



A Study on the Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers

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ABSTRACT

The present study has been designed to study the political awareness among pre-service teachers. Various Indian and foreign studies were reviewed. Descriptive Survey method has been used in this study. The sample consists of 100 student teachers. The investigator used stratified random sampling technique for selecting the sample. Questionnaire was constructed for the teachers to find out the opinions on the Perceptions of student teachers Towards political awareness among pre-service teachers. The data were analyzed using various statistical methods like mean, SD, 't' test and F-test were the statistical techniques used. The score obtained by different groups are compared across the variables like gender, age, educational qualifications, locality and type of management and methodology. The results are discussed in light of previous research studied; suggestions and Recommendations for further research were also suggested.

Key Words: Political Awareness, Pre- Service Teachers

Introduction:

The civic and political consciousness cannot be completely imparted by the state. It is the duty of every one of us both to learn and practice that we preach. It implies a change of outlook an awareness of what is happening in the outside world and realization that is on the basis of sacrifice and contribution of the individual to the community that its betterment can be achieved. Democratic government demands from the people a high degree of civic participation that requires intelligence, self – control devotion to common cause and capacity to subordinate interests to community and national interests. A good citizen is one who observes laws and avoids all anti – social activities such a citizen can play a useful role in upholding democracy which we have chosen for our way of life, such a citizen has much to contribute in a developing country like ours. By understanding his responsibility and discharging his obligations, a good citizen contributes his best to the community immediately surrounding him and to the society at large. The progress of a country depends on the maximum exploitation of its human resources.

In the study of democracy, political parties, pressure groups and lobbies have an important place. In every democratic country, political parties have raised, though they are extra – constitutional. Political parties have scope to function when partisan opinion can be freely and openly expressed without the eruption of physical violence and blood shed. Then again an individual or a group can project from private or public platforms all kinds of opinion in a democratic atmosphere of full freedom without running the risk of being jailed or punished in any other way. Politics includes peaceful struggle for power and political parties participate in it.

Need and significance of the study:

For the proper functioning of democracy, every citizen should be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and aptitudes to discharge his duties as a responsible and co – operative citizen. The government must educate the citizens for the development of culture and civilization of the nation, and to make them to know what is happening in and outside the country. The government must educate the citizens for the development of culture and civilization of the nation, and to make them to know what is happening in and outside the country. The people must know that the democratic government is functioning with the indispensable political parties. They must understand that without opposition parties. The democracy cannot function and it may be called as autocracy if a single party exists. The student must understand and learn politics but should not interfere in them during their educational period. A right type of political education to the masses and an impartial press can make the people go ahead to attain the ideal of democracy. Aristotle expressed that a citizen needs education for the harmonious adjustment in the state. After receiving proper education the citizen will be adopted to suit to the form of government under which he has to live, realize their innate potentialities and contribute something to the nation and through education.

“The devotion of democracy to education is a familiar fact and it cannot be successful unless those who elect and also obey their governors are educated”. The right type of political and democratic education should be given properly now in our country. The students are the back bone of the country. Mere the political knowledge is waste until the people are politically aware of their duties and rights and the democratic practice should be the part of the

routine life of the people. Due to the lack of proper understanding among the people, their weaknesses are exploited by the clever politicians. The teachers are also taking active part in the present politics and they are neglecting the energetic youth and their values. We can own seeds of democratic practices in this stage. Though the right type of practical training, the children in the secondary school stage will easily learn and try to understand the structure of democracy, functioning of government, influence of political parties and their role in democracy, merits and demerits of their government etc. For this the schools should train the children as good citizens through democratic practices. Every school should encourage the students to understand the democratic citizenship. The class room teacher has a major role in developing the greatest resource of a nation namely the young people. Only the teachers can keep the children mentally, physically and spiritually sound. The duty of the teacher does not cease with more classroom instruction even though if he has his own problems. He is a friend, guide, philosopher to the pupils. "The youth of the country are to be trained as good citizens, who will be competent to play their part effectively in the social reconstruction and economic development of their country". It will be achieved through the school, as it is a miniature society. The destiny of India is now being shaped in the classroom, if the students are properly moulded

Objective of the study

1. To study political awareness among pre-service teachers.
2. To study the significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their demographic variables i.e. gender, qualification, locality and management and methodology towards political awareness among pre-service teachers.

Hypotheses of the present study

1. There is no significant difference between the perceptions of male and female category student teachers towards political awareness among pre-service teachers.
2. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their qualification towards political awareness among pre-service teachers.
3. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their locality towards political awareness among pre-service teachers..
4. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their management towards political awareness among pre-service teachers.
5. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their methodology towards political awareness among pre-service teachers.

