

## Alienation among Undergraduate Students of Government and Private Universities

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The research study was conducted to study the level of alienation among students of undergraduate level of Government and Private Universities. To achieve the objectives of the study, 100 students studying in Govt. Universities and 100 studying in Pvt. Universities were taken. Students Alienation Scale (SAS) was administered on all 200 students. Results show that the students of these universities are feeling moderate level of overall alienation and also moderate level of alienation on the areas named powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, meaninglessness & normlessness. Significant difference was observed between the students of Govt. and Pvt. Universities on overall alienation and the areas of alienation named powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, and meaninglessness. Undergraduate students of Pvt. Universities were found to be more alienated than undergraduate students of Govt. Universities.

**Keywords:** Alienation, Government & Private Universities, Undergraduate Students.

In higher Education system, the students have various opportunities and challenges. At this stage they have to be interactive with rigorous set of courses with no relationship to their actual life situations. They have to spend more and more time in taking classes, doing practical or experiments, making assignments, maintaining social relationships with teachers and peers, maintaining punctuality in institutions as well as at home, facing parent's expectations and making themselves perfect to fulfill their career aspirations according to the external world's demands. Some time, they can have lack of facilities in university or at home. There might be lack of control over their emotions during interactions with teachers and friends. Negative feelings might be occurring in students towards teachers and administrators. There may be lack of social skills, financial problems, problems related to work out of university, lack of interest in academic activities, lack of reinforcement or motivation from parents and teachers and anxiety to have immediate success in life. It is also true that technological advancement, social mobility and fast moving society make significant contributions into the problems of student's life. Alienation is one of the contemporary and most crucial issues among students studying

at undergraduate level in various universities. Alienation may be defined as the loneliness and exclusion from the settings, group of people or society with which the individual interacts. Horney (1950) considers alienation as "a negative process involving abandonment of emotions, thoughts, desires and energy". While, Finifter (1972) regarded alienation as "a sociologically-based process which results in one's withdrawal from the group, society, values or organization in which one is".

The social psychologists used the idea of student's alienation in 1960s. They claimed that "alienation evolved under conditions that generated low self esteem and low social interest" Ziller (1969). The expansion of theoretical & realistic conjecture on student alienation was observed by measurement tools and recommended practices Hyman et al. (2004). Mann (2001) argued that "Alienation is caused by a teaching-learning process characterized by compliance and bereft of creativity." Newmann (1981) stated that "There are four fundamental aspects of student alienation; powerlessness, normlessness, meaninglessness, and social isolation." According to Bronfenbrenner (1986) "To be alienated is to lack a sense of belonging, to feel cut off from family, friends, or school".

Sidorkin (2004) advocated that, "alienation in education involves individuals' withdrawal from learning and teaching processes, their growing disinterest in these processes and education being reduced to a boring, monotonous and unappealing activity".

Adler (1939) advocated about alienation among students as "failure in school often stems from feeling unconnected to the teacher, other students, or the school community at large". Seeman (1959) defined alienation "as the discrepancy between personal expectation and reward in the context of modern society". Then, Dean (1961), defined alienation with three dimensions named social isolation, powerlessness, and normlessness. There are many researches that are concerned with the reasons and level of student's alienation. The results of various research studies suggests several factors about college environment responsible for increasing the position of alienation, like unhealthy relationship of the students with peers (Valverde, 1987), irrelevant curriculum (Kunkle, Thompson, & McElhinney, 1973), also the lack of tolerance among students due to college rules and regulations (Calabrese & Seldin, 1987). Slater (2003) investigated that "the consequence of alienation among students may be aggression and manifest in a multiplicity of forms". Parish & Parish (2000) found that "Students feel incongruent with curriculum and devoid of opportunities to establish meaningful connections. Such disconnection results in apathy in the learning process." Brown et al. (2003) identified curriculum related, institutions related and other social and cultural related factors as causes of alienation among students. Raju T. (2009) explored that "consequence of boarding life is homesickness, which results in loss of concentration and lack of attention in daily activities". Yadaw and Nagle (2012) have concluded the results of the various studies on alienation in various organizational settings that depicts the impression that alienation is the product of irritation and disappointment situations. Kaur and Singh (2015) studied the alienation of urban students and concluded that alienation of urban students was found to be significantly and negatively related emotional intelligence. Kacire I. (2015) studied the level

of alienation among university students and its impact on their Perception of General Satisfaction. No research study was found on the alienation among students of Govt. & Pvt. Universities of Rajasthan. So, the researchers decided to conduct the research on alienation of students studying in Govt. and Pvt. Universities of Rajasthan.

### **Method**

Alienation of the students of Government and Private Universities of Rajasthan was studied by the use of Survey Method of research. All the required steps recommended for survey type of research were followed by the researchers.

### **Participants**

Undergraduate students of Government & Private universities of Rajasthan were treated as the population for this study. By the use of randomization, 100 students from government universities and 100 students from private universities were taken as sample for the present research study.

### **Tool Used**

To study the alienation of Govt. and Pvt. Universities, Students Alienation Scale (SAS) constructed and validated by R. R. Sharma in 1988 was administered to sampled students selected for this work.

### **Results**

Analysis of results for level of alienation among students of Government & Private Universities on overall alienation and in all areas of alienation was done by separating them into low, moderate and high category. Mean from the respondents answers were categorized into a scale given in table 1.

