

## A Study on Influence of Gender on Attitude towards Modernization among College Students

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### ABSTRACT

*The present day human society has emerged out of changes in the lives of people. The change occurs through a process of modernization which has an effect on the lives of people. Modernization is the total transition of the society from simple to complex in which a person change from a set of traditional method of living to more advanced way of life. This transition led to change in the roles of men and women in the society. Therefore, the present study was confined to study the gender difference in the attitude towards modernization among college students. To know the attitude of college students, a sample of 60 participants from Punjab Agricultural University, Punjab, India took part in the study. For assessment of attitude towards modernization among college students, modernizing inventory by Ahluwalia and Kalia (1998) was used. The results of the study indicated that males had more modern attitude towards education, politics, and marriage while females had better attitude towards modernization on parent-child relationships, status of women, religion, and socio-cultural factors.*

**Keywords:** Education, modernization, social change, women's position

### I. INTRODUCTION

Every human being in life is in the process of change from birth till now. Change is the law of nature and human society has evolved in some way or the other over the last centuries (Patel 2013) [1]. There is a continuous process of growth and development in each and every society but it happens at different rates. Sometimes these changes are slow which are not recognized by people and sometimes they are speedy. The pace of societal change differs from an era to another, one religion to another and one culture to another (Kumar 2015) [2]. This process of 'modernization has an intense impact on our everyday lives.

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The word 'modernization' is derived from Latin word 'moud' which means 'modern'. Modernization is described as a process of change in the situations of a group of people, an organization, or society in ways that provides them with opportunities according to modern day knowledge and technology. It is basically a transformation from traditional society to a society that is based on science and technology (Patel 2013 [1]). According to Shehtraj (2004) [3] “Modernization involves the substitution of old images and forms with new ones.” The two major aspects of modernization are firstly, there exists a system of thoughts and values which allows a person to direct his/her activities and secondly, there is a system of institutions with reference to which a person carries out his/her activities (Sobha and Dhawan 2017) [4].

With the changing society, roles of both women and men have evolved which creates a challenge for women to shed the related stereotypes and contribute actively and equally in the work force (Kaur and Kaur 2017) [5]. In a study by Kumar (2011) [6], it was noticed that respondents differ significantly in the aspects such as education, religion and status of women. Further, it was reported in the study that female respondents possessed favorable attitude towards modernization. In another study by Wani and Bhat (2014) [7], it was seen that there was no difference among males and females in the attitude towards modernization.

## II. OBJECTIVES

- i. To measure the gender difference in the attitude towards modernization among college students.
- ii. To compare the gender difference in the attitude towards modernization among college students.

## III. HYPOTHESIS

There is no significant difference between males and females on changing attitude towards modernization.

## 4IV METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted by using the following research designs:

4.1 Variables: Independent variable studied in the study was gender and dependent variable was attitude towards modernization.

4.2 Sample: The sample for the current study was randomly selected. The data was gathered from an overall sample of 60 (30 males and 30 females) college students studying in undergraduate programmes of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India.

4.3 Tool: Modernizing inventory by Ahluwalia and Kalia (1998) [8] was used to assess the attitude towards modernization among college students.

4.4 Procedure of data collection: The sample for the present study comprised of 60 college students divided equally based on gender i.e. 30 male and 30 females. The students were approached in the classroom where the purpose of the research was described to them. The participants were given clear instructions on how to use the tool and give answer relevant to them. They were explained that their results would be kept confidential and privacy of their names would be maintained.

## V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Socio-personal characteristics of the respondents

This section deals with the socio-personal profile of the respondents with respect to gender. The data given in the table 5.1 illustrates the gender-wise distribution of respondents by age, ordinal position, family type, father's education, father's occupation, mother's education, and mother's occupation. The respondents were classified according to gender i.e. 30 males and 30 females.

The data depicted in the table 5.1 revealed that among males, majority of the respondents ( 63.34%) were in the age group of 19 years followed by 23.33 per cent were 19 years old and 13.33 per cent were 20 years old. Similarly, among females, most of the respondents (56.67%) were 18 years old and rest, 26.67 per cent were 19 years of age and 16.66 per cent were 20 years old.

It is apparent from the table that among males, half of the respondents (50.00%) were second born followed by first born (36.67%) and third born (13.33%). In case of females, majority of the respondents (53.33%) were first born, 30 per cent were second born and 16.67 % were third born.

As far as family type is concerned, among males, 60.00 per cent belonged to nuclear families and rest 40.00 per cent were from joint families. Likewise, in case of females, 70.00 per cent were from joint families and 30.00 per cent were from nuclear families.

The distribution of respondents by father's education revealed that fathers of most of the males (50.00%) were educated till intermediate followed by graduation (20.00%), high school (16.67%) and middle school (13.33%). Similarly among females, majority of the fathers (53.33%) were educated till intermediate followed by graduation (23.33%), high school (16.67%) and middle school (6.67%).

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It was clear from the table that among males, majority of the fathers (63.33%) were in service sector and rest (36.67%) were into business. Similarly, among females, most of the fathers (56.67%) were in service and rest (43.33%) were businessman.

Regarding the educational qualifications of mothers, the data indicated that among males, a major proportion of mothers (36.37%) were educated till intermediate followed by high school (30.00%), middle school (23.33%), and graduation (10.00%). Similarly, among females, a major proportion of mothers (40.00%) were educated till intermediate followed by high school (26.67%), middle school (20.00%), and graduation (13.33%).

Data pertaining to the occupation of mothers pointed out that among males, majority of the mothers (73.33%) were homemakers and rest (26.67%) were in services. Similarly, among females, most of the mothers (76.67%) were homemakers and rest (23.33%) were in service sector.

