geography education.

Attitude Scale

Attitude Scale	scored	Total frequency	Percentage
Good	3	3109	67.23%
Medium	2	1140	24.65%
Bad	1	375	8.01%

H₀₁ There is no significant difference between the attitude of student towards Geography Education at Govt. aided and private schools in PurbaMedinipur Districts.

School	Total students	Mean
Govt.aided School	50	47.89
Private school	50	51.43

Table for Mean and Standard Deviation

School	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error mean
Govt. aided School	50	47.900	4.01146	.56731
Private School	50	51.5600	4.26739	.60350

Types of school	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Govt.aided school	84.434	49	.000	47.90000	46.7600	49.0400
Private school	85.435	49	.000	51.56000	50.3472	52.7728

Table for 't' value:

Interpretation: (H₀₁)

The value of "t" (Mean Difference) is 3.36 (calculated value) and the critical value of "t" at 0.05 significance level, df=49, where the critical value is 2.00. So the Null Hypothesis rejected. So there are significance difference between the attitude of Govt. aided and private school students towards Geography education.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female student of Govt. aided school towards Geography Education in Purba Medinipur Districts.

Table for Mean and Standard Deviation

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Male	25	47.08	4.281	.856
Female	25	48.72	3.623	.725

Table for 't' value

One-Sample Test						
	Test Value = 0.05					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Male	54.929	24	.000	47.030	45.26	48.80
Female	67.167	24	.000	48.670	47.17	50.17

Interpretation: (H₀₂)

The mean difference value of "t" test Govt. aided (Male and Female) is 1.64 and the critical value of "t" at 0.05 significance level is 2.06 where the df is 24. so the null hypothesis is accepted. So there are no significance difference between attitude of male and female in Govt. aided school towards geography education. But there are something difference of mean score and SD of male & female attitude towards geography education in Govt.aided school.

H₀₃ There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female student of Private school towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Male	25	51.96	3.921	.784
Female	25	50.88	4.466	.893

ne-Sample Test						
Test Value = 0.05						
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Male	66.197	24	.000	51.910	50.29	53.53
Female	56.910	24	.000	50.830	48.99	52.67

Interpretation: (H₀₃)

The mean difference value of “t” test of Private School (Male and Female) is 1.08 and the critical value of “t” at 0.05 significance level is 2.06 where the DF is 24. So the null hypothesis is accepted. So there are no significance difference between attitude of male and female in Private School school towards geography education. But there are something difference of mean score and SD of male & female attitude towards geography education in Private school.

H₀₄: There is no significant difference between the attitudes of male student of Govt. aided and private school towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts.

Mode of Male Attitude in Percentage	
Govt. aided Male	Private Male
49.114	50.25

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Govt.aided Male	25	47.08	4.281	.856
Private Male	25	51.96	3.921	.784

Table for ‘t’ value:

Test Value = 0.05						
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Male	54.929	24	.000	47.030	45.26	48.80
Male	66.197	24	.000	51.910	50.29	53.53

Interpretation: (H₀₄)

The mean difference value of “t” test of male students in Govt.aided and Private school is 4.88 and the critical value of “t” at 0.05 significance level is 2.06 where the df is 24. So the null hypothesis is rejected. So there are significance difference between attitude of male between the Govt. aided school and private School towards geography education. And there are something difference of mean score and SD between of male

attitude in Govt. aided and Private school towards geography education.

H₀₅: There is no significant difference between the attitude of female student of Govt. aided and private school towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur Districts

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Govt. aided Female	25	48.72	3.623	.725
Private Female	25	50.88	4.466	.893

One-Sample Test						
Test Value = 0.05						
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Female	67.167	24	.000	48.670	47.17	50.17
Female	56.910	24	.000	50.830	48.99	52.67

Interpretation: (H₀₅)

The mean difference value of “t” test of female students in Govt.aided and Private school is 2.16 and the critical value of “t” at 0.05 significance level is 2.06 where the df is 24. So the null hypothesis is rejected. So there are significance differences between attitudes of female between the Govt. aided school and Private School towards geography education. And there are something difference of mean score and SD between of female attitude in Govt. aided and Private school towards geography education.

Major Findings

The present study done by researcher was a descriptive one. Investigator need to prepare the attitude test to investigate the research in the geography of the secondary school students of Govt. aided and Private school of class ix. For this purpose researcher had taken help of relevant statistical i.e. the frequency distribution, mean, standard deviation, ANOVA and

t-test etc. The following are main findings of the present study.

- 67.23% of the secondary school students are good attitude towards the geography and 24.65% school students opinion in geography are moderately and 8.01% students opinion towards the geography are bad condition in attitude towards geography education.
- There is a significant relationship between attitude of secondary school students towards geography education in Govt. aided and Private school.
- The students studying geography at school level do differ on attitude scores sex wise in Govt. Aided School and Private school towards the geography education.
- Male students are much better than the female students in Private school and Female students are better than the male students in Govt. Aided School through the M.C.Q, Test performance in reading comprehension towards the geography education.

- Significance difference between Govt. Aided male and private male students towards geography education.
- This study help to significance difference between govt. aided female and private school female towards geography education.

Suggestion and Recommendation

The positive attitude toward geography education should be highly motivated to develop their skills like logical thinking reasoning, map skills etc in Govt. aided school and Private School. The study has revealed that the attitude of boys towards geography education found to lesser than that of girls in Govt. aided school. All the above contribute to the continuity of education and performance of students. Knowledge, attitudes and behaviours are very closely linked. The development of a right attitude towards a subject has to be created from the beginning. The right attitude will definitely result in right action in form of higher achievement.

Limitation

No study is flawless. The present study had some limitations which were as follows.-

1. The present study is limited to government aided Bengali medium schools affiliated by WBBSE and private school of PurbaMedinipur district in west Bengal.
2. For the present study only one variable “attitude” will be considered for the study of govt. Aided and Private school towards geography education.
3. The population of this study constitutes in class – ix for attitude measure in Govt. Aided School and private school.
4. The sample for the study has been collected from few secondary schools of govt. Aided and private school from the district of PurbaMedinipur in west Bengal.
5. The sample of the study was restricted to 100 hundred students only (25boys and 25 girl’s students in govt.aided school and 25 boys &25 girls in private school for attitude measure).
6. Due to lack of time for short duration course, lack of money, the researcher delimits the study area because large study area cannot be best for educational research.

Conclusion

The present study entitled as “Attitude of Govt. Aided and Private Secondary School Students towards Geography Education in PurbaMedinipur District of West Bengal -A comparative Study “is very helpful in the field of geography education especially for teachers, subject experts, teacher educators and curriculum framers of secondary schools of west Bengal. The study reveals that the students of Govt. aided and private school significantly differs in respect to their attitude towards geography education. But attitude towards geography education in Govt.aided male and Govt.aided female are not significance difference. Attitude towards geography education are not significance between private school male and private school female.And private school students.Private school male students attitude are better than the Govt. aided school male students towards geography education. And private school female students attitude are better than Govt. aided female students attitude. It may be said that there who get higher attitude towards geography, get higher marks on it. Through there is some expectation socio-

economic status in interest, motivation etc. mainly the attitude correlated with the achievement.

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