

Attitude towards Competitive Exams among College Students

K. Saraswathy¹dr. R. Sahaya Mary²

1. Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Education,
2. Asst. Professor, Dept. of Physical Science – Education,
Institute of Advanced Study in Education,
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

This paper describes the Attitude towards Competitive Exams among College Students. Normative Survey method was employed to collect the data through questionnaire by adopting simple random sampling technique. The questionnaire constructed and validated by the researcher with help of research supervisor. The sample size of this investigation comprises 80 Students among them 34 were boys and 46 were girls of college students studying in Chennai district. The objective of the study is to find out the level of Attitude towards competitive exam and to find the significance difference between Attitude towards competitive exam among college students with respect to Gender, Stream of study. The results indicate that, the Attitude towards competitive exam among college students is average in nature. It is also found that there is no significant difference between Attitude towards competitive exam among college students with respect to their Gender and Stream of study.

Key words:*Competitive exam, College students, Attitude.*

INTRODUCTION

An attitude may be defined as a tendency to react positively or negatively in regard to an object. An attitude is a cognitive element. It always remains inside a person. An attitude is always directed towards some object. The notable feature of attitude is that it varies in direction, intensity and the extent of consciousness. An attitude is a tendency in a certain way. That is a person who has an attitude has a readiness or disposition to react favorably or unfavorably to anyone of large variety of related situation. Attitude is for or against things. We tend to have favorable attitudes towards sources of gratification and favorable attitudes towards sources of punishment and frustration.

Competitive Examination will be conducted in order to test the capabilities of the students. The winners of these competitions will be selected and the others will be rejected. Competitive exams are often used for university, college admissions and entrance exams for high schools. Competitive examinations are conducted for various posts in India ranging from required posts in the public sector, such as the Indian Administrative

Service to the Grama Niladhari Officer, through which such posts are filled. The selection of qualified applicants as reasons for conducting competitive examinations is said to be conducted to avoid influence, bias or other concerns.

NEED OF THE STUDY

In the present education system students are neglecting the competitive exams with the results revealing that students competency and skills are very low. So we have to look into and reorganize the educational standards in the existing system. If teacher educators create positive opportunities for students, their innate potentialities and inherent knowledge will be realized at the right time. Competitive exams act as a catalyst and push the students toward excellence. Students should be able to put their academic knowledge to good work when they compete in the competitive exams. These exams encourage talented youngsters by offering them scholarships and awards. These exams help students by motivating them to aim for higher goals. They challenge the aptitude and subject knowledge of the students. This enhances their logical thinking skills, reasoning, and intellectual skills. The main aim of this study was to analyze the attitude towards competitive exams among college students.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out the level of Attitude towards Competitive Exam among College Students.
- To find out any significant difference between the Attitude towards Competitive Exam among College Students with respect to
 - (i) Gender
 - (ii) Stream of Study

Hypotheses

- The level of Attitude towards Competitive Exam among College Students is average.
- There is no significant difference between the Attitude towards Competitive Exam among College Students with respect to
 - (i) Gender
 - (ii) Stream of study

METHODOLOGY

In the present study descriptive Normative survey method of research was employed.

PILOT STUDY

In order to validate and to find out the appropriateness of the tool pilot study was conducted on a sample size of 50. Among them 25 were boys and 25 were girls' students of college students. The final tool was constructed after removing 32 items based on Item analysis.

RESEARCH TOOL

Attitude towards Competitive Exams among College Students

Attitude towards competitive exam scale (ACE) questionnaire on a five point rating scale (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree and Strongly Disagree), constructed and validated by the researcher was used in this study.

SAMPLE SIZE

Simple random sampling technique was used. Sample for this study consist of 80 college students both (boys & girls) of college students studying in Chennai district.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

The data was analyzed by means of following statistical techniques namely Mean, Standard Deviation and t- test.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table – 1 There is no significant difference between the Attitude towards Competitive Exam among College Students with respect to Gender.

