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## SHORT COMMUNICATION

# AN ANALYSIS OF THE SELF – ESTEEM OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

This investigation has been undertaken in order to study the Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students in Coimbatore District. For this purpose a representative sample of 246 Higher Secondary students have been selected by using the purposive random sampling technique. Normative survey method has been used. This study has been undertaken in order to find out the levels of Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students and if there is any significant difference between the selected pairs of sub-samples. Self-Esteem Inventory was used to collect the data. This study reveals that the Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students studying in various schools of Coimbatore District is high. There is significant difference between all the sub-samples in respect of their Self-Esteem. The findings of this study very clearly indicates because of the economic affluence and social benevolence, the students at Higher Secondary stage are possessing a high level of Self-Esteem. This is really an appreciable feature and this can be taken care of by the future researchers.

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## INTRODUCTION

Man is a social animal. Every individual is basically embedded with ego centralism and self-related values. Psychologically and sociologically man is inclined to have a high estimation about himself. This is an innate behaviour of an individual. Self-Concept, Self-Esteem, Self-Confidence and Self-Image are some of the attributes and these self-related variables are contributing to the personality of an individual. Among the various self-related variables, Self-Esteem occupies the predominant place.

### Self-Esteem

Self-Esteem represents one's judgment of the concept which he/she has formed through his interpretation of the feedback from his physical and social experiences. Self-Esteem is the person's evaluation of whether his Self-Concept attains his standard and values or not. Self-Esteem is the acceptance of us for whom and what we are at any time in our lives. Self-Esteem as an automatic and inevitable consequence of the some of individuals choices in using their consciousness. Aggressive behaviour is found to be related to low Self-Esteem. Rosenberg and Stanners (1961) have reported that college students with low Self-Esteem were found to react more aggressively in aggression provoking situations than students with high Self-Esteem. Coppersmith (1967) has also reported that children with low Self-Esteem were more prone

to vent their hostility against inanimate objects, exhibiting a tendency to admit his weakness to himself. It has been found that majority of the drop-outs from school do so because they are not able to tolerate the feelings of low self-worth and low Self-Esteem. Similar reports have also been given by Wolfbein (1959). On the other hand, children with high Self-Esteem were found to be making greater demand for academic performance and excellence (Coppersmith, 1967).

### Need of the study

Self-Esteem refers quite literally to the extent to which we admire or value the self within us and of all this emerges what he admire or value about the self. Out of all these emerges what we commonly refer to the term personality. Every human being is having a tendency to estimate themselves in a superior order, regardless of their status. But one should know where we are and what we are. This study is intended to analyse the Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students with a specific purpose. In the Higher Secondary stage the students will be in post adolescent arena. This stage is said to be as an age of stress and strain. Imagining themselves with a high estimation, the students of this stage will involve in manifold activities. This will lead them and put them in doldrums. The present investigation has been undertaken in order to analyse the Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students in Coimbatore District.

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**Table 1. Levels of self-esteem of higher secondary students**

Level	High	Average	Low
N	69	138	39
Percentage	28%	56%	16%

**Table 2. The significance of the difference between the means of self-esteem scores of various sub-samples**

Sub-Samples	N	Mean	S.D	C.R	Significance at 0.05 Level
Male	126	114.20	18.64	2.62	(df – 244)
Female	120	110.40	20.32		P(1.97) < 2.62 Significant
Age 16	128	112.00	20.16	2.96	(df – 244)
Age above 16	118	116.28	20.84		P(1.97) < 2.96 Significant
Urban School Students	130	116.04	17.64	3.21	(df – 244)
Rural School Students	116	120.84	18.24		P (1.97) < 3.21 Significant
Joint Family	126	110.94	19.19	4.81	(df – 244)
Nuclear Family	120	116.26	20.59		P (1.97) < 4.81 Significant

**Statement of the problem**

The problem selected for the present investigation is, “*An analysis of the Self – Esteem of Higher Secondary School Students*”. This study has been conducted in order to find out the following. (i) The level of Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students. (ii) Is there any significant difference between the selected pairs of sub-samples in respect of their Self-Esteem.

**Hypotheses**

- 1) The level of Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students is high.
- 2) There is no significant difference between the selected pairs of sub-samples of Higher Secondary Students in respect of their Self-Esteem.

**METHODOLOGY**

Normative Survey Method has been used.

**Sampling design**

By using Purposive Random Sampling Technique in order to fulfill the rationale of the study 246 Higher Secondary School plus one (+1) students comprising in all sub-samples have been selected from Coimbatore District and used as subjects of this study.

**Data collection**

Self-Esteem Inventory constructed and standardized by Prasad M.S., and Thakur G.P., (1977) was used to collect the data.

**Findings of the study**

Among the 246 Higher Secondary Students as many as 138 (56%) students have fallen in average level of Self-Esteem. As per the mean value of the entire sample the Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students is high. As many as 69 (28%) students are lie in high level of Self-Esteem and as a minimum of 39 (16%) students are lie in low level of Self-Esteem. There is significant difference among all the sub-samples in respect of their Self-Esteem.

**Conclusion**

The present investigation clearly proves the fact that the Self-Esteem of Higher Secondary Students in Coimbatore District is high. Moreover there exists a significant difference between all the sub-samples in respect of the Self-Esteem. Coimbatore District reflects the combination of both urban and rural culture. Moreover the social and economical conditions prevailing in this District are highly admirable. Because of the economic affluence and upliftment in social status engendered a high estimation of their own self. The result of this study portrays this fact in a worth while manner. Additional avenues and opportunities should be offered for this student generation and this will boost the general morale of the youth of today.

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