
**MODERNIZATION AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS IN
KASHMIR**

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted on “Modernization among Higher Secondary Students in Kashmir.” **Objectives of the study:** (1) To assess male and female Higher Secondary students on the Level of Modernization. (2) To assess Rural and Urban Higher Secondary students on the Level of Modernization. (2) To compare the level of modernization of male and female Higher Secondary students. (4) To compare the level of modernization of Higher Secondary students of rural and urban areas. **Hypotheses:** (1) There will be a significant difference between male and female Higher Secondary students on the level of Modernization. (2) There will be a significant difference between rural and urban Higher Secondary students on the level of Modernization. **Sample:** The sample for the present investigation comprised of 150 Higher Secondary students studying in Government Higher Secondary schools of District Srinagar and Shopian. **Tool:** R. S. Singh’s Modernization Scale (RSSMS) have been administered on Higher Secondary Students in order to assess the Level of Modernization. The tool has been administered accordance with the instruction provided in the manual of the questionnaire. **Major Findings:** (1) Female Higher Secondary Students have better Modernization than the Male Higher Secondary students. (2) Urban Higher Secondary Students have better Modernization than the Rural Higher Secondary students.

KEYWORDS: Modernization, Higher Secondary, Students, Rural and Urban.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Introduction

Modernization is broadly understood as a process of progressive change characterized by the adoption of modern values, institutions, and technologies. It signifies a shift from traditional patterns of life to more dynamic, rational, and efficient systems. Early theorists such as Daniel Lerner emphasized the role of media, literacy, and urbanization, while Walt W. Rostow conceptualized modernization through linear stages of economic growth.

In the contemporary context, modernization extends beyond industrialization to include digital transformation, globalization, and knowledge-based economies. It is both a structural and cultural phenomenon influencing institutions, attitudes, and patterns of human interaction.

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1. Need for Modernization among Higher Secondary Students

Modernization is essential at the higher secondary stage, as this period marks a critical transition from adolescence to early adulthood. Students at this level must be equipped to respond to rapidly evolving social, technological, and economic environments.

1.1 Academic and Cognitive Development

Modernization promotes critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving abilities. It shifts students from rote memorization to inquiry-based and experiential learning, which is essential for success in higher education.

1.2 Technological Adaptation

With the increasing integration of digital tools in education, students must develop digital literacy and competence. Modernization enables them to effectively use online learning platforms, educational software, and information resources.

1.3 Career Readiness

Higher secondary education is a preparatory stage for career selection. Modernization fosters awareness of emerging career opportunities, skill development, and adaptability required in a competitive global job market.

1.4 Social Awareness and Inclusivity

Modernized students develop progressive attitudes toward issues such as gender equality, social justice, and diversity. This is crucial for building an inclusive and equitable society.

1.5 Psychological Development

Modernization enhances self-confidence, independence, and achievement motivation. It helps students develop a forward-looking perspective and adaptability to change.

1.6 Global Competence

In a globalized world, students must be aware of international trends, cultures, and challenges. Modernization prepares them for global citizenship and cross-cultural understanding.

2. Importance of Modernization among Higher Secondary Students

Modernization plays a transformative role in shaping students' overall development and future prospects.

2.1 Improvement in Learning Outcomes

Students with modern attitudes tend to engage actively in learning, utilize diverse resources, and perform better academically.

2.2 Development of Scientific Temper

Modernization fosters rational thinking and a scientific outlook, enabling students to question, investigate, and innovate rather than rely on superstition or blind beliefs.

2.3 Personality Development

It contributes to the development of leadership qualities, communication skills, creativity, and decision-making abilities.

2.4 Social Adjustment and Interpersonal Skills

Modernized students are better equipped to interact in diverse social settings, showing tolerance, cooperation, and respect for differences.

2.5 Innovation and Creativity

Exposure to modern ideas and technologies stimulates creativity and encourages students to generate new solutions to problems.

2.6 Preparation for Nation Building

Educated and modernized youth are essential for economic growth, social progress, and democratic development. They play a vital role in shaping a progressive and sustainable society.

Significance of the study

It is a well known fact we are in the era of modernization. The process of modernization includes “ a temper of science, reason and rationalism, secularism, high aspiration and achievement orientation, overall transformation of attitudes, norms and values, creation of new functional institutions, investment in human resources, a growth oriented economy, a national interests, rather than kin, caste religion, region or language oriented interests, an open society and a mobile person,” (Ram Ahuja in his “Indian social system”) According to B. Kuppuswamy, “the main feature of modernization is the building of an “open society” in which individuals of talents, enterprise and training can find places in the society appropriate to their achievement .The process of modernization involves an increases in social unrest till the social system is responsive to the new aspirations built up by the modernization process, The process of modernization involves appropriate change in the social system to meet the rising expectation of the people.

