

## A GENDER BASED STUDY OF SPIRIT OF NATIONALITY AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN SOUTH GOA

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### ABSTRACT

The present study attempts to explore the gender differences on the spirit of Nationality amongst undergraduate students. The sample consisted of 60 students from South Goa in the age group of 17-21 years. Both males and females were equally represented in the sample. Convenience sampling was used to select the required number of respondents. This study was mainly focused on undergraduate students. There were seven elements, viz. love for the country, feeling of brotherhood, unity, justice, equality, sociality and cultural heritage, which were used to measure the spirit of nationality. To estimate the reliability of the test, split half method was used by applying the Gutman formula. The test reliability is found as 0.78 which is fairly high. The investigators used the content validity for testing validity of their self prepared scale. The results revealed that there was no significant gender difference on the spirit of nationality among undergraduate students in South Goa; and the implications of the findings are also been discussed.

**Keywords:** nationality; gender; South Goa

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Different scholars have attempted to conceptualise nationality. A prominent authority on nationality, (Mill 1861 in Kapur 1997), defining nationality states that "a portion of mankind may be said to constitute a nationality if they are united among themselves by common sympathies which do not exist between them and any others which make them cooperate with each other more



willingly, than with other people, desire to be under the same government and desire that it should be government by themselves or a portion of themselves exclusively." According to James Bryce, nationality is a population held together by certain ties, as for example, language and literature, ideas, customs and traditions, in such a way as to feel itself a coherent unity distinct from other populations similarly held together by like ties of their own (Bryce 1921 in Kapur 1997).

Until recently the literature on nationalism has been gender blind. In this regard several studies have been noted. Nagel 2007 (in Bell 2009) exposed the connection between masculinity and nationalism by posing a number of queries: why are many men so desperate to defend masculine, monoracial, and heterosexual institutional preserves, such as military organizations and academies; why do men go to war; and the 'gender gap' that is, why do men and women appear to have very different goals and agendas for the 'nation?' Further, Ranchod-Nilsson and Tetreault (2000 in Bell 2009) wrote: "The centrality of gender to resurgent nationalist forces and discourses continues to be striking". Each nation assigns gender roles to its citizens. In western nations men are assigned the roles of protector and labourer, whereas women are assigned the roles of mother and homemaker. By defining roles for women and men, nationalism also denies the existence of a gender identity outside the traditional male or female. Lugones (2007 in Bell 2009) explains that before colonization, women and men were not viewed as separate social categories and each took equal part in society and government. When society was colonized, the categories of male and female were created and females were excluded from the public arena.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Scope of the study

The present study focuses on the gender differences in the spirit of nationality among undergraduate students in South Goa. The study will help the students to update their knowledge about their nationality and disseminate information about their own nation, the nation they are proud of. This study can form a basis for other research studies in the future.

### 2.2 Objectives

1. To find the gender differences in the spirit of nationality among male and female students of Rosary College of Commerce and Arts.
2. To find the gender differences in the spirit of nationality among male and female students of CES College.

### 2.3 Operational Definition of Variables:

Independent variable: Gender

Dependent Variable: Spirit of Nationality

### 2.4 Hypotheses

The below mentioned hypotheses were formulated for the study:

**Ha1:** There is a significant gender difference in the spirit of nationality among students of Rosary College in South Goa.

**Ha2:** There is a significant gender difference in the spirit of nationality among students of Cuncolim Education Society (C.E.S) College in South Goa.

### 2.5 Sample

The present study is an exploratory study which measured the spirit of nationality among undergraduate students in South Goa. The total sample consisted of 60 students, of which 30 were males and 30 were females. The participants in the study were in the age group of 17-21 years.

### 2.6 Data Collection Tools

The sample was administered a predesigned standard questionnaire<sup>1</sup> which included questions intended to elicit responses on the following core elements, viz. love for country; feeling of brotherhood; unity; justice; equality; sociality and cultural heritage. This questionnaire consisted of 52 statements: 8 statements were negatively framed and 44 statements were positively framed. Since the scale was made up of positive and negative type of items, it consists of two types of scoring. Each positive item was scored 4 for 'always', 3 for 'many times', 2 for 'sometimes', 1 for 'rarely' and 0 for 'never'. Each negative item was scored as 0 for 'always', 1 for 'many times', 2 for 'sometimes', 3 for 'rarely' and 4 for 'never'. Scores ranged from 1 to 184. For estimating the reliability of their test, split half method was used by splitting the test in two equivalent halves. The test reliability was found to be .78 which is fairly high. The investigators used the content validity for testing validity of their self prepared scale.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Ha1:** There is a significant gender difference in the spirit of nationality among students of Rosary College in South Goa

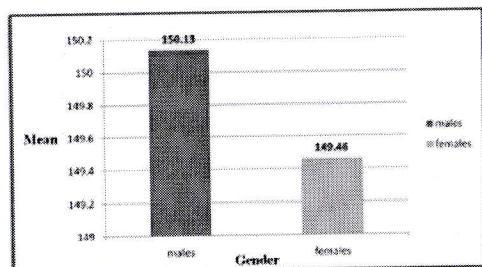


**Table 1: Gender-wise statistical measure of the spirit of nationality among students of Rosary College**

Nationality						
Gender	N	M	SD	df	t	p
Males	15	150.13	22.51	28	+0.09	0.92
Females	15	149.46	14.93			

