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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROBLEMS IN LEARNING COMMERCE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THENI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

Commerce education in India is emerged as one of the significant subjects in the present era of globalization and liberalization and it has capacity to provide vast employment opportunities to their students and it is highly popular course among students in India. nearly half of under graduate students have moderate level of problems in learning commerce. Significant difference is prevailing among profile of

under graduate students and their problems in learning commerce. Academic performance of under graduate students has negative and moderate relation with their problems in learning commerce. To overcome the problems of under graduate students in learning commerce and improve their academic performance, colleges should appoint competent faculty members and faculty members must improve their teaching, problem solving and interpersonal competencies. Faculty members should teach commerce through innovative teaching methods and they must encourage under graduate students to learn commerce with passion. Further, college should give financial support for poor and needy under graduate students to pursue their commerce education and under graduate students must enhance their attitude towards learning commerce.

KEYWORDS: Academic Performance, Commerce, Learning, Problems, Under Graduates.

1. INTRODUCTION

In present times, education is national and international centric and knowledge and competency are dominating across the globe. In this situation, commerce education is a lively subject of education that provides skills and creates positive attitude among commerce graduates which are needed for successful dealing of commerce, trade and related

industrial activities (Ahirrao and Rodiya 2012). As a result, commerce education in India is emerged as one of the significant subjects in the present era of globalization and liberalization and it has capacity to provide vast employment opportunities to their students and it is highly popular course among students in India (Mishra, 2016).

Commerce education exposes students in to the business environment and it is highly useful for them to develop entrepreneurial capabilities and it is also helpful to them to apply economic principles in making

decision for their business activities (Singh et al 2015). To contribute economic growth of India and meet demands of society, there is larger demand for commerce education and graduates in near future. In order to learn effectively and improve capability of commerce students, college and learning environments are highly important for them (Shyju, 2016). Besides, they are also facing various problems in learning commerce and those problems are affecting their academic performance. Hence, it is essential to study relationship

between problems in learning commerce and academic performance of under graduate students.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Khan (2011) concluded that inefficient teaching methods, lack of focus on learning, inadequate motivation and poor attitude were challenged faced by students in learning English.

Singha et al (2012) found that lack of interest, complex nature, lack of time, lack of basic knowledge, poor support from faculty and friends were the main problems faced by students in learning mathematics.

Khajloo (2013) revealed that low interest and motivation, family related issues, poor focus and environment were major problems affecting learning of English among students.

Hashem et al (2014) showed that cultural disparities, emotional problems and part time jobs of students were affecting their academic performance and problems related to academics were negatively related with their performance.

Chaluvaiah (2015) indicated that under graduate students of commerce experienced problems of poor infrastructure, inadequate resource materials, low quality of faculties and inadequate financial support.

Khan and Khan (2016) concluded that shortage of competent faculty members, inadequate infrastructure, low attitude, inefficient teaching methods and lack of encouragement from faculty members were the problems experienced by students in learning English.

Alsubyani (2017) found that poor knowledge of faculty members, ineffective teaching, lack of motivation, poor library facilities and poor relation with faculty members were major problems faced by students.

Yasmin et al (2018) revealed that poor infrastructure, poor family and finance support and lack of knowledge were main challenge experienced by post graduate students.

Stephen and Paul (2019) indicated that work load, inefficient teaching, poor support from family and friends, inadequate financial support and health problems were some problems faced by students of community colleges.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine problems in learning commerce among under graduate students.
2. To inspect difference amongst profile of under graduate students and problems in learning commerce.
3. To study relation amongst problems in learning commerce and academic performance of under graduate students.

4. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference amongst problems in learning commerce and profile of under graduate students.
2. There is no significant relation amongst problems in learning commerce and academic performance of under graduate students.

5. METHODOLOGY

The present study is carried out in Theni district. Under graduate students of commerce are selected by using random sampling method and structured questionnaire is used to gather data from 300 under graduate students of commerce. Percentages are calculated to understand profile of under graduate students of commerce and mean and standard deviation are worked out to know problems in learning commerce among under graduate students. t-test and ANOVA test are done to inspect difference amongst profile of under graduate students and problems in learning commerce. Simple correlation analysis is used to study relation amongst problems in learning commerce and academic performance of under graduate students.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

6.1. PROFILE OF UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS OF COMMERCE

The profile of under graduate students of commerce is given in Table-1. The results demonstrate that 54.33 per cent of them are males, whereas, 44.67 per cent of them are females and 69.00 per cent of them are studying in English medium, whereas, 31.00 per cent of them are studying in Tamil medium. The results elucidate that and 37.00 per cent of them are belonging to backward caste, whereas, 5.67 per cent of them are belonging to general category and 58.33 per cent of students' mothers are having school education, whereas, 11.67 per cent of students' mothers are having college education and 38.33 per cent of them are having monthly family income of Rs. 20,001 – 30,000, whereas, 14.33 per cent of them are having monthly family income of less than Rs. 20,000.

