



Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students With Reference to Discipline

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Abstract:

Present paper of study of the sense of humor of higher secondary school students. The objectives of this research are (1) To study the Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students, (2) To study the main effects of Discipline on Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students. The population of the study was Higher Secondary Schools students of Gujarat were studying in the year 2014-15. As a sample 3000 higher secondary school students were selected through stratify sampling method. It was an applied type of research as well as normative survey in nature. For data collection standardized sense of humor scale was used. Collected data calculated by use of SPSS – 15. Main results of this research were that, the sense of humor of commerce discipline was high than arts and science discipline students of higher secondary schools of Gujarat.

Keywords: *Sense of Humor, Higher Secondary School and Students*

1. Introduction

A continuing research interest has been the adaptation that individuals are able to make to critical life problems. Many older people, for example, are apparently successful in adapting to serious losses of vigor, health, economic well-being, companionship, social status, and other changes in life that for some might be seen as catastrophic. Life satisfaction and morale have been extensively researched, but there remains a lacuna in the research on the psychology of aging: why are some individuals able to face life with equanimity, indeed serenity, despite the thousand natural shocks associated with getting old?

Looking at ways people cope, it is apparent that there is no one formula for satisfaction over the course of life. However, it is of interest to us as researchers to investigate means of coping, mechanisms that people use in successfully adapting to the problems they confront. This has led us to articles (Thorson, 1985, 1993) that directed our thinking to the potent coping skills of people blessed with a rich personal sense of humor.

Humor is a universal phenomenon that is exhibited by most cultures. What constitutes humor, under what conditions it is considered acceptable, what are the responses to an instance of attempted humor, and other related questions can shed light on cultural and social beliefs and practices.

Humor primarily consists of jokes (spoken or written words) and actions which elicit laughter or generate mirth (these actions can be described in words) (Critchley, 2002; Ritchie, 2004). Given that qualitative research is characterized by a heavy dependence on data that are word based (interviews, observer notes, documents, manuscripts, etc.), this Update posits that humor analysis has potential as an investigative qualitative research tool.

Today we are all faced with greater choice, more competition and less time to consider our options or seek out the right advice in our career and day to day life. In the field of education the climate of

competition is increasing regularly. In this situation our schools provide multiple options for choosing the faculties and subjects in different standards. Higher secondary stage of schooling is an important one so far as the future and career opportunities are concerned. Students at this stage work hard and face so many challenges, anxieties and problems to achieve the best. In this journey s/he needs to be more concentrated, confident, competent and positive each and every day. For this purpose s/he has to put some extra efforts by taking care of some psychological aspects that may help to balance the personality as well as to cope with the stress. In the climate of Sense of Humor promotes relaxation, which is very essential at the Higher Secondary stage of schooling. It is very important to become aware about the level of Sense of Humor of the Higher Secondary School students if we want to guide and teach them in better way. The present research is an attempt in this direction.

2. Statement of the Research Problem

The study undertaken by the researcher has been entitled as “**Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students with reference to Discipline**”

The research mainly study of sense of humor of the Higher Secondary School students was also carried out in the context of one variable – discipline wise students.

3. Definitions of Key Terms

In the present study, the important key words are as:

3.1 Sense of Humor

"In contemporary psychology, the term ‘sense of humor’ refers to humor as an enduring personality trait." (Ruch, 2002)

Humor means the ability to perceive, appreciate or express what is funny, amusing or ludicrous. Sense of humor may relate to differences in comprehension, expression, the ability to produce humor, appreciation, affinity and desire for laughter, memory, and use as a coping mechanism. (Ruchand Eysenck)

In the present study sense of humor means the score achieved by the students on the scale constructed and standardized by investigator.

3.2 Higher Secondary School Student

Student is a person of studious habits. A student is one who undergoes a formal kind of training, under a particular institution for a fixed period. Student is one who attends an institution of higher secondary level; or a person engaged in serious study, especially one doing independent study.

