The Importance of Social Intelligence to Promote Academic Achievement of Students at Higher Secondary Level

****Naznin Perveen***   ****Dr. Saradindu Das**

*M.Ed. Student, Madhyamgram B.Ed. College, Kolkata
**Associate Professor, Madhyamgram B.Ed. College, Kolkata
DOI: https://doi.org/10.70798/IJOMR/020040052
Email: *nazninperveen27@gmail.com   ORCID: **0009-0009-0212-7666
**saradindukaichar@gmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this research is to consider and study the Role of Social Intelligence in Students academic Achievement. Education is a powerful instrument for change in the society. When such a responsibility is imposed on the educational institutions, they have to play a positive role for bringing a progressive change in the society. A student enjoys a pivotal position in the educational system that gets influenced and prepares him for the future life. In schools and colleges the best records are made by students who have other qualities in addition to intelligence, like persistence and willingness to go along with established routines. From child classification to higher secondary level students, in all situations where people live and work together, intelligence and academic achievement are constantly under scrutiny and being evaluated. The present study is a humble attempt to assess the role social intelligence for the student's development. Psychologists developed interest in understanding, promoting and utilizing the individual differences for the development and prosperity of the society. The study will be the guideline for the teachers, educationists and practitioners, researchers as well as curriculum planners, in order to imbibe coherence and integrity in personality and develop social intelligence among the students so that the students will be able to acquire basic understanding regarding themselves i.e., where they stand in various dimensions of social intelligence, so that they can tackle with the day to day situations more efficiently and tactfully.

Keywords: *Academic Achievement, Higher Secondary Level,* Social Intelligence

Introduction

Education is a never-ending process. It starts from the very beginning of one's birth and continues till the death. At every moment of our life, we learn something that maybe at our home, at the school, in the society, at the workplace, and many other places. Education helps us to realize our potential abilities and helps use those in our actions. Education is a powerful instrument to modify our behavior and it also makes us realize our own self. The aims of education are also very wide in their scope and cater to individual and social need of an individual. The most important aspect of education is to cultivate values among the human beings through schooling, instruction, training and teaching. Social Intelligence plays very important role in student's educational development. It gives the capacity to know oneself and to know others, is as inalienable a part of the human condition as is the capacity to know objects or sounds, and it deserves to be investigated no less than these other "less charged" forms. Social scientist believes social intelligence is an aggregated measure of self- and social-awareness, evolved social beliefs and attitudes, and a capacity and appetite to manage complex social change. Psychologist, believes that it is social intelligence, rather than quantitative intelligence, that defines who we are as humans.

Review of Literature

Obilor and Ikechukwu (2019) conducted the study on investigate Social Intelligence and Academic Achievement of Students in Selected Senior Secondary Schools in Rivers State. The purpose of this study was to investigate social intelligence and academic achievement of senior secondary school students. the correlational research design was adopted for the study. Simple random sampling was adopted to select 800 students. It was found that significant relationship exists between self-awareness and academic achievement of students; self-motivation, and empathy enhance the academic achievement of students. it was recommended among others that teachers/ instructors need to take into account their students' diverse self-awareness, self-motivation, and empathy in designing instructional methods that take care of these diversities. It was further recommended that teachers should help their students to understand their various intelligence preferences and make use of such to develop lifelong learning.

Sahoo et al. (2024) conducted a study to investigate the Relationship Between Self-Concept and Social Intelligence among Secondary School Students. The objective of the study is the relationship between social intelligence and self-concept of secondary school students. The investigator adopted 'Descriptive Survey Method' for the study, considering its relevance and feasibility. The present study adopted simple random sampling to select 100 Secondary School Students of Khordha District. In the present study instrument employed for the collection of data with the help of the following: Self Concept Questionnaire by R. K. SARASWAT (2005) and Social Intelligence Scale by N.K. Chhada and Ganesan (1986). The result shows that there exists positive relationship between self-concept and social intelligence among secondary school students. It is found that most of the secondary school students have average level of self-concept. Most of the secondary school students have average level of social intelligence.

