



## A STUDY ON AWARENESS ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

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### ABSTRACT :

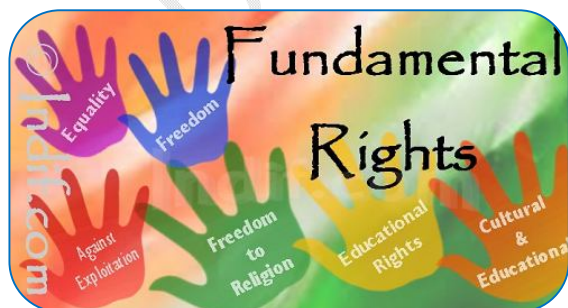
The article is about the awareness on fundamental rights among the students of Medicine, Engineering, Law, Arts and Science Colleges. The investigator had randomly selected students from Medicine, Engineering, Education, Arts and Science and Law Colleges. The investigator used simple random sampling method as the sampling technique. The investigator collected 1196 samples from various colleges. The investigator developed a fundamental rights questionnaire along with the supervisor with 36 items relevant for the 6 dimensions viz., Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right to Education, Right against Exploitation, Right to Constitutional Remedies and Right to Freedom of Religion. Data was analysed through mean, standard deviation, "t" test and Anova. Findings show that the male undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the female undergraduate learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights. The first born undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the middle born, followed by last born undergraduate learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights. The undergraduate learners residing in Urban areas are found to be higher than the undergraduate learners residing in Rural areas.

**KEYWORDS :** fundamental rights, undergraduate learners, political rights.

### INTRODUCTION

A fundamental right defines the freedom which is entitled by individuals. Government is regarded as a possible source of liberty by creating condition to enable their subjects to enjoy greater liberty than they otherwise would. This concept regards liberty as sometimes threatened not only by individuals and corporations, but also by governments. Sometimes the governments abuse their powers and trespass the individual liberty. Through fundamental rights the state must promote and protect the individual's liberty instead of interference therein. State should keep off from certain areas of individual's life and liberty, and should avoid interfering with them to promote their freedom.

Fundamental Rights are inviolable civil and political rights guaranteed by the Constitution as they are most essential for the safeguard of individual liberty and attainment by the individual of his full intellectual, moral and spiritual status and to ensure social, economic and political justice for every member of the community. The legislature of any country should not have any interference with these rights. To quote PN



Bhagwati 'The fundamental rights are calculated to protect the dignity of the individual and create conditions in which every human being can develop his personality to the fullest extent. They weave a pattern of guarantee on the basic structure of human rights, and impose negative obligations on the State not to encroach on individual liberty in its various dimensions'.

### NEED FOR THE STUDY

As a good citizen of the country, it is essential to know and learn all the rights and duties for the welfare of our society and country. It is vital to understand that all are responsible for good or bad condition of the society. It is must to change our thinking into action to bring some positive effect in our society and country. If the individual action performed by a person can change the life; collaborative actions have positive effects over the society and country. So, the duties of citizens matter a lot for the prosperity and peace of society and entire country. Hence it is indispensable factor to have complete knowledge about the salient features of the fundamental rights. Hence this study has made an attempt to study awareness of fundamental rights in undergraduate Students.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the significant differences on awareness on fundamental rights and its dimensions among undergraduate learners with respect to certain demographic variables such as gender, birth order and locality of residence.

### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- There are no significant differences on awareness on fundamental rights and its dimensions among undergraduate learners with respect to certain demographic variables such as gender, birth order and locality of residence.

### DESIGN OF THE STUDY

For the present study, the investigator adopted the survey method. Survey research is the most widely used non-experimental type of educational research.

### Population and Sample

The population for the present study consists of students of Medicine, Engineering, Law, Arts and Science Colleges. The investigator had randomly selected students from Medicine, Engineering, Education, Arts and Science and Law Colleges. The investigator used simple random sampling method as the sampling technique. The investigator collected 1196 samples from various colleges.

### Tools used

To collect the pertinent data for the present investigation, the investigator and the Supervisor had developed the Awareness of Fundamental Rights Questionnaire (2014) for data collection.

### Analysis of Data:

The collected data are analyzed using the relevant statistical procedures, the details of which are given in the following tables.

### Hypothesis-1

**Table 1**  
**Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Male and Female in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions**

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of Significance
Right to Equality	Male	682	15.21	3.197	2.875	0.05
	Female	514	14.66	3.423		
Right to Freedom	Male	682	14.83	3.197	2.693	0.05
	Female	514	14.33	3.126		
Right to Education	Male	682	14.33	3.130	1.561	NS
	Female	514	14.04	3.112		
Right against Exploitation	Male	682	14.96	3.219	3.066	0.05
	Female	514	14.38	3.270		

Right to Constitutional Remedies	Male	682	14.53	3.098	0.813	NS
	Female	514	14.39	3.090		
Right to Freedom Religion	Male	682	14.64	3.240	1.685	NS
	Female	514	14.32	3.285		
Awareness of Fundamental Rights - Total	Male	682	88.50	10.357	4.306	0.01
	Female	514	86.11	8.173		

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference between undergraduate Male and Female learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions, except for the dimensions Right to Education, Right to constitutional Remedies and Right to Freedom of Religion. Hence, the formulated hypothesis-2, "There is no significant difference between undergraduate Male and Female learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions." is partially verified.