To study the nature of alienation and its all areas among students of Govt. Universities (N=100) and Pvt. Universities (N=100), mean and standard deviation (S.D.) were calculated. The results are shown in Table -2 & Table-3.

It is shown in Table-2 that means of the overall alienation and all areas of alienation among students of Govt. Universities were found to be of moderate level. It means that the undergraduate students of government universities are feeling moderate level of overall alienation as well

**Table-1. Categorization of Alienation Levels**

Areas of Alienation	Range of Mean Values for Low Level	Range of Mean Values for Moderate Level	Range of Mean Values for High Level
Powerlessness	0 to 2.43	2.44 to 6.57	6.58 to 9.00
Isolation	0 to 2.43	2.44 to 6.57	6.58 to 9.00
Self- estrangement	0 to 3.24	3.25 to 8.76	8.77 to 12.0
Meaninglessness	0 to 2.16	2.17 to 5.84	5.85 to 8.00
Normlessness	0 to 4.32	4.33 to 11.68	11.69 to 16.0
Total Alienation	0 to 14.58	14.59 to 39.42	39.43 to 54.0

**Table-2. Descriptive statistics for Undergraduate students of Govt. Univ. on Alienation and its all Areas**

Areas of Alienation	N	Mean	S.D.	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Level
Powerlessness	100	2.90	1.925	0	9	Moderate
Isolation	100	3.37	1.963	0	9	Moderate
Self- estrangement	100	4.68	3.078	0	12	Moderate
Meaninglessness	100	2.18	2.081	0	8	Moderate
Normlessness	100	9.36	3.202	0	16	Moderate
Total Alienation	100	22.49	9.028	0	54	Moderate

**Table-3. Descriptive statistics for Undergraduate students of Pvt. Univ. on Alienation and its all Areas**

Areas of Alienation	N	Mean	S.D.	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Level
Powerlessness	100	3.60	1.928	0	9	Moderate
Isolation	100	4.13	1.983	0	9	Moderate
Self- estrangement	100	5.59	2.822	0	12	Moderate
Meaninglessness	100	3.26	1.952	0	8	Moderate
Normlessness	100	9.79	2.837	0	16	Moderate
Total Alienation	100	26.37	7.918	0	54	Moderate

**Table - 4. Difference between students of Govt. & Pvt. Universities on overall Alienation and its Areas**

Dimensions of Alienation	Students of Govt. Universities (N = 100)		Students of Pvt. Universities (N = 100)		t- value
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
Powerlessness	2.9	1.925	3.60	1.928	2.556*
Isolation	3.37	1.963	4.13	1.983	2.710**
Self- estrangement	4.68	3.078	5.59	2.822	2.169*
Meaninglessness	2.18	2.081	3.26	1.952	3.766**
Normlessness	9.36	3.202	9.79	2.837	1.000
Total Alienation	22.49	9.028	26.37	7.918	3.215**

\* 0.05 level of significance, \*\* 0.01 level of significance

as moderate level in its all areas named powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, meaninglessness & normlessness. Table-3 depicts that means of the overall alienation and all of its areas among students of Pvt. Universities were also found to be of moderate level. It means that the undergraduate students of private universities are feeling moderate level of overall alienation as well as in all areas similar

to students of Govt. Universities mentioned above.

Significance of difference between students of Govt. & Pvt. Universities on alienation and all its areas was analyzed and studied with the help of t-test. Means, S.Ds and t-values are shown in Table - 4.

Table-4 depicts that t-values for significance of difference between means of the students

of Govt. and Pvt. Universities on overall alienation and its areas named isolation, and meaninglessness are 3.215, 2.710, and 3.766 respectively and are greater than the table value for degree of freedom (df=198) at 0.01 level. Again, the t-value between the mean of the students on the areas named powerlessness and self-estrangement are 2.556 and 2.169 respectively which are greater than the table value for degree of freedom (df=198) at 0.05 level. It means that there is significant difference between students of Govt. & Pvt. Universities on overall alienation and on its areas named powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, and meaninglessness. Further, it was also observed that the mean values of overall alienation and the areas powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, and meaninglessness for the students of Pvt. Universities are greater than the students of Govt. Universities. It means that students of Pvt. Universities are more alienated than students of government universities. While the t-value for the area named normlessness was 1.00 which was less than the table value for degree of freedom (df=198) at 0.05 level. It means that undergraduate students of Govt. & Pvt. Universities are not significantly differed on alienation's area normlessness.

### Conclusion

The results of the study are generalized as the students of both type of universities are feeling moderate level of overall alienation and also moderate level of alienation in the areas powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, meaninglessness and normlessness. Students of Govt. Universities and private universities were significantly differed on overall alienation and in the areas named powerlessness, isolation, self-estrangement, and meaninglessness. Students of Pvt. Universities are more alienated than the students of Govt. Universities, while the students of both universities are not significantly differed on alienation's area normlessness. The study reveals the significant results about level and causes of alienation among undergraduate students of government and private universities. The results of the study depicts that Undergraduate Students of private universities are feeling more isolated than

government university students. They tend to be estranged from majority students and group, they may feel lack of belongingness with other students. On the basis of these findings the educationists and the psychologists will have further problems of studying why the government and private university students are differed on particular dimensions of alienation. These findings will definitely be of great importance for researchers and policy makers engaged in the field educational psychology and higher education systems to extend new approach into psychological and sociological aspects of undergraduate students of government and private universities.

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