

Decision-Making Styles among Adolescents

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Abstract-Decision-making styles is a crucial task that each adolescent faces in way of life. The method of making a decision differs from one adolescent to another adolescents. The processes involved in making a decision outlined as decision-making styles. The goals of this study were to explain decision-making styles among adolescents. Flinders' decision-making styles scale was used for data collection and measured different types of decision-making styles. The sample of the study consisted of 785 adolescents from 9th and 11th grade (aged 13-16, Mean age-14.5 years) from different schools in and around the Salem city of Tamilnadu. The participants were selected through stratified random sampling. Results found that adolescents' decision-making styles are not differences based on gender and the area of living. These findings provide an empirical framework to understand the adolescents' decision-making styles and it assists to construct healthy decision-making styles.

Keywords: Adolescents, Decision-Making Styles, Gender, Area of living, Empirical framework

INTRODUCTION

The use of technology has become necessary and become more prevalent among adolescents across the globe. Impact of the globalization, liberalization, and urbanization an India is changing into a technologically advanced country. Therefore, it remarkably modified adolescence lifestyles and materialistic utilization. Palfrey & Gasser (2008) pointed out that the new generation born within the digital age. The parents grant autonomy through additional

freelance in deciding over aspects of adolescents daily lives, like what reasonably dress wear or however they pay their leisure activities (Goossens, 2006).

Leon Mann (1982) outlined the cognitive process, which results within the selection of a course of action among varied alternatives. Piaget aforesaid that adolescents are always trying to make sense of something. Adolescents are attempting to know the world by knowing and thinking in their logical ways. However, it is essential to notice that adolescents intellectual development began to be slightly different from the previous generations. Besides, adolescence is one of the most targeted age groups by marketing professionals, and also mass media and information technologies strongly determine adolescents' lifestyles (Balta, 2005). It demands them to choose on totally different social systems like family, school, social, religion, peer group, and workplace. Developmental psychologists insisted that adolescents need to develop a proper attitude to face advanced technologically and complex societies, thereby maintain healthy decision-making styles.

Smetana, Campione-Barr, & Daddis, (2004) Found that in late adolescents, decision making over personal and multifaceted problems foreseen positive behavioral adjustment, together with less depression and greater feelings of self-worth. McCandless and Coop (1979) argue that a decision-making style is that the hardest to learn, takes the longest to master, and is the most important ability expected of adolescents and decision making is that the most vital as a result of it entails changes in an individual personality. Adolescents typically worry that their decisions about the future are irrevocable as a result of difficult to understand that a healthy decision making implies routine re-thinking and also the possibility of changing one's mind. For the reason, it is necessary to systematically study the decision making styles among adolescents.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective to investigate the decision making styles of adolescents. The particular objectives are as follows;

- To assess the significant difference in decision-making styles based on gender among adolescents.
- To check the significant difference in decision-making styles based on the area of living among adolescents.

HYPOTHESES

Based on the objectives, the following hypotheses generated for the present study.

- There will be a significant difference between gender and decision-making styles among adolescents.
- There will be a significant difference between the area of living and decision-making styles among adolescents.

METHOD

Participants

The sample of this study consisted of 785 adolescents from 9th and 11th -grade students from various schools in and around the Salem town of Tamilnadu. There are thirty-two schools in Salem town out of that ten schools were selected at random. The investigator has approached the school authorities and obtained permission. There are 1310 students - 9th std & 1070 students - 11th std out of 435 from 9th and 350 from 11th were selected through stratified random sampling. The questionnaires distributed to the participants and also the information collected below the personal superintendence of the investigator.

PROCEDURE

The researcher approached the school authority and explained the aim of the study. The school authority permitted to collect data. The school was selected randomly. Adolescents with 9th and 11th graders were selected from schools in and around Salem city. The aim of the study was described to assess eligibility and interest in participation after that the researcher got informed consent. The participants were requested to assemble one place after that the questionnaire was distributed under the supervision of the researcher.

MEASURES

Demographic data

The demographic information form was used to collect information, including gender and the area of living. The gender has classified two categories, like male and female. Similarly, the area of living classified into two groups, like urban and rural.

DECISION-MAKING STYLES SCALE

Flinders' decision-making form (DMQ-II) developed by Leon Mann (1982): It consisted of 31 statements with three-point responses. This scale measured different types of decision-making styles like vigilance, hypervigilance, defensive avoidance, procrastination, buck-passing, and rationalization. The responses given are: True for me (1), Sometimes true (2), and not true for me (3). The reliability coefficients obtained for the six dimensions found to be 0.82 for vigilance, 0.51 for hypervigilance, 0.57 for defensive avoidance, 0.60 for procrastination, 0.47 for buck-passing and 0.50 for rationalization. All these values were found to be significant at the 0.01 level. This tool possesses both contents and faces validity. The intrinsic validity of the tool found to be ranging from 0.52 to 0.91 for the six styles. These values indicate that the tool is highly valid.

