



## PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS AMONG THE INMATES OF MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S HOSTEL

Prof. A. Muthumanickam<sup>1</sup> and Saradha S.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Head, Department of Education, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

<sup>2</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Education, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu



### ABSTRACT

*The present study was undertaken to find out the level of problem solving skills among the inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel. Data was collected from 251 hostel inmates by using 'Problem Solving Skills Scale' by Saradha, S. & Muthumanickam, A. (2017). Data was analyzed by using t-test. Result found that the inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel have above average level of problem solving skills. Findings also showed that there is significant difference in problem solving skills among inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel based on native place and programme.*

**KEYWORDS:** Problem Solving Skills.

### NEED FOR THE STUDY

Hostels are provided residential opportunities for the students to continue the process of education. A hostel is referred to a place where people can stay when their residence is located far from the educational institution and which is considered essential to student's needs, which also called student housing.

Life in a sustainable on-campus hostel makes student more independent as they share accommodation with at most four students at one time. On-campus hostel life also makes them smart, active, disciplined, tolerant and socialized with other students and roommates, sharing space and facilities.

Education is a part of child develop, it started with the birth and lasted till the time of death. It is a process in which an individual learn new skills and information. Since India is a developing country, there is a budget reserved for the education department higher education facilities are only accessible in developing and big cities of India. Because of that students need to stay in hostel for higher education. So in India hostels play an important role in the educational journey of students.

The hostel generally consists hundreds number of students. All of them make a group of students. These students come from different ethical, social, geographical and economical background. The hostel is a place where students stay for pursuing formal education away from their homes. But the concept of hostel is not only limited to place of residence, hostel is a human practical laboratory. It enriches the understanding of the curriculum through analytical discussion among the students living in the hostels, and may contribute to character building as well.

Living away from family for a specific period of time leaves some enduring experience in the life of the students. In this new life style learns to live independently, and learn how to compromise with the other students and roommates.

Students living in hostels face many difficulties and hurdles such as financial crises, adjustment issues, personal helplessness, distress, changes in eating and sleep habits, and many other issues. Research

suggests that empathy, altruistic behavior, emotional stability will be more in hostel students. Hostel environment gives an opportunity for socialization among students.

While living in hostel students share their personal ideology with other students, and learn many new ideas from their hostel fellows. Hostel life also makes students more ambitious, self-reliant and confident than other students. They also learn courage and spirit from other students to face the practical life more confidently.

Hostel students revealed that hostel life affects the student's way of living. Hostel makes students more punctual, independent, confident, social, realistic, disciplined, and also sharp. They also learn to live independently. They learn to solve their own problems by themselves without the parental guidance and support that may enhance their problem solving skills. Hence the present study is taken up.

### TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- **Problem Solving Skill** - refers to the reaction of the hostel inmates for finding solutions to the arising problems in related to hostel life situation.
- **Inmates** - refers to the students of PG programmes and scholars of M.Phil./Ph.D. who lives in the women's hostel of Madurai Kamaraj University.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To measure the level of problem solving skills of Madurai Kamaraj University Women's hostel inmates.
- To find out the significant difference in problem solving skills of Madurai Kamaraj University Women's hostel inmates in terms of select independent variables.

### HYPOTHESES

1. The independent variables exert significant influence on problem solving skills of Madurai Kamaraj University Women's hostel inmates.

### VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

**Dependent Variable:** Problem Solving Skills.

**Independent Variables:**

- |                            |   |                                    |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Family Type             | : | Joint/ Nuclear                     |
| 2. Native Place            | : | Rural/Urban                        |
| 3. Programme               | : | PG/M.Phil. & Ph.D. Scholars        |
| 4. Subject Of The Study    | : | Humanities/ Social Science/Science |
| 5. Study Habit             | : | Individual/Group                   |
| 6. No. of Intimate Friends | : | Less Than 3/3 & Above              |
| 7. Food Type               | : | Vegetarian/Non-Vegetarian          |

### METHOD & SAMPLE

Survey method was used for this study. A stratified sample of 251 inmates constituted from Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel.

