

A study of risk taking behaviour among secondary and higher secondary school students

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ABSTRACT

Aim of the research is to find out the Risk Taking Behaviour among students of secondary and higher secondary schools. Investigator selected 240 subjects for this study, subtracting the subject with incomplete information. 120 from urban area and 120 Rural areas' school students has selected, in every group 60 student from secondary and 60 from higher secondary school in which 30 male students and 30 female students has selected. Samples were taken from schools of Surat district, Urban - rural area. For Data collection "Personal Data Sheet" and "Risk Taking Behaviour Scale" developed by Subhas Sarkar (2017), 2 x 2 x 2 factorial Design was used and data were analysis by F test. Results show the followings: 1. Gender had significant Impact on RTB, male students have average level of RTB whereas female students have below average. 2. There was no significant impact on Risk taking behaviour between Urban area and Rural area, 3. Types of school had Impact on RTB Secondary school student have average level of RTB whereas higher secondary school student has below average level of Risk Taking behaviour. 4. Gender, Area, and Types of school had no significant Interactive effect on RTB.

Keywords: Risk Taking Behaviour (RTB), Urban- Rural, Male-female, Secondary-Higher secondary, Schools students

Life is risky and sometimes scary, it does not guarantee anything. By nature, if someone is not good in some tasks, there are few matters that make him or her happy about taking risk and the belief of doing the same tasks. Speedy or slowly, sometimes or regularly the times come when in each and everybody's life, one has to select a way that involve risk.

Risk taking- risk is an integral part of life, is a part of growing up. "Any consciously or unconsciously controlled behaviour with a perceived uncertainly outcome about possible benefits or cost for the physical, economic or psycho social well-being of own or others." (Trimpop, 1992).

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The Risk Taking Behaviour can also be defined as “The implemented decision in which the outcome is not guaranteed, may get possible benefit or may lose physically, economically, socially, mentally”.

For growth and development, learning is the most essential criteria for many different areas and this learning requires a very good number of risks. We can take an example of a baby who cannot learn walking without taking risk. We cannot learn cooking without taking risk. We cannot learn driving or swimming without taking risk. People cannot enter in any area without taking risk means “Risk is there in every area of life and since birth we take risk in every area hence, we all do have adventurous nature”.

Beginning at age 14, adolescents are entering the developmental period of the highest risk for many social problems. The most common concerns for adolescents are being involved in dangerous activities, gangsters, smoking, drug abuse, physical fighting, and stealing.

There is a lot of literature available discussing about risk taking behaviour and its associated factors among adolescents from different aspects, worldwide. Risk taking behaviour is on the rise all over the world. This is surprising considering the significant allocation of government resources and efforts that have been spent to provide proper information to these adolescents, related to the consequences of the risk activities. Risk taking behaviour among adolescents has a negative impact on the psychological well-being of adult life.

There are two extremes to which the individuals are fighting against, when it comes to risk taking behaviour. Some people are afraid of taking even logical as well as rational risks and they want guarantee in result, whereas, some are different, they take risks easily, holding belief that it will make them brave. But, taking major risks without thinking, is foolishness, dreams of such students are often breaking.

METHODOLOGY

Objectives

1. To study of Risk Taking Behaviour among male and female school students.
2. To study of Risk Taking Behaviour among Urban and Rural areas' of school students.
3. To study of Risk Taking Behaviour among Secondary and Higher secondary school students.
4. To study of the effect of Interaction on Risk Taking Behaviour among the Gender, Area, and Types of school.

Hypothesis

1. There is no significant mean difference of Risk Taking Behaviour among male and female school students.
2. There is no significant mean difference of Risk Taking Behaviour among rural and urban area of school students.
3. There is no significant mean difference of Risk Taking Behaviour among secondary and higher secondary school students.
4. There is no mean significant interactive effect of Risk Taking Behaviour among school students of gender, areas and types of schools.

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Samples

Sample selected at Surat District For the purpose of the study. 240 subjects were selected for this study, 120 from urban area and 120 Rural areas' school students were selected, in group 60 students from secondary and 60 from higher secondary school in which 30 male students and 30 female students were selected.

