

Determinants of Interpersonal relations among College students: An Analytical study

Uday Shankar

Email-udaypapatna2424@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

An interpersonal relationship is a strong, deep, or close association between two or more people. The present study aimed to investigate the effect of gender, religion, socio-economic status (SES) and caste upon the interpersonal judgement in youths especially college students. In this study has been used of empirical research. As a sample, 400 students (boys and girls) from different colleges and departments of Patna town were selected. In these 400 students, 200 were boys and 200 were girls. Of the total subjects, 300 were Hindus and 100 were Muslims. They were from High Socio-economic status (N= 140), Middle Socio-economic status (N = 160) and Low Socio-economic status (N= 100). The subjects belonging to General Caste (N = 140), OBC (N=180) and SC (N= 80). Results have indicated that difference in gender, religion, socio-economic and caste background causes difference in the bases of interpersonal judgement in youths.

Keywords: Interpersonal Relations; College; Students; Determinants

Introduction-

Interpersonal attraction is related to how much one likes, dislikes, or hates someone. It can be viewed as a force acting between two people that tends to draw them together and resist their separation. One major dimension of interpersonal relationship is friendship. Friendship has always been important in the human society. Ancient Indian Sanskrit Literatures (Panchatantra, Hitopdeshe, Mitralabhah) presented purposive and descriptive analysis about advantages and disadvantages of having friends. Modern social psychologists have also studied on the different dimensions of friendship formation. (Thaibaut and Kelley, 1959; Feldman, 1985). Researches on processes and factors of friendship formation have been done by western and Indian

psychologist. (Byrne, 1992; Chandna & Chadha, 1986.)

According to Morry's attraction-similarity model (2007), there is a lay belief that people with actual similarity produce initial attraction. The perceived similarity is either self-serving, as in a friendship, or relationship-serving, as in a romantic relationship. In a 1963 study, Theodore Newcomb pointed out that people tend to change perceived similarity to obtain balance in a relationship. Additionally, perceived but not actual similarity was found to predict interpersonal attraction during a face-to-face initial romantic encounter. In a 1988 study, Lydon, Jamieson & Zanna suggest that interpersonal similarity and attraction are multidimensional constructs in which people are

Assistant Professor (G.) Dept of Psychology, Patna University, Patna

attracted to people similar to themselves in demographics, physical appearance, attitudes, interpersonal style, social and cultural background, personality, preferred interests and activities, and communication and social skills.

Byrne, Clore and Worchel (1966) suggested people with similar economic status are likely to be attracted to each other. Buss & Barnes (1986) also found that people prefer their romantic partners to be similar in certain demographic characteristics, including religious background, political orientation and socio-economic status.

Aim of the study- The aims of the study are as follows:

- (a) To explore the determinants of Interpersonal relationship among college students.
- (b) To find out the level of interpersonal judgement among boys and girls students.
- (c) To analyze the interpersonal judgemental status between Hindu and Muslim students.
- (d) To study the interpersonal judgement process among students belonging to different Socio economic status.
- (e) To see the intensity of interpersonal judgement among students of different castes.

Hypothesis-

The main tentative hypotheses of the present research were as follows:

- (1) College students will have average level of interpersonal judgement or attraction score.
- (2) Boys and girls will differ on attraction score.
- (3) Hindu and Muslim students would be different on attraction score.
- (4) Students from different socio economic status will differ on attraction score.
- (5) Students from different castes would have different attraction score.

Methodology:

(A)Sample: As a sample, 400 students (boys and girls) from different colleges and departments of Patna town were selected. They were selected randomly so that the sample can represent different gender, religion, socio-economic status and castes. In these 400 students, 200 were boys and 200 were girls. Of the total subjects, 300 were Hindus and 100 were Muslims. They were from High Socio-economic status (N= 140), Middle Socio-economic status (N = 160) and Low Socio-economic status (N= 100). The subjects belonging to General Caste (N = 140), OBC (N=180) and SC (N= 80). In this study, Accidental cum Purposive sampling technique was applied.

(B)Tool:

The extent of attraction among college students has been studied with the help of Interpersonal Judgement Scale. This scale was developed by Byrne. The Hindi adaptation of this scale is done by S.N. Rai and C.S. Mehta. It is a scale in which a subject "rates" another person on dimensions such as intelligence, knowledge of current events, morality, adjustment, likability, and desirability as a work partner. This scale consists 6 items in which 4 items are fake. Only two items-item no 4 and 6 are significant items which measure liking. Subjects have to response on all the items. Each item has 7 alternatives: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7. 7 score for most attraction and 1 score for least attraction. The variation of scores on this scale is from 2 to 14.