Boruah & Padu (2024) conducted a meta analysis to investigate Social Intelligence of Secondary Students in India. The objective of the study was to study the trend in social intelligence of research in social intelligence of secondary students. It is a qualitative study. There were 100 students of secondary level. To improve the social and academic well-being of the students,

teachers employed by secondary institutions should receive appropriate training through a variety of orientation and refresher courses. Females were socially intelligent than males and arts and undergratuates were better social intelligent than other streams. With respect to differences between gender, educational stream, or area in determining social intelligence females have higher social intelligence in higher secondary schools and a few articles got boys have better social understanding. Some of the results show it that social intelligence also correlates with academic achievement in science. On the other hand, a few studies found private students have higher SI where maximum studies found no difference in management. The maximum number of students did not find any difference between males, females, rural and urban students, or government and private secondary students. As a result, it can be understand the critical importance of social intelligence for academic achievement and mental health for a student.

Sreeja & Nalinilatha (2017) conducted a study to investigate the relationship between social intelligence and academic achievement of higher secondary students. The objective of the present study is planned to find out relationship between social intelligence and academic achievement English among higher secondary school students. The descriptive survey method was adopted for the present study. The investigator found that majority of higher secondary school students social intelligence is low, but the academic achievement is moderate to high. Then the correlation study reveals the relationship between the social intelligence and academic achievement is low. There is no significant relationship between social intelligence and academic achievement. This study shows that students do not find healthy environment in schools for developing their social intelligence.

Arul & Komalavalli (2022) conducted a study to investigate the influence of social intelligence on academic achievement of high school students. The objectives of the study is to find out as social intelligence plays an imperative role in the academic achievement of students, this has been taken as an independent variable of the study. Normative survey method is used for the study. The sample for the study were 215 high school students from Chennai District. Random sampling technique was used for data collection. Results showed that there was significant relationship between social intelligence and academic achievement of high school students. Also, it was found that there was significant difference in social intelligence and academic achievement based on gender and type of institution. Girls excelled boys in social intelligence and academic achievement. But, while observing the type of institution, government school students were higher in social intelligence whereas private school students scored better in academic achievement.

Definition of Social Intelligence

Social Intelligence (SI) is the ability to get along well with others, and to get them to cooperate with you. A continued pattern of toxic behavior indicates a low level of social intelligence - the inability to connect with people and influence them effectively. Social intelligence is a person's ability to interact well with others, often called people skills or tact. It is a learned ability involving situational awareness, understanding of social dynamics, and a decent amount of self-awareness.

There are four contributing aspects of social intelligence defined by researchers:

Communication Skills: These involve the ability of a person to listen well, understand the words and emotional content of what they hear, speak well with others, express their thoughts and

emotions clearly, and use tact when speaking with others.

Social Roles and Rules: These involve knowing the different, usually unspoken, rules of various types of interactions and situations as well as how to play an appropriate role in a variety of interactions.

Understanding the Motivation of Others: This involves reading the subtext of a conversation and understanding why a person is saying something or behaving in such a manner. Imagine a person with tears streaming down their face, yet they tell you that everything is fine.

Impression Management: This skill involves understanding the reaction of others to us and behaving in a satisfactory way.

Academic achievement represents performance outcomes that indicate the extent to which a person has accomplished specific goals that were the focus of activities in instructional environments, specifically in school, college, and university.

Key elements of social intelligence

- Verbal Fluency and Conversational Skills. You can easily spot someone with lots of SI at a party or social gathering because he or she knows how to "work the room." The highly socially intelligent person can carry on conversations with a wide variety of people, and is tactful and appropriate in what is said. Combined, these represent what are called "social expressiveness skills."

- Knowledge of Social Roles, Rules, and Scripts. Socially intelligent individuals learn how to play various social roles. They are also well versed in the informal rules, or "norms," that govern social interaction. In other words, they "know how to play the game" of social interaction. As a result, they come off as socially sophisticated and wise.

- Effective Listening Skills. Socially intelligent persons are great listeners. As a result, others come away from an interaction with an SI person feeling as if they had a good "connection" with him or her.

- Understanding What Makes Other People Tick. Great people watchers, individuals high in social intelligence attune themselves to what others are saying, and how they are behaving, in order to try to "read" what the other person is thinking or feeling.

- Role Playing and Social Self-Efficacy. The socially intelligent person knows how to play different social roles – allowing him or her to feel comfortable with all types of people. As a result, the SI individual feels socially self-confident and effective – what psychologists call "social self-efficacy"

- Impression Management Skills. Persons with social intelligence are concerned with the impression they are making on others. They engage in what I call the "Dangerous Art of Impression Management," which is a delicate balance between managing and controlling the image you portray to others and being reasonably "authentic" and letting others see the true self.

