



RESEARCH ARTICLE

A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF APTITUDE OF STUDENT TEACHERS OF LANGUAGE TOWARDS THEIR PROFESSION

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to examine the aptitude of student teachers of language group towards their profession in Burdwan district of West Bengal, India. Aptitude may be considered to be qualities which all individual possess in varying degrees. There can be various kinds of aptitude like the art aptitude, scientific aptitude, mechanical aptitude, clerical aptitude, scholarly aptitude, and musical aptitude which can be measured through various aptitude tests. Teaching aptitude can be categorized as aptitude for professional work. It is generally agreed that entrance into a profession presumes the possession of superior intellectual status and successfully completed intensive and extensive study in various areas of the chosen profession. The possession of certain personal traits and professional attitude also is considered important. There have been some reliable tests for testing teaching aptitudes like Coxe – Orleans prognosis test of teaching ability or the teaching aptitude test by Jai Prakash and R. P. Shrivastav etc. This specific study was conducted on a sample of 21 each language student teachers studying in 2 different colleges of education in Burdwan district of West Bengal. They were administered a standardized constructed tool on Teaching Aptitude by Dahiya and Singh. The tool consists of 50 items with 5 areas. The collected data were statistically analyzed with mean, standard deviations, and t-values.

INTRODUCTION

Teaching is undoubtedly a dynamic activity which encompasses different aspects of education and the history of teacher education is as old as the Indian civilization. Teacher is one of the most important foundations of the whole educational process. He is also considered as the major and silent contributor to social revolution. In every ages and in all social variants, teacher has been attributed a pivotal role as the one who performs the transmission of knowledge among his disciples. The University Education Commission (1948-49) under the chairmanship of Dr S. Radhakrishnan was the first developmental milestone in education after the independence. Regarding teacher education the commission had expressed its dissatisfaction over the contemporary scenario and had clarified that teacher education courses should be flexible and adapted for local circumstances. Attitudes result from personal desires and group stimulation. An aptitude may be regarded as a special form of superiority in a limited field of performance. Therefore aptitude may be described as a special ability or specific capacity distinct from the general intellectual ability which helps an individual to acquire the required degree of proficiency or achievement in a specific field. As defined by Bingham (1937), aptitude refers to those qualities characterizing a person's way of behavior which serve to indicate how well he can learn to meet and solve certain

specified kinds of problem. So as far as teacher education is concerned, the teaching aptitude determines to a great deal the success of an individual as a teacher.

Objectives of the study

- To know the aptitude of student teachers based on their institution.
- To know the aptitude of student teachers based on their gender variation.
- To compare the aptitudes of student teachers based on their studied institutional nature.

Method Sample

The sample consists of 42 student teachers with the bifurcation of 8 male and 13 female student teachers of Govt. aided college and 10 male and 11 female from private teachers training institution respectively. The sample was collected by the method of random sampling.

Tool

The Teachers' Aptitude scale was developed by Dahiya and Singh. The tool consists of 50 items where aptitude for teaching is considered to be a condition or set of characteristics including knowledge. Understanding and attitude regarded as symptomatic or indicative of individual's ability to acquire

training abilities for teaching work. The tool is having multiple choice questions and each item is having 4 alternative answers- A, B, C, and D. The range of the scoring of the tool is in between 0-50 and all the items are validated with the scoring. There was no time limit for answering the entire test. But approximately 30 minutes was allotted to every student for completion of the said test.

Procedure

The questionnaire was administered to 42 student teachers studying in Burdwan District from 2 selected colleges of education. The initial information of the student teachers along with the questionnaire was administered by conveying proper instructions to the language student teachers. The filled in questionnaires were collected after completion of the procedure within a stipulated time period (approx. 30 minutes).

Data Analysis

The data obtained from the sample of 42 student teachers were scored and analyzed with the help of T test analysis.

RESULT

Aggregate score of aptitude of language student teachers of Govt. Aided & Private B. Ed College

	Govt. Aided B. Ed College	Private B. Ed College
Mean	28.381	29.9524
Variance	26.9476	51.3476
Stand. Dev.	5.1911	7.1657
n	21	21
t		-0.8138
degrees of freedom		40
critical value		2.021

Analysis: The absolute value of the calculated t is smaller than critical value (0.8138<2.021), so the means are not significantly different.

Aggregate score of aptitude of male language student teachers of Govt. Aided & Private B. Ed college

	Govt. Aided B. Ed College	Private B. Ed College
Mean	29.5	28.6
Variance	19.7143	37.8222
Stand. Dev.	4.4401	6.15
n	8	10
t		0.347
degrees of freedom		16
critical value		2.12

Analysis: The calculated t value is smaller than critical value (0.347<2.12), so the means are not significantly different.

Aggregate score of aptitude of female language student teachers of Govt. Aided & Private B. Ed college

	Govt. Aided B. Ed College	Private B. Ed College
Mean	27.6923	31.1818
Variance	32.0641	65.1636
Stand. Dev.	5.6625	8.0724
n	13	11
t		-1.241
degrees of freedom		22
critical value		2.074

Analysis: The absolute value of the calculated t is smaller than critical value (1.241<2.074), so the means are not significantly different.

Comparison of Teaching Aptitude among Male and Female Prospective Teachers in Govt. Aided & Private B. Ed Colleges

	Male	Female
Mean	29	29.2917
Variance	28.3529	48.2156
Stand. Dev.	5.3247	6.9437
n	18	24
t		-0.1483
degrees of freedom		40
critical value		2.021

Analysis: The absolute value of the calculated t is smaller than critical value (0.1483<2.021), so the means are not significantly different.

DISCUSSION

Teaching profession is considered to be a noble profession. Teacher is responsible for the intellectual development of student as well as the development of the nation. The teaching profession requires multiple qualities like knowledge, communication skill, and aptitude. Dave (1983) expressed in his excellent study that male and female teachers do not differ in their aptitude towards teaching profession significantly. In the present study our results supports his view. t is smaller than critical value (0.1483<2.021), so the means are not significantly different. Beena (1995) indicated in her study that teaching aptitude is a significant predictor of teaching effectiveness. The present study differs with the findings of Sajan (1999) who found statistically significant difference in teaching aptitude between male and female student teachers. Ranganathan (2008) found that there is no significant difference between males and females and the level of self-esteem and teaching aptitude. The present study also found no significant difference between males & females according to their mother institution. Studies reviewed reveal that in majority male and female teachers differ significantly in their teaching aptitude as been reported by the studies conducted by Rawat and Sreevastava (1984), Sajan (1999), Kaur (2002), Usha (2010). The result of the present study is dissimilar with their findings. The present study also reveals no significant difference between the student teachers of different Govt. aided & Private B.Ed. teaching institution. (t is smaller than critical value (0.8138<2.021)

Conclusion

The present study signifies that there is no difference in teaching aptitude of language group of male & female student teachers according to their mother training institution. These results actually will help the future student teachers to build up their teaching aptitude irrespective of their study environment.

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