Modernization entails social change; which leads to progress in many fields. It involves a transformation of social, political and economic organizations. This includes the transformation indicated by Durkhiem from “mechanical solidarity” to “organic solidarity”; that indicated by Beckner, the transformation from the “Changes-resistant scared outlook” to the change-ready secular outlook”. The transformation indicated by Weber from “personal bonds” to “impersonal relations” with bureaucracy; and the transformation from “status based” relations to “contract based relation as indicated by Maine, long ago. It applies to the individualist forms of organization of the western model, the communist form of organization of the Russian or Chinese model as well as to the socialistic pattern of the Indian model” (Reference B. Kuppuswamy in his “social change in Modern India.”(1972) page 54-55.In modernized society people get aware about serious consequences of social evils like casteism, regionalism and exploitation. It is due to modernization that various students’ organizations are in vogue in various degree colleges. Thus modernization is a way to democratization. It is due to modernization that old social and psychological elements are transformed and new values of human conduct are set up, with the acceleration in the speed of social change the status of individuals and families undergo change, In spite of this great importance of modernization, only a few studies have been conducted at stage and regional level on undergraduate students.

Realizing the importance of modernization in the society and the role which young generation is supposed to play in strengthening social order, the investigator felt interested in

undertaking an analytic study of modernization among undergraduate students in relation to sex and rural and urban dichotomy.

Statement of the problem:

The problem selected for the purpose of the present study reads as under:

“Modernization among Higher Secondary Students in Kashmir.”

Operational Definition of Terms and Variables

1. Modernization:

Modernization refers to the desirability for a deeper change in man’s way of thinking and feeling, a change in his whole attitude towards problems of life, the society and the universe, and inculcation of a changed outlook that is conducive for development of new ways of life. It refers to a set of related processes and changes involving such things as mechanization, industrialization, urbanization, Bureaucratization and socialization and the impact of these forces on social, political and religious life.

Modernization:

Modernization for the purpose of present investigation refers to the scores obtained by the subjects on R. S. Singh’s Modernization scale (1999) on various dimensions i.e. socio-religious, marriage, position of women and education.

Higher secondary students:

For the purpose of present study refers to students studying in Higher Secondary institutions of Kashmir valley.

Objectives of the study:

1. To assess male and female Higher Secondary students on the Level of Modernization.
2. To assess Rural and Urban Higher Secondary students on the Level of Modernization.
3. To compare male and female Higher Secondary students on level of modernization.
4. To compare rural and urban Higher Secondary students on level of modernization.

Hypotheses:

Based on the objectives of the study the following hypotheses have been formulated:

1. There will be a significant difference between male and female Higher Secondary students on the level of Modernization.

2. There will be a significant difference between rural and urban Higher Secondary students on the level of Modernization.

Method and Procedure:

The details of method and procedure, viz. sampling, tools are given as under:

Sample:

The sample for the present investigation comprised of 150 Higher Secondary students studying in various Government Higher Secondary schools of District Srinagar and Shopian.

Tool:

R. S. Singh's Modernization Scale (RSSMS) have been administered on Higher Secondary Students in order to assess the Level of Modernization.

Statistical Technique:

Various Statistical methods including mean, S.D. and t-test were used to analyze the data and draw inferences.

Table 1: Mean comparison of male and female Higher Secondary students on Modernization. (N=75 in each group)

Group	N	Mean/ S.D.	Critical Value	Remarks
Male	75	128.18/15.32	3.96	Significant at 0.01 level
Female	75	118.63/14.24		

A perusal of above table shows that the students of two group's i.e. male and female Higher Secondary students differ significantly at 0.01 Level, on Modernization. The table further depicts that significance of mean difference favors the female Higher Secondary students which reveals that female Higher Secondary students possess better Level of Modernization than the male Higher Secondary students.

Table 2: Mean comparison of Rural and urban Higher secondary students on Modernization (N=75 in each group).

Group	N	Mean/ S.D.	Critical Value	Remarks
Rural	75	121.34/15.10	5.24	Significant at 0.01 level
Urban	75	134.76/15.76		

A perusal of above table shows that the students of the two group's i.e. rural and urban Higher Secondary students differ significantly at 0.01 Level on Modernization. However

significance of mean difference favors urban higher Secondary Students which indicates that urban Higher Secondary Students possess better Modernization than rural Higher Secondary students.

Major Findings:

1. Female Higher Secondary Students have better Modernization than the Male Higher Secondary students.
2. Urban Higher Secondary Students have better Modernization than the Rural Higher Secondary students.

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