
CONFLUX

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7, DECEMBER 2013

A PEER REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL



DEVELOPING A TOOL TO MEASURE THE POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

Political knowledge is a democratic value .It is also an important ingredient in democratic citizenship, influencing public attitudes and opinions and, thus political behavior. Political knowledge is a vital aspect of democratic citizenship. Students' political knowledge is closely linked with their politics and how they get information about politics. The sources of political knowledge are printed and non printed media.

Keywords: Political knowledge, Higher secondary school students.

INTRODUCTION

The traditional theory of democracy prescribes an informed citizenry as a crucial element of democratic politics. For this reason, political knowledge is seen as a functional and an indispensable element of a viable democracy and political knowledge has an increasing impact on confidence in educational institutions and on external political efficacy.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Various studies confirm that citizens have in recent years become more mistrustful of politics, skeptical about institutions, and disenchanted with the effectiveness of the democratic process (Dalton, 2004). A substantial body of research has accumulated around the development of political thinking in young people, though a search of the literature shows that most of this has not been undertaken in the UK. One major English study in the field is that of Robert Stradling (1977) who undertook a large-scale study of the level of political awareness in over 4,000 15 and 16 year-olds in England. He attempted to elicit not only levels of political knowledge but also the complexity of their political understanding. Stradling found that the vast majority of these students could recognize the leaders of the two main parties but their knowledge of other politicians was poor. Their knowledge of how Parliament works were limited to a broad understanding that laws emanate from Parliament but few (10%) understood the difference between the government and Parliament. Recognition of the different policies associated with different parties was also low. An earlier developmental study of interest is that of Connell (1971) who noted that the accumulation of political knowledge takes place from the early school years and he conducted in-depth interviews with 119 Australian young people from 5 to 16. Reported that the political understanding of his subjects went through four distinct phases in its development towards maturity. There was evidence of a basic understanding that a distinct political world exists and most children could identify the country's leading politician and head of state. However, political thinking at this age was native and non-problematic. Especially political knowledge is very much essential for the democratic country like India. This background makes an investigator to make an attempt to measure the knowledge of political.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

Political Knowledge: Political knowledge is a term that refers to the general knowledge people have concerning the nature of government, politics, current and events in Indian political.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To develop a research tool to measure the political knowledge of the high secondary school students.

METHODOLOGY

Tools and Techniques Used:

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To construct the tool entitled “Political knowledge of the high secondary school students” The researcher collected various needed information from various sources. And discussed with the experts in the Political Science Department to construct the tool with four dimensions namely Constitutional, Politics and Election, Political Administration, Important Political Events and constructed the tool with 87 statements. The constructed tool was multiple choice with four options in which one answer is correct and the correct response gets one mark. The respondent can get a maximum of 87 marks. The tool was distributed 100 samples of the high secondary school students. According to their total scores the item was arranged from descending that from the highest to least. Highest 27% and lowest 27% of the respondent was considered for the item analysis procedure. To validate the reliable items the researcher used statistical techniques namely 1) Discriminative Index 2) Difficulty Value. Based on the Henry Garrett (1979) items with a difficulty index value above 40% and discriminate index values between 0.3 to 0.7 were selected.

Table 1. Political Knowledge of Higher Secondary School Students

Item No.	Correct Responses		H+L	Difficulty Index= H+L/54*100	H-L	Discriminative Index = H –L /27	Item Selected
	Higher Level(27)	Lower Level(27)					
1	15	8	23	42.59259	7	0.259259	NS
2	24	12	36	66.66667	12	0.444444	S
3	17	8	25	46.2963	9	0.333333	S
4	19	8	27	50	11	0.407407	S
5	12	7	19	35.18519	5	0.185185	NS
6	20	10	30	55.55556	10	0.37037	S
7	21	12	33	61.11111	9	0.333333	S
8	19	6	25	46.2963	13	0.481481	S
9	9	3	12	22.22222	6	0.222222	NS
10	20	11	31	57.40741	9	0.333333	S
11	21	15	36	66.66667	6	0.222222	NS
12	17	6	23	42.59259	11	0.407407	S
13	13	6	19	35.18519	7	0.259259	NS
14	18	6	24	44.44444	12	0.444444	S
15	17	6	23	42.59259	11	0.407407	S
16	20	11	31	57.40741	9	0.333333	S
17	10	7	17	31.48148	3	0.111111	NS
18	21	12	33	61.11111	9	0.333333	S
19	8	4	12	22.22222	4	0.148148	NS
20	12	6	18	33.33333	6	0.222222	NS
21	19	10	29	53.7037	9	0.333333	S
22	15	3	18	33.33333	12	0.444444	NS
23	16	6	22	40.74074	10	0.37037	S
24	13	4	17	31.48148	9	0.333333	NS
25	23	13	36	66.66667	10	0.37037	S
26	10	5	15	27.77778	5	0.185185	NS
27	23	14	37	68.51852	9	0.333333	S



