



ATTITUDE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS ON THEIR DECISION-MAKING SKILL

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Abstract:

Decision making in today's turbulent times, in the era of globalization and modernization, in the time of rapidly changing society and ever-increasing competition, has increasing importance and value. Individuals direct their lives with the choices they make, and life is lived according to those choices. Considering that the decision-making skill is essentially the behavior of choice, it can be said that this skill directs the person's life and is effective throughout her/his life. Considering that the essence of the decision is choice, the decision-making skill covering a certain process is of great importance as it is effective in the whole life. In the present study the comparison is made on the basis of gender of the students on their attitude towards their decision-making skills. The results of the survey depicted that Female students from Senior College had a higher attitude towards their decision-making skills when compared to Junior college Female students. Overall gender did not affect the decision-making ability among students

Keywords: *Decision making , college students , Junior college , Degree college.*

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Introduction:

Decision making is said to be one of the most important life skills at all stages in life. Decision making process includes majorly learning (Sporles,1990). A perfect decision-making skill requires abstract thinking from various alternatives which a student's who joins colleges fails to have at start due to lack of educational training in decision making prior to entering the college (Baxter Magolda,1988). Involving students in decision making have great impact on their educational academic performance. It is necessary to study their involvement in the institutes decision system (Mati and Gautamu and Chandi,2016). Students who lack in skill of decision-making face major difficulties in making decisions. A number of studies have proved that decision making regarding career is related with the environmental factors and character of an individual. Decision making process majorly include to identify and to evaluate choices. On daily basis we tend to make various decision in our lives, these decisions can also be classified into different types. Types of decisions we make in our day to day includes routine decision, impulsive decision and reasoned decision. Perfect decision-making skill of a person is seen how good he is at identify, comprehending and integrating information (Fischhoff,2008). Today's college students are tomorrow's leading authority. It is utmost important to inculcate this skill in college students as decision making is important skill in life. It is essential important for management and leadership. Development of decision making and problem-solving skill includes the learning process and influence of past experience. Both learning style and decision-making style are related to cognition (Moorthi.S,2018). Participation of teacher in decision making gives the administration opportunity to know the critical problems of students in educational sector (Symlie,1992). Participation of students in decision making helps teachers to become active participant in the management of institutions also participation gives teacher the opportunity to develop their



professional decision-making skill (Wadesango and Bayaga,2012). The reason for choosing this variable for research is to know the difference of the Junior college and Senior college decision making skill. Also, as per the study, the convenient measures can be issued in the interests of students.

Decision making skill if used as an educational tool helps to take better decisions and solve problem on the particular situation effectively. Decision making skill is used to discuss the programming of decision making, problem solving and also get to know how to make proper decision. One of the most important qualities that is seen in the college graduate while recruiting is skill of decision making and problem solving. This decision-making study will help us to enlighten the nature of decision-making skills among college students.

Review of Literature:

Decision making is an important life skill at all stages in life. More importantly learning is the part of decision-making process (Sproles, 1990). Use of decision-making skills as an educational tool to better solve problems and take decisions on particular situations. This study will enlighten the nature of decision-making skills among college students.

A review of literature demonstrates that students from junior college level may not good as compared to the students from degree colleges in decision making and problem solving. A student's evolution of decision-making skill invades the process of learning and influenced by past years of experience. Sproles (1990) have found that secondary students are more sensitive in taking decisions as compared to the students from degree colleges. Numerous factors can affect a student's decision in pursuing a career. David Cababaro have found that families and friends are the biggest influences in student choice of school and degree program. They usually tend to make decisions considering the point of view of parents and friends. Even with the ample number of influences about choosing a program, a student normally decides on his own because except him no one else will going to benefit the decision other than the student himself (Bueno, 2019). According to Rabacal, Graduate school students have been greatly invaded in the decision-making undertakings of the College. He realized that this clearly demonstrates that there is the link for educational leadership among the students. The findings of this study have an ample number of implications for educational leadership (Rabacal, 2018). The students of degree college are more experience and have been through more years as compared to junior college students. Students are the assets of our country and they are the tomorrows future and they should be very smart while taking an important decision of their life, because without making decisions they won't get progress and triumphs in their life. They should know how to make decisions meticulously not only related to career but also every aspect of life. Gender's untruthful belief demonstrate that men and women are fundamentally different , even from different planets (Gray, 1992). Women is being accepted in an 'intuitive' way and men is being accepted in rational way. Nevertheless, research investigating gender differences in reports of being intuitive and rational decision making styles mixed results. The women who are undergraduates are more likely than men to report intuitive styles (Sadler-Smith, 2011). Using mood induction people were asked to demonstrate their feeling about winning and loosing a competition, women reported using more intuition and men reported using mire reason (Sinclair, Ashkansay & Chattopadhyay, 2010). Nevertheless studies are being assessed general decision making styles in age versatile and diverse samples do not find particular and significant gender differences (Barcode et al, 2009, Loo, 2000 , Spicer & Sadler-Smith 2005). In career decision, women are more involved than men relying upon others (Phillips, Patience, & Ferrin , 1984). In addition, women are more willing to get support compared to men (Tamres, Janicki, & Helegeson, 2002 , Thoits, 1991). Jointly, this research suggests that women is more likely than men to report using interpersonally oriented decision making style.