Review of Related Literature:

Zafer Kus (2015) studied on "Political Literacy Status of Pre-Service Social Studies Teacher". In this study, it was aimed to determine the political literacy status of pre-service social studies teachers, who are expected to raise active citizens in Turkey. The study used the case study, which is among the qualitative research designs. Study group is consisted of totally 60 pre-service social studies teachers, who receive education at the 4th grade of Ahi Evran University, faculty of education. Content analysis was used during the process of data analysis. Following results were obtained at the end of the study; pre-service social studies teachers seem to be unconcerned about the concepts of policy and political literacy. Pre-service teachers believe that political subjects should be taught in a limited way. Even though the pre-service teachers discuss about the national and international issues, they do not show an active participation in the society.

Kavita Poonia (2017) studied on "A Study Of Political Awareness Among Senior Secondary School Students In Fatehabad District". The aim of this present study to investigate the knowledge of politics and political issues among senior secondary students. For this purpose data was collected randomly from 200 students from rural and urban areas of the district. Result and finding of research paper had been prepared by using the method of Mean, S.D. statistical techniques. Result showed that there was very much difference between male and female of both level at rural and urban. Streams of students are also revealed significant fact about their political awareness.

Design of the Study

The researcher followed the survey method of the descriptive research. For this investigation the questionnaire had been considered as a suitable tool for the collection of data. The questionnaire consisted of 50 statements as perceived by the Student Teachers.

Reliability and Validity:

For the purpose of the present study the split- half method was adopted. The split-half reliability co-efficient for the political awareness among pre-service teachers as perceived by Student Teachers was 0.86 and for the validity of the scale it is based on the content and construct validity.

Administration of Tool:

The tool was administered among teachers, necessary instructions were given in filling the tool. All the respondents followed the instructions and filled the tool by reading the all the items carefully.

Data Collection:

The investigator personally visited the sampled colleges and administered the tool among the sampled respondents. The data collected through questionnaire and Interview schedule were used for analytical purposes.

Statistical Techniques Used:

The statistical techniques used mainly for analytical purposes were means, standard deviations were used To study the significant differences in between the socio-economic variables, 't'-test and 'F'-test (ANOVA) have been used by the investigator with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Table 1 : Overall perceptions of pre-service teachers towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District

N	Min. Score	Max. Score	Mean	Mean Percent	Std. Dev.
150	50	150	108.22	72.15	8.32

Table 4.1 shows that, pre-service teachers expressed high perceptions towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District. The mean and percentages are found to be 108.22 which is 72.15% of their total score respectively.

Table 2. Significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their demographic variables towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District

Variable	Category	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	t/F-value	p-value
Gender	Male	44	107.91	10.92	1.25 ^{NS}	0.21
	Female	106	108.35	7.03		
Academic Qualification	UG	7	106.57	14.02	3.20*	0.05
	Degree	135	108.24	7.77		
	PG	8	109.25	12.12		
Age	Below 25	46	107.91	10.67	3.03*	0.05
	26 to 30	100	108.50	7.03		
	Above 30	4	104.75	9.00		
Locality	Rural	45	108.60	5.88	2.17 ^{NS}	0.15
	Urban	97	107.95	9.32		
	Tribal	8	109.38	7.87		
Management	Government	19	108.68	12.94	0.26 ^{NS}	0.80
	Private	131	108.15	7.49		
Methodology	Social	13	108.08	12.87	3.17*	0.04
	Biology	39	107.87	9.26		
	Maths	37	106.78	5.64		
	Physics	44	110.55	8.31		
	English	14	105.79	6.35		
	Telugu	3	108.33	4.04		

There is no significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their gender, locality and management towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their academic qualification towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District and PG qualified student teachers perceived high than that of the rest.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their age group towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District and 26 to 30 years age group student teachers perceived high than that of the rest.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their methodology towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District and Physical Science methodology of student teachers perceived high than that of the rest.

Findings of the study:

1. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their gender, locality and management towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District.
2. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their academic qualification towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District and PG qualified student teachers perceived high than that of the rest.
3. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their age group towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District and 26 to 30 years age group student teachers perceived high than that of the rest.
4. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of student teachers based on their methodology towards Political Awareness among Pre-Service Teachers in Prakasam District and Physical Science methodology of student teachers perceived high than that of the rest.

Suggestions:

1. Political awareness need to be created in the schools so that the students will come to know about the future politics of the country. More over they become better citizens in the future.
2. School parliament is to be created for enhancing the political awareness among students.
3. The students can be allowed to appreciate the politics, but they should not be encouraged to enter the active politics.
4. School elections are to be conducted regularly which creates political awareness among the students.

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