POLITICAL INTEREST AND SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE AMONG UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE DISCIPLINES

Sarath Chandran R1, and Dr. Issac Paul2
1Research scholar, Department of education, University of Kerala, India
2Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce Education, Govt. College of Teacher Education, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Abstract

Political interest is the main component of political motivation, a variable indicating ability in ideological conceptualization, which is essential for participation in the democratic process. Social intelligence is one of the very impotent aspects of the political interest. The aim of the study to find out the relationship between political interest and social intelligence among under graduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines. The population of this study was composed of under graduate students in Kerala. Stratified random sampling adopted for the study. Total 300 under graduate students selected as a sample for the study. The data analysis was done using ANOVA and Carl Pearson’s product moment correlation. This study reported that there is significant relationship between political interest and social intelligence among under graduate students in Kerala.

Keywords: Political interest, social intelligence and undergraduate students

I. Introduction

Politics is the process of making decisions that apply to members of a group. It refers to achieving and exercise positions of governance-organized control over a human community, particularly a state. In modern nation states, people have formed political parties to represent their ideas. They agree to take the same position on many issues, and agree to support the same changes to law and the same leaders. Participation in politics trains a student to be a good citizen. It gives him training in the democratic way of life. Those who grows into a responsible and cultured citizen he/she is an asset to the nation. It creates a sense of patriotism. As a leader in the making, he develops such qualities as courage, sincerity of purpose, a spirit of service, sympathy for the fellow men, self discipline and a devotion to duty.
In the current scenario towards politics, both International, perhaps few other words of frequent use are as confusing, abused and misunderstood as secularism. The west is believed to be cradle of this concept. But, as we shall see soon, in the western dictionaries secularism is described as something opposed to religion, as something which has nothing to do with god or with anything super-natural or transcendental.

Moss and Hunt (1927) defined social intelligence as the "ability to get along with others" (p. 108). Vernon (1933) provided the most wide-ranging definition of social intelligence as the "ability to get along with people in general, social technique or ease in society, knowledge of social matters, and susceptibility to stimuli from other members of a group, as well as insight into the temporary moods or underlying personality traits of strangers". In this study the investigator tries to find out the relationship between the political interest and social intelligence among undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.

1.1 Review of Related studies

The term social intelligence was first used by Dewey (1909) and Lull (1911), but the modern concept has its origins in E. L. Thorndike's (1920) division of intelligence into three facets pertaining to the ability to understand and manage ideas (abstract intelligence), concrete objects (mechanical intelligence), and people (social intelligence). In Thorndike's classic formulation: "By social intelligence is meant the ability to understand and manage men and women, boys and girls - to act wisely in human relations" (Kihlstrom, J. F. and Cantor, N., 2011).

Thorndike (1920) in his definition decided to use the two-factor structure for defining social intelligence and within this structure he distinguishes between the cognitive elements (understanding other people) and the behavioral elements (wise behavior in interpersonal relationships) of social intelligence. Marlowe (1986) defines social intelligence similarly. He sees it as an ability to understand others and their social interactions and apply this knowledge in leading and influencing other people for their mutual satisfaction. Considering these concepts it is obvious that social intelligence is a real individual characteristic specified mostly in a positive way in both ethical and pro-social contexts. The existence of social intelligence is supported also by the opinion of Gardner (1983), according to which it is impossible to consider only a single intelligence but contrarily it is necessary to specify the individual types of intelligence. In this sense Orosová and Gajdošová (2009) point out the ability of a person to understand feelings, thinking and behavior of other people as well as their own and based on this understanding to behave accordingly. If the level of these human abilities is low it may cause problems in social relationships. Developing socially intelligent behavior of an individual assumes improvement in self-reflection, reflection of social processes, reflection of the subjective sense and interpretation of behavior, and training social skills.

