SJIF Impact Factor (2024): 8.675| ISI I.F. Value: 1.241| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2016 ISSN: 2455-7838(Online)
EPRA International Journal of Research and Development (IJRD)
Volume: 9 | Issue: 9 | September 2024 - Peer Reviewed Journal

A STUDY ON IMPACT OF HOME ENVIRONMENT ON LEARNING STYLES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN VELLORE DISTRICT

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Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.36713/epra18309
DOI No: 10.36713/epra18309

ABSTRACT

Home environment refers to all sorts of moral and ethical values along with emotional, social and intellectual climate set up by the family members to contribute to the wholesome development of an individual. Learning style is a concept that can be important in this movement, not only in informing teaching practices but also in bringing to the surface issues that help faculty and administrators think more deeply about their roles and the organizational culture in which they carry out their responsibilities. 300 High school students have been selected as the sample using random sampling technique for the present investigation. The tools viz., Home Environment Inventory constructed and validated by Ceema Nair, J., and I. Jesudoss, S.J., (2014) and Learning Style Inventory (LSI) constructed and validated by Sean Whiteley (2004), has been used in the present investigation. Further the study is delimited to the high school students and the descriptive, differential analysis and correlation analysis has been carried out using the SPSS which gives the findings for the present investigation as the majority of the high school student shows high level of home environment and average level of learning style.

KEYWORDS: *Home environment, Learning style and high school students.*

INTRODUCTION

Home environment is the social setting in which the child interacts with the members of the family. The young child's tendency to explore, acquire skills and solve problems also depends on the kind of challenges the home environment provides. Family is the primary environment of a child and from there he draws his raw materials for nourishment and developing good character, healthy living and excellent educational performance (Sharma, n.d.). The social, psychological and physical development of a child depends upon home environment. The constituents of home environments are physical facilities, nature of relationship among members, religion and traditions, occupation of parents and economic condition of the family.

Learning style has been the focus of considerable study, and a number of colleges and universities have made it an important part of their work. The many approaches to learning style can be examined at four levels: (1) personality, (2) information processing, (3) social interaction, and (4) instructional methods. One researcher, however, speculates that several models in fact describe correlates of two fundamental orientations in learning: "splitters," who tend to analyze information logically and break it down into smaller parts, and "lumpers," who tend to watch for patterns and relationships between the parts (Kirby 1979).

For the present study the reviews given below helps the investigator in providing the possible research design and methodological procedures to be used in the present investigation.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

The present study has been specifically intended to study the impact of home environment on learning styles – a study with reference to high school students in vellore district with respect to Personal variables and Institutional related variables. The High school students are selected for this study.

All round development of an individual should be the aim of education. Compared to the previous generations, people today have realised the importance of education. A society and nation can progress only if its citizens are well-prepared to meet challenges. To be well prepared means to have an asset that no one can ever take away from us. Education is that asset which will see us through many tribulations in life. The years spent in high school is one of the most significant stages in any person's life. During this

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adolescent period, students are at their most vulnerable self. A lot of physical and psychological changes take place which may lead to confusions, frustrations and feelings of insecurity.

Home is the place where a person gains his basic education. A child learns by observing and imitating others at home. During the adolescent stage also, the impact of home environment is of considerable value. An adolescent growing up in a peaceful home environment with well-educated parents, siblings and educational resources find it easy to achieve academically. At the same time, children from an unhealthy home environment have to work extra hard to achieve academically. So, the influence of home environment is of utmost importance. As a person has to be a part of society, a lot of practical knowledge can be gained from mingling with others. A person with interpersonal intelligence finds it easy to understand and interact with others. Such interaction with outsiders unconsciously makes adolescents imbibe values and knowledge.

If the students adopt proper Learning Styles it will enhance their Academic Achievement. This study would guide the students to adopt proper learning style for the development of their character. The Academic Achievement of the students will improve only when they have proper Learning Styles. Hence the in-investigator things that the present study possess the high need and importance.

OBJECTIVES

The following were the objectives formulated by the investigator for the present study

1. To study the high school students' level of home environment.
2. To study the high school students' level of learning styles.
3. To study if there is any significant difference in (a) home environment and (b) learning style between
   a. The high school boys and girls.
   b. The high school students studying in the schools located in the urban area and in the rural area.
   c. The high school students residing in the urban area and in the rural area.
   d. The high school students studying in the English medium and Tamil medium.