Social Intelligence and Academic Achievement

In addition to examining the main effects of social intelligence and academic achievement on socio-metric and perceived popularity, the interaction between social intelligence and academic

achievement was tested. It is possible that students who are both socially intelligent and highly achieving are the most well-liked or the most popular students in their school. However, it is also possible that whereas social intelligence has a positive effect on perceived popularity, the effect of academic achievement may be neutral or even negative. In this case, the most popular students may be highly socially intelligent but not necessarily doing well in school. To clarify this matter, we also examined the interaction between social intelligence and academic achievement in the prediction of popularity. Role of Social Context It can be expected that social intelligence will always have a positive effect on popularity, no matter what the nature of the peer group is. Social intelligence implies adjusting one's behavior to the norms of the group. No matter what these norms are, the socially intelligent adolescent is always expected to be able to read them accurately and adjust to them. This process is always expected to be beneficial to their status in the group. In contrast, the effect of academic achievement on peer status is expected to depend on the norms of the group. Academic achievement is expected to lead to higher status only if it is prioritized in the classroom. In peer groups where academic excellence is the norm, such as in classrooms with a high academic orientation, it is expected to lead to popularity. But in classrooms where other skills are prioritized, academic achievement may not lead to popularity or even be predictive of unpopularity. Different types of classrooms may thus have different associations between academic achievement and popularity

Components of Social Intelligence

The following are four major components of social intelligence:

Self-awareness: Self-awareness is understanding your capabilities, thoughts and emotions. It involves being conscious of who you are and how   you react to situations.

Self-management: Self-management helps you use self-awareness to overcome challenging situations easily. Often, self-management is central to the internal decision-making process.

Social awareness: Social awareness recognises social signals, body language and subtext in interpersonal communication.

Relationship management: The application of social awareness is relationship management. This may involve avoiding conflicts, cultivating empathy, learning how your motivations differ from those of others and recognising your role within a social network.

Signs of Social Intelligence

Here are six signs indicating your social intellect

1. *People tell you about their deep thoughts or problems*: Socially smart people are able to make others feel at ease. They enable others to express their feelings and thoughts freely, without fear of misinterpretation or violation of confidentiality.

2. *You are empathetic*: Socially intelligent individuals avoid categorising people with specific labels. They avoid people's natural tendency to judge an individual for as long as possible. Viewing people without judgement helps them develop empathy. They also understand that people's personalities typically have positive aspects and also limitations.

3. *Your presence makes people happy:* You might often receive praise for making others feel good when they are with you. People often report that, after meeting or conversing with you, they feel happy, re-energised, organised and hopeful. Some individuals may also seek

reasons to be with you. This trait is beneficial, especially if you are a leader.

4. *You understand that multiple factors affect behaviour:* Socially intelligent individuals understand that behaviour is more than a response to an instant stimulus. They know that complexes, insecurities, concerns and other unresolved problems subconsciously affect people's behaviours.

5. *You understand the pattern of baseline behaviour:* Socially smart people pay attention to people's behaviour, such as how quickly, loudly and energetically they typically speak. They also notice how often others smile, what makes them laugh, what upsets them, how they stand, sit and greet others and the delay and duration of their reactions.

6. *You observe and analyse non-verbal action*: People communicate their true emotional and mental state less through words and more through non-verbal behaviour such as gestures, postures and facial expressions.

Effective Ways to Improve Social Intelligence

Once you have a good social understanding, you can cultivate it in the workplace. Here are nine effective ways to increase social awareness within yourself or your team:

Assess self-awareness and self-management: Recognise your thoughts, emotions, behaviours and reactions when trying to improve your social awareness. Consider whether it is relevant to add your input in a conversation, how well you pay attention to others and how you react to specific triggers. Understanding how you act and react can be helpful when you confront an unexpected situation.

Develop sensory skills: Try to observe the environment daily using your sight, smell, hearing and touch. This increases your awareness of your surroundings. Practising mindfulness in this way every day can help you form this habit. Awareness of yourself and your environment is a major step in developing social intellect.

Modify your communication techniques: Being socially aware involves becoming conscious of others' social cues. It is also important to be direct and genuine if their actions or words are ambiguous. For instance, if someone does or says something that negatively impacts your work and you normally respond by withdrawing, try to communicate your concerns instead.

