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A Study on Social Maturity of Undergraduate Scholars to Measure their Maturity Level

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Introduction:

Education helps to make a person a social being. Through education, a person develops mentally, physically, morally, and all around. Educational institution is the key to reaching the right goal of education. According to Erik Erikson, social maturity develops when a student learns to develop an individual identity and integrates into society.

Several empirical studies have been published on the emotional maturity, social maturity, and moral judgment of college student teachers. The research defined in this study seeks to identify and understand the social maturity level of college students. It attempts to identify differences in the level of social maturity and is based on selected independent variables such as gender, age, religion, residential status, family type, teaching methods at the undergraduate level, and academic achievement.

A socially mature learner has strong emotional stability, empathy, responsibility, and the ability to make independent and socially acceptable decisions. Mental self-control, team thinking with colleagues, and solving all problems in different situations create an environment where he can achieve his specific goals through his all-around development. Socially mature students are better equipped to lead balanced, purposeful, and socially responsible lives. In this study, the researcher presents the conceptual background of the independent variable of the study, social maturity, and the need and rationale of the research.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives formulated for this study were:

Assessing the social maturity level of undergraduate scholars.

To determine the effect of the following independent variables, such as gender, age, religion, and stream, on the social maturity of students.

Method of Investigation:

In research, the techniques used to gather data in a specific manner to solve a specific problem are called investigative methods. It is a structured, organized, and thorough approach to finding something out. It could range from scientific experiments to criminal investigations; in every case, the researcher uses effective methods according to the specific needs of the research.

Sample and Sampling:

For the study, a sample of 100 students from two different colleges was randomly selected using stratified random sampling among the students of the General and Honors departments.

Statistical techniques:

The collected data were analyzed using computer software, i.e., Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24.00 and Microsoft Excel 2021. The following statistical techniques were used. Mean, Median, Mode, SD, t-test, and ANOVA were used to analyse the collected data.

Collected Data:

social maturity is the development that a person not only controls their own emotions but also tries to understand the situation of others. Social maturity develops in a student when he learns to develop a distinct identity of his own and wants to integrate himself into society.

In the present study, to assess the social maturity of college students, the full sample data were analyzed, and the table below presents the overall mean, median, mode, and SD values for mediating the social maturity of the college students.

Table 1: Collected data from undergraduate students

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	Classification	N	Mean	SD
Social Maturity	Gender	Male	41	88.20	13.01
		Female	59	88.98	17.62
	Age	18-21	74	90.89	15.32
		22-24	18	84.44	15.79
		25-27	8	77.50	15.75
	Religion	Hindu	35	92.93	14.14
		Muslim	65	87.81	16.44
	Stream	Arts	62	89.18	15.78
		Science	31	90.55	13.80
		Commerce	7	75.71	20.76

Analysis And Interpretation of Data:

Objective: To determine the effect of the following independent variables, such as age and stream, on the social maturity of students.

Table 2: Age Group Wise Students' Social Maturity

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	Age Group	N	Mean	% of Mean	F/p
ANOVA Summary						F=3.535 p=0.033*
Social Maturity	Age	18-21	74	90.89	90.89	
		22-24	18	84.44	84.44	
		25-27	8	77.50	77.50	
Source of variation	SS		df	MS		
Between Groups	1684.860		2	842.430		
Within Groups	23113.580		97	238.284		
Total	24798.440		99			
*Significant at 0.05 level						

Table 3: Stream-Wise Students' Social Maturity

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	Age Group	N	Mean	% of Mean	F/p
ANOVA Summary						F=2.684
Social Maturity	Stream	Arts	62	89.18	89.18	
		Science	31	90.55	90.55	
		Commerce	7	75.71	75.71	
Source of variation	SS		df	MS		
Between Groups	1300.286		2	650.143		

Within Groups	23498.154	97	242.249	p=0.073 ^{NS}
Total	24798.440	99		
NS: Not significant at 0.05 level				

