

Study of Cognitive Style of Undergraduate Students in Relation to their Gender and Stream

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ABSTRACT

The present study is descriptive in nature and survey research method has been used for the study. The research paper compares the cognitive style of undergraduate students of Kashmir Valley with respect to their gender and stream. A sample of 300 undergraduate students (150 Male and 150 Female) was taken from two different Govt. Degree Colleges of Kashmir (J&K) India by using random sampling technique. *Praveen Kumar's Cognitive Style Inventory* (2001) was administered for data collection. For data analysis- mean, SD, t- test and one-way ANOVA were employed. The investigation came to the conclusion that Male and Female undergraduate students do not differ significantly on cognitive styles. Further, it was also reflected in the study that the main effect of stream on both dimensions- systematic and intuitive cognitive style was found to be insignificant for undergraduate students.

Keywords: Cognitive Style; Systematic Style; Intuitive Style; Undergraduate Students; Kashmir Division

Introduction

Globalization demands flexibility, with flexible people in continuous lifelong learning. The ability to produce outputs, i.e. collaboratively in global networks is more appreciated by the market than an academic degree fixed in space and time (Sundar & Satya, 2008). In India the educational options, policies, and ideals are hotly debated in view of globalization, predominance of capitalistic economy, the boom in the service sectors and revolution in communication technology. The traditional ideals of '*Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye*' which means education must liberate us have given way to education for survival and wealth creation. More than yesterday India today needs to re-examine her own educational ideals, options, methods and structures. The important concerns include safeguarding eternal values, ensuring literacy, free compulsory school education, meeting the goals of total quality management, meeting the challenges of globalization to ensure India's rightful place in the community of nations and create a learning society for the century of knowledge.

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