### Hypothesis-2

**Table 2**

**Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of First born, Middle born and Last born Undergraduate Learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions**

Variable	Birth Order	N	Mean	SSb	SSw	'F' Value	Level of Significance
Right to Equality	First Born	622	15.15	76.627	12984.617	3.516	0.05
	Middle Born	334	15.00				
	Last Born	240	14.48				
Right to Freedom	First Born	622	14.86	79.199	11966.562	3.948	0.05
	Middle Born	334	14.31				
	Last Born	240	14.40				
Right to Education	First Born	622	14.35	31.887	11631.741	1.635	NS
	Middle Born	334	13.98				
	Last Born	240	14.13				
Right against Exploitation	First Born	622	14.79	10.515	12631.474	0.497	NS
	Middle Born	334	14.03				
	Last Born	240	14.58				
Right to Constitutional Remedies	First Born	622	14.76	121.615	11320.241	6.408	0.05
	Middle Born	334	14.03				
	Last Born	240	14.32				
Right to Freedom of Religion	First Born	622	14.77	101.829	12613.130	4.816	0.05
	Middle Born	334	14.31				
	Last Born	240	14.08				
Awareness of Fundamental Rights - Total	First Born	622	88.69	101.829	12613.130	10.743	0.01
	Middle Born	334	86.28				
	Last Born	240	85.98				

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference among the First born, Middle born and Last born Undergraduate Learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions, except for the dimensions Right to Education and Right against Exploitation. It is observed that the first born undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the middle born, followed by last born undergraduate learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions Right to Equality, Right to freedom of Religion. It is also seen from the above table that the first born undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the last born, followed by middle born undergraduate learners in their Right to Freedom and Right to constitutional Remedies - dimensions of Awareness of Fundamental Rights. Hence, the

formulated hypothesis-2 "There is no significant difference among the First born, Middle born and Last born Undergraduate Learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions." is partially verified.

### Hypothesis-3

**Table -3**

**Showing the significance of the difference between the mean scores of Undergraduate Learners residing in Rural and Urban areas in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions**

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	't' Value	Level of Significance
Right to Equality	Rural	441	14.98	3.202	0.087	NS
	Urban	755	14.97	3.367		
Right to Freedom	Rural	441	14.32	3.155	2.484	0.05
	Urban	755	14.79	3.176		
Right to Education	Rural	441	13.86	3.053	2.937	0.05
	Urban	755	14.41	3.150		
Right against Exploitation	Rural	441	14.50	3.233	1.707	NS
	Urban	755	14.83	3.260		
Right to Constitutional Remedies	Rural	441	14.29	3.067	1.489	NS
	Urban	755	14.57	3.107		
Right to Freedom of Religion	Rural	441	14.25	3.293	2.081	0.05
	Urban	755	14.66	3.237		
Awareness of Fundamental Rights - Total	Rural	441	86.20	7.997	3.541	0.01
	Urban	755	88.21	10.282		

It is evident from the above table that there is a significant difference between undergraduate Learners residing in Rural and Urban areas in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions, except for the dimensions Right to Equality, Right against Exploitation and Right to constitutional Remedies. It is observed that the undergraduate learners residing in Urban areas are found to be higher than the undergraduate learners residing in Rural in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions - Right to Freedom, Right to Education and Right to Freedom of Religion. Hence, the formulated hypothesis -3, "There is no significant difference between undergraduate Male and Female learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights and its dimensions." is partially verified.

### FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- The male undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the female undergraduate learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions - Right to Equality, Right to Freedom and Right against Exploitation.
- The undergraduate learners residing in Urban areas are found to be higher than the undergraduate learners residing in Rural in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions - Right to Equality, Right to Freedom and Right against Exploitation.
- The first born undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the middle born, followed by last born undergraduate learners in their Awareness of Fundamental Rights in total and its dimensions - Right to Equality and Right to freedom of Religion. It is also seen from the above table that the first born undergraduate learners are found to be higher than the last born, followed by middle born, undergraduate learners in their Right to Freedom and Right to constitutional Remedies - dimensions of Awareness of Fundamental Rights.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

From the present investigation, as it is evident that College authorities may organize seminars/workshops for middle born and last born undergraduate learners in order to create awareness on the fundamental rights and its dimensions – Right to Equality, Right to Freedom of Religion, Right to Freedom and Right to Constitutional Remedies. Proper awareness should be provided for undergraduate learners from low and high income groups on awareness on their fundamental rights and its dimensions – Right to Education, Right against Exploitation, Right to Constitutional Remedies and Right to Freedom of Religion.

### CONCLUSION

The investigator concluded that it is a duty of a every individual to focus on the inducement of fundamental rights among the college students with appropriate strategies which will definitely improve the academic achievement and career development of the students.

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