Singleton (1967) studied political interest among students of southern state college. The study was undertaken to determine and evaluate political interest of south eastern state college
students. Journell (2011) conducted a study on teaching politics in secondary education: analysing instructional methods from 2008 presidential election. Kate (2008) studied on politics, media and youth: understanding political socialization via video production in secondary schools. Poonia, (2018) conducted a study titled “A study of political Interest senior secondary school student Fattehabad district”. The aim knowledge of politics of the study to investigate the knowledge of politics and political issues among senior secondary students. Sasikala, (2017) conducted a study titled “Does Location Difference determines political Interest”. This study aims at investigating how far the college students are politically aware as future citizens and whether there exists any difference among them with regard to location. Arens, (2017) conducted a study on political efficacy in Adolescence: Development, Gender differences and outcome relations. This study focuses on political efficacy in terms of students competence self perceptions related to the domain of politics. Lot of studies conducted all over the world regarding the political interest among school students while the investigator observed that a research gap regarding the relationship between political interest and social intelligence and hence present paper discusses that the relationship between political interest and social intelligence among under graduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The present study is undertaken to find out the relationship between political interest and social intelligence among under graduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines. Hence this study is entitled as political interest and social intelligence among under graduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.

1.3 Hypotheses of the study

1. There is significant difference in the mean scores of political interest among undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.
2. There is significant relationship between political interest and social intelligence among undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.

1.4 Objectives of the study

1. To find out the level of political interest among undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.
2. To find out the level of social intelligence among undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.
3. To compare the political interest among undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.
4. To find out whether there exist any relationship between political interest and social intelligence among undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.
2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Method
In this study the investigator tried to find out the relationship between political interest and social intelligence among under graduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines. Hence the investigator chosen survey method for this study.

2.2 Variables
2.2.1 Independent Variable
Political interest is the independent variable

2.2.2 Dependent Variable
Social intelligence is the dependent variable

2.3 Population
In this study, the whole undergraduate students in arts, science and commerce disciplines.

2.4 Sample
The sample consists of 300 under graduate students from various districts in Kerala

2.5 Tools used for the study
The following tools employed in this study.
4.5.1 Political Interest Scale (adopted from Martin George, 2019)
4.5.2 Social intelligence scale (TSIS-Tromso Social Intelligence Scale by Silvera, Martinussen, & Dahl, 2001)

2.6 Statistical techniques adopted
- ANOVA
- Carl Pearson’s product moment correlation

3. Results
Table 1. Level of Political Interest among under graduate students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Political Interest</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>71.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>18.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table it is clear that 10.33% of under graduate students have low level of Political Interest. 71.33% of under graduate students have medium level of Political Interest. 18.33% of under graduate students have high level of Political Interest.
Figure 1. Level of Political Interest among under graduate students

Table 2. Level of Social intelligence among under graduate students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Social intelligence</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>18.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>14.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table it is clear that 18.33% of under graduate students have low level of Social intelligence. 67% of under graduate students have medium level of Social intelligence. 14.67% of under graduate students have high level of Social intelligence.

Figure 2. Level of Social intelligence among under graduate students

Table 3. ANOVA for political interest among under graduate students based on the stream of study
Calculated value of $F = 430.002$ and is significant at 0.01 level. To find which streams differ significantly Scheffe’s post hoc test is used.

**Table 4. Scheffe’s post hoc test for political interest among under graduate students based on the stream of study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(I) stream</th>
<th>(J) stream</th>
<th>Mean Difference (I-J)</th>
<th>Std. Error</th>
<th>Level of significance</th>
<th>95% Interval</th>
<th>Confidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>-2.545</td>
<td>0.175</td>
<td>P&lt;0.01</td>
<td>-2.98</td>
<td>-2.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>-4.995</td>
<td>0.170</td>
<td>P&lt;0.01</td>
<td>-5.41</td>
<td>-4.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>-2.450</td>
<td>0.179</td>
<td>P&lt;0.01</td>
<td>-2.89</td>
<td>-2.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table the following inferences are drawn.

