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CRISIS MANAGEMENT SKILLS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF PALAKKAD DISTRICT

Dr. Ampili Aravind¹ and Sunandakumari C.²

¹Principal, NSS Training College, Ottapalam, Palakkad, Kerala.

²Research Scholar, Research & Development Centre, Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT:

This study aimed to find out the levels of crisis management skills of secondary school students and to determine the influence of gender, locale and type of management of school on the variable crisis management skills. Survey method with stratified random sampling was employed to collect data. It was found that most of the secondary school students were with low level of crisis management skills. Of the subsamples selected, gender has significant influence on crisis management skills. Locale and type of management of school have no influence on crisis management skills. Focus is necessary, to include activities suitable to develop crisis management skills of secondary school students to enable them to face future challenges.



KEYWORDS: Crisis management skills, Secondary school students.

1. INTRODUCTION

Crisis represents a serious threat to the basic structures, or the fundamental values and norms of a system, which under time pressure and highly uncertain circumstances necessitates making vital decisions. (Rosenthal, Charles, and Hart, 1989, p.10). In an article Mac Neil and Topping (2007) defined crisis, an event that "causes severe emotional and social distress, which may occur at any time and without warning". Crisis management is the application of certain strategies to deal with sudden

and unpredictable consequences of crisis. Certain skills are necessary to manage such unexpected events. Education and training that help to attain a "common minimum" to deal with the consequences of crisis. Secondary school stage is a crucial point in one's life. Adolescents have to face a lot of challenges during this period. Because of all these the investigators decided to find out the level of crisis management skills of secondary school students and the influence of various factors such as gender, locale and type of management of school in developing crisis management skills of secondary

school students.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the levels of crisis management skills of secondary school students.
2. To compare the levels of crisis management skills of secondary school students based on gender, locale and type of management of school.

3. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. The secondary school students have varying levels of crisis management skills.
2. There exists no significant difference in the crisis management skills of secondary

school students based on gender, locale and type of management of school.
CRISIS MANAGEMENT SKILLS

4. METHODOLOGY

Method:

Survey method was used to collect data for the present study.

Sample:

Sample comprised of 528 secondary school students from various schools of Palakkad district. Stratified random sampling method was adopted to give due representation to subsamples based on gender, locale and type of management of school. More than that here the investigators considered only mixed schools and those following Kerala state syllabus at secondary level.

Tool:

The investigators developed a situational test to assess the crisis management skills of secondary school students.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The levels of crisis management skills of secondary school students.

Percentage analysis on the basis of crisis management skills test score was done to find out the levels of crisis management skills of secondary school students and the result presented under three levels, viz, High, Average and Low. The students who obtained scores $M+1\sigma$ and above are classified as High group, students who obtained scores $M-1\sigma$ and below are classified as Low group, students who obtained scores between $M+1\sigma$ and $M-1\sigma$ are classified as Average group.

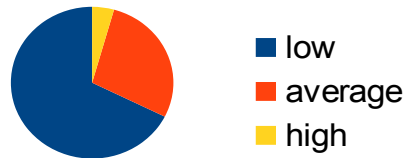
Data and results are shown in Table 1 given below.

Table 1
Number and percentage of secondary school students with respect to Crisis management skills

Groups	Norms	Number	percentage
High Crisis management skills	$M+1\sigma$ and above	23	4.35
Average Crisis management skills	between $M+1\sigma$ & $M-1\sigma$	148	28.03
Low Crisis management skills	$M-1\sigma$ and below	357	67.61

Table 1 shows that 67.61% of students have low level of crisis management skills, 28.03% have average level of crisis management skills, and 4.35 % have high level of crisis management skills. From that it is clear that majority of the secondary school students were with low level of crisis management skills.

Figure 1
Levels of crisis management skills of secondary school students



2. Comparison of mean scores of crisis management skills of secondary school students with respect to gender, locale and type of management of school

Mean scores of the variable crisis management skills was compared between sub samples based on gender, locale and type of management of school by means of two tailed test of significance of difference between means for large independent sample.

1. Hypothesis

There exists no significant difference in the crisis management skills of secondary school students based on gender.

Details of analysis showing comparison of mean scores of crisis management skills of secondary school students with respect to gender is presented in table 2

Table 2
Data and results of test of significance of difference in the mean scores of crisis management skills of secondary school Students with respect to gender

Sl No	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Critical Ratio
1	Male	266	41.4	5.5	4.15
2	Female	262	39.4	5.6	

The critical ratio obtained for crisis management skills of male and female secondary school students is 4.15. This is greater than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that male and female secondary school students differ significantly in their crisis management skills. So gender of secondary school students has significant influence on their crisis management skills. Hence the hypothesis stating that, there exists no significant difference in the crisis management skills of secondary school students based on gender is rejected.

2. Hypothesis

There exists no significant difference in the crisis management skills of secondary school students based on locale Detailed analysis showing comparison of mean scores of crisis management skills of secondary school students with respect to locale is given in table 3.

Table3
Data and results of test of significance of difference in the mean scores of crisis management skills of secondary school students on the basis of locale

Sl No	Locale	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Critical Ratio
1	Rural	286	35.1	4.8	-0.678
2	Urban	242	35.4	5.3	

The critical ratio obtained for crisis management skills of rural and urban secondary school students is -0.678. This is less than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that rural and urban secondary school students do not differ significantly in their crisis management skills. It indicates that the locale of secondary school students have no significant influence on their crisis management skills. Hence the hypothesis, stating that, there exists no significant difference in the crisis management skills of secondary school students based on locale is accepted.

3. Hypothesis

There exists no significant difference in the crisis management skills of secondary school students based on type of management of the school

Analysis showing comparison of mean scores of crisis management skills of secondary school students with respect to type of management of the school is given in table 4

Table4
Data and results of test of significance of difference in the mean scores of crisis management skills of secondary school students with respect to type of management of the school

Sl No	Type of Management	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Critical Ratio
1	Government	262	34.1	4.9	-1.06
2	Aided	266	34.3	5.1	

The critical ratio obtained for crisis management skills of Government and aided secondary school students is -1.06. This is less than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. This means that Government and aided secondary school students do not differ significantly in their crisis management skills. It indicates that the type of management school of secondary school students have no significant influence on their crisis management skills.

Hence the hypothesis stating that, there exists no significant difference in the crisis management skills of secondary school students based on type of management of the school is accepted.

6. CONCLUSION

1. This study revealed that 67.61% have low level of crisis management skills, ie, majority of secondary school students have low level of crisis management skills. Only 23 secondary school students out of the total sample (528) have high level of crisis management skills and 28.03% have average level of crisis management skills.
2. Male and female secondary school students differ significantly in their crisis management skills.
3. Locale of secondary school students has no significant role in determining crisis management skills.
4. Type of management of school has no significant role in determining crisis management skills.

7. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Majority of the secondary school students have low level of crisis management skills. Only a nominal percentage of secondary school students have high level of crisis management skills. In order to lead a societal life every individual must possess crisis management skills to a certain extend because number and frequency of crisis are increasing day by day. Secondary school stage is a crucial stage in the educational career of an individual so education imparted during this stage should be effective and must be suitable to develop essential crisis management skills of one individual.
2. Crisis management skills development programmes need to be made part of secondary school curriculum.

3. Since gender have a significant role in determining crisis management skills, design programmes and activities suitable for male and female students to make them equally competent to face the future challenges.

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