Research Design

This research was adopted 2x2x2 factorial design with 2 type's gender (male and female), two type's area (urban and rural) and secondary-higher secondary schools.

Limitations of Study

1. Secondary and higher secondary school students are included in this research, hence, results are not applicable to other institutes like pre-primary, primary school as well as college and university students.
2. Surat city and rural areas of Surat district are included, hence, results are not applicable to whole state and Indian rural and urban cities.
3. Male and female gender students, hence, results are not applicable to third gender. The students included, were physically and mentally healthy; hence, results are not applicable to mentally or physically challenged students.

Tools used

The following tools were used in the present research work.

1. **Personal Data Sheet:** A personal data sheet was developed by investigator and the same was used to collect information about Area (Urban / Rural), School Name, Standard, Name of Student, Gender (male/female), Age, Types of family (Nuclear / Joint), Fathers Name, Father's Education, Mother's Name, Mother's Education, Annual Income of The Family.
2. **Risk Taking Scale (R.T.S -2017) by Subhas Sarkar**
 - 15 situations are given in this scale, there are six dimensions and these are:
 - Academic related risk taking
 - Financial related risk taking
 - Profession related risk taking
 - Games and sports related risk taking
 - Adventure related risk taking
 - Health related risk taking.

Reliability

For, the total scale as well as Dimension-wise, Reliability was calculated by Test Retest Method.

For, the purpose of reliability a separate randomly selected sample of 100 male+ female in the age range of 14 years to 30 years. This scale was administrated on this sample twice with a time gap of 15 days.

Validity

1. The validity of the risk taking behaviour scale was estimated on two levels.
2. Expert opinion, where experts had 100% agreement on the selection of the situations. Thus, the scale has the face validity.

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- Item Analysis on which basis further analysis of the situations of the scale was done and the final draft of the scale was selected. As such, the scale has internal consistency and could be accepted as a valid tool.

Statistical Analysis

ANOVA Applied in the analysis of statistical Techniques.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Risk taking Behaviour with respect to Gender, Area and Types of School.

The Motive of the study was to understand the level of Risk Taking Behaviour in both Genders of students from Rural and Urban areas of secondary as well as higher secondary schools. In this regards, 4 H-zero statement (no. 1 to 4) were created for study purpose $2 \times 2 \times 2$ factorial, three-way ANOVA statistical analysis tool was used. Derived Results are presented here in table.

Table -1 Difference between mean score of overall Risk taking with reference to Gender, Area, and Types of School. (N=240), (n=30x4)

Independent Variable	n	Mean	Difference between Mean
Male	120	33.48	4.75
Female	120	28.73	
Urban	120	30.77	0.66
Rural	120	31.43	
Secondary School	120	32.56	2.93
Higher Secondary School	120	29.63	

Table-2 ANOVA summary of overall Risk Taking with reference to Gender, Area and Types of School.

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	DF	Mean Sum of Squares	F	Sig. Level
GENDER	1353.750	1	1353.750	20.405	0.01**
AREA	26.667	1	26.667	0.402	NS
SCHOOL	522.150	1	522.150	7.870	0.01**
GENDER * AREA * SCHOOL	147.267	1	147.267	2.220	NS
Error	15392.067	232	66.345		
SST	18483.600	239			

**calculate value > 0.01, NS = Not Significant

Risk taking with reference to Gender

H₀1: There is no significant mean difference of Risk Taking Behaviour among male and female school students.

The above null hypothesis formulated by researcher by applying ANOVA test for analyzing the level of risk taking on both genders. The result was found of risk taking behavior, mean score of male students is 33.48 and risk-taking mean score of female students is 28.73. The mean difference of both the genders is 4.75. Here, we can observe the mean sum of square values is 1353.750 as well as 'F' value is 20.405 which is statistically significant at 0.01 level, hence, hypothesis was rejected. It was concluded that there is significant mean difference of Risk Taking among male and female school students.