Table-1. Profile of Under Graduate Students of Commerce

Profile	Number of Under Graduate Students	Percentage
Gender		
Male	163	54.33
Female	137	44.67
Medium of Instruction		
Tamil	93	31.00
English	207	69.00
Community		
General	17	5.67
Backward Caste	111	37.00
Most Backward Caste	97	32.33
Scheduled Caste	75	25.00
Mother's Education		
Informal	90	30.00
School	175	58.33
College	35	11.67
Monthly Family Income		
Less than Rs. 20,000	43	14.33
Rs. 20,001 – 30,000	115	38.33
Rs. 30,001 – 40,000	95	31.67
More than R. 40,000	47	15.67

6.2. PROBLEMS IN LEARNING COMMERCE AMONG UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS

The problems in learning commerce among under graduate students are studied and the results are given in Table-2.

Table-2. Problems in Learning Commerce among Under Graduate Students

Problems in Learning Commerce	Mean	Standard Deviation
Low competency of faculty members	3.90	0.92
Ineffective teaching	3.86	1.11
Lack of encouragement from faculty members	3.88	0.94
Poor infrastructure	3.24	1.25
Inadequate financial support	3.74	1.13
Unconducive college atmosphere	3.32	1.20
Low learning attitude	3.78	1.15

The under graduate students of commerce are agreed with low competency of faculty members, ineffective teaching, lack of encouragement from faculty members, inadequate financial support and low learning attitude, whereas, they are neutral with poor infrastructure and unconducive college atmosphere as problems in learning commerce among them.

6.3. PROFILE OF UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS AND PROBLEMS IN LEARNING COMMERCE

The distribution of under graduate students based on problems in learning commerce is given in Table-3. The problems in learning commerce is segregated into low, moderate and high levels on the basis of Mean \pm SD. (Mean = 25.71; SD= 3.23).

Table-3. Distribution of Under Graduate Students Based on Problems in Learning Commerce

Level of Problems in Learning Commerce	Number of Under Graduate Students	Percentage
Low	66	22.00
Moderate	145	48.33
High	89	29.67
Total	300	100.00

Amongst 300 under graduate students of commerce, 29.67 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 22.00 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

6.3.1. Gender and Problems in Learning Commerce

The relation amongst gender of under graduate students and problems in learning commerce is given in Table-4.

Table-4. Gender and Problems in Learning Commerce

Gender	Level of Problems in Learning Commerce			Total	t-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Male	26 (15.95)	90 (55.22)	47 (28.83)	163 (54.33)	4.060	.000
Female	40 (29.20)	55 (40.14)	42 (30.66)	137 (44.67)		
Total	66 (22.00)	145 (48.33)	89 (29.67)	300 (100.00)	-	-

The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total

Amongst 163 under graduate students who are males, 28.83 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 15.95 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 137 under graduate students who are females, 30.66 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 29.20 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

The t-value is 4.060 and it is significant at one per cent level explaining that significant difference is existing in problems in learning commerce among gender of under graduate students. As an outcome, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

6.3.2. Medium of Instruction and Problems in Learning Commerce

The relation amongst medium of instruction of under graduate students and problems in learning commerce is given in Table-5.

Table-5. Medium of Instruction and Problems in Learning Commerce

Medium of Instruction	Level of Problems in Learning Commerce			Total	t-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Tamil	21 (22.58)	46 (49.46)	26 (27.96)	93 (31.00)	5.190	.000
English	45 (21.74)	99 (47.83)	63 (30.43)	207 (69.00)		
Total	66 (22.00)	145 (48.33)	89 (29.67)	300 (100.00)	-	-

The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total

Amongst 93 under graduate students who are studying in Tamil medium, 27.96 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 22.58 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 207 under graduate students who are studying in English medium, 30.43 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 21.74 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

The t-value is 5.190 and it is significant at one per cent level explaining that significant difference is existing in problems in learning commerce among medium of instruction of under graduate students. As an outcome, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

6.3.3. Community and Problems in Learning Commerce

The relation amongst community of under graduate students and problems in learning commerce is given in Table-6.