Here Higher Secondary School student means students of Std. XI or XII of Gujarat Secondary Board affiliated to urban and rural area schools.

4. Variables of the study

The variables of this study will be presented in the following table:

Table : 1. Types of Variable and levels

Sr. No.	Type of Variable	Name of Variable	Levels	Tool Primary Data
1	Dependent	Sense of Humor	-----	Self Made Scale
2	Independent	Discipline	1. Arts 2. Commerce 3. Science	Primary Data

5. Objectives of the study

The present study will be carried out with the following objectives:

1. To study the Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students.
2. To study the main effects of Discipline on Sense of Humor of Higher Secondary School Students.

6. Hypothesis of the study

The formulated null hypothesis was given below:

H₀₁: There will be no significant difference among the mean Sense of Humor score of Arts, Commerce and Science Discipline of Higher Secondary School on Sense of Humor Scale.

7. Types and Method of the Research

The study would be pertaining to the areas of Psychological Studies. The field of the present study was Higher Secondary school, Psychological and Measurement and Evaluation. The results will be useful to guide students to improve sense of humor so it was applied research. For data analysis statistics techniques were used so the study was also quantitative type of research. The study was normative survey in nature because this research has been conducted on sense of humor of higher secondary students. In this study, the researcher used certain specific methods, which was suitable for this study like the descriptive method.

8. Population and Sample

The present study was related to study of the sense of humor of the students of Higher Secondary Schools. So the students studying in the year 2014-15 in the Higher Secondary Schools of Gujarat State was the population of the study. From Gujarat state each zone two districts were selected by drawing a chit. From selected districts schools were selected by drawing chit. From selected school 3000 students were selected through stratified sampling. Thus from one school total 150 students were selected if the all discipline. Thus from 20 schools and total 3000 sample was selected. Out of them 1000 Arts discipline students, 1000 Commerce discipline students and 1000 Science discipline students.

9. Tools of the Study

In this research, to collect the required data the standardized Sense of Humor Scale was used. There were forty items and four parts in this scale. In each part 10 items. In first part 10 statements, in second part 10 jokes, in third part 10 situational multiple choice question and in fourth part 10 cartoon items.

10. Data Collection and Data Analysis

Data collected by the administration of Sense of Humor Scale. The data pertaining to variables Sense of Humor Score and Discipline of schools were collected from the higher secondary school students were studying in the selected schools which comprise the sample. After collection of data, it was compiled in tabular form for each variable Frequency distribution was prepared according to discipline. For each variable, mean, medium, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis were computed for the entire sample. The significant difference of mean was computed. Data were further analyzed and interpreted on the basis of F-values to study the significance of interactions as explained. For the analysis of the data SPSS 15 programme was used.

11. Presentation of Data

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of the SOH Scores of Entire Sample and Discipline of Sample

Interval	Frequency	Statistics	
65 – 69	14	N	3000
70 – 74	0	Mean	107.7227
75 – 79	20	Std. Error of Mean	.2179
80 – 84	53	Median	107.8471
85 – 89	103	Mode	107.00
90 – 94	215	Std. Deviation	11.9331
95 – 99	274	Variance	142.3992
100 – 104	439	Skewness	-.139
105 – 109	564	Kurtosis	.265
110 – 114	472	Range	78.00
115 – 119	375	Minimum	65.00
120 – 124	240	Maximum	143.00
125 – 129	144	Sum	323168.00
130 – 134	53	σ SK	0.045
135 – 139	21	σ KU	0.089
140 – 144	13	SK (C.R.)	3.08888
Total (N) = 3000		KU (C.R.)	2.6923

From Table 2 it is observed that the Mean Sense of humor score of entire sample was 107.72 and Median was 107.847. The distribution was negatively skewed. The C.R. of skewness was 3.08888, which was greater than 2.58 at 0.01 level of significance and therefore significant. So the distribution was significantly negatively skewed.