Practise active listening: Actively engaging with others' perspectives gives you relevant insight that can improve your social awareness. For instance, if a team member says they respond well to regular feedback, consider incorporating this into the workflow. You could even consider scheduling meetings to hear what individuals think and feel in response to specific situations.

Examine situations from various perspectives: Consider other people's perspectives in every situation you encounter. This may involve assessing their typical responses, potential future events and individual emotions, which can all help you change your behaviour and develop empathy.

Respect cultural difference: Cultural differences can influence how individuals react to specific situations. Families, schools and peers are typical sources of socialisation, and each of your colleagues may have a slightly distinct social perspective. In a welcoming and professional environment, it is important to be aware of these differences.

Express appreciation and care: In the workplace, expressing gratitude can result in a positive experience for everyone. Expressing care for your colleagues is one of the easiest ways to increase social awareness. Attempting to increase your social intellect is an act of empathy, as the goal is

to improve your relationships and create a more cohesive workplace.

*Be attentive to body language***:** Body language gives you non-verbal cues that can reveal another person's thoughts. For instance, a dissatisfied person may have their arms crossed. Consider other people's body language to ensure that your response is appropriate. Your body language is also important for effective communication as it can help you align your non-verbal actions with your words.

*Adapt to changes***:** Adaptability is a major aspect of enhancing social intellect because individuals and work environments constantly evolve. Consider working continuously to strengthen habits like mindfulness, active listening and self-evaluation. Regular changes in management, responsibilities and personnel can encourage various emotional responses. Trying to adapt to new circumstances can help enhance your social intellect.

Dimensions

Dimensions of social intelligence (Dr. N. K. Chadda and Usha Ganeshan, 2005) Social intelligence can be described as combination of abilities the first is a basic understanding of peoples i.e. a kind of strategic social awareness and second is the skills needed for interacting successfully with them. In other words, the ability to get along with others and to encourage them to co-operate with your social intelligence can be thought of as encompassing:

*Patience***:** Calm Endurance under stressful conditions.

*Co-operativeness***:** Ability to interact with others in a pleasant way to be able to view matters from all angles.

*Confidence Level***:** Firm trust in oneself and one's chances.

*Sensitivity***:** To be acutely aware of and responsive to human behavior.

*Recognition of Social Environment***:** Ability to perceive the nature and atmosphere of the existing situation.

*Tactfulness***:** Delicate perception of the right thing to say or do.

*Sense of Humor***:** Capacity to feel and cause amusement; to be able to see the lighter side of life.

*Memory***:** Ability to remember all relevant issues; names and faces of people.

Model

Several models attempt to explain social intelligence:

The Bar-On Model: This model emphasizes emotional-social intelligence as a combination of emotional and social competencies, skills, and facilitators. It highlights how effectively individuals understand and express themselves, understand others, relate to them, and cope with daily demands.

Daniel Goleman's Model: Goleman's model identifies four domains of emotional and social intelligence: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management. This model is widely recognized and emphasizes the importance of these domains for effective functioning in life.

Karl Albrecht's Model: Albrecht defines social intelligence as the ability to get along with others and inspire cooperation. His model includes assessing behaviors in specific contexts to understand an individual's social intelligence profile (SIP). He also emphasizes the impact of interaction styles, ranging from "toxic" to "nourishing".

Social Quotient (SQ): This model uses a ratio of social age to chronological age, multiplied by 100, to assess social maturity. Though less common now, it was historically used as an index of social maturity.

Social Intelligence as a Set of Skills: Some models view social intelligence as a set of specific skills like patience, cooperativeness, sensitivity, and memory. These skills are assessed through various tests and observations of social interactions.

Common Components in Social Intelligence Models

***Self-awareness*:** Understanding one's own emotions, strengths, and weaknesses.

Empathy: The ability to understand and share the feelings of others.

***Social awareness*:** Recognizing social cues, understanding group dynamics, and being sensitive to the needs of others.

Relationship management: Building and maintaining positive relationships, influencing others, and resolving conflicts.

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Here are six signs indicating your social intellect:

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Socially intelligent individuals avoid categorising people with specific labels. They avoid people's natural tendency to judge an individual for as long as possible. Viewing people without judgement helps them develop empathy. They also understand that people's personalities typically have positive aspects and also limitations.

