

A Cross-Cultural Study of Personal Interests

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the differences in personal interests between tribal and non-tribal children, specifically focusing on social, scientific, and mechanical interests. The study involved a sample of 100 tribal and 100 non-tribal children. To measure the interests, the Interest Record developed by Raghuraj Pal, a Hindi adaptation of Guilford's Interest Record (1954), was employed. The data were analyzed using a t-test to compare the three categories of interest for both groups. The findings confirmed the hypothesis, revealing that non-tribal children exhibited significantly higher social and scientific interests, while tribal children showed a marked superiority in mechanical interest.

Keywords: Cross-cultural study, Personal interests, Tribal children, Non-tribal children, Social interests, Scientific interests, Mechanical interests.

Introduction:

The term 'interest' a major constituent of this study has been used to imply all of the following: attention, curiosity, motivation, focus, concern, goal directedness, awareness, worthiness and desire (Reber and Reber, 2001). Another important constituent of the study is culture, which refers to the totality of the customs, arts, science, and religious and political Behaviours taken as an integrated whole, which distinguishes one society from another. In fact culture is the sum total of ideas, conditioned emotional responses and patterns of habitual behavior which the members of that society have acquired through instruction or imitation and which they save to a greater or lesser degree.

In this context certain studies have been conducted without any reference to the different personal interests of the tribal and non-tribal children. Rahman and Haideri (1997) found lesser creativity among disadvantaged group of children as compared to advantaged group. Hussain and Singh (2000) found lesser social and political values among socially disadvantaged children. Choudhary et al. (2003) reported that family environment plays a significant role in personality development of children. Thus the undertaking of the present study intending to examine

the effect of cultural affiliation on the development of children's interests is justified. Grewal et al. (2002) also reported significant impact of Quality Home Environment on temperament of rural children. Manju Pathak (2004) reported that Tribal students have less need achievement, risk-taking and aspiration as compared to their non-tribal counterparts. In view of the references stated above it is warranted to compare the Tribal and Non-tribal children in terms of their personal interests.

Purpose:

The purpose of the study was to examine the effect of Tribal-Non-Tribal cultural affiliation on the development of personal interests. The study intended to compare the Tribal and Non-tribal children in terms of scientific, social and mechanical interests of the respondents.

Hypothesis:

The Tribal children would differ from their non-tribal counterparts in terms of social, scientific and mechanical interests to a significant extent.

Methodology:

(A) Sample:

The sample of the study consisted of 100 Tribal children and 100 Non-Tribal children in the age group of 17 to 22 of colleges located in Ranchi town. They were matched in other respects as far as possible.

(b) Research tools:

1. A Personal Data Sheet prepared by the researcher himself was used for collecting necessary information about the respondents of the study.

2. An Interest Record by Dr. Raghuraj Pal (1980) a Hindi adaptation of Guilford's Interest Record (1954) was employed for measuring social, scientific

and mechanical interests of the tribal and non-tribal children. The study was conducted in different phases and research tools were administered to the respondents. The data relating to interests of the respondents were collected separately.

Data Analysis:

The obtained data were separately analyzed and treated for the tribal and the non-tribal groups of the respondents. A parametric test, namely t-test was used for data analysis. The results obtained on the basis of t-test were recorded in the tables given below:

Table-1

Showing the significance of difference between the Tribal children and non-tribal children in terms of social interest.

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	SE	t	df	P
Tribal	100	25.11	5.21	.52	5.17	198	<.01
Non-Tribal	100	29.35	6.41	.64			

Table-2

Showing the significance of difference between the Tribal children and non-tribal children in terms of scientific interest.

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	SE	t	df	P
Tribal	100	20.96	6.11	.61	4.00	198	<.01
Non-Tribal	100	24.88	7.75	.77			

Table-3

Showing the significance of difference between the Tribal children and non-tribal children in terms of mechanical interest

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	SE	t	df	P
Tribal	100	27.79	5.97	.60	9.57	198	<.01
Non-Tribal	100	20.23	5.11	.51			

Interpretation Of the Above Results

In the light of the results displayed in above three tables the hypothesis stated above is strongly supported. The results displayed in table-1 showed that the non-tribal children showed more social interest than the tribal children, which was interpreted on the ground that the tribal children are more engaged in their basic needs of life which hampers the growth of social interest in them. On the other hand the non-tribal children enjoy better opportunity of developing social interest. In scientific interest too the non-tribal children excelled their tribal counterparts. However in mechanical interest the tribal children excelled the non-tribal children, which was interpreted on the rationale that the tribal children as compared to their non-tribal counterparts have more experience of doing manual labour with machines and tools frequently in practical life. Thus all the three hypotheses were strongly supported leading to the following categorical results:

Conclusion:

While the non-tribal children excelled their tribal counterparts in social and scientific interests, the tribal children excelled in mechanical interest.



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