

Locus of Control & Superstitions

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ABSTRACT: *This study analyses the relationship between superstition & locus of control of 200 college students. Majority of the students have non-superstition score in superstition scale. Externally controlled & students from rural area show high level of superstition rather than Internally controlled & students from urban area. Female students show high level superstition than male students.*

KEY WORDS: *Locus of Control & Superstitions*

I. INTRODUCTION

Superstition is found both in rural as well as urban dwelling people. In spite of science making great progress the percentage of superstition is found to be increasing rather than decreasing. Educated young generations from rural and urban areas are found to be superstitious. People instead of believing in their own capacity are more relying on luck, fate etc. They are relating specific incidence or number as fortunate or unfortunate and taking action accordingly (no. 13 is unfortunate 9 is fortunate). This behavior can be attributed to factors such as insecurity, lack of affection in relationship, stress at workplace, changed lifestyle etc.

Therefore in this study student superstitions are studied. Though they are educated they believe in small fortunate/ unfortunate things. Especially at the time of examination they have their lucky dress, lucky place, lucky pen, lucky writing pad even lucky face. Superstitions also depend on personality. So internally controlled & externally controlled personality types are compared. Urban and rural area is also important for superstitions. In rural area superstitions may be more. Male and female students also differ on superstition. So both are studied.

1.1 Superstition.

Originally the word superstition meant something like “standing still in apprehension or awe,” but since has been rather watered down in its application and use. According to Raymond Lamont Brown “superstition is a belief, or a system of beliefs, by which almost religious veneration is attached to things mostly secular; a parody of religious faith in which there is belief in an occult or magic connection.”

Superstition is the tendency to direct one’s behavior with irrational and mysterious fear or to gain privilege from the supernatural power. In short superstition is an irrational or nonscientific belief in the existence of certain powers operant in the world, with positive or ill (usually ill) effects,& so a concomitant belief in the counter-effects of amulets, tokens and such, and power of certain actions or avoidance of actions.

1.2 Locus of Control

People attribute the course or control of events either to themselves or to the external environment. Those who ascribe control of event to themselves are said to have an internal locus of control and are referred to as “internal”. People who attribute control to outside force are said to have an external locus of control and are referred to as “externals”.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Though there is a tremendous change in the life of human being due to progress in science yet superstitions still remain in Indian people. In India women are more superstitious than men mostly due to the lack of education. Since women are suppressed in every sphere, it has made them prone to superstitious. We live in male dominated society. Also women are usually not self-dependent. This is mostly seen in rural part of country. But their urban counterparts too are equally blind folded. In India Santhi (1982) found that, superstitions are prevalent among people of all levels of formal education. Patel (1984) has pointed out that majority of Indians had beliefs in superstitions. Sumaranjitha & Sreedhar, (1992) found superstitions beliefs in the first year female college students. Intelligence, creativity and academic ability were found inversely related to the superstition beliefs. Gupta (1999) found the prevalence of superstitious behavior among male and female students of different professional course. George and Sreedhar (2006) found that students coming from urban area believe more in superstition than those from rural area. They also found that females have more irrational beliefs than males.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample

200 students from senior college from Pachora town in Maharashtra state in India participated in this study.

3.2 Measures

- i) Superstition Scale developed & standardized by Dubey L.N. & Dixit B.M
- ii) Locus of control scale (Levenson and Kopplin] 1976)

Hypotheses

- i) Majority of the students have non-superstitious score on superstition scale.
- ii) Students from rural area show high level of superstitions than student from urban area.
- iii) Female students show high level of superstition than male students.
- iv) Externally controlled students show high level of superstition than internally controlled.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion of present study are as following

4.1 Status of each of category of the students on superstition scale

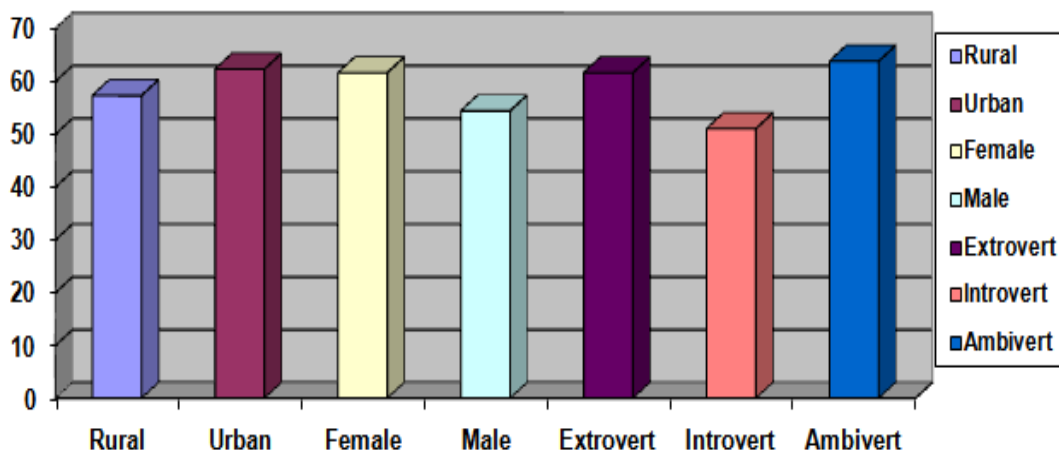
To identify the status of the students on superstition scale students are classified on rural-urban, female-male, introvert-extrovert basis. Raw scores and their categories are given according to the superstitions scale as below.

