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A TOOL TO MEASURE THE SCHOOL CLIMATE AMONG POST GRADUATE TEACHERS IN NAMAKAL DISTRICT

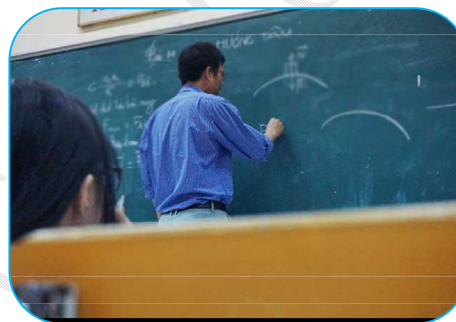
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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this paper is to determine the extent to which the teachers of post graduate especially in higher secondary schools are having the school climate. A well structure questionnaire was administered among the post graduate teachers. Initially the tool was constructed with 60 statements posing questions which cover the topic in various dimensions. To standardize the tool the researcher used item analysis test and finally retained 40 statements for the final study. This paper discusses about the development of the tool to measure school climate among the post graduate teachers.



KEYWORDS: School Climate, Post Graduate Teachers.

SCHOOL CLIMATE

Human beings are always immersed in a social environment which not only changes the very structure of the individual or just compels him to recognize facts but also provides him with a readymade system of signs. It imposes on him a series of obligations. Two environments home and school share an influential space in child's life and there exists a unique juxtaposition between the two (Tucker & Bernstein, 1979). According to Sagar and Kaplan (1972), by its very nature, the family is the social-biological unit that exerts the greatest influence on the

development and perpetuation of the individual's behaviour. Next to family, the school is the most important experience in the process of child development. When the child enters the school arena, he or she is presented with new opportunities in terms of socialization and cognitive development. These opportunities are provided in different measures in different schools and may have a direct impact on the cognitive and affective behaviours of students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- The purpose of this study was to develop a research

tool to measure the school climate of the post graduate teachers in working in the higher secondary schools.

METHODOLOGY CONSTRUCTION AND VALIDATION OF SCHOOL CLIMATE SCALE PILOT STUDY

In order to study the school climate the investigator constructed and validated school climate scale in both English and Tamil.

Based on the information from the books, newspapers and magazines the investigator constructed School climate for the pilot

This scale consists of 60 items; each item has five alternate responses and they are strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The scale consists of positive and negative items. The score for positive items was 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and for negative items vice-versa.

ITEM ANALYSIS

For the pilot study 10 post graduate teachers from Namakkal District were selected randomly. By giving proper instructions the school climate scale was administered. School climate was then scored and the total scores were arranged in the ascending order. After arranging the total scores in the ascending order, the 27% of the subjects with the highest scores (upper group), and 27% with the lowest scores (lower group) were selected for calculating the t-value.

The formula for t-test is

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_H - \bar{X}_L}{\sqrt{\frac{S_{H^2}}{n_H} + \frac{S_{L^2}}{n_L}}}$$

\bar{X}_H = The mean score of the high group for a given statement

\bar{X}_L = The mean score of the low group for a given statement

X_H = The score of the given individual for the given statement in the high group

X_L = The score of the given individual for the given statement in the low group

N = Number of subjects in the criterion groups

The value of 't' is a measure of the extent to which a given statement differentiates between the high group and low groups. t-value of about 1.75 indicates that the average responses of the high and low group to a statement differs significantly. The t-value greater than 1.75 has been selected for the final study. The t-value of 20 items was below 1.75 and hence not selected for the final study and it is given in Table-1.

Table 1: Calculation of t-values of School Climate Scale

Rank Order	t-value	Original Serial Number	Selected/Not selected
1	7.21	2	Selected
2	6.1	52	Selected
3	5.42	51	Selected
4	5.32	60	Selected
5	5.07	17	Selected
6	5.02	39	Selected
7	4.95	16	Selected
8	4.59	33	Selected
9	4.56	46	Selected
10	4.32	43	Selected
11	4.19	20	Selected
12	4.08	15	Selected
13	4.03	5	Selected
14	3.98	27	Selected
15	3.96	40	Selected
16	3.94	53	Selected
17	3.84	41	Selected
18	3.79	29	Selected
19	3.78	7	Selected

20	3.72	47	Selected
21	3.35	13	Selected
22	3.27	4	Selected
23	3.24	23	Selected
24	3.11	28	Selected
25	3.08	3	Selected
26	2.96	22	Selected
27	2.92	24	Selected
28	2.84	12	Selected
29	2.75	57	Selected
30	2.71	25	Selected
31	2.54	10	Selected
32	2.53	18	Selected
33	2.52	56	Selected
34	2.47	34	Selected
35	2.32	21	Selected
36	2.28	48	Selected
37	2.26	26	Selected
38	2.18	44	Selected
39	2.11	32	Selected
40	1.89	38	Selected
41	1.72	54	Not Selected
42	1.63	58	Not Selected
43	1.56	50	Not Selected
44	1.48	6	Not Selected
45	1.45	36	Not Selected
46	1.44	30	Not Selected
47	1.41	59	Not Selected
48	1.34	49	Not Selected
49	1.19	14	Not Selected
50	1.14	37	Not Selected
51	1.12	42	Not Selected
52	1.08	19	Not Selected
53	1.07	9	Not Selected
54	0.97	55	Not Selected
55	0.95	45	Not Selected
56	0.94	1	Not Selected
57	0.81	35	Not Selected
58	0.57	8	Not Selected
59	0.22	31	Not Selected
60	0.15	11	Not Selected

FINAL TOOL OF THE SCHOOL CLIMATE SCALE

Final School climate consists of 40 items (Vide: Appendix -B) with 5 responses. Each item has five alternate responses and they are “Strongly Agree”, “Agree”, “Undecided”, “Disagree”, and “Strongly Disagree”. The scale consists of 25 positive and 15 negative items. The score for positive item was 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and for negative item the vice-versa. The total score is 200. The score above 100 is treated as high level school climate and score below 100 is treated as low level school climate.

RELIABILITY

Reliability of the scale can be calculated as a measure of external consistency, by the test-retest method, or parallel forms method. However, in the present test, the investigator adopted the test-retest method. The reliability coefficient of the school climate scale is 0.93.

Validity

Validity can be defined as the degree to which a test measures what it is supposed to measure. The selected statements were given to experts and modified with their suggestion, prior to the administration and thus validity was ensured.

CONCLUSION

The tool will be very much useful to measure the school climate among the post graduate teachers. School climate is one of the modern trends in school climate by which teachers of higher education can benefit. Under such circumstances this tool will be of immense use for the researcher who would like to study the school climate among post graduate teachers.

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