HYPOTHESES

The following the hypotheses formed from the formulated objectives for the present investigation.
The following were the hypotheses framed from the formulated objectives

1. The high school students show a conducive home environment.
2. The high school students show a high level of learning styles.
3. There is no significant difference in (a) home environment and (b) learning style between
   a. The high school boys and girls.
   b. The high school students studying in the schools located in the urban area and in the rural area.
   c. The high school students residing in the urban area and in the rural area.
   d. The high school students studying in the English medium and Tamil medium.

METHOD OF THE STUDY

Normative survey method has been employed in the present study.

TOOLS USED

(a) Home environment inventory

Home environment inventory constructed and validated by Ceema Nair, J., and I. Jesudoss, S.J., (2014).

(b) Learning Style Inventory

Learning style inventory constructed and validated by Sean Whiteley (2004).

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

Random Sampling technique has been used in the present study to select the sample of 200 high school students from the total population of 1000 high school students.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The mean and standard deviation for the entire sample and its sub-sample were computed. The test of significance("t"test) was used in order to find out the significance of the difference between the means if the demographic variable used in the objectives. The collected data were computed with the SPSS 11.5 and the result was furnished accordingly in the table.1, table.2 and correlation analysis results were furnished in table.3.

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TABLE-1

S.No	SAMPLES	SUB-SAMPLES	N	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	't' VALUE	SIGNIFICANCE AT 0.05 LEVEL
1	Sex	Male students	108	57.9259	7.78893	1.08	Not Significant
		Female students	192	56.7240	11.30083		
2	School locality	Rural area	139	56.9424	10.91188	0.33	Not Significant
		Urban area	161	57.3416	9.53291		
3	Residence	Rural area	115	57.1043	10.89131	0.06	Not Significant
		Urban area	185	57.1892	9.74132		
4	Medium of study	Tamil medium	96	57.1979	12.34301	0.04	Not Significant
		English medium	204	57.1373	9.01836		

TABLE-2

S.No	SAMPLES	SUB-SAMPLES	N	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	't' VALUE	SIGNIFICANCE AT 0.05 LEVEL
1	Sex	Male students	108	83.1852	9.33704	3.33	Significant
		Female students	192	87.0729	10.26022		
2	School locality	Rural area	161	85.7019	10.49157	0.05	Not Significant
		Urban area	139	85.6403	9.65642		
3	Residence	Rural area	185	84.8324	9.75844	1.80	Not Significant
		Urban area	115	87.0261	10.52021		
4	Medium of study	Tamil medium	204	84.3529	10.18416	3.46	Significant
		English medium	96	88.4792	9.35496		

TABLE-3

VARIABLES	N	MEAN	S.D	'r' VALUE	SIGNIFICANCE AT 0.05 LEVEL
HOME ENVIRONMENT	300	57.1567	10.1796	0.07	Not Significant
LEARNING STYLES	300	85.6733	10.0965		

FINDINGS

The following are the important findings of the present investigation.

1. The high school students show a high level of home environment.
2. The high school students show an average level of learning styles.
3. There is no significant difference in home environment between the high school boys and girls.
4. There is no significant difference in home environment between the high schoolstudents studying in the schools located in the rural area and urban area.
5. There is no significant difference in home environment between the high schoolstudents residing in the rural area and urban area.
6. There is no significant difference in home environment between the high schoolstudents studying in the Tamil medium and English medium.
7. There is a significant difference in learning styles between the high school boys and girls.
8. There is no significant difference in learning styles between the high schoolstudents studying in the schools located in the rural area and urban area.
9. There is no significant difference in learning styles between the high schoolstudents residing in the rural area and urban area.
10. There is a significant difference in learning styles between the high schoolstudents studying in the Tamil medium and English medium.
11. There is no significant relationship between home environment and learning styles of the high school students.

CONCLUSION

The present investigation revealed that the high school students studying in the Vellore district, Tamilnadu, India, were found to have a high level of home environment and average level of learning styles which in turn gives a very high level of achievement for

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students. So, it can be revealed from the investigation that the high school students should develop the home environment and learning styles in a constructive way. This should be done by the high school students.

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