Categories	Scores
Highly Superstitious	100 & above
Superstitious	92 – 99
Moderate	84 – 91
Non-Superstitious	72 – 83
Highly-Non-Superstitious	71 – below

Table I Descriptive Statistics

Raw scores of each category of the students on superstition scale.

	N	MEAN	Std. Deviation
RURAL	50	57.3000	13.9302
URBAN	50	62.3000	15.9582
FEMALE	75	61.6133	14.8186
MALE	75	54.4000	13.9051
EXTROVERT	50	61.6200	14.7467
INTROVERT	50	51.0200	11.8399
AMBIVERT	50	63.8000	16.5677



Result of the Table I & graph indicated that mean value on superstition scale for rural students is 57.30, for urban students 62.30, for female students 61.33, for male students 54.40, for extrovert students 61.20, for introvert students 51.02, and for ambivert students 63.80. According to superstition scale manual below 71 score means highly non-superstitious. It means that the first hypothesis of the study that majority of the students have non superstitious score is accepted.

4.2 Students from rural area show high level of superstition than students from urban area

resist any change & persons who try to bring about change are targeted. As such though superstition is recognized by individuals, they are not ready to oppose it. On the contrary there is more exposure in cities. People from various religions sects interact at workplace & in society. Hence they come across the changes & can easily oppose old traditions, superstitions, etc.

However in this study Table II shows t value of 1.559 among rural & urban people i.e. it does not prove that superstition is more in rural than urban. Probable reason of this outcome is that due to globalization, mass media, etc. the world has shrunk. Any particular incidence taking place in remote corner of world is known to all by way of T. V. internet. Communication has become fast & prima facie difference between urban & rural is diminishing day by day. George & Sreedhar (2006) also found that superstitions are more in urban students than rural area students. As such the second hypothesis that students from rural area show high level of superstitions than urban is rejected.

Table II Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Rural	57.3000	50	13.9302	1.9700
	Urban	62.3000	50	15.9582	2.2568
Pair 2	Female	61.6133	75	14.8186	1.7111
	Male	54.4000	75	13.9051	1.6056

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the diff.				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Rural Urban	-5.000	22.7506	3.2174	-11.4657	1.4657	-1.554	49	.127
Pair 2	Female Male	7.2133	19.9698	2.3059	2.6187	11.8080	3.128	74	.003

4.3 Female students show high level of superstitions than male students.

From ancient days, the onus of keeping various traditions is with women folk, probably due to male dominant society. This has resulted in knowingly/unknowingly superstition behavior of women. Society as a whole do not expect women to oppose or resist these superstitions.

Today a large no. of women are well educated & are also bread earners for the family. Though they have stepped out from household & are exposed to broad spectrum of society, still they are compelled to follow superstition. Many researcher’s results also indicate that female are more superstitious than male. According to Sumarcenjitha & Sreedhar,(1992) and George & Sreedhar(2006) females have more irrational beliefs than males. In this study also t value for female & male variable is 3.128. Though it is insignificant the mean value of female and male variables shows that females are more superstitious than males. So the third hypothesis is accepted.

4.4 Externally controlled students show high levels of superstitions than internally controlled.

In this study for locus of control L/K scale is used. There are four categories in this scale-personal control (PC), Chance (C), God (G) & powerful others (PO). The first one is internally controlled & other three are externally controlled.

**Table III
Correlation**

	PC	C	G	PO
Male Superstitions score	-.139	-.040	.191	0.033
Female Superstitions score	-0.84	0.162	0.099	0.051

Extroverts are interested in what is happening around them. Externally controlled person is influenced by chance, God & other powerful people. He thinks that all good happenings are due to chance, God or other powerful personalities. On the other hand introverts are interested in their own feelings, they are reserved, quite and thoughtful.. Internally controlled are confident, take their own decision & are not influenced by others. They do not believe in superstitions. They believe in facts, think practically, so they are less superstitious. For every superstition they think logically and thus don't fall easily prey to them. They are less influenced by others, don't care much about what others think and are more interested in their own work. In this study the mean score for extrovert is 61.62 and for introvert is 51.02. This shows that extroverts are more superstitious than introverts. So the fourth hypothesis is accepted.

In short students of all categories rural or urban, male or female, extrovert or introvert have non superstitious score on superstition scale. There is no difference between rural and urban students on superstition scale. There is difference between male and female on superstition. But in this study table III shows the correlation between male, female & four factors of L/K scale i. e. personal control (PC), Chance (C), God (G) & powerful others (PO) is significant.

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