Study of the Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the study of the sense of humor of higher secondary school students of Gujarat. The objectives of this research are (1) To study the Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students, (2 & 3) To study the main effects of Gender as well as Area on Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students and (4) To study the interaction effects of Gender and Area on Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students. The students studying in the year 2014-15 in the Higher Secondary Schools of Gujarat State was the population of the study. So from population 3000 higher secondary school students were selected by random sampling method. The study would be pertaining to the areas of Psychological Studies. It was an applied type of research as well as normative survey in nature. As a tool sense of humor scale used which was constructed and standardized by researcher. Collected data calculated by use of SPSS – 15. Main results of this research were that, the gender was effect on sense of humor but area had no effect and there in no interactive effect on gender and area on sense of humor of higher secondary school students of Gujarat.

INTRODUCTION

Today we are all faced with greater choice, more competition and less time to consider our options or seek out the right advice in our career and day to day life. In the field of education the climate of competition is increasing regularly. In this situation our schools provide multiple options for choosing the faculties and subjects in different standards. Higher secondary stage of schooling is an important one so far as the future and career opportunities are concerned. Students at this stage work hard and face so many challenges, anxieties and problems to achieve the best. In this journey s/he needs to be more concentrated, confident, competent and positive each and every day. For this purpose s/he has to put some extra efforts by taking care of some psychological aspects that may help to balance the personality as well as to cope with the stress.

A good Sense of Humor promotes shift from negative to positive and provide outlet for expressing feelings. In addition to this, Sense of Humor can provide an effective mode of communication in the school climate which can be an important factor for achievement. Sense of Humor releases negative emotions such as anger and guilt and improves enthusiasm for work. It can reduce inhibitions and increases self-confidence of students. While studying in school humorous students can face every kind of problems better. In school atmosphere, sense of humor can stimulate the alertness and boost the memory. Indirectly it can enhance the quality of learning and creativity of students. In the context of two variables – gender and area wise students.

In the very busy schedule of school and individual learning, our students are becoming more and more conscious, sensitive, losing their natural smile. This situation can be a harmful one for their betterment and future. It may also affect their scores, their performance. It is very important to become aware about the level of Sense of Humor of the Higher Secondary School students if we want to guide and teach them in better way. The present study is an attempt in this direction.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

The study undertaken by the researcher has been entitled as “Study of the Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students of Gujarat”

The research mainly proposed to study of sense of humor of the Higher Secondary School students was also carried out in the context of two variables – gender and area wise students.

DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

In the present study, the important key words are as:

1. **Sense of Humor**

“In contemporary psychology, the term ‘sense of humor’ refers to humor as an enduring personality trait.” (Ruch, 2002)

Humor means the ability to perceive, appreciate or express what is funny, amusing or ludicrous. Sense of humor may relate to differences in comprehension, expression, the ability to produce humor, appreciation, affinity and desire for laughter, memory, and use as a coping mechanism. (Ruchand Eysenck)

In the present study sense of humor means the score achieved by the students on the scale constructed and standardized by investigator.

2. **Higher Secondary School Student**

Student is a person of studious habits. A student is one who undergoes a formal kind of training, under a particular
institution for a fixed period. Student is one who attends an institution of higher secondary level; or a person engaged in serious study, especially one doing independent study.

VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

The variables of this study will be presented in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Type of Variable</th>
<th>Name of Variable</th>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Tool Primary Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dependent</td>
<td>Sense of Humor</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>Self Made Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Male</td>
<td>Primary Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Female</td>
<td>Primary Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Area</td>
<td>1. Urban</td>
<td>Primary Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Rural</td>
<td>Primary Data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study will be carried out with the following objectives:

1. To study the Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students.
2. To study the main effects of Gender on Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students.
3. To study the main effects of Area on Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students.
4. To study the interaction effects of Gender and Area on Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The formulated null hypotheses were given below:

$H_{01}$ There will be no significant difference between mean Sense of Humor score of boys and girls of Higher Secondary School on Sense of Humor Scale.

$H_{02}$ There will be no significant difference between mean Sense of Humor score of Urban and Rural area’s Higher Secondary School Students on Sense of Humor Scale.

$H_{03}$ There will be no significant interaction effect between gender and area on the mean SOH score of Higher Secondary School Students on Sense of Humor Scale.

TYPES AND AREA OF RESEARCH

The study would be pertaining to the areas of Psychological Studies. The field of the present study was Higher Secondary school, Psychological field and Measurement and Evaluation. The results will be useful to guide students to improve the sense of humor so it was applied research.

RESEARCH METHOD

The study was normative survey in nature because of study has been conducted on sense of humor of higher secondary students. So the present study was normative survey. In this research, the investigator used certain specific methods, which was suitable for this study. Researcher used the descriptive method.

Here Higher Secondary School student means students of Std. XI or XII of Gujarat Secondary Board affiliated to urban and rural area schools.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The present research was related to study of the sense of humor of the students of Higher Secondary Schools. Students studying in the year 2014-15 in the Higher Secondary Schools of Gujarat State were the population of the study. The state of Gujarat was divided in four zones. From each zone two districts were selected by drawing a chit. From selected districts rural and urban area wise schools were selected by drawing chit. From selected schools, 3000 students were selected through stratify random sampling.