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t value	L.S
Attitude towards Competitive Exam	Male	34	87.56	9.242	1.341	NS
	Female	46	1.78	9.946		

From the above table, it is observed that the obtained t– value (1.34) is lesser than the table value (1.96) and it is statistically significant at 0.05 level. Hence, there is no significant difference in Attitude towards competitive exam among college students based on gender and the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

Comparing the mean score, male college students have favorable Attitude towards competitive exam compared to female college students.

Table – 2 There is no significant difference between the Attitude towards Competitive Exam among college students with respect to stream of Study.

Variable	Stream of Study	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t Value	L.S
Attitude towards Competitive Exam	Arts	47	88.49	9.129	1.646	1.646
	Science	33	92.12	10.5402		

From the above table, it is observed that the obtained t– value (1.646) is lesser than the table value (1.96) and it is statistically significant at 0.05 level. Hence, there is no significant

difference in Attitude toward competitive exam among college students based on stream of study and the Null Hypothesis is accepted.

Comparing the mean score, science college students have better Attitude towards competitive exam compared to arts college students.

FINDINGS

- It was found that the level of Attitude towards Competitive Exam among College Students is average in nature.
- It was found that there is no significant difference between the Attitude towards competitive exam among college students with respect to Gender.
- It was found that there is no significant difference between the Attitude towards competitive exam among college students with respect to stream of study.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Competitive exams in India have diverse syllabi specific to the job profile for which the exam is conducted but all of them has one section of General Knowledge and General Awareness in their exams. Therefore it is very important to understand the scope and meaning of these two terms. So read on to know the fine difference between General Knowledge and General Awareness.

It is true that competitive exams are not that easy to ace it, but it is also not something impossible. With proper guidance and hard work, you can easily crack any competitive exam.

Nowadays there are several coaching classes organized by Government and Private institutes that train women and men on how to crack a competitive exam. You can register for any of these in your area.

SUGGESTIONS

1. This study was confirmed only to the Chennai district. Further similar research can be done in rural and urban areas also.
2. This study was undertaken a level of college students only.
3. This study was confined to only 80 samples and hence the sample also be increased and studied upon.

CONCLUSION

From the overall analysis college students have above average attitude towards competitive exams. The result shows that the male students have more favorable attitude towards competitive exams than female students. The result shows that the science students have better attitude towards competitive exams than arts students.

REFERENCE

1. **Avijain (2007)** A study on the Effectiveness and Attitude for smart class, Academia.

Attitude towards Competitive Exams among College Students

2. **John W. Best, James V.Kahn., (2014).** Research in Education, Tenth Edition, *PHI Learning PVT.*, New Delhi.
3. **Agarwal, Y.P. (2002).***Statistical methods concepts, application and computation.* New Delhi: Sterling Publishers Private Limited.
4. **Ajzen (2005).***The Influence of Attitudes on Behaviour, The handbook of Attitudes.*Mahwan, N J: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. University of Massachusetts Amherst.
5. **Baala Vignesh, Vishnu Priya & Gayathri (2018).** Knowledge, attitude, and perception of students toward computer-based tests in competitive examinations, Vol. 10(4).
6. **Binutha S. Pillai (2014).** Relationship between Competitiveness and Academic Achievement of Adolescent Students, *Conflux Journal of Education*, ISSN 2320-9305, Vol 2(2)
7. **Gerd Bohner & Michaela Wanke (2002).***Attitudes and Attitude Change.* Psychology Press. DOI: 10.4324/9781315784786
8. **Kamariah Abu Bakara, et al., (2010).** Relationships between University students' achievement motivation, attitude and academic performance in Malaysia. *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2 (2010), 4906 – 4910.DOI: 10.1016/j.sbspro.2010.03.793.
9. **Moshe Zeidner & Marsha Bensoussan (2012).** College students Attitudes towards written versus oral tests of English as a Foreign language. *University of Haifa*, 100 -114. <http://tj.sagepub.com/content/5/1/100>.