

RISK TAKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO SOME DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

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Abstract

It is widely acknowledged that adolescence is a period in which there is an enormous rise in risk taking behaviours. The degree to which adolescents involve in risk-taking behaviour can be intervened by some demographic characteristics. So, the investigators decided to study risk taking behaviour among adolescents in relation to some demographic variables like academic stream, caste, family income and locality. The descriptive survey method was employed in this study. A sample of 200 adolescents was selected randomly through random sampling technique. Risk taking questionnaire (RTQ) by Virendra Sinha and P. N. Arora was used for the present study. Findings revealed no significant difference in risk-taking behaviour among male adolescents in relation to their academic stream, caste, family income and locality. This study helps the teacher to know the risk taking behaviour of their pupil and to provide all the facilities for the overall development of the pupil accordingly.

Introduction

Man has the distinctive capacity to aware of himself and to understand himself. Besides, he has unique position to living in a formal society. It is widely acknowledged that adolescence is a period in which there is an enormous rise in risk taking behaviours. Risk means to consciously choose a behaviour that is potentially dangerous to one's physical or mental health and may result in injury, disability and even death. Risk taking is the most dangerous hazard to adolescent mental and physical health. Out of any age group, their attitude towards risk taking is the most lenient.

Adolescence is one of the most challenging developmental periods in a person's life. Individuals biologically and psychologically experience wide variety of changes in this period. Along with these changes, individuals begin to discover variety of new emotional or behavioural stimulants of adult life. Biological, psychological, and social environmental changes that occurred in the adolescence process may cause vulnerability to engage in self-destructive or health-compromising behaviours. These self-destructive or health compromising

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behaviours that initially occur in the adolescence process have long-term effects in terms of health or other social and psychological consequences .

Overviewing the risk-taking behaviours, one can observe that it includes some different groups of behaviours such as traffic-related (e.g taking speed, driving without license, driving/riding without seatbelt, driving when drunk), substance use-related (e.g. taking crack/cocaine, heroin, sniffing gas or glue), and the risk related to behaviour included in six areas,(e.g. diving, sky-diving, kayaking, parachuting, bungee-jumping, paragliding) risk-taking behaviours.

Adolescence is a critical period of an individual. This critical period includes a variety of risk-taking behaviors. Furthermore, a potentially risky behavior for an early adolescent might not be considered as developmentally harmful for a late adolescent. In other words, this period has also different developmental characteristics. Risk-taking behaviors can be normative and social acceptable to some extent, depend upon the type, frequency, and degree of risky behavior. Moreover, empirical evidence points out that young people are more prone to involve in risky-behaviors that have fatal dangers and long-term effects. Furthermore, results of previous studies on adolescent risk taking behavior have suggested that the role of personality and demographic characteristics of adolescents should also be considered in understanding the risk-taking behaviours.

Statement of the Problem

“To Study Risk Taking Behaviour among Adolescents in relation to some Demographic variables.”

Objectives of the Study

1. To study risk taking behaviour among adolescents.
2. To compare risk taking behaviour among adolescents in relation to their Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income and their Locality.

Design of the Study

The Descriptive survey method was used in the present study.

Variable involved

In this present study the following variables were taken:

