

## Social maturity of adolescents

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### ABSTRACT

Adolescence is the bridge between childhood and adulthood and it describes the social behaviour and characteristics. When an individual has the ability to respond to the environment in an appropriate manner then one shows social maturity. Adolescents grow into social maturity, when they learn to manage a group situation with skill and confidence, with this background the present study entitled, "Social maturity of adolescents" was undertaken during the year 2017-2019. The study was conducted to assess the social maturity of adolescents. A total of 120 adolescents were selected randomly from four schools of Ukhul sub-division, Manipur. A questionnaire was prepared to collect the background information of the respondents. To measure the social maturity of adolescents, a structured standardized tools named 'Social Maturity Scale' developed by Dr. Nalini Rao (1971) revised in 2009 was used. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the adolescents were at average level maturity.

### INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is the most critical period in the life span of every individuals. This period is identified with dramatic changes in physiological, social, emotional and cognitive aspects. Every individual is unique in itself and has its own pace of growth and development. As the child grows up, emotions and social functioning changes and continues till adolescence. Social changes in adolescence comprises of increased peer group influence, more mature patterns of social behaviour, new social grouping and social acceptance (Devi and Prashanthi, 2004).

Socialization primarily represents the whole process of learning throughout the life period and it has a major impact on the behavior, beliefs and actions of adults as well as of children. Maturity include being responsive of the correct time and place knowing when to act and behave, according to the situation and the culture of the society one lives in. Social maturity involves learning to properly relate to acquaintances, family, friends, and intimate relationships. It involves understanding of how to honor and respect those in authority (Hira, 2013). It is the ability to perform in an appropriate social responsible manner and understanding of the social rules and norms in a given culture and the ability to use that knowledge

effectively. It is not only how one interact with others, but also how to manage own responsibilities and affairs. It is the process of establishing satisfactory relationship between individual and their environment.

Individual with social maturity has the capability to make adjustment with himself and with the environments and circumstances. It is an important component of the personality which decides successful adjustment of an individual in later life. It implies that the individual develops a pattern of behaviour, habits, attitudes, manners and skills which helps to fit into group living and contribute to the welfare of the group (Kalyanidevi and Chaitanyaprathima, 2008).

### Objective:

– To assess the social maturity of adolescents.

Hundekar (2011) conducted a study on self-concept and social maturity of urban and rural primary school children and it was found that majority of children indicated slightly mature social maturity and some of the children had slightly immature social maturity. But none of the children had mature and immature level of social maturity.

Tripathy (2017) conducted a comparative study on social maturity among Yog students of master degree. The results revealed that all master degree Yog students were socially mature whether they belong to M.Sc. and M.A groups, there was no significant difference in the social maturity level among M.A and M.Sc. students. It was observed that no significant difference in the social maturity level among male and female students.

Saikia and Bora (2019) conducted a study on influence of social maturity on school adjustment of girl students at higher secondary level and it was found that majority of girl students are above average category of social maturity.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the Ukhrul district of Manipur. For the study, four schools located in Ukhrul sub-division were selected by simple random sampling. A total sample of 120 adolescents (60 boys and 60 girls) in the age group of 12-18 years were selected by the method of simple random sampling.

### Tools:

In order to assess the social maturity of adolescents,

a structured standardized tool named 'Social Maturity Scale' developed by Rao (1971) revised in 2009 was used to measure the social maturity of adolescents. It consists of three components *viz.*, personal adequacy (work orientation, self-direction and ability to take stress), interpersonal adequacy (communication, enlightened trust and cooperation) and social adequacy (social commitment, social tolerance and openness to change). Each statement has a four rating. The four point scale includes strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree with score of 4, 3, 2, and 1 points, respectively for positive items and with score of 1, 2, 3 and 4 for negative statements. The score of positive items and negative items were added to get the score of each sub scale separately. It consists of 90 items in total. Reliability of the tool was established. The reliability of the tool is 0.852. Hence, the tool is reliable.

Statistical procedure for the analysis and interpretation of data frequency and percentage were calculated.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The social maturity of adolescents were categorized into very high level maturity, high level maturity, above average level maturity, average level maturity, below average level maturity, low level maturity, and very low level maturity.