DATA ANALYSIS

The Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) was used to conduct correlation test, used for find whether there is any relationship between gender and area of living with decision-making styles, and an independent sample t-test was performed to study the significant difference in decision-making styles based on gender, and area of living among adolescents.

RESULTS

Hypothesis: 1

“Decision-making styles significantly differ based on their gender.”

Table: 1. Adolescent decision-making styles: gender-wise comparison

Dimensions of decision-making styles	Male(N ₁ = 457)		Female (N ₂ = 328)		‘t’ value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Vigilance	8.40	2.546	9.00	2.560	-3.275*
Hyper-Vigilance	5.92	1.825	5.85	1.746	0.538 ^{NS}
Defensive	4.64	2.275	4.36	2.062	1.744 ^{NS}
Procrastination	4.97	2.269	4.43	2.166	3.353*
Rationalization	5.53	1.918	5.09	1.933	3.108*
Buck passing	4.54	2.278	4.13	2.219	2.521 ^{NS}
Total Score	47.34	7.557	47.04	7.398	0.562 ^{NS}

* p < 0.005, NS = Not Significant

From table-1, it found that the ‘t’ values are significant for three dimensions, but not with the total score. Hence, the hypothesis is partially confirmed. It concluded that gender is partially significantly differs in their decision-making styles among adolescents. The females got a higher mean score than males. The overall rating indicated that both females and males not differ significantly but there were three dimensions differ significantly with adolescents decision making styles based on the gender. There are some studies conducted on this dimension among adolescents that the same as this finding.

(d’Acremont & Linden, 2006; Reavis & Overman, 2001) found that gender differences in decision making; men performed better than women on the gambling task. Moreover, they found that girls were making more favorable decisions on the gambling task, and boys take more risky

decisions during the betting task. Besides, that adolescent's emotional expression differs compared with adults. According to the somatic marker hypothesis (Damasio, 1994), says that emotional responses are essential in guiding decision-making in stressful situations and avoiding adverse outcomes. At the same time, there are some studies conducted on this dimension among adolescents that contradict to the present finding. Lejuez, Aklin, Zvolensky, & Pedulla (2003) found that adolescents with this decision-making task did not find any gender differences.

Hypothesis: 2

“Adolescent decision-making styles based on their area of living.”

Table: 2. Adolescent decision making styles bases of the area of living

Dimensions of decision-making styles	Urban (N ₁ = 416)		Rural (N ₂ =369)		‘t’ value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Vigilance	8.60	2.544	8.71	2.596	-0.635 ^{NS}
Hyper-Vigilance	5.94	1.762	5.84	1.825	0.798 ^{NS}
Defensive	4.55	2.176	4.49	2.211	0.398 ^{NS}
Procrastination	4.77	2.208	4.71	2.281	0.401 ^{NS}
Rationalization	5.28	1.910	5.42	1.963	- 1.003 ^{NS}
Buck passing	4.21	2.278	4.54	2.232	- 2.014 ^{NS}
Total Score	47.07	7.550	47.37	7.424	-0.554 ^{NS}
NS = Not Significant					

From the table-2 revealed that ‘t’ values do not differ significantly for all the dimensions of decision-making styles based on their area of living among adolescents, and it is overall total. Hence, the hypothesis is not confirmed. It concluded that the area of living does not differ significantly in their decision making styles.

Today's world, influenced by technology for a reason, adolescents get much information, and even adolescents residing in the rural area getting information same with to adolescents living in urban. Readily available information helped them make a decision quickly. Hence, adolescents' decision-making styles do not differ significantly based on their area of living. There are some studies conducted on this dimension among adolescents that similar to the

present finding. One study found that the area of living did not have a significant influence on the decision making of adolescents.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study investigated adolescent decision-making styles. Two hypotheses were addressed. The first hypothesis stated that decision-making styles not differ significantly based on their gender. Further, the second hypothesis of the results showed that decision-making styles did not differ based on their area of living. We are living in the digital era, therefore massive information presented to adolescents by the digital world. As well, we are all connected by technology. Hence, the area of living not significant differences in decision-making styles.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

The strengths of our study were to understand the decision making styles of adolescents. The researcher was able to gain a more accurate and valuable image of adolescents' decision making styles. Most notably, present research allowed us to study how gender, area of living factors were linked with adolescent decision making styles. We should accept our limitations, including our focus only on their decision making styles. By using cross-cultural, longitudinal methods we will better understand changes in adolescents' decision making styles. Future research should focus on how adolescent decision-making styles are connected to other psychological variables.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study suggest that gender, and area of living linked to adolescents decision making styles. The results provide an empirical framework to perceive the adolescents' decision making styles. It helps them to require healthy decision-making styles throughout their day to day activities. We were able to gain a more accurate understating of adolescents' decision making styles and also can construct for intervention program based on the outcomes.

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