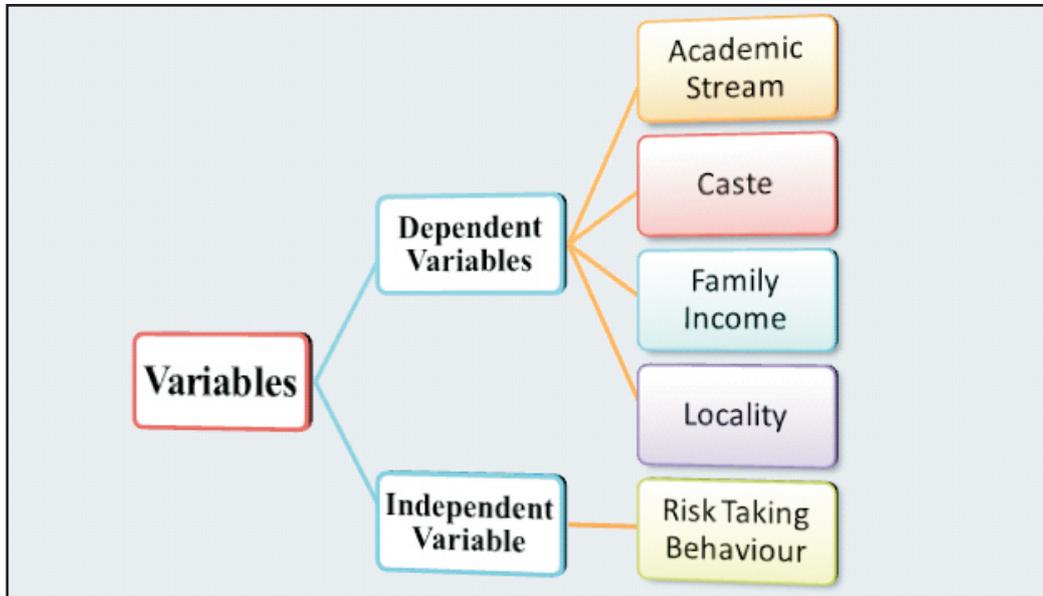


Fig.1: Variables Involved

Sample

The sample for the present study was selected through multistage random sampling. The list of all schools affiliated to HBSE Board of Rohtak district was obtained from internet. Then, two schools were selected randomly for the present study. 200 male adolescents were randomly chosen as sample of study .

Tool Used

Risk Taking Questionnaire (RTQ), by Virendra Sinha and P. N. Arora was used for the present study. The reliability coefficient is 0.42 by test retest method, which is fairly average and indicates that the questionnaire is reliable. For the purpose of establishing validity, the test has

Academic Stream	No. of Students	Caste	No. of Students	Family Income	No. of Students	Locality	No. of Students
Science	80	SC/ST	46	High(>40,000pm)	32	Urban	154
Arts	70	OBC	48	Moderate(20,000-40,000 pm)	134	Rural	46
Commerce	50	General	106	Low(<20,000 pm)	34	Total students	200
Total students	200	Total students	200	Total students	200		

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been validated with two tests i.e, by Chi-Square Test at 0.05 level or more and by Extension Median Test on a representative sample of 100 students.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The present study has been designed to study the risk taking behavior among male adolescents in relation to some demographic variables like academic stream, caste, family income and locality. Data has been collected, analyzed and interpreted under the following subheadings:

Risk Taking Behaviour among Male Adolescents

The first objective of the study was to study risk taking behaviour male among adolescents. Mean and Standard Deviation of risk taking behaviour among male adolescents were calculated and given below.

Table-: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of Risk Taking Behaviour among Male Adolescents.

Variable	N	Mean	S.D.	Interpretation
Risk Taking Behaviour	200	152.69	22.61	Moderate Risk Taking Behaviour

Table shows that mean score of risk taking behaviour among male adolescents is 152.69 and S.D. scores is 22.61 which means that male adolescents under study are having moderate risk taking behaviour.

Risk Taking Behaviour among Male Adolescents in relation to their Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income and Locality

The second objective of the study was to study risk taking behaviour among male adolescents in relation to their Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income and Locality. For this Mean, S. D. and t-values for scores on risk taking behaviour among male adolescents in relation to their Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income and Locality have been calculated and presented in the table-3. Graphically, horizontal cylinders have also been drawn to present mean risk taking behavior scores among male adolescents in relation to various variables in fig.2.

The table-3 shows that 't' value for mean scores of male adolescents in relation to Academic Stream is 0.74, 0.32 & 0.24 which is not significant. It is concluded that risk taking behaviour among male adolescents is not affected by Academic Stream (Science, Arts, and Commerce) however mean examination from table-3 depicts that

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mean score on risk taking behavior among male adolescents from science stream was greater than that of students from Arts and Commerce stream but it is not statistically significant.

Table-3: Mean, S.D. and 't' value for Risk Taking Behaviour Scores of Male Adolescents in relation to their Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income and Locality

Variables		No. of students	Mean	S.D.	't' value
Academic Stream	Science	80	153.9	20.82	0.74 (NS)
	Arts	70	151.31	21.80	
	Commerce	50	152.8	27.11	0.32 (NS)
	Arts	70	151.31	21.80	
	Commerce	50	152.8	27.11	0.24 (NS)
	Science	80	153.9	20.82	
Caste	SC/ST	46	154.17	24.22	0.35 (NS)
	OBC	48	152.45	22.35	
	General	106	152.15	22.43	0.07 (NS)
	OBC	48	152.45	22.35	
	SC/ST	46	154.17	24.22	0.48 (NS)
	General	106	152.15	22.43	
Family Income	High	32	152.31	26.91	0.10 (NS)
	Moderate	134	152.83	22.09	
	Low	34	152.47	21.75	0.08 (NS)
	Moderate	134	152.83	22.09	
	Low	34	152.47	21.75	0.02 (NS)
	High	32	152.31	26.91	
Locality	Urban	154	152.9	23.01	0.27 (NS)
	Rural	46	151.9	21.27	