Table 1 identifies the social maturity of adolescents. It is evident from the findings that majority of the adolescents (55.0%) were at average level maturity. Adolescents of 38.33 per cent were at above average level maturity, 4.16 per cent were at high level maturity. Adolescents of 1.7 per cent were found to be below average level maturity and only 0.81 per cent was at very high level maturity. No respondent was at low and very low level maturity.

The results represent the levels of social maturity of adolescent. It was evident from the findings that majority of the adolescents (55%) had average level maturity. Here, it can be noted that, during the developmental stage the adolescents become self-confident, self-directed, warm, empathic, responsible and competitive. Their working ability and problem solving skills also increased with the age. These characteristics might have contributed to the social maturity of the adolescents. The adolescents who had high leadership personality trait were more socially mature than those who had submissive personality

traits. Social behaviours, attitude, participation etc. influence the social development (Anand *et al.*, 2014). The finding is conformed to the study conducted by Arora and Bala (2016) who found that high population of adolescent boys and girls fall in the category of moderately matured.

Table 2 represents the social maturity of adolescents in terms of different dimensions. It is evident from the result that in the dimension of personal adequacy, majority of adolescents (62.5%) were at average level maturity, while 16.67 per cent were at below average level maturity. It was also found that 15.83 per cent of respondents were at above average level of maturity and 3.33 per cent were at high level of maturity. While respondents of 0.83 per cent showed very high and low level of social maturity. It was noteworthy to mention that no respondent was at very low level maturity. Results identified that in the dimension of interpersonal adequacy, majority (54.17%) of adolescents were at average level maturity whereas 30.0 per cent were at above average level maturity. Respondents of 10.0 per cent were at high level maturity, 4.16 were at below average level maturity and 1.67 per cent was at very high level maturity. It was found that no respondent was at low and very low level maturity. In the dimension of social adequacy, 47.5 per cent of adolescents were at above average level maturity. It was found that 30.83 per

cent were at high level maturity, 20.84 per cent were at average level maturity and only 0.83 per cent showed very high level of maturity. No respondent was at below, low and very low level of maturity. Findings showed that majority (62.5%) of the adolescents had average level maturity in the dimension of personal adequacy. This might be because of the fact that the adolescents in this presently competitive world are found to be more work oriented, self-directed and they have the ability to cope up with the stress, which make them personally adequate. The finding also revealed that majority (54.17%) of the adolescents had average level maturity in interpersonal adequacy. This might be because during the adolescence stage, they develop good communication skills, like better writing and speaking capability. They also develop the ability to know whom to trust and whom not to and know how to cooperate with the other members in the society and peers. Further the finding revealed that 47.5 per cent of the adolescents were found to have average level of social adequacy. This might be because social adequacy is characterized by social commitment, social tolerance and openness to change. Since the adolescence period is a developing period where the groups may have better social commitments, social tolerance and good adjustment ability.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to levels of social maturity (n=120)**

Levels of social maturity	Number of respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Very high level maturity	1	0.81
High level maturity	5	4.16
Above average level maturity	46	38.33
Average level maturity	66	55.0
Below average level maturity	2	1.7
Low level maturity	0	0
Very low level maturity	0	0

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents of adolescents according to different dimensions of social maturity**

Dimension	Mean	SD	Very high level maturity		High level maturity		Above average level maturity		Average level maturity		Below average level maturity		Low level maturity	
			maturity		maturity		maturity		maturity		maturity		maturity	
			F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
Personal adequacy	73.03	7.68	1	0.83	4	3.33	19	15.83	75	62.5	20	16.67	1	0.83
Interpersonal adequacy	77.25	9.84	2	1.67	12	10.0	36	30.0	65	54.17	5	4.16	0	0
Social adequacy	82.18	7.12	1	0.83	37	30.83	57	47.5	25	20.84	0	0	0	0

F= Frequency P= Percentage

## Conclusion:

As adolescence is the age for a person to express mature behaviour, they learn the behaviour that is accepted by the society and they begin to accept others' opinions. Their mental maturity enables them to understand their ability. As a person becomes older, their knowledge also increases and their social perspective become larger and wider. Social maturity is very important for boys and girls for success in every walk of life. It is the strongest factor in molding one's personality. Social maturity of an individual helps to adjust with the social environment as well as helps to achieve special social skills and awareness about society.

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