



## SOCIAL MATURITY OF ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR GENDER AND LOCALITY: A COMPARITIVE ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

*Social Maturity is the ability to function in an appropriate responsible manner. As adolescence is the age for an individual to express mature behavior. Social Maturity is an essential aspect for the individual as well as society. The present research study was undertaken to assess and compare the Social Maturity of Adolescents in relation to their Gender and Locality. The sample consisted of 500 adolescent students studying with 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standards from rural, 250(125 female and 125 male) and from Urban, 250 (125 female and 125 male) were included in this sample. Rao's Social Maturity scale was used to assess the social maturity. Thus obtained data was analyzed using means, S.D's, 't'-test. The result revealed significant gender difference on the basis of social maturity and also reported that adolescent students belonging to rural area possess higher social maturity than those belonging to urban area. The study has implications for the parents, teachers and policy makers.*

**Keywords:** Social Maturity, Adolescent, Gender, Locality.



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## INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is the stage of development which produces a number of social problems for a person. These problems arise out of adolescent adjustment with social group. The social group expects him to be socially matured when he becomes an adolescent by establishing more mature relationship with age mates to achieve socially responsible behavior, develop

intellectual skills and concepts necessary for civil competence and achieves a more autonomous state. Thus, the social maturation allows detailed perception of social environment that help adolescent to influence the social circumstances and develop social patterns of social behavior. A young child can be accepted if he is socially immature but not the adolescent. An immature adolescent creates problems with his family, peer group and society so it is necessary for adolescent to acquire more mature pattern of behavior to be accepted by society and to be socially matured. The social maturity has various aspects of social abilities as self sufficiency, occupational activities, communication, selfdirection and social participation. Raj,M. defines social maturity as the level of social skills and awareness that an individual has achieved relative to particular norms related to an age group. It is a measure of the development competence of an individual with regard to interpersonal relations, behavior appropriateness, social problem solving and judgment. Social responsibility, also a sub-trait of social maturity, defined as "adherence to social rules and role expectations", by Wentzel (1991b) is instrumental in the acquisition of academic knowledge and skills. A few researches have been conducted on Social Maturity of Adolescents. A.S. Arul Lawrence and Rev. Dr. I. Jesudoss(2011) studied on relationship between Social Maturity and Academic Achievement of Higher Secondary School Students and found that girls are found to have more Social Maturity and Academic Achievement than boys, it was proved that girls attain maturity faster than the boys. The society also demands that girls should express more mature behaviour than boys. Diwan (1998) conducted a study with the objective to find the effect of socio-economic status on the social maturity of higher secondary students. The result revealed that the students belonging to urban area and rural area are found equal on the social maturity scores. Rani Swarupa and C.R. Prabha (2008) studied on Social maturity levels of adolescents belonging to different parenting styles. The present study was designed to investigate the social maturity levels of adolescents belonging to different parenting styles. The result revealed that adolescents belonging to democratic parenting style had high social maturity. Majority of the adolescents belonging to permissive parenting style had moderated level of social maturity, whereas the adolescents with authoritarian parents had low level of social maturity. It was also found that majority of the girls were more socially mature than boys. Singh et al.(2013) studied on Gender on Social and Emotional Maturity of Senior School Adolescents. The study revealed that girls scored significantly higher on the social adequacy component of social maturity. However, no gender differences were observed on the composite social maturity and emotional maturity scores. Social maturity was found to be significantly positively correlated

under both genders. Hence attempt is made in the present investigation to study the social maturity of adolescent in relation to their gender and locality.

### **VARIABLES**

1. Dependent variables a) Social Maturity.
2. Independent variables a) Gender b) Locality.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY-**

1. To compare Social Maturity among Male and Female Adolescent students.
2. To compare Social Maturity between Urban and Rural Adolescent students.

### **HYPOTHESES-**

The following hypotheses were tested in the present study:

H<sub>01</sub> There is no significant difference between Social Maturity of Male and Female Adolescent Students.

H<sub>02</sub> There is no significant difference between social maturity of Urban and rural Adolescent students.

**RESEARCH METHOD-** Descriptive survey method was used.

**SAMPLE:** In the present study, stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample of 500 Adolescent students of government senior secondary school affiliated to H.B.S.E. from 5 districts of South Haryana.

### **TOOLS USED**

Social Maturity: Nalini Rao Social Maturity scale. It contains 90 items and meant for primary, secondary and pre-university grade students, Nine Dimensions-Work Orientation, self-Direction, Ability to take Stress, Interpersonal Adequacy by communicable, Enlightened Trust, Cooperation and Social Adequacy by social Commitment, social Tolerance and Openness to change.

### **STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE USED**

Means S.D's and t-test were used to compare Social Maturity of Adolescent students in relation to their gender and locality.