Source: Field work of author

**Figure 1: Gender-wise mean values of nationality among students of Rosary College**



Source: Field work of author

Table 1 shows the means, standard deviation, t-value and significance level of spirit of nationality with respect to gender among students of Rosary College. Figure 1 is a bar graph indicating the gender-wise mean values of nationality among the students of Rosary College. An independent samples t-test was done to investigate the difference in the mean of males and females students. Results in Table 1 revealed that the mean value of spirit of nationality of male students (M=150.13, SD=22.51) was higher than female students (M=149.46, SD=14.93). However, this was not statistically significant, since  $t=+0.09$ ,  $p=0.92$ . Therefore, the hypothesis "There is a significant gender difference in the spirit of Nationality among students of Rosary College in South Goa" is not supported. There are studies which have supported the above finding. Mayer (1994), for instance, states that the connection between masculinity and nationalism remains strong: men take the liberty to define the nation and the nation-building process, while women for the most part accept their obligation to reproduce the nation biologically and symbolically but some of these roles have begun to be challenged. Thus, Mayer implicitly accepts the fact that sex roles are indeed changing. Also, as stated above, colonization created the male

and female categories and excluded the females from the public arena. Independence and consequent forces of decolonization have bridged the gap between the sexes substantially. This has contributed to nation building and in strengthening of the spirit of nationality among the members of the fairer sex, too. Even at the level of family, the literacy rate of parents has increased and educated parents do not differentiate between the genders as children, both male and female are treated equally. The process of socialisation in the modern Indian families, perhaps, is playing a pivotal role in reducing the sex differences in the spirit of nationality.

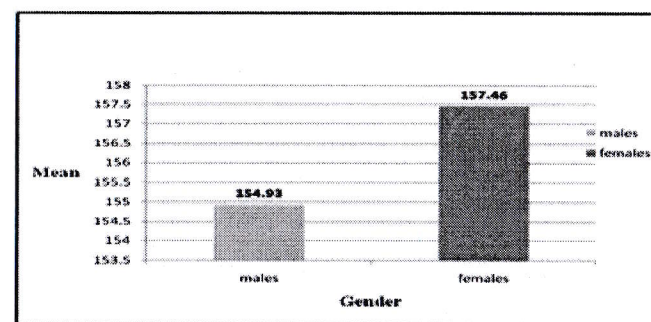
**Ha2: There is a significant gender difference in the spirit of nationality among students of C.E.S College in South Goa**

**Table 2: Gender-wise statistical measure of the spirit of nationality among students of CES College**

Nationality						
Gender	n	M	SD	df	t	p
Males	15	154.93	17.25	28	-0.4	0.69
Females	15	157.46	16.63			

Source : Field work of author

**Figure 2: Gender-wise mean values of nationality among students of CES College**



Source: Field work of author

Table 2 shows the means, standard deviation, t-value and significant level of spirit of nationality with respect to gender among students of CES College.



Figure 2 is a bar graph indicating the gender-wise mean values of nationality among students of CES College. An independent samples t-test was done to investigate the difference in the mean of males and female students. Results shown in Table 2 revealed that mean of females students ( $M=157.46$ ,  $SD=16.63$ ) on the value of spirit of nationality was higher than the same among male students ( $M=154.93$ ,  $SD=17.25$ ) on the spirit of nationality. However this was not statistically significant as  $t=0.4$ ,  $p=0.69$ . Therefore the hypothesis "There is a significant difference in the spirit of nationality among students in CES college in South Goa" is not supported. The males as well as females show a great concern for their nation. As recent feminist studies indicate, there have been important changes in the way gender and gender equality are constructed as part of national narratives and gender equality has today come to play an important role in the constructions of national identities (Akkerman and Hagelund 2007); Andreassen and Lettinga 2012; Siim and Mokre 2013). Today, the discourse on gender equality pervades the mass media making it easier for the constituents of the nation to imbibe the spirit of nationality.

#### 4. Conclusion

The overall results indicate that there is difference between the mean of males and females in Rosary College. The mean of males was higher than the mean of female students on nationality but the difference was not statistically significant. In CES College, the mean of the female students was higher than male students on nationality but the difference was not statistically significant. As both males and females are treated equally by their parents and with equal educational opportunities for both genders, no significant gender difference was noted in the nationality scores. The above findings are most probably an outcome of the colonization of Goa by the Portuguese for 451 years. The presence of the Portuguese in Goa, the contact with the West and the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity prevalent among the westerners, tremendously influenced the Goan mindset and their cultural outlook. The involvement of many men in the struggle for the liberation of Goa from the Portuguese rule also conscientized many women and awakened in them the spirit of patriotism. The bridging of the gap between the genders is perhaps an unintended consequence of colonial presence in Goa.

The study shows that Nationalism exists in the nation which is manifested in the love for the country amongst its citizens who are ready to sacrifice anything for their country. The country and love for the country is a priority amongst the Indians. Though limited by geographical boundaries a

feeling of brotherhood has been observed amongst the people of India, right from the evolution of the nation till date. There is unity in the nation among its nationals and no ill feelings towards their fellow beings. India being a democratic nation, all nationals are equal before the law and due justice is given to one and all without any prejudice. Equality - social, religious, regional, and economical is fostered and promoted by providing equal opportunity to all not only in access, but also in the conditions for success. The social factors like language or social ideals are very well accepted or tolerated in the nation by its nationals as they try to overcome all hindrances to social living. Cultural heritage is one of the important factors of nationality binding all citizens from generation to generation. Consequently, we want to reiterate that there is no significant difference in the spirit of nationality among both the sexes. Brochmann and Hagelund (2010), in their study, for example, pointed 'towards a specific form of Scandinavian welfare nationalism' wherein 'gender equality is a key aspect of the Scandinavian politics of belonging'. In India attempts towards the welfare, both of men and women citizens of India have been initiated since the drafting and enactment of the constitution in 1950. For the last more than six decades the policies and schemes of this nation aimed at bringing about an egalitarian society. Also, women's movement and women's empowerment initiatives