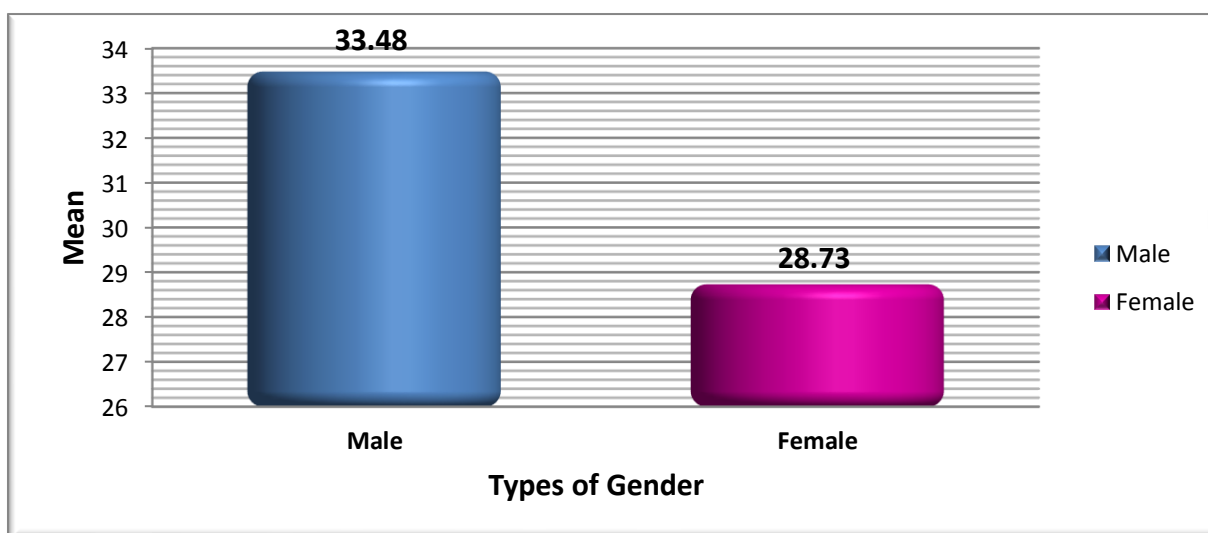
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Past Study Research on, “Risk perception and Risk Taking Behaviour during adolescence: the Influence of Personality and Gender” was done by Laura Murphy found male and female participants did not significantly differ in age as self-reported levels of sensitivity to reward and impulsiveness but males perceived behavior as less risky, took more risks, here, less sensitive to negative out comes and less socially anxious than female participants. The above research study by Laura Murphy supports this present research work “male participants take more risk than female participants.

Graph No. 1 Bar Chart Showing the Mean Scores of both the genders: Male and Female on Risk Taking Behaviour

X = Type of Gender, (Male, Female)

Y = 1 CM = 1 Mean Score



Here, Bar Chart shows (Graph No. 1) Mean Score of Gender Risk Taking Behaviour. Male students have higher risk taking behavior than female students.

Risk Taking Behaviour with reference to Area

H₀₂: There is no significant mean difference of Risk Taking Behaviour among Rural and Urban area of school students.

‘F’ test was used to check the impact of risk taking behavior of rural and urban area students. Mean values are 30.77 and 31.43 for students from urban and rural areas respectively. Both the scores are at average level of RTB scale and the mean difference of the scores is 0.66. The value of mean sum of square is 26.667 and ‘F’ value is 0.402 that was statistically not significant. Here, H₀₂ is accepted. There was no significant impact of students from rural and students from urban area in the variable of risk taking behavior.

Risk Taking Behaviour with reference to types of school

H₀₃: There is no significant mean difference of Risk Taking Behaviour among secondary and higher secondary school students.