Table-6. Community and Problems in Learning Commerce

Community	Level of Problems in Learning Commerce			Total	F-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
General	2 (11.76)	4 (23.53)	11 (64.71)	17 (5.67)	6.271	.000
Backward Caste	24 (21.62)	52 (46.85)	35 (31.53)	111 (37.00)		
Most Backward Caste	28 (28.87)	53 (54.64)	16 (16.49)	97 (32.33)		
Scheduled Caste	12 (16.00)	36 (48.00)	27 (36.00)	75 (25.00)		
Total	66 (22.00)	145 (48.33)	89 (29.67)	300 (100.00)	-	-

The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total

Amongst 17 under graduate students who are belonging to general category, 64.71 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 11.76 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 111 under graduate students who are belonging to backward caste, 31.53 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 21.62 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

Amongst 97 under graduate students who are belonging to most backward caste, 16.49 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 28.87 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 75 under graduate students who are belonging to scheduled

caste, 36.00 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 16.00 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

The F-value is 6.271 and it is significant at one per cent level explaining that significant difference is existing in problems in learning commerce among community of under graduate students. As an outcome, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

6.3.4. Mother's Education and Problems in Learning Commerce

The relation amongst mother's education of under graduate students and problems in learning commerce is given in Table-7.

Table-7. Mother's Education and Problems in Learning Commerce

Mother's Education	Level of Problems in Learning Commerce			Total	F-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Informal	16 (17.78)	45 (50.00)	29 (32.22)	90 (30.00)	5.992	.000
School	44 (25.14)	88 (50.29)	43 (24.57)	175 (58.33)		
College	6 (17.14)	12 (34.29)	17 (48.57)	35 (11.67)		
Total	66 (22.00)	145 (48.33)	89 (29.67)	300 (100.00)	-	-

The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total

Amongst 90 under graduate students' mothers who are having informal education, 32.22 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 17.78 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 175 under graduate students' mothers who are having school education, 24.57 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 25.14 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 35 under graduate students' mothers who are having college education, 48.57 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 17.14 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

The F-value is 5.992 and it is significant at one per cent level explaining that significant difference is existing in problems in learning commerce among mother's education of under graduate students. As an outcome, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

6.3.5. Monthly Family Income and Problems in Learning Commerce

The relation amongst monthly family income of under graduate students and problems in learning commerce is given in Table-8.

Table-8. Monthly Family Income and Problems in Learning Commerce

Monthly Family Income	Level of Problems in Learning Commerce			Total	F-Value	Sig.
	Low	Moderate	High			
Less than Rs. 20,000	7 (16.28)	26 (60.47)	10 (23.25)	43 (14.33)	7.155	.000
Rs. 20,001 – 30,000	31 (26.96)	53 (46.08)	31 (26.96)	115 (38.33)		
Rs. 30,001 – 40,000	16 (16.84)	43 (45.26)	36 (37.90)	95 (31.67)		
More than R. 40,000	12	23	12	47		

	(25.53)	(48.94)	(25.53)	(15.67)		
Total	66 (22.00)	145 (48.33)	89 (29.67)	300 (100.00)	-	-

The figures in the parentheses are per cent to total

Amongst 43 under graduate students who are having monthly family income of less than Rs. 20,000, 23.25 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 16.28 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 115 under graduate students who are having monthly family income of Rs. 20,001 – 30,000, 26.96 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 26.96 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

Amongst 95 under graduate students who are having monthly family income of Rs. 30,001 – 40,000, 37.90 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 16.84 per cent of them recognized that it is low. Amongst 47 under graduate students who are having monthly family income of more than 40,000, 25.53 per cent of them recognized that the level of problems in learning commerce is high, whilst, 25.53 per cent of them recognized that it is low.

The F-value is 7.155 and it is significant at one per cent level explaining that significant difference is existing in problems in learning commerce among monthly family income of under graduate students. As an outcome, the null hypothesis is not accepted.

6.4. RELATION AMONGST PROBLEMS IN LEARNING COMMERCE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS

The relation amongst problems in learning commerce and academic performance of under graduate students was studied through correlation analysis and the results are given in Table-9.

Table-9. Relation amongst Problems in Learning Commerce and Academic Performance of Under Graduate Students

Particulars	Correlation Coefficient
Problems in Learning Commerce and Academic Performance of Under Graduate Students	-0.54**

** Significance at 1% level

The correlation coefficient amongst problems in learning commerce and academic performance of under graduate students is -0.54 and it is significant at one per cent level as it clarify that both are negatively and moderately correlated.

7. CONCLUSION

The findings reveal that nearly half of under graduate students have moderate level of problems in learning commerce. Significant difference is prevailing among profile of under graduate students and their problems in learning commerce. Academic performance of under graduate students has negative and moderate relation with their problems in learning commerce. To overcome the problems of under graduate students in learning commerce and improve their academic performance, colleges should appoint competent faculty members and faculty members must improve their teaching, problem solving and interpersonal competencies. Faculty members should teach commerce through innovative teaching methods and they must encourage under graduate students to learn commerce with passion. Further, college should give financial support for poor and needy under graduate students to pursue their commerce education and under graduate students must enhance their attitude towards learning commerce.

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