1. Students of commerce and science streams differ significantly in their political interest. Commerce stream students have significantly high political interest compared to science stream students.
2. Students of arts and science streams differ significantly in their political interest. Arts stream students have significantly high political interest compared to science stream students.
3. Students of arts and commerce streams differ significantly in their political interest. Arts stream students have significantly high political interest compared to commerce stream students.

**Tenability of hypothesis**

ANOVA for political interest among under graduate students based on the stream of study revealed that there is significant difference among under graduate students in their political
interest based on stream of study. Hence the null hypothesis formulated in this context is rejected.

### Table 5. Correlation between Political Interest and Social Intelligence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>Coefficient of correlation (r)</th>
<th>Level of significance</th>
<th>SEr</th>
<th>95% CI Lower</th>
<th>95% CI Upper</th>
<th>Shared variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>34.28</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>79.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The calculated value of r = 0.89 and is significant at 0.01 level. (r = 0.89; \( p<0.01 \)). Hence it can be concluded that there is significant positive relationship between Political Interest and Social Intelligence. The value of shared variance is obtained as 79.77. This means that 79.77% of the variance in one variable can be explained by the other variable.

### Tenability of hypothesis

The test of significance of relationship between Political Interest and Social Intelligence revealed that there is significant relationship between Political Interest and Social Intelligence. Hence the null hypothesis formulated in this context is rejected.

![Figure 3. Scatter plot of Political Interest and Social Intelligence](image)

### Table 6. ANOVA for social intelligence among undergraduate students based on the stream of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of variation</th>
<th>Sum of Squares</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Level of significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between Groups</td>
<td>3682.737</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1841.369</td>
<td>544.784</td>
<td>P&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Within Groups 1003.859 297 3.380

Total 4686.597 299

Calculated value of \( F = 544.784 \) and is significant at 0.01 level. To find which streams differ significantly Scheffe’s post hoc test is used.

**Table 7. Scheffe’s post hoc test for social intelligence among under graduate students based on the stream of study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(I) stream</th>
<th>(J) stream</th>
<th>Mean Difference (I-J)</th>
<th>Standard Error</th>
<th>Level of significance 95% Confidence Interval</th>
<th>Confidence Lower Bound</th>
<th>Confidence Upper Bound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>-4.296</td>
<td>0.261</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>-4.94</td>
<td>-3.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>-8.378</td>
<td>0.254</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>-9.00</td>
<td>-7.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>-4.082</td>
<td>0.267</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>-4.74</td>
<td>-3.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table the following inferences are drawn.

1. Students of commerce and science streams differ significantly in their social intelligence at 0.01 level. Commerce stream students have significantly high social intelligence compared to science stream students.
2. Students of arts and science streams differ significantly in their social intelligence at 0.01 level. Arts stream students have significantly high social intelligence compared to science stream students.
3. Students of arts and commerce streams differ significantly in their social intelligence at 0.01 levels. Arts stream students have significantly high social intelligence compared to commerce stream students.

**4. Discussion and Conclusion**

The present study revealed that the 71.33%, 18.33% and 10.33 percentage of undergraduate students shows medium, high and low level of political interest respectively. At the same time 67%, 14.67% and 18.33 percentage of undergraduate students shows medium, high and low level of social intelligence respectively. This study also shows that the relationship between the political interest and social intelligence among undergraduate students in Arts, Commerce and Science disciplines. Commerce and arts stream students have significantly high political interest compared to science stream students. At the same time Arts stream students have significantly high political interest compared to commerce stream students. In addition, the
test of significance of relationship between Political Interest and social intelligence revealed that there is significant positive relationship between Political Interest and social intelligence.

5. Educational Implications of the study
This study helps to find out the relationship between political interest and social intelligence among undergraduate students in Kerala. This study shows the positive relationship between political interest and social intelligence. Many private institutions don’t allow the students politics inside the campus as the part of the maintaining of disciplines. Also they think that student politics will be the reason of the deterioration of academic achievement. However the institutions should be allowing the students politics for the development of social intelligence and leadership quality.

6. References