‘F’ test was used to study the level of risk taking behavior with reference to secondary school and higher secondary school. The mean score of secondary school students is 32.56 whereas the mean score of higher secondary school students is 29.63. The mean score difference is 2.93 which is remarkable. The mean sum of square value is 522.150 and ‘F’ value is 7.870 which is statistically significant at level 0.01. Here, hypothesis H₀₃ is not maintained. Some significant impact of risk taking behaviour in secondary and higher

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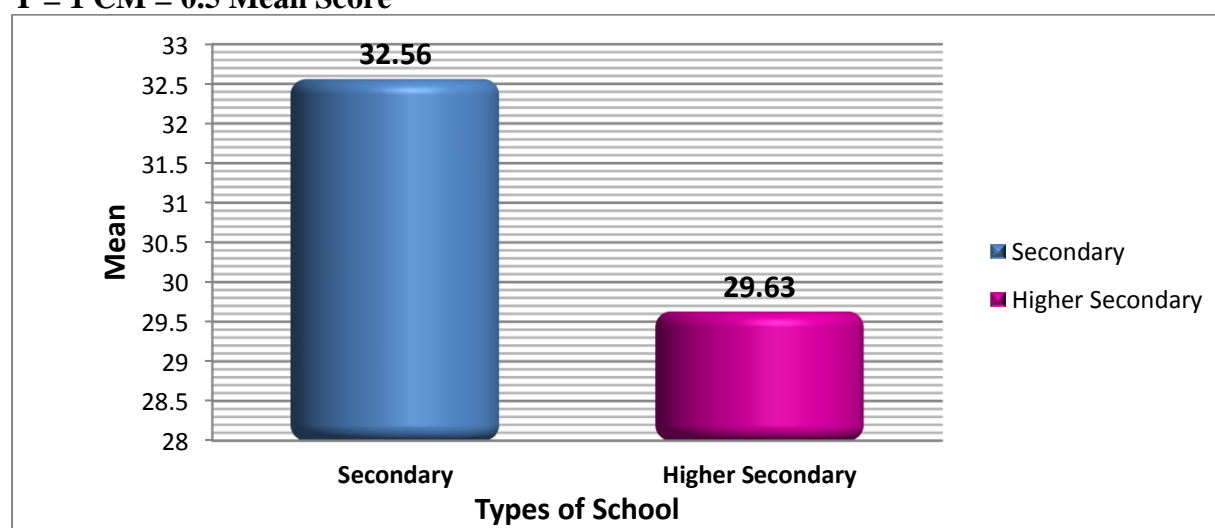
secondary school students is observed. Students of secondary schools have higher risk taking behavior than higher secondary schools students.

The cause of the above difference may be the level of understanding and the level of maturity of the students that increase with the time, hence higher secondary school students may show lesser risk taking behavior in comparison to secondary school students who may not have understood the negative impact of their decision. With time, they start understanding it more clearly hence the level of RTB is reducing when the students are in higher secondary schools.

Graph No.2 Bar Chart Showing Mean Score of RTB in Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools

X = Type of School,

Y = 1 CM = 0.5 Mean Score



Students of secondary schools have higher risk taking behavior than higher secondary school students. This can clearly be stated from the above graph.

Risk taking Behaviour with reference to interactive effect of gender, area and type of school

H₀₄: There is no significant interactive effect of Risk Taking Behaviour among school students of gender, area and types of school.

ANOVA (2x2x2) factorial design was used for analyzing the level of risk taking behavior among types of gender, types of area and types of school. The value of mean sum of square is 147.267 and 'F' value is 2.220. Here, the null hypothesis H₀₄ was accepted because 'F' value is statistically not significant. It was judged that there was no interactive effect of male-female genders, urban-rural areas and secondary-higher secondary types of schools.

Implication

Understanding Risk taking level is very important in life as nothing is safe and guaranteed; at every stage of life everybody faces problems, challenges and has to tackle the same with daring up to some extent.

Suggestions

1. Study can be arranged for primary school as well as college and university students.

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2. Study can be arranged at state level instead of district level for the study of rural areas and cities of other districts of the state.
3. Study can be arranged for all physically and mentally healthy students as well as physically challenged students, too.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There is significant mean difference between scores of Risk Taking Behaviour among Male and Female students. The Male students have average level of Risk Taking whereas Female Students has below average.
2. There is no significant mean difference of Risk Taking Behaviour among Rural and Urban areas of school students.
3. There is significant difference between the mean score of Risk Taking with reference to Secondary and Higher Secondary School students. Secondary school students have average level of Risk Taking whereas higher secondary school students have below average level of Risk Taking.
4. There is no significant interactive effect on Risk Taking of Gender, Area and Types of school.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

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