NS: Not Significant

The table -3 shows that ‘t’ value of mean scores of male adolescents in relation to Caste is 0.35, 0.07 & 0.48 is not significant leads to conclusion that risk taking behaviour among male adolescents is not affected by Caste (SC/ST, OBC, and General), however mean examination from table-3 depicts that mean score(154.17) on risk taking behavior among male adolescents from SC/ST Caste was greater than that of male adolescents from General(152.15) and OBC(152.45) Caste but it is not statistically significant. As we know that Caste is an important background characteristic in Indian scenario, which governs several habitual and behavioural aspects of an individual. But In this study, caste is not emerged as an important characteristic governing the risk behaviour of the adolescents.

‘t’ values(0.10, 0.08 & 0.02) vide table-3 of mean risk taking behavior scores of male adolescents in relation to Family Income is not significant. It means that family Income (High, Moderate, and Low) has no effect on the risk taking behaviour among male adolescents however mean examination from table-3 depicts that mean score (152.83) on risk taking behavior among male adolescents of moderate family income was slightly greater than that of male adolescents of high family income (152.31) and low family income (152.47) but it is not statistically significant.

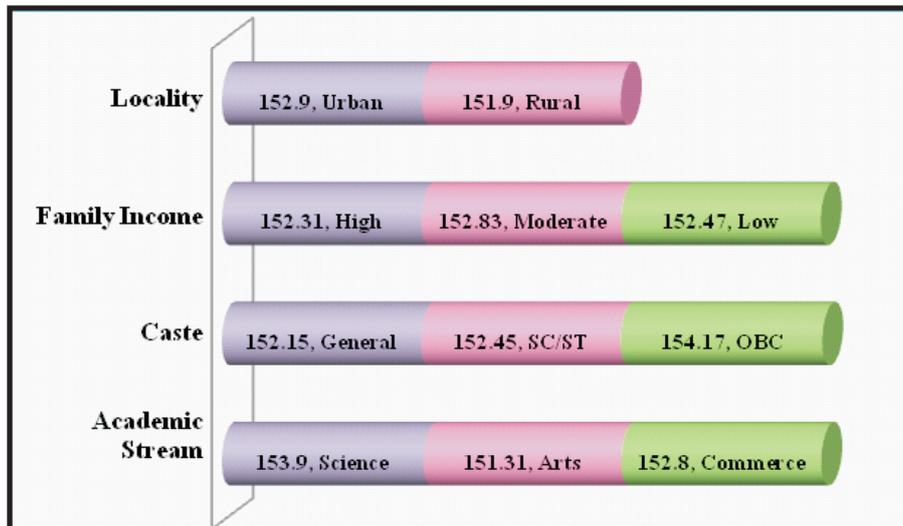


Fig. 2: Mean Risk Taking Behaviour Scores of Male Adolescents in relation to Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income and Locality

In the present study, Physical environment do not play an important role in the individual’s risk taking behaviour as table-3 shows that ‘t’ value(0.27) for mean scores of male adolescents in relation to locality is not significant. However mean examination from table-3 depicts that mean score (152.9) on risk taking behavior

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among male adolescents belonging to urban locality was slightly greater than that of male adolescents belonging to rural locality (151.9) but it is not statistically significant. On the contrary, Agrawal (2005) confirmed that adolescents who are working, living single, belonging to lower SES, less educated and not related with head of the households are more likely to indulge in risk-taking behaviours.

Fig.2 also exhibits that on all dichotomy of different variables, length of sub-parts of horizontal cylinders seems nearly equal which leads to interpretation that risk taking behavior among male adolescents on the basis of their academic stream, caste, family income and locality is almost alike.

Findings

No significant difference was found risk-taking behaviour among male adolescents in relation to their Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income and Locality.

Educational Implications

Generally, it is a proven fact that the Risk Taking Behaviour of the learner enabled him to take active part in the teaching learning process. If the students are aware of their risk taking behaviour, they can willingly involve themselves in the learning process. Thus knowledge of risk taking behaviour of students can help the teacher as well as the learner immensely to improve the teaching and learning, thereby resulting in effective results since risk taking behaviour of the individual mainly covers physical conditions, memory, involving in risky sports etc. Therefore students and teachers can be highly benefited with the knowledge of risk taking behaviour. Our study shows that there is no effect of Academic Stream, Caste, Family Income, and Locality on the risk taking behaviour among male adolescents. The study helps the teacher to know the risk taking behaviour of their pupil and to provide all the facilities for the overall development of the pupil accordingly.

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