

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES IN SOCIAL STUDIES AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

The purpose of the present study was to study learning difficulties in Social studies among high school students. Normative survey method was used in the present investigation. The sample consists of 200 high school students selected from schools of Coimbatore district in Tamilnadu state using random sampling techniques. The findings of study revealed that gender, locality and medium of instructions had influence in the learning difficulties in Social studies of high school students. Type of family and types of school had no impact in study learning difficulties in social studies of high school students.

Keywords: *High School Learning Difficulties and Social Studies*

Introduction

Education is a lifelong process. It is through education that knowledge, character and behaviour of the younger generation is to be perfectly moulded. Education takes place when ideas combine with the old. Education has a great significance for people emerging for long period of bondage in self-rule and sovereign democracy. In a democratic country, education performs the two fold functions of achieving individual fulfilment and enrichment of social life.

Social Studies

Social studies is meant to cover the ground traditionally with history. It forms an integral part of modern education, which aims at the formation, ideals and interests. Although Social studies draw its material from History, Geography, Civics, Economics and Sociology, yet it is not a combination of all these subjects. Rather, it is synthesized form of all these topics which value an integrated form of our social learning.

Learning Difficulties

The identification of learning difficulties in students is very necessary for every teacher to develop corrective program. The learning difficulties may be out of many reasons.

- The student may be careless in his work
- The student may not understand the concept and facts.
- The curriculum including the goals and objectives may not be suitable for him. It may not be stimulating. It results in disinterest.
- The instructional techniques and approaches may not provide an opportunity to the student to develop his skills and potentialities which create learning difficulties for the student.
- The study habits of the students may lead to learning difficulties.
- The locality in which the student lives influence the learning.
- The education of the parents also causes learning difficulties.

Review of Literature

Jose and Thamotharan (2012) made a study on “Learning difficulties of secondary students”. The sample consisted of 300 students who were studying 9th and 10th standards in the schools of Kanyakumari District selected by random sampling techniques. The tool was constructed by the investigator to study the learning difficulties of students at higher secondary school level. The major finding of the study is that the learning difficulties in Physics are more in male compared to female. It may be due to lack of reading habits among male. Learning difficulties are more in students coming from a poor background, where the family gives importance to earn money rather than in educating their off spring.

Mohsin (2013) conducted a study on “Status of Muslim immigrants children with learning difficulties in Vienna”. The sample consisted of 81 immigrant children with learning difficulties who were identified for detailed information. The instruments were developed and used to achieve the objectives and test the hypothesis such as:(i) questionnaire for children (ii) schedule interview for directors of spz_s and (iii) structured interview for parents. The results showed that the presence of male children was more than females and loss of interest, home environment, parent’s qualification, age of children and teachers attitude with parents were powerful indicators which are responsible for learning difficulties among immigrant children.

Need and Significance of the Study

Many students dislike this subject. The achievement in social studies is very poor. Social science is not a subject that is just to be taught but it helps in carrying day-to-day activities successfully. A person who studies Social studies not only achieves training and perfection but also a general professional intelligence. Usually the average score in Social studies in school or a state is low. It is a well established fact that in no other subject matter area the high school students suffer from erratic and unwise guidance than in the field of Social studies. Social studies is considered as a difficult and mysterious science, because of the numerous symbols which it employs.

Statement of the Problem

Problems with Social studies differ from pupil to pupil. Teachers should study the difficulties of pupils and change the mode of instruction. In addition, teachers should adopt different techniques to solve the difficulties of pupils in Social studies.

Only a few attempts have been made by researchers to understand the problems of pupils of high school in learning Social studies. In the present study the investigator tries to analyze the difficulties faced by the high school students in learning Social studies.

The purpose of the problem was to examine learning difficulties and is entitled as "Learning Difficulties in Social Studies Among High School Students.

Objectives of the Study

1. To construct and validate a tool to measure the learning difficulties in Social studies of high school students.
2. To compare the mean scores of learning difficulties in Social studies of high school students with respect to the background variables namely gender, locality, medium of instructions, type of family and type of school.

Null Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of learning difficulties in Social studies of high school male and female students.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of learning difficulties in Social studies of high school rural and urban students.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of learning difficulties in Social studies of high school Tamil and English medium students.
4. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of learning difficulties in Social studies of high school joint family and nuclear family students.
5. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of learning difficulties in Social studies of high school government, aided and private school students.

Findings

1. Significant difference was noted in the learning difficulties in Social studies of male and female high school students.(t- 2.388). Further it was noted that male has more learning difficulties than female in Social studies of high school students.
2. Significant difference was noted in the learning difficulties in Social studies of rural and urban high school students.(t- 2.725). Further it was noted that rural students has more learning difficulties than urban students in Social studies of high school students.
3. Significant difference was noted in the learning difficulties in Social studies of Tamil and English medium high school students.(t- 2.895). Further it was noted

that Tamil Medium students has more learning difficulties than English medium students in Social studies of high school students.

4. No significant difference was noted in the learning difficulties in Social studies of joint family and nuclear family high school students.(t- 1.257)
5. No significant difference was noted in the learning difficulties in Social studies of government, aided and private high school students.(F- 1.387)

Discussion

The sample consists of 200 high school students. The objective of the present study were to find out the learning difficulties in Social studies high school students with reference to gender, locality, medium of instruction, type of family, religion, birth order, nature of school and type of school.. To realize the main objective of the present study, obtained data were analyzed by applying descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

The result shows that a considerable proportion of the high school students possess moderate level of learning difficulties in Social studies.

The present study has shown that there is a significant difference between male and female high school students in their learning difficulties. This result is support with the findings of Jose and Thamotharan (2012).

The present study has shown that there is no significant difference among Government, Aided and Private higher secondary students in their learning difficulties. This result is support with the findings of Murali (2016), Archana Kumari (2015) and Krishna Gopal Singh (2012). From the result, it is found gender, locality and medium of instruction has no influence on learning difficulties in social studies. But type of school has influence on the learning difficulties in social studies.

Recommendation

- Teacher should motivate students to progress towards the achievement of their goals.
- Specific special class for social studies subject may be arranged to promote the interest and knowledge of students.
- Guest lecturers can be provided to students on importance of studying social studies subject and implementation in real life.
- Teachers should guided students in the selection and choice of high school studies according to their fields of interest.
- Teachers must help students realize their potentials and understand their field of interest. This guidance will prove to be an eye opener for the students and a stepping stone for their career development.
- Social studies activities help students to acquire hands on occupation skill, learn the art of patients and build their confidence level.

- It also helps to develop scientific attitude among students, visiting social studies museums, exhibition and enrolling students as members in social studies clubs can help a lot to develop their interest in Social studies.

Topics for Further Study

Based on the findings of the investigation, the investigator suggests the following area for the further research in this field.

- Learning Difficulties in History among Higher Secondary students – A Study.
- Relationship between learning difficulties in Social studies and Academic Achievement in Higher Secondary school students.
- Learning Difficulties in Social studies among Secondary Students – A Study.
- Learning Difficulties in geography among Higher Secondary students – A Study.
- A Study of interest in history among high school teachers and students.

Conclusion

From this study, it is found learning difficulties in Social studies high school students of Coimbatore District. The findings of that revealed that high school students from different schools. The study revealed that gender, locality and medium of instructions had influence in the learning difficulties in Social studies of high school students. Type of family and types of school had no impact in study learning difficulties in Social studies of high school students.

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