Methodology, Tool and Sample of the Study:

A descriptive survey methodology was carried out to study the attitude of junior college and senior college students toward the decision making skill. For data collection the convenient sampling technique was used. In the present study the standardized questionnaire was used for data collection which is designed by Scott and Bruce,1995. The questionnaire consisted of 25 items. The collected data was scored on the 5-point rating scale starting from Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. For the purpose of this present study the sample size selected was 133 college going students. Out of which 98 were Female students whereas 35 were male students. 76 students were from Junior College and 57% students were from Degree College. The table 1.1 below represents the sample size.

Table 1.1: Sample Size of The Present Study

	Number	Percentage (%)
Females	98	74
Males	35	26
Junior College Students	75	56.39
Degree College Students	58	43.61

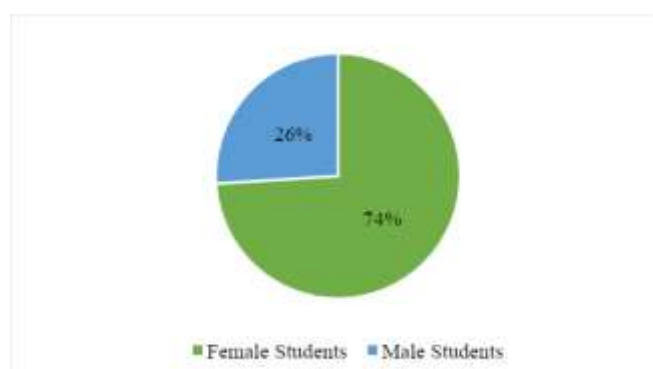


Figure 1.1: Pie Chart representing Sample Size of the Present Study based on Gender

Figure 1.1 Represents the male and female distribution of the students. The Males represent 26% whereas the Females represent 74%.

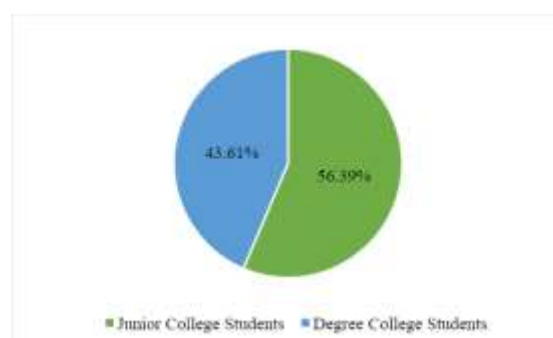


Figure 1.2: Sample Size based on Junior College and Degree College Students



Figure 1.2 Depicts the pie chart representing the sample of the study. Out of total college students 56.39 % were from Junior College and 43.61 % were from Degree College.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study:

The proposed study was conducted and the data was collected from the college going students. Data from school students was not considered. Teachers and management were not taken into consideration. The study took into consideration the attitude of decision making among college students. The role that genders plays in decision making was taken into consideration in the present study. A descriptive survey method was adopted. Other methods like observation, interview, and study were not carried out. Factors affecting decision making such as home environment, family structure, and other cognitive variables were not considered. Colleges from urban areas were considered rural area colleges were not. Students of junior and degree college were taken only and those of students belonging to diploma and integrated courses were not considered.

Hypothesis Testing and Interpretation of Data:

1. There is no significant difference in the attitude of the college students towards their decision-making skills.
2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of Male and Female college students towards their decision-making skills.
3. There is no significant difference among students of junior and degree college towards their decision-making skills.

Table 1.2: Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis.
No. of students.	133	85.84	87	90	7.59	-0.13	-0.23

The above table shows relevant descriptive statistical representation of the present study for hypothesis 1.

Hypothesis 1: For the present study the Mean of college students is found to be 85.84, Median is found to be 87 and the Mode is found to be 90. Standard Deviation was found to be 7.59. The value of Mean, Median and Mode are in ascending order therefore the data is Negatively Skewed. The Skewness is found to be -0.13. Kurtosis is found to be -0.23 which is Platykurtic.

Table 1.3: Relevant Inferential Analysis

	Number	Mean	t value	p value	LoS
Male Students	35	85.48	0.39	0.69	NS
Female Students	98	85.95			
Junior College	75	85.65	0.34	0.73	NS
Degree College	58	86.10			

Hypothesis 2: The t value of Male and Female College Going Students was found to be 0.39. The p value was found to be as 0.69 which is greater than 0.01 and 0.05, thus it is not significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant difference in the attitude of Male and Female college students towards their decision-making skills.

Hypothesis 3: The t value of Junior and Degree College Going Students was found to be 0.34. The p value was found to be as 0.73 which is greater than 0.01 and 0.05, thus it is not significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant difference in the attitude of Junior and Degree college students towards their decision-making skills.

**Discussion and Conclusion:**

The present study reported that gender and age had no role to play in determining decision making skills among college going students. Decision making is one of the most important skills in life and career. Problem solving involves decision making and decision making invades leadership. Numerous factors affect a student's decision making skill. Students are the asset of our country and also tomorrows future, it is essential for them to have high quality decision making skill. India is a developing country ,improving the decision making skill of youth is definitely contribute to the development of our country.

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