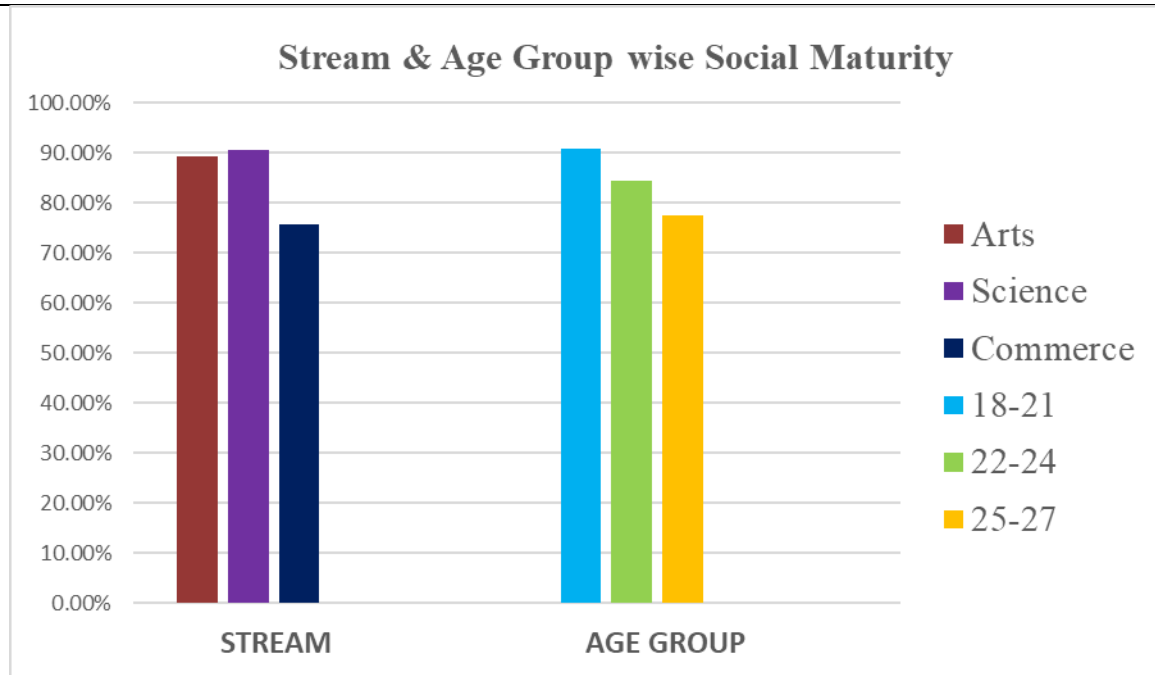


Figure 1: Clustered Column Chart of Stream & Age-group Wise Students' Social Maturity

Interpretation:

The data from Table 2 shows that the average social maturity score of students aged 18-21 is 90.89, with a SD of 15.32, and the average social maturity score of students aged 22-24 is 84.44, with a SD of 15.79, and the average social maturity score of students aged 25-27 is 77.50, with a SD of 15.75. The F value obtained in the analysis is 3.535, and the P value is 0.033, which is significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore, it is proved that there is a significant difference in social maturity between students of these three different ages, which is significant at the 0.05 level.

The data from Table 3 shows that the average social maturity score of students of Arts is 89.18, with a SD of 15.78, and the average social maturity score of students of science is 90.55, with a SD of 13.80, and the average social maturity score of Commerce students is 75.71, with a SD of 20.76. The F value obtained in the analysis is 2.684, and the p- p-value is 0.073, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore, it is proved that there is no significant difference in social maturity between students of these three different streams, which is not significant at the 0.05 level.

Objective: To determine the effect of the following independent variables, such as Gender and Religion, on the social maturity of students.

Table 4: Gender Wise Students' Social Maturity

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	Classification	N	Mean	% of Mean	SD	t	p-value
Social Maturity	Gender	Male	41	88.20	88.20	13.01	−0.244	0.079 ^{NS}
		Female	59	88.98	88.98	17.62		
NS: Not Significant at 0.05 Level								

Table 5: Religion-wise Students' Social Maturity

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	Classification	N	Mean	% of Mean	SD	t	p
Social Maturity		Hindu	35	92.93	92.93	14.14		

	Religion	Muslim	65	87.81	87.81	16.44	1.669	0.098 ^{NS}
NS: Not Significant at 0.05 Level								

