

A comparative study of superstition in urban and rural areas

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ABSTRACT

The term Superstition denotes the propensity to express the one's behaviour with an irrational and mysterious fear or to gain privilege from supernatural power. Superstitious persons are usually recognized ignorant having no education. But, in India educated people have also been observed following such beliefs that may be considered superstitious. The researcher studies 60 throws light on respondents in H.N.B University, each comprising of 30 students (Arts & Science) from rural & urban areas. The mean value in urban of superstitious persons of arts is obtained 48.27 and S.D is 12.46. Whereas, the mean value in urban area of science is obtained 55.80 and S.D. is 13.56. The t-value is reported as 1.629, which is found significant and close to 0.05. Therefore, we do not have enough evidence to prove that there is no significant difference of superstitious among Arts & Science students in Urban Area. The mean value of rural area for arts is obtained 54.60 and S.D. is 12.861 whereas, the mean value for science is obtained 45.13 and S.D. is 10.035. The t value is reported 2.14 which is not close to significant value. Therefore, we have enough evidence to prove that there is no significant difference of Superstitious among Arts & Science students in rural area. The researcher found that in urban area, arts students are more superstitious than science students.

Keywords: Rural, Urban, Superstition, arts, Science

Superstition is any belief or practice based upon one's trust in luck or other unscientific, irrational or supernatural forces (Merriam Webster). Often, it arises from misunderstanding of science or causality, a belief in fate or magic, or fear of that which is unknown. It is generally applied to beliefs and practices surrounding prophecy, luck and certain spiritual beings, particularly the belief that future events can be foretold by specific (apparently) unrelated prior events. The word superstition is often used to refer to a religion not practiced by the majority of a given society regardless of whether the prevailing religion contains alleged superstitions (Vyse, 2000).

Superstition is a deviation of religious feeling and of the practices this feeling imposes. It can even affect the worship we offer the true God, e.g., when one attributes an importance in some way magical to certain practices otherwise lawful or necessary. To attribute the efficacy of prayers or of sacramental signs to their mere external performance, apart from

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the interior dispositions that they demand is to fall into superstition (Matthew). Superstitions are usually attributed to a lack of education. But, in India educated people have also been observed following beliefs that may be considered superstitious (The Telegraph, 2012). According to the 2011 census, the literacy rate in India was at 74% (Live Mint, 2011). The beliefs and practices vary from region to region, with many regions having their own specific beliefs. The practices may range from harmless lemon-and-chilli totems for warding off evil eye to serious concerns like witch-burning (BBC News, 2003).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Anning Hu (2015) examined how deductive adaptation and scientific knowledge interact with people's this-worldly adapt superstition by presenting a case study of school teenage in urban China. Experimental results show that both scientific orientation and scientific knowledge have a significantly negative effect on superstition and their effects are independent from each other.

Ter Keurst (2015) investigates that to what extent is the home a source of belief and disbeliefs in superstitions. The result shows that the individual sources of superstitious beliefs, the social and educational factors that contribute towards the learning and unlearning of unfounded ideas.

Saenko (2014) discovered the superstitions of today's college students. The study shows that student superstitious beliefs frequently connected with their final exams and they feel these beliefs protect those negative feelings. That shows superstitions beliefs play an important role in student's life.

Wiseman (2003) conducted a study a ten-year scientific study into the nature of luck has revealed that, to a large extent, people make their own good and bad fortune. The results also show that it is possible to enhance the amount of luck that people encounter in their lives.

METHODOLOGY

Objective

To assess the superstition in Arts and Science students from Urban & Rural areas.

Hypotheses

- 1) Difference of superstitious beliefs among Arts & Science Students in Urban Area.
H₀: (No Significant difference)
H₁: (There is a significant difference)
- 2) Difference of superstitious beliefs among Arts & Science Students in Rural Area.
H₀: (No Significant difference)
H₁: (There is a significant difference)

Variables:

Independent variable: superstition.