**Table 5.1: Gender- wise socio-personal profile of the respondents**

Socio-personal Characteristics	Categories	Males (n=30)		Females (n=30)	
		f	%	f	%
Age (years)	18	19	63.34	17	56.67
	19	7	23.33	8	26.67
	20	4	13.33	5	16.66
Ordinal position	1	11	36.67	16	53.33
	2	15	50.00	9	30.00
	3	4	13.33	5	16.67
Family type	Nuclear	18	60.00	21	70.00
	Joint	12	40.00	9	30.00
Father's education	Middle School	4	13.33	2	6.67
	High School	5	16.67	5	16.67
	Intermediate	15	50.00	16	53.33
	Graduation	6	20.00	7	23.33
Fathers occupation	Service	19	63.33	17	56.67
	Business	11	36.67	13	43.33

<b>Mother's education</b>	Middle School	7	23.33	6	20.00
	High School	9	30.00	8	26.67
	Intermediate	11	36.67	12	40.00
	Graduation	3	10.00	4	13.33
<b>Mother's occupation</b>	Homemakers	22	73.33	23	76.67
	Service	8	26.67	7	23.33

## 5.2 Assessment of attitude towards modernization among college males and females.

There is no significant difference between males and females on changing attitude towards modernization among college. Data depicted in table 5.2 illustrated gender-wise frequency distribution of the respondents across different aspects of modernization. It was observed that there were no significant differences across 'high', 'average' and 'low' levels in all the aspects of modernization among males and females respondents. Thus, hypothesis that was framed was accepted in this study as per the obtained results.

However, it was noted that among males, most of the respondents had more positive attitude on education (56.67%), politics (60.00%), and marriage (63.33%) in comparison to girls. While, in case of females, most of the respondents had positive attitudes on parent-child relationships (70.00%), status of women (50.00%), religion (60.00%), and socio-cultural factors (56.67%).

**Table 5.2: Gender-wise per cent distribution of respondents across different aspects of modernization**

Aspects of Modernization	Level	Males (n=30)		Females (n=30)		Z-value
		f	%	f	%	
<b>Education</b>	Low	5	16.66	9	30.00	1.222
	Average	17	56.67	14	46.67	0.775
	High	8	26.67	7	23.33	0.299
<b>Parent-child relationship</b>	Low	4	13.33	3	10.00	0.402
	Average	19	63.33	21	70.00	0.548
	High	7	23.33	6	20.00	0.313
<b>Politics</b>	Low	9	30.00	11	36.67	0.548
	Average	18	60.00	12	40.00	1.549
	High	3	10.00	7	23.33	1.385

<b>Status of women</b>	Low	8	26.67	9	30.00	0.286
	Average	13	43.33	15	50.00	0.518
	High	9	30.00	6	20.00	0.894
<b>Marriage</b>	Low	5	16.66	4	13.33	0.361
	Average	19	63.33	17	56.67	0.527
	High	6	20.00	9	30.00	0.894
<b>Religion</b>	Low	4	13.33	6	20.00	0.693
	Average	16	53.33	18	60.00	0.521
	High	10	33.33	6	20.00	1.167
<b>Socio-cultural factors</b>	Low	6	20.00	4	13.33	0.693
	Average	14	46.67	17	56.67	0.775
	High	10	33.33	9	30.00	0.277

### 5.3 Comparison of attitude towards modernization among college males and females.

Table 5.3 illustrates the gender difference in mean scores of various aspects of modernization. A significant differences had been reported among males for 'education' (5.12;  $p < 0.01$ ) and 'marriage' (3.37;  $p < 0.01$ ) which indicated that males had better mean scores in education and marriage aspect of modernization than females. Significant gender differences were observed for 'parent-child relationships' (4.75;  $p < 0.01$ ), 'status of women' (1.99;  $p < 0.05$ ), and socio-cultural factors' (3.78;  $p < 0.01$ ) where females had better mean scores than males. These findings of status of women and education were similar to the study conducted by Chaudhary (2015) [9] which revealed that females were more modern than males in the area of 'position of women' while males were more modern in the area of 'education'.

**Table 5.3: Gender-wise mean scores of respondents across different aspects of modernization**

Aspects of Modernization	Males (n=30)	Females (n=30)	t-value
	Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD	
<b>Education</b>	27.10 $\pm$ 3.56	21.89 $\pm$ 4.28	5.12**
<b>Parent-child relationship</b>	25.12 $\pm$ 3.14	29.15 $\pm$ 3.42	4.75**
<b>Politics</b>	23.57 $\pm$ 4.29	22.03 $\pm$ 2.84	1.63
<b>Status of women</b>	25.89 $\pm$ 3.05	27.35 $\pm$ 2.59	1.99*

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<b>Marriage</b>	27.23±3.57	24.16±3.48	3.37**
<b>Religion</b>	26.46±3.82	27.26±2.45	0.96
<b>Socio-cultural factors</b>	24.26±2.98	27.64±3.88	3.78**

Note: \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01

## VI. CONCLUSION

The current study emphasized on the attitude of college students towards modernization. It was observed that males had better attitude towards modernization on education, politics, and marriage while females had better attitude towards modernization on parent-child relationships, status of women, religion, and socio-cultural factors. This indicates that perception of males are altering in terms of education, political decision and marriage roles whereas females are focusing more on relationship between child and parent, changing status of women in contemporary world, and effect of religion and socio-cultural factors in our day-to-day life. Further studies can be done to find out the attitude towards modernization according to family structure i.e. joint and nuclear family. The limitation of the study was that it is done with small number of participants.

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