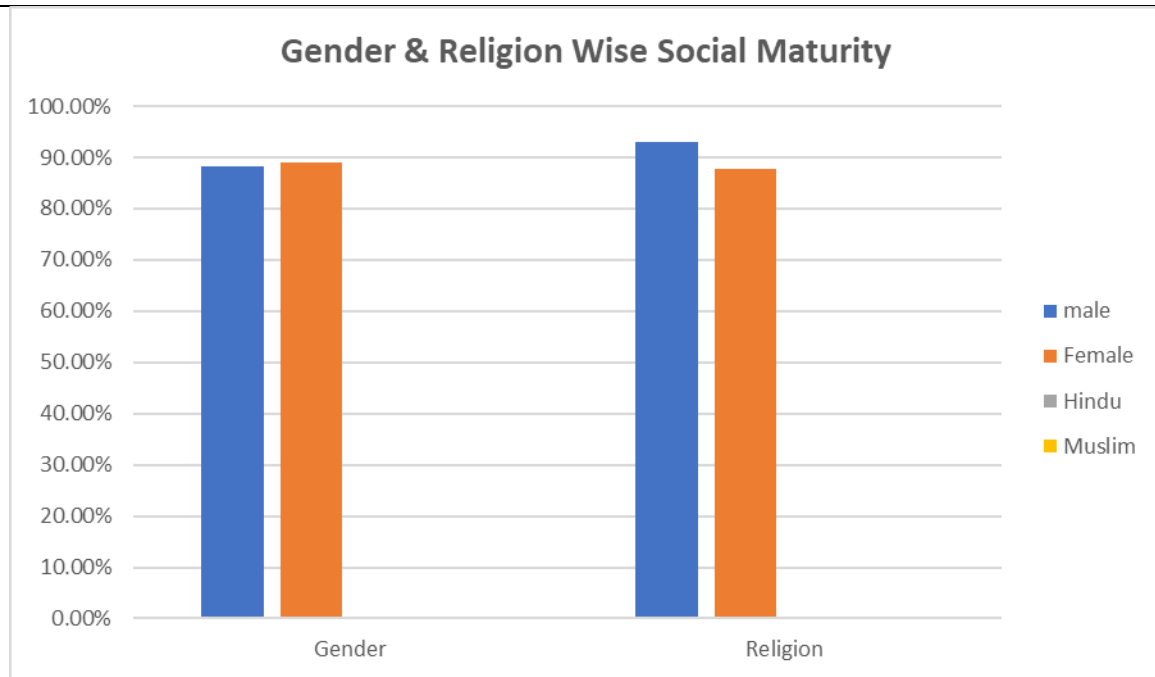


Figure 2: Clustered Column Chart of Gender & Religion-Wise Students' Social Maturity

Interpretation:

An independent-samples t-test was conducted to compare the social maturity scores of male and female students. First, the assumption of normality and Levene's test were tested. Both the assumptions were met. There was no significant difference between the scores of males ($M = 88.20$, $SD = 13.01$) and females [$M = 88.98$, $SD = 17.62$; $t(98) = -0.244$, $p = 0.098$]. Since the p-value is more than 0.05. Therefore, we can say that there is no significant difference in social maturity between students on the basis of gender.

An independent-samples t-test was conducted to compare the social maturity scores of Hindu and Muslim students. First, the assumption of normality and Levene's test were tested. Both assumptions were met. There was no significant difference in the scores of Hindu students ($M = 92.93$, $SD = 14.14$) and Muslim students [$M = 87.81$, $SD = 16.44$; $t(98) = 1.669$, $p = 0.098$]. Since the p-value is more than 0.05. Therefore, we can say that there is no significant difference in social maturity among students on the basis of religion.

Objective: Assessing the social maturity level of undergraduate scholars.

Table 6: Level of Social Maturity of College Scholars

Dependent Variable	Classification					
	Low		Moderate		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Social Maturity	12	12%	72	72%	16	16%