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

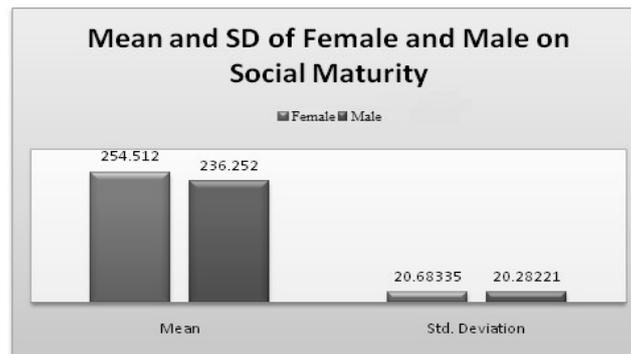
#### **Comparison of Social Maturity with respect to Gender.**

In order to compare the Social Maturity of Adolescent students in relation to their Gender, the data was subjected to t-test. The 't' value for the mean scores for Social Maturity of Adolescent with respect to their gender have been illustrated in table -1 and also graphically shown in fig. 1.

**TABLE-1: Mean, SD, SE<sub>M</sub> and t-value of Female and male Adolescent students on Social Maturity**

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Mean Difference	t-value	Significance level
Social Maturity	Female	250	254.508	20.68335	1.30813	18.26000	9.967	.000
	Male	250	236.248	20.28221	1.28276			

A close perusal of the Table-1 depicts that the ‘t’- value 9.967 for the mean scores of Female and Male adolescent students is significant at 0.01 level. Thus, the null hypothesis H<sub>01</sub> can not be accepted. On comparison of mean scores, it was revealed that female adolescent students (254.508) possess higher social maturity than their counterparts (236.248). This is in tune with the findings of Swarupa and Prabha (2008) who revealed that the majority of the girls were more socially mature than boys. The present finding is in contrast with the findings of Singh and Pant (2013) who reported that no significant differences were observed between male and female adolescents on social maturity scores.



**FIG. 1**

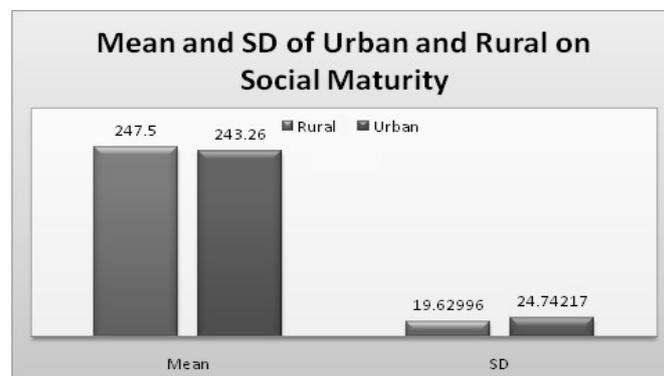
**Comparison of Social Maturity with respect to Locality**

In order to compare the Social Maturity of Adolescent students in relation to their Locality, the data was subjected to t-test. The ‘t’- value for the mean scores for Social Maturity of Adolescent with respect to their locality have been illustrated in table -2 and also graphically shown in fig.2.

**TABLE-2: Mean, SD, SE<sub>M</sub> and t-value of Rural and Urban Adolescent students on Social Maturity**

Variable	Locality	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Mean Difference	t-value	Significance level
Social Maturity	Rural	250	247.50	19.62996	1.24151	4.2440	2.125	.034
	Urban	250	243.26	24.74217	1.56483			

Table-2 also depicts that 't'- value 2.125 for the mean scores of Social Maturity of Adolescent students belonging to Rural and Urban areas is significant at 0.05 level which leads to the conclusion that Social Maturity of adolescent students belonging to rural and urban areas is significant. The comparison of the mean scores indicates that the adolescent students belonging to the rural area (247.50) possessed higher social maturity than those belonging to the urban area (243.26). Thus, the hypothesis  $H_{02}$  is rejected. The present finding is sustained with the finding of Lawrance and Jesudass (2011) who revealed that rural students are more socially mature than urban students. The results are in contrast with the findings of Diwan (1998) who reported that students belonging to urban area and rural area are found equal on Social Maturity scores.



**FIG.2**

### FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- A significant difference was found between the social maturity of male and female adolescent students. On comparison of mean scores, it was revealed that female students scored higher on Social Maturity than their counterparts.
- The study reported a significant difference between social maturity of urban and rural adolescent students. On comparison of mean scores, it was revealed that adolescent students belonging to rural area possessed higher social maturity than those belonging to urban area.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Finding of study can be used by parents, teachers and planners while planning about the education of children in following manner:

- Teachers can make use of the findings to assess social maturity development of adolescents and their needs so that they may be provided with some usefulness.

- The study can assist the parents in locating the social problems of adolescent and to deal effectively with adolescent and in helping them to become adult.
- The study can help the teachers and policy planners in comparing the social maturity of adolescent students on the basis of gender and locality. Teachers and parents should provide conducive environment and social experiences to adolescents. They should develop the positive attitude and social skills among adolescent students for personal, interpersonal and social adequacies so that they could function effectively in the society.
- The study can help the researcher to find out the levels of social maturity among adolescent and there by behavior can be categorized.

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