TOOLS OF THE STUDY

In the present study, to collect the required data the Sense of Humor Scale which is construction and standardized by investigator was used. There were forty items in this scale. Out of forty items, 10 statements, 10 Jokes, 10 Cartoons and 10 situational objective questions.

Reliability of this scale was calculated by Test-retest method calculated r-value was 0.89 between the scores on test and retest, by Split- half reliability was 0.83 and by Cronbach’s alpha reliability was 0.83 of the Sense of Humor Scale. Thus, the Sense of Humor Scale was reliable.

Validity was estimated for Face Validity Twenty two experts gave facial approval to scale. So, face validity of the Sense of Humor Scale was proven. For Content Validity the opinions of the experts were collected about its content and its structure. The experts evaluated the content of the Sense of Humor scale. By Concurrent Validity Correlation coefficient between the scores of sense of humor scale constructed by researcher and by (Shah, 2011) was 0.756. By Internal Validity Internal validity of the scale was ascertained by correlation of the four subparts of the Sense of Humor Scale. All the correlations are significant at high level. It varies from 0.62 to 0.88. Each component correlates highly with Total score [** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)]. Thus reliability and Validity of the data of Sense of Humor Scale was established.

DATA COLLECTION

Data for the present study was collected by the administration of Sense of Humor Scale during the academic
year 2014-15. The data was collected personally by the researcher. The data pertaining to variables Sense of Humor Score, Gender and Area of schools were collected from the students from std. XI and XII who were studying in the selected schools which comprise the sample.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

After collection of data, it was entered in Excel sheet for analysis. The data was compiled in tabular form for each variable. The significant difference of mean was computed. Data were further analyzed and interpreted on the basis of F-values to study the significance of interactions as explained. With the help of the above statistical techniques, the results were interpreted, in the light of the hypotheses citing them wherever appropriate. For the analysis of the data SPSS 15 programme was used.

TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

In the present study the null hypothesis have been tested and given below table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Hypotheses</th>
<th>F-value</th>
<th>Level of Significance</th>
<th>Rejected / Not Rejected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>There will be no significant difference between mean Sense of Humor (SOH) score of boys and girls of Higher Secondary School on Sense of Humor Scale (SOHS).</td>
<td>9.543</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>There will be no significant difference between mean Sense of Humor score of Urban and Rural area’s Higher Secondary School Students on Sense of Humor Scale.</td>
<td>0.776</td>
<td>N.S.</td>
<td>Not Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>There will be no significant interaction effect between gender and area on the mean Sense of Humor score of Higher Secondary School Students on Sense of Humor Scale.</td>
<td>.234</td>
<td>N.S.</td>
<td>Not Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. There was no interaction effect between gender and area on the Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School students.

15. Discussion

The present study was related to the sense of humor of Higher Secondary School students and some important related variables. So the results can be discussed in the following direction.

On the basis of informative experience about the subjects, situations arising in solving a problem, preservation of democratic procedures, through assimilation of environment should be thought to the students. For this purpose opportunities should be provided to them for the humorous activities.

The school and the society should come forward and allow the students to exhibitions, fairs, field trips, tours, zoos, parks, plants and animals, comedy shows, comedy films, comedy T.V. serials, social activities, circuses etc. They should provide the students the experiences of humorous and organizing drama, mime, one act competitions, allowing the students to mingle with various peer and intellectual groups, exposing them to the eminent personalities like humorous persons, actors, dramatist, writer and social reformer etc., allowing them to ask questions to satisfy their curiosity, stressing the importance of when to ask and how to ask questions.

All educators in general and teachers in particular shall try to nourish and not only promote but also facilitate the process of the cultivation and development of the sense of humor among the generation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations of this research were following:

1. Sense of humor of the boys was found higher than girls. So proper atmosphere for girls should be provided at schools as well as at home for developing their Sense of Humor.
2. The teachers should administer similar tests and scales on their students at regular intervals for measuring their Sense of humor and organized humorous activities as well as imparting humor in regular teaching learning process.
3. The parents should also provide necessary materials, facilities, proper environment and guidance to their children for developing sense of humor.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Education Implications of present study were following:

1. After identifying the sense of humor of the Higher Secondary School students, programme can be implemented to develop the sense of humor.
2. In our society, persons are selected on the bases of their intellect. But along with the intellect, present competitive and stressful time sense of humor should also be considered so that effective results can be obtained.
3. The Scale will be useful for parents and society to make humorous environment of society and decide career of their children on the basis of their level of sense of humor.
4. Students are sometimes weak in performance or fail in routine exam or tests because of anxiety. Then measuring sense of humor we will inspire the students and reduction of their anxiety.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, sense of humor and its effect of gender and area have been studied. The Sense of humor of boy students was more than girls. The significant interactive effect between gender and area were not found. The tool of “Sense of Humor Scale” used was constructed and standardized by the researcher. Sense of humor scale will be useful in the field of Educational Psychology. Researcher hoped that in future shall be encouraged to undertake further follow up work in this area, to improve the sense of humor of the next generation.

REFERENCES


