



A Study of School Phobia of Upper Primary School students in context of gender

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1. Introduction

As a child, you may have had a few days when you didn't particularly want to go to school, maybe to avoid a particular classmate or a big homework assignment you failed to complete. This type of reluctance is different from school phobia, a condition wherein a child has a fear of attending school. For these students, walking into a school can be a frightening feeling, and they might be overwhelmed by the school's size, the number of people in it, or feeling lost. This disorder was given its name in 1941 and may also be known as school refusal.

Students with school phobia experience severe emotional distress when they think about attending school. Many are simply afraid to be away from home and experience high levels of anxiety when they are away from parents and/or home. Other symptoms include depression, temper tantrums, and somatic (physical) symptoms.

In present research, the researcher had studied the school phobia of students of primary schools in context of gender.

2. Definitions of Phobia

According to Oxford dictionary,

“Phobia is an extreme or irrational fear of or aversion to something”

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary,

“An extremely strong dislike or fear of someone or something.”

According to Cambridge dictionary,

“An extreme fear or dislike of a particular thing or situation, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained.”

3. Objectives of the study

1. To study the school phobia of students of standard 8.
2. To study the school phobia of students of standard 8 in context of gender.

4. Hypotheses

- Ho₁ There is no significant difference between mean scores obtained in Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of standard 8.
- Ho₂ There is no significant difference between mean scores obtained in Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of standard 8 of east area.
- Ho₃ There is no significant difference between mean scores obtained in Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of standard 8 of west area.

5. Limitations of the study

1. The present study was performed on students of standard 8 of Ahmedabad city.
2. The present study was performed on students of standard 8 of Gujarati medium.

6. Research Tool

The researcher had constructed a Phobia Inventory with the help of experts. This inventory has 30 items. Each item has five responses: Always, Often, Sometimes, Rarely and Never. The scores given to the responses are 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively. The inventory was sent to the experts and suggestions were requested from them. The researcher had later amended the inventory as per the suggestions obtained from them.

7. Research procedure

The researcher had selected two different schools from Ahmedabad city situated in east and west area respectively. The researcher had chosen 185 students from these two schools. The sample of the study was as follows.

Table 1. Sample of the study

Area →	East	West	Total
Gender ↓			
Boys	47	50	97
Girls	43	45	88
Total	90	95	185

The researcher had chosen total 185 students of upper primary schools from Ahmedabad city. In this sample there were 97 boy and 88 girls. From east area 90 students were chosen and from west area 95 students were chosen. The students were given Phobia Inventory to study their responses. The students were provided 45 minutes to complete this inventory. Before giving them this tool, the researcher had given total instruction regarding how to fulfill the items. After 45 minutes the researcher had collected the inventory. It was enough time to complete the inventory; therefore all students had completed the tool. After all inventories were collected, they were checked carefully. The scores of inventories were classified, tabulated and used for data analysis.

The researcher had used critical ratio (t-test) to analyze the data. The results of statistical analysis are as follows.

8. Results of t-test

Ho₁ There is no significant difference between mean scores obtained in Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of standard 8.

Table 2: Mean, SD, SED and t value of boys and girls

Gender	N	M	SD	SED	t value
Boys	90	37.29	3.63	0.55	9.53
Girls	85	42.53	4.27		

For df=183, table t value is 1.97 and 2.60 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels respectively. The calculated t value is 9.53, which is higher than table t values at both the levels. Therefore, hypothesis is rejected and there is significant difference between mean scores of Phobia Inventory of boys and girls. Moreover, mean score of girls is higher than that of boys. Therefore, it is revealed that the girls of standard 8 feel more phobia than the boys.

Ho₂ There is no significant difference between mean scores obtained in Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of standard 8 of east area.

Table 3: Mean, SD, SED and t value of boys and girls of east area

Gender	N	M	SD	SED	t value
Boys	47	40.51	3.22	0.50	4.42
Girls	43	42.72	3.87		

For $df=88$, table t value is 1.99 and 2.63 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels respectively. The calculated t value is 4.42, which is higher than table t values at both the levels. Therefore, hypothesis is rejected and there is significant difference between mean scores of Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of east area. Moreover, mean score of girls is higher than that of boys. Therefore, it is revealed that the girls of standard 8 of east area feel more phobia than the boys of east area.

H₀₃ There is no significant difference between mean scores obtained in Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of standard 8 of west area.

Table 4: Mean, SD, SED and t value of boys and girls of west area

Gender	N	M	SD	SED	t value
Boys	50	40.57	3.72	0.54	5.78
Girls	45	43.69	3.96		

For $df=93$, table t value is 1.99 and 2.63 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels respectively. The calculated t value is higher than table t values at both the levels. Therefore, hypothesis is rejected and there is significant difference between mean scores of Phobia Inventory of boys and girls of west area. Moreover, mean score of girls is higher than that of boys. Therefore, it is revealed that the girls of standard 8 of west area feel more phobia than the boys.

9. Findings

1. The girls feel more school related phobia than the boys of standard 8 of Ahmedabad city.
2. The girls feel more school related phobia than the boys of standard 8 of east area.
3. The girls feel more school related phobia than the boys of standard 8 of west area.

10. Conclusion

The students studying in primary schools have some schools fear related to teacher, class room, class mates and different curricular activities. In our society, it is believed that the girls have more fear than boys. In present study, the researcher had tried to reveal this belief of society. The researcher had constructed a Phobia Inventory to study the phobia of students of standard 8 in context of gender. It was revealed that the girls fear more than boys.

References

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