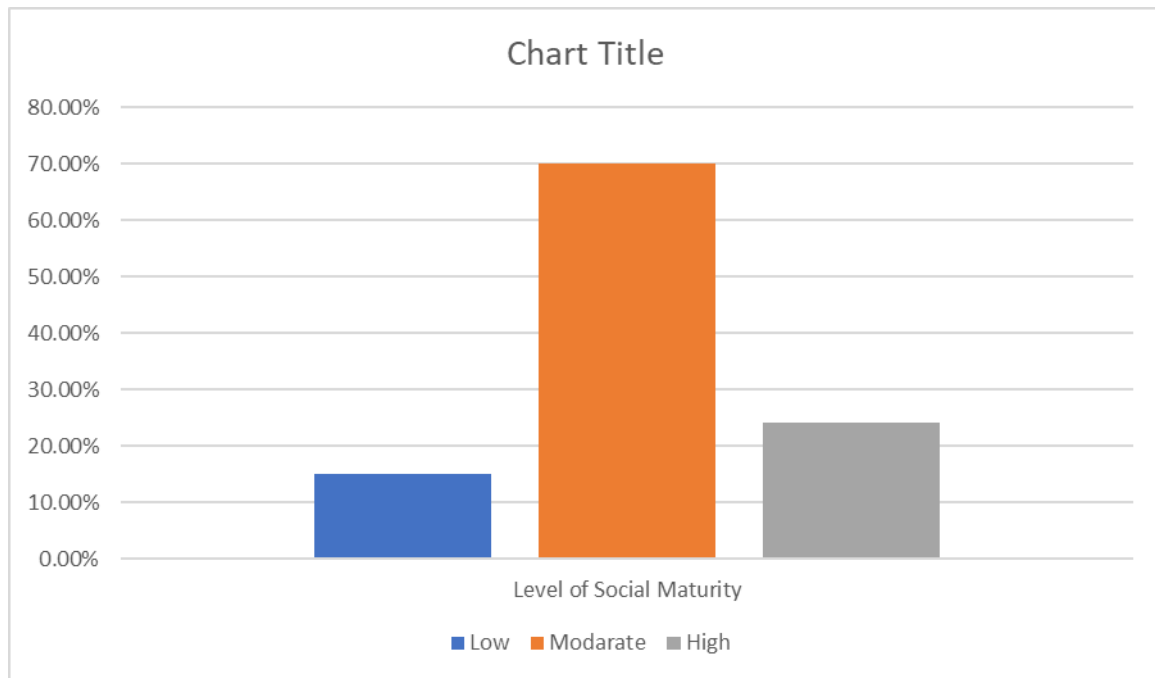


Figure 1: Clustered Column Chart of Maturity Level of Students

Interpretation:

From Table 6, it is seen that a vast majority of students, i.e., 72%, have medium social maturity, while 12% have low social maturity and 16% have high social maturation.

The results of the current study clearly reveal that the number of students who have not developed social maturity is very small, which is truly commendable, because the society moves towards progress with the youth, and it is desirable to further improve the level of social maturity among these potential students.

Findings of the Study:

The study found that the level of social maturity of the students was moderate. Out of 100 students, 72 were moderate, 16 were high, and 12 were low. The study found that there was no significant difference in social maturity among students based on gender and religion. However, differences in maturity development among students were observed based on age.

Educational Implications:

Based on the research findings, some of the educational implications of the research can be pointed out as follows:

- ✚ Students will develop not because they are nurtured by external reinforcement but because their curiosity is awakened through participation in discussion. It is essential to create an environment in the classroom where all students can express their curiosity, questions and opinions freely and fearlessly.
- ✚ To develop values in students, new methods should be adopted inside and outside the classroom, such as value analysis, value discussion, and jurisprudential inquiry, through which students can arrive at solutions. These methods will develop willpower, reasoning power, and rational judgment in students.
- ✚ Participation in a counseling program will help the students to enrich their knowledge and solve and deal with various problems. Orientation programs focus on the nature and causes of various problems, mental disorders like extreme shyness, excessive anxiety, or depression, behavioral disorders like lying, stealing, and absenteeism.

Suggestions for Further Research:

Below are some suggestions for further research in areas related to the present investigation –

- ❖ A study of the effect of moral and social maturity on student behavior in the classroom.
- ❖ As an extension of this research, a wider geographical area, like the whole of West Bengal, or with a larger sample, like school-level and college-level, can be conducted.

- ❖ The same type of research can be conducted considering different streams of school teachers.
- ❖ Ways and means of enhancing social maturity in teachers or parents can be investigated as a separate research project.

Conclusion:

This research is expected to add a new dimension to the growing body of educational research. This research is an attempt to measure the social maturity of students. Future researchers can conduct extensive research on emotional maturity, intellectual maturity, and moral judgment. This research has enabled us to identify the level of social maturity of our students and to analyze the important role of moral values for stable and constructive progress. Needless to say, the researcher is satisfied with this study, though not complacent, as it tries to find answers to some important questions. In the process, this research has raised many questions in our minds, which will be a breakthrough for further research and will also satisfy our thirst to find answers to other related questions.

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