



A STUDY ON THE PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT :

The study was to compare The Problem Solving ability and Decision Making among the Secondary School Students. The sample consisted of 130 students and the investigator used the survey method for the data collection from the Government and Aided Secondary School. The results showed that Problem solving ability of Secondary School Students did not differ with respect to the Gender, Locale and Type of institution and that the Female, Rural and Aided school students have high Decision making ability.

KEYWORDS : *Problem Solving and Decision Making.*

INTRODUCTION

In today's technological world, human beings need to cross numerous obstacles as things are constantly changing. One of the most desired life skills of the present century would be problem solving. Problem solving is indeed a mental process to investigate the situation, understanding all the possible options and choose the correct one to overcome the problem. Problem solving involves exploration of the ideas formed in mind, the goals set by the individual and the things that may prevent the individual from achieving the goals.

Making decisions and solving problems are two very important aspects faced by everyone in their daily life. Decision making another life skill is the key part of the problem solving process. Effective decision making is usually based on ones thinking and emotional ability. Decisions are made based on all the information gathered on the issue, how it is processed in mind and the emotions thus experienced.

The Secondary School students are adolescents who experience a period of storm and stress, lots of changes in and around them. They face lots of challenges and struggle to make the correct moves. Students need to develop their life skills to tackle these difficulties.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out the level of problem solving ability of secondary students.
- To find out the level of decision making among secondary students.
- To find out the significant difference in problem solving ability of secondary students based on the gender, locale and type of institution.
- To find out the significant difference in decision making among secondary students based on the gender, locale and type of institution.

HYPOTHESES

1. There exists no significant difference in problem solving ability of secondary students based on the gender, locale and type of institution.
2. There exists no significant difference in decision making among secondary students based on the gender, locale and type of institution.

METHODOLOGY

The main purpose of the study is to compare problem solving ability and decision making among secondary students based on the gender, locale and type of institution. For this the investigator used the survey method for the data collection from Government and Aided Secondary School. The sample of the study comprised of 130 Secondary Students.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Level of Problem Solving ability among Secondary School Students

Score	Level	N	Percentage
10 to 15	Low Problem Solving Ability	100	76.93%
15 to 20	Average Problem Solving Ability	27	20.79%
20 to 25	High Problem Solving Ability	3	2.38%

Table-1 shows that 76.92% of the students have low level of Problem solving ability, 20.76% have average level of Problem solving ability. And only 2.30% have high level of Problem solving ability. The level of Problem solving is shown in Figure 1. So, it can be concluded that the Problem solving ability of Secondary School Students is very low level.

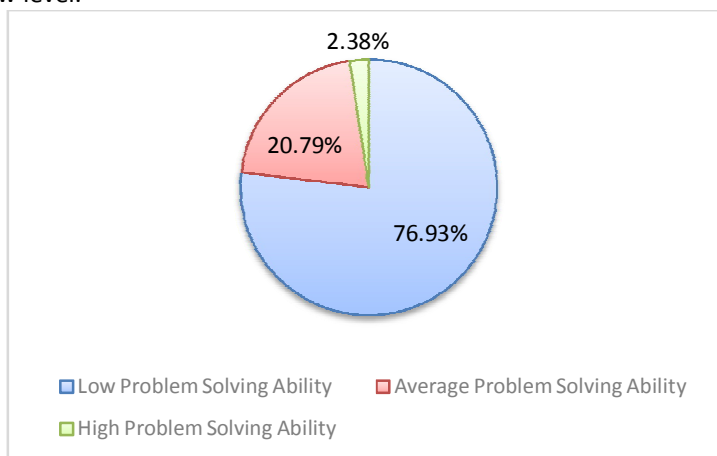


Fig 1. Level of Problem Solving among Secondary School Students

Table 2: Level of Decision making among Secondary School Students

Level	N	Percentage
Low Decision Making	22	16.9%
Average Decision Making	89	68.5%
High Decision Making	19	14.6%
TOTAL	130	100

Table-2 depicts that 16.9% of the students have low level of Decision making, 68.5% have average level of Decision making and only 14.6% have high level of Decision making. The level of Decision making is

shown in Figure 2. So, it can be concluded that the Decision making of Secondary School Students is very low level.

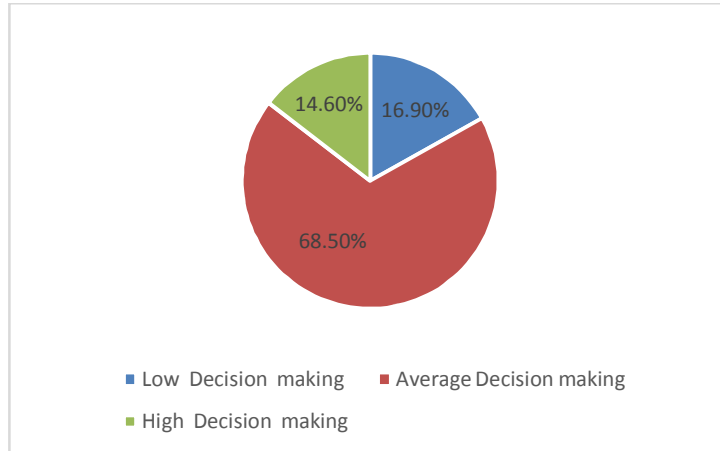


Fig 2. Level of Decision Making among Secondary School Students

Table 3: Problem Solving ability of Secondary School Students based on Gender, Locale and Type of Institution

	Variable	N	Mean	SD	t	p-value
Problem Solving	Male	62	14.06	2.629	.510	.611
	Female	68	13.85	2.090		
	Rural	80	14.11	2.511	.971	.333
	Urban	50	13.70	2.082		
	Govt.	42	14.14	2.114	631	.529
	Aided	88	13.86	2.469		

Table-3 shows that the obtained t-value for Problem solving ability of gender, locale, and type of institution are .510, .971, and .631 respectively. All the values are less than 1.96 that means there exists no significant difference in the Problem solving ability based on the gender, locale and type of institution. So it can be conclude that Problem solving ability Of Secondary School Students do not differ with respect to the Gender, Locale and Type of institution.

Table 4: Decision Making of Secondary School Students based on Gender, Locale and Type of Institution

	Variable	N	Mean	SD	t	p-value
Decision Making	Male	62	55.27	5.928	4.26	.000
	Female	68	59.59	5.581		
	Rural	80	55.8	5.81	5.73	.000
	Urban	50	50.3	4.99		
	Govt	42	50.93	4.52	5.33	.000
	Aided	88	55.91	5.823		

From Table-4, obtained t-value for Decision making for gender, locale, and type of institution are 4.26, 5.73 and 5.33, respectively. All the values are greater than 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance that means there exists a significant difference in the Decision making based on the gender, locale and type of institution. The obtained mean score of female students 59.59 is greater than the male students and means that female students have higher Decision making. The mean score of rural students 55.8 is greater than the

mean score of urban students and the mean score of Aided school students 55.91 is greater than the mean score Government school students that means Aided school students have higher Decision making compare to Government school students. So it can be concluded that the Female, Rural and Aided school students have high Decision making.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study revealed that the percentage of high Problem solving ability is very low, so there is a need to develop this life skill in students. The Decision making among students should also be enhanced by giving life skills training.

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