The Kurtosis of the distribution was .265, which was more than 0.263 and hence, the distribution was platycurtic. The C.R. (2.6923) was greater than 2.58 at 0.01 level of significance, so the kurtosis was significant which means the distribution is significantly platycurtic.

12. Testing of Hypotheses

In the present study the null hypothesis have been tested are given below table:

Table 3: Hypothesis and Their Testing

Sr.	Hypotheses	F-value	Level of Significance	Rejected / Not Rejected
1	There will be no significant difference among mean Sense of Humor score of Arts, Commerce and Science discipline's Higher Secondary School Students on Sense of Humor Scale	9.755	0.01	Rejected

13. Finding and Discussion

In present research the major finding was mentioned below:

- Discipline had effect on the Sense of Humor. Commerce disciplines students had more Sense of Humor compared to Arts and Science discipline Students. Arts discipline students had high Sense of Humor compared to Science discipline of Higher Secondary School students.

The sense of humor of commerce discipline had higher than arts and science discipline students. So, the school and society should always be ready to study the sense of humor and to facilitate the development of sense of humor and related activities to arts and science discipline students. On the basis of informative experience about the subjects, situations arising in solving a problem, preservation of democratic procedures, through assimilation of environment should be thought to the students. For this purpose opportunities should be provided them for the humorous activities and more humorous experiences through organizing various activities.

14. Recommendations

Recommendations were following:

1. Sense of humor of Commerce students was found higher than Arts and Science discipline students. So, the teachers of Arts and science discipline should provide guidance to their students to improve their Sense of Humor.
2. The teachers should administer similar tests and scales on their students at regular intervals for measuring their Sense of humor and organized humorous activities as well as imparting humor in regular teaching learning process.
3. The parents should also provide necessary materials, facilities, proper environment and guidance to their children for developing sense of humor.

15. Educational Implications

Education Implications of present study were following:

1. After identifying the sense of humor of the Higher Secondary School students, programme can be implemented to develop the sense of humor.
2. In our society, persons are selected on the bases of their intellect. But along with the intellect, present competitive and stressful time sense of humor should also be considered so that effective results can be obtained.
3. With the study of sense of humor, the talent/skill of the students can be identified. Students can be guided further to develop the talent/field in the field as well as gave educational and vocational guidance to the students of Arts, Commerce and Science discipline.
4. The research will be useful for parents and society to make humorous environment of society and decide career of their children on the basis of their level of sense of humor.
5. Students are sometimes weak in performance or fail in routine exam or tests because of anxiety. This research will be useful to students for inspiring them.
6. Even after innovations in curriculum and teaching method, still there will be no more consideration of sense of humor and anxiety among the students. So the educationists can recommend the schools and teachers for imparting humor in teaching learning process and school make healthy and humorous environment for Higher Secondary School students.

16. Delimitation of the Study

Following are the delimitations of the study.

- The study is confined to the Higher Secondary School students who are studying in Gujarati medium schools of Gujarat state.
- Students were selected of Std. XI and XII studying in Higher Secondary School of the year 2014-15.
- To measure of the sense of humor, self constructed and standardized 'Sense of Humor Scale' was used.

17. Conclusion

This study takes a first step toward understanding that knows the sense of humor of higher secondary school students of Gujarat. The sense of humor may be a stronger mediator in the middle relative to

the end of the school year and not responsible for changes in popularity over time. The sense of humor and the effect of discipline have been studied. The Sense of humor of commerce students were more than arts and science discipline students. For this research as a tool, the standardized Sense of Humor Scale was used. Sense of humor scale will be useful in the field of Educational Psychology. In future for developing of the sense of humor of arts and science discipline students of higher secondary school of Gujarat this research may be useful. Researcher hoped that in future shall be encouraged to undertake further follow up work in this area, to improve the sense of humor of the next generation.

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