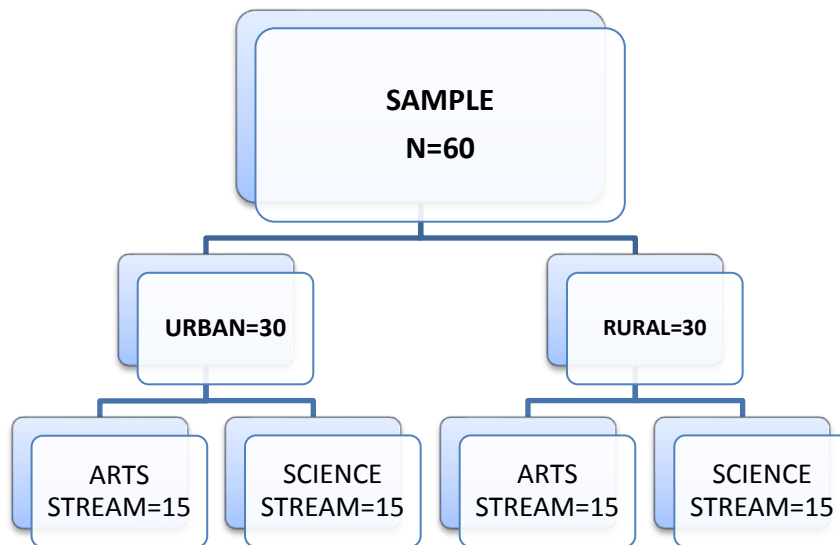
Dependent variable: urban, rural arts and science.

Sample

The researcher has applied Stratified Random Sampling to collect the sample. The researcher has collected sample from Rural & Urban areas. The study comprises 60

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respondents from HNB University Garhwal, each group consisting 30 respondents from urban & rural areas. From urban & rural each 15 respondents were selected from Arts and Science.



Tools

Superstition Scale developed by L. N. Dubey (Jabalpur) and B.M. Dixit (Agra). There are 40 statements in the scale. Each statement has 3 alternative answers. The subject has to select only one answer. The answer showing higher degree towards superstition has been awarded 3 marks, answer showing lower degree has been awarded 2 marks and the answer showing zero degree of superstition has been awarded 1 mark.

RESULTS:

The data was processed using the statistical technique of mean, SD and t-test.

Table-1 Mean and Standard Deviation of arts & Science Students in Urban Area.

Urban	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	Df	Sign. Value
Arts	15	48.27	12.46	1.629	14	0.126
Science	15	55.80	13.56			

Table-1 shows the *t*-value for superstitious among urban and rural students. The mean for superstitious of arts is obtained 48.27 and S.D is 12.46. Whereas, the mean value for science is obtained 55.80 and S.D. is 13.56. The *t*-value is reported 1.629 which is found significant at 0.05, level of significance. Therefore, we do not have enough evidence to prove that there is no significant difference of Superstitious persons among Arts & Science students in Urban Area.

Hence the Null Hypothesis has been rejected.

Table-2 Mean and Standard Deviation of arts & Science Students in Rural Area.

Rural	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	Df	Sign. Value
Arts	15	54.60	12.861	2.14	14	.050
Science	15	45.13	10.035			

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Table-2 shows the *t* value of superstition in rural area (arts and science). The mean value for arts is obtained 54.60 and S.D. is 12.861. Whereas, the mean value for science is obtained 45.13 and S.D. is 10.035. The *t* value is reported 2.14 which is not near about significant. Therefore, we have enough evidence to prove that there is no significant difference of Superstitious among Arts & Science students in rural area.

Hence the Null Hypothesis has been accepted.

CONCLUSION

The researcher has found that the people in rural areas are more superstitious than in urban areas. The researcher found that both arts & science students in rural areas believe in superstition and they do not carry any difference regarding superstition. Whereas, the students from urban areas have different approach regarding superstition. The researcher found that in urban area arts students are more superstitious than science students.

Limitations

1. The larger sample could have been employed to get a clear picture of the variable studied.
2. A more detailed knowledge of superstition is not available on the area study.
3. The more psychological instruments should have been used to acquire a deep knowledge of the respondent's behaviour.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

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