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You observe and analyse non-verbal action

People communicate their true emotional and mental state less through words and more through non-verbal behaviour such as gestures, postures and facial expressions.

Importance of Social Intelligence

Social intelligence is crucial for success in various aspects of life, including personal relationships, career advancement, and overall well-being. Individuals with high social intelligence tend to be more effective communicators, better leaders, and more successful in navigating social understand their own and others' roles and contributions. Social intelligence is crucial for navigating social situations effectively and building strong relationships, contributing to success in both personal and professional life. It encompasses the ability to understand and manage social dynamics, empathize with others, and communicate effectively.

Here's a more detailed look at its importance:

Building Strong Relationships: Social intelligence enables individuals to form meaningful connections with others, fostering friendships, alliances, and supportive networks. It helps in understanding social cues, reading nonverbal communication, and responding appropriately, leading to better rapport and trust. By understanding what motivates others, individuals can build stronger, more collaborative relationships.

Enhancing Communication Skills: Socially intelligent individuals are adept at verbal and nonverbal communication, making them effective communicators in various settings. They can tailor their communication style to different audiences, ensuring clarity and understanding. They are also good listeners, making others feel heard and valued, which strengthens communication and rapport.

Fostering Collaboration and Teamwork: Social intelligence is vital for effective teamwork, as it allows individuals to It helps in navigating disagreements, fostering cooperation, and building a positive team environment. Leaders with high social intelligence can motivate and inspire their teams, leading to increased productivity and innovation.

Navigating Social Situations: Socially intelligent individuals can effectively navigate complex social situations, understanding social norms and expectations. They can adapt their behavior to different environments and social contexts, ensuring they are both appropriate and effective. This ability to understand and respond to social dynamics is crucial for success in various social settings, from casual gatherings to professional environments.

Promoting Mental and Physical Well-being: Strong social connections, fostered by social intelligence, contribute to better mental and physical health. Individuals with high social intelligence tend to experience less stress, have fewer mental health problems, and enjoy greater overall well-being. Social intelligence can also act as a buffer against mental health issues like anxiety and depression, particularly in challenging social environments.

Essential for Leadership: Social intelligence is a key leadership skill, enabling leaders to understand their teams, build rapport, and inspire them to achieve common goals. Effective leaders use social intelligence to foster collaboration, manage conflicts, and create a positive and productive work environment. In today's interconnected world, social intelligence is increasingly recognized as a critical factor in leadership effectiveness

Educational Significance

Social intelligence is positively related to academic achievement. Students with strong social intelligence skills tend to perform better academically. This is because social intelligence encompasses the ability to understand and manage social situations, build relationships, and communicate effectively, which can positively impact learning, motivation, and classroom

participation.

Elaboration: Social intelligence, often described as the ability to understand and manage social interactions, plays a significant role in academic success. Here's how it relates to academic achievement.

Improved Learning: Socially intelligent students can better navigate social dynamics within the classroom, fostering positive relationships with teachers and peers. This can create a more supportive learning environment, leading to improved motivation and engagement in academic tasks.

Effective Communication: Social intelligence includes the ability to communicate clearly and empathetically, which is crucial for understanding instructions, participating in discussions, and seeking help when needed.

Enhanced Problem-Solving: Socially intelligent individuals can better understand and address social challenges, which can translate to improved problem-solving skills in academic settings.

Positive Peer Relationships: Strong social skills can lead to positive peer relationships, which can be a valuable source of support and encouragement for academic endeavours.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while academic intelligence is important for academic success, social intelligence is also a valuable asset. Developing social intelligence skills can create a more positive learning environment, improve communication and problem-solving abilities, and foster stronger peer relationships, ultimately contributing to higher academic achievement Socially intelligent individuals tend to experience less social anxiety and stress, which can contribute to better focus and performance in academic tasks. Studies have shown a positive correlation between social intelligence and academic achievement. Study highlighted that social intelligence, including social information processing, social skills, and social awareness, is positively correlated with academic achievement.

It is recommended that Upcoming National Policy of Education should include some teacher training programmes in order to enhance Students' social intelligence not only for classroom discipline but also to understand the problems related to students' society and their family. Such programmes will assist students in developing better strategies for classroom discipline, more academic excellence. Hence, promoting social excellence among the millions of students of higher secondary level will augment the academic excellence of the students in their educational pursuit and the more the academic excellence the more will be the nation's progress and the more the academic goal could be achieved.

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