### TOOL

- Problem Solving Skills Scale by Saradha, S. & Muthumanickam, A. (2017).

**DATA ANALYSIS**

- **Problem Solving Skills among Inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University Women's Hostel**

The empirical average score of problem solving skills among inmates is found to be 28.13, while the theoretical average is 21. This shows that the problem solving skill is found to be the above average level among inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel.

**Table 1: Result of Test of Significance of Difference between the Means of Problem Solving Skills: Independent Variables-wise**

Variable	Sub-Variable	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Result
Family Type	Joint Family	137	28.36	5.420	0.727	Not Significant
	Nuclear Family	114	27.86	5.386		
Native Place	Rural	134	28.99	5.309	2.737	Significant @ 0.05 Level
	Urban	117	27.15	5.355		
Programme	PG	160	27.21	6.04	4.20	Significant @ 0.05 Level
	M.Phil. /Ph.D. Scholars	91	29.75	3.52		
Subject of the Study	Humanities	55	28.38	5.516	0.369	Not Significant
	Social Science	82	28.02	5.622		
	Humanities	55	28.38	5.516	0.330	Not Significant
	Science	114	28.09	5.222		
	Social Science	82	28.02	5.622	-0.080	Not Significant
	Science	114	28.09	5.222		
Study Habit	Individual	168	28.36	5.713	1.032	Not Significant
	Group	83	27.66	4.699		
No. of Intimate Friends	Less Than 3	125	28.70	5.524	1.657	Not Significant
	3 & Above	126	27.57	5.257		
Food Type	Vegetarian	65	28.17	4.666	0.072	Not Significant
	Non-Vegetarian	186	28.12	5.645		

From Table-1, the t-values 2.737 and 4.20 are significant at 0.05 level. Thus native place and programme exert a significant influence on problem solving skills among inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University Women's Hostel.

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. Problem solving skills among inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel are found high.
2. Problem solving skills among inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel is found dependent upon
  - Native Place
  - Programme

3. Problem solving skills among inmates of Madurai Kamaraj University women's hostel is found independent upon
- Family Type
  - Subject of the Study
  - Study Habit
  - No. of Intimate Friends
  - Food Type

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

It is a common perception that, hostel life has a unique impact on the pattern of student's life. Living in the hostel makes students socially and behaviorally different. Boarding or hostel life is a combination of different cultural backgrounds, in the hostel life students learn to live with different cultural background people.

There is a popular quotation that "Times change people changes" it is best applicable for the hostel students. Hostel life going to change the way a student is, its effect on the personality behavior, thinking, and dressing as well. In hostel students are surrounded by other students of about the same age as they are, all those students have different characteristics. In hostel life all students have to adjust to the other students stayed in the hostel.

It is the responsibility of the teachers to identify such students who have low problem solving abilities and try to modify their learning and thinking power through various audio-visual aids. Teachers must encourage students to adopt a reasonable risk-taking attitude while solving problems. Risk-taking attitude leads the students to overcome mental fixation while solving problems. In brief, it has been concluded that problem solving ability of the students help them building strong cognitive ability which is needed for high achievement and enrolled in reliable future career choice.

The finding of this study reveals that hostel inmates possess above the average level of problem solving skills. The study also reveals that problem solving skills found lower among urban students, those who are studying humanities than their respective counterparts.

Hence the professors, parents and elders in the family can preach the importance of problem solving skills among the students/inmates which make the students/inmates to be a problem solver in nature.

### REFERENCES

1. Pamela Helling, Rebekah Lashman & Judith Combes Taylor. (1994). Practical problem-solving skills in the workplace. New Delhi: AMA Self-Study Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
2. Arthur Engel. (1997). Problem solving strategies.
3. Michael Kallet. Critical thinking to improve problem solving and decision making skills. Wiley publishers Pvt. Ltd.
4. Mishra, A.N. Students and the hostel life. Mittal Publications.
5. Rajul Ratna. (2017). Hostellers (The story of Aloof world). Blue Rose Publishers Pvt. Ltd.
6. Deepanshu Saini & Yinita Gupta. (2014). Girls hostel (unspoken memories). Omji Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.