(C) Design:

The between group design has been used in the present study. Here, the Gender, Religion, SES and caste of the students have been studied as independent variables while interpersonal judgement has been considered as the dependent variable.

(D) Personal Data Sheet:

A personal data sheet was used to collect the information about the subjects' Gender, Religion, SES and caste. This sheet has been attached in the starting of the scale.

(E) Data collection Procedure:

To collect the data, a strong rapport was established with the students to get their free and frank views/opinions on various items of the scale.

Each subject has been approached individually. The printed instruction on the scale was read out to them. After that they were asked to respond on all the items of the scale. If the subject had any problem in understanding any of the items, it was duly clarified to him/her.

Results- The result of the present study have been presented in tabular forms with the help of four tables.

Table-1

Attraction score of boys-girls and all subjects

Liking+ Working	Overall	Boys	Girls
Together	N=200	N=400	N=200
Average score*	13.13	13.02a	13.25a

Variation of scores can be from 2 to 14

Table-1 presents the average score of total subjects as well as boys and girls students. Actually the friendship formation can be explained by theories of attraction. The present data reveals that subjects have shown sufficient attraction towards their friends. It confirms the first hypothesis of the study. Boys and girls have displayed similar attraction for their friends. This does not support the second hypothesis of the study.

Table-2

Attraction score of Hindu and Muslim students

Liking+ Working	Hindu	N=100
Together	N=300	Muslim
Average score*	12.87a	13.39a

Variation of scores can be from 2 to 14

Table-2 shows the attraction score of Hindu and Muslim students Both groups have shown attraction for their friends. Muslim students have displayed more attraction than Hindu students. This confirms the third hypothesis of the study.

Table-3

Attraction score of students from High, Middle and Low SES

Liking+ Working	High Class	Middle class	Lower class
Together	N=140	N=160	N=100
Average score*	13.75a	12.88a	12.77a

Variation of scores can be from 2 to 14

Table-3 illustrates the attraction students of the subjects belonging from different socio economic status. As can be seen from the table that students from all three groups have shown high level of attraction towards their friends. Subjects from high Socio economic status have displayed more attraction than subjects from Middle and Low socio economic status. This partially confirms the fourth hypothesis of the study.

Table-4
Attraction score of students of General, OBC and SC groups

Liking+ Working Together	General caste	OBC	SC
	N=140	N=180	N=80
Average score*	13.16a	13.2a	13.04a

Variation of scores can be from 2 to 14

Table-4 : shows the attraction score of the subjects from different castes. It can be seen from the table that subjects from the three caste groups have shown more attraction for their friends. As far as differences, the subjects of General castes have displayed more attraction than subjects of Other Backward caste and Scheduled castes. This partially supports the fifth hypothesis of the study.

Conclusion:

The main conclusions from the present study can be derived as follows:

- a. College students have displayed average level of attraction for their friends.
- b. Boys and girls students have displayed similar attraction for their friends.
- c. Muslim subjects have more attraction than Hindu subjects towards their friends.
- d. Students from High SES have shown more attraction than Middle and Low SES students.
- e.. Subjects of General castes have displayed high level of attraction than subjects of OBC and SC students.

Conclusively, we can say that social factors such as Gender, Religion, Socio economic status

and Caste are somehow determinants of interpersonal attraction among college students.

References :

1. **Aronson, Elliot, Timothy D. Wilson and Robin M.A Kert. (2007)** Social Psychology sixth Edition New Jersey, Upper Saddle River.
2. **Byrne (1971) :** The Attraction Paradigm, New York, Academic Press
3. **Klohneh, E.C. & Luo, S (2003),** Interpersonal attraction and Personality.
4. **Lawrence Eribaum & Associates (2009),** Social Cognition, Inference and Attribution.
5. **Moore Attraction Similarity Model (2007) & Merrill (2007)–** Explaining Friendship Formation and Friendship stability.
6. **Singh and H.O. (2000),** Similarity in Attitudes promotes social Attraction.
7. **Watson (2004),** Reason of spouse similarity
8. **Narren Kubit S.C. and Muren Halliman, 2007,** Attraction = Friendship.
9. **www-google.com**