28	19	8	27	50	11	0.407407	S
29	21	12	33	61.11111	9	0.333333	S
30	19	11	30	55.55556	8	0.296296	NS
31	20	12	32	59.25926	8	0.296296	NS
32	21	12	33	61.11111	9	0.333333	S
33	18	8	26	48.14815	10	0.37037	S
34	21	10	31	57.40741	11	0.407407	S
35	23	17	40	74.07407	6	0.222222	NS
36	17	5	22	40.74074	12	0.444444	S
37	20	11	31	57.40741	9	0.333333	S
38	16	8	24	44.44444	8	0.296296	NS
39	13	9	22	40.74074	4	0.148148	NS
40	21	11	32	59.25926	10	0.37037	S
41	11	6	17	31.48148	5	0.185185	NS
42	17	8	25	46.2963	9	0.333333	S
43	22	11	33	61.11111	11	0.407407	S
44	22	11	33	61.11111	11	0.407407	S
45	8	3	11	20.37037	5	0.185185	NS
46	21	12	33	61.11111	9	0.333333	S
47	19	7	26	48.14815	12	0.444444	S
48	21	9	30	55.55556	12	0.444444	S
49	9	2	11	20.37037	7	0.259259	NS
50	9	4	13	24.07407	5	0.185185	NS
51	19	9	28	51.85185	10	0.37037	S
52	19	10	29	53.7037	9	0.333333	S
53	23	14	37	68.51852	9	0.333333	S
54	15	9	24	44.44444	6	0.222222	NS
55	17	5	22	40.74074	12	0.444444	S
56	19	5	24	44.44444	14	0.518519	S
57	18	5	23	42.59259	13	0.481481	S
58	9	3	12	22.22222	6	0.222222	NS
59	10	4	14	25.92593	6	0.222222	NS
60	16	11	27	50	5	0.185185	NS
61	10	4	14	25.92593	6	0.222222	NS
62	17	7	24	44.44444	10	0.37037	S
63	10	4	14	25.92593	6	0.222222	NS
64	21	11	32	59.25926	10	0.37037	S
65	17	10	27	50	7	0.259259	NS
66	23	11	34	62.96296	12	0.444444	S



67	20	10	30	55.55556	10	0.37037	S
68	12	7	19	35.18519	5	0.185185	NS
69	17	11	28	51.85185	6	0.222222	NS
70	22	13	35	64.81481	9	0.333333	S
71	19	9	28	51.85185	10	0.37037	S
72	16	7	23	42.59259	9	0.333333	S
73	22	13	35	64.81481	9	0.333333	S
74	16	12	28	51.85185	4	0.148148	NS
75	14	5	19	35.18519	9	0.333333	S
76	19	10	29	53.7037	9	0.333333	S
77	14	8	22	40.74074	6	0.222222	NS
78	21	12	33	61.11111	9	0.333333	S
79	18	9	27	50	9	0.333333	S
80	21	12	33	61.11111	9	0.333333	S
81	15	7	22	40.74074	8	0.296296	NS
82	11	5	16	29.62963	6	0.222222	NS
83	12	6	18	33.33333	6	0.222222	NS
84	15	5	20	37.03704	10	0.37037	NS
85	15	9	24	44.44444	6	0.222222	NS
86	14	5	19	35.18519	9	0.333333	NS
87	15	7	15	27.77778	8	0.296296	NS

Reliability and Validity:

The Guttman Split Half Method was followed to obtain reliability. The reliability of the tool was 0.941 Value of the tool reliability was found to be 0.970.

CONCLUSION

The tool aim to measure the political knowledge among higher secondary students, and it will be very much useful for the present generation where all facets of problem of society are now closely connected to the political aspects. So, the researcher hopes that this tool measures the political knowledge will be useful for the society as well as the nation to lead a students in good manner and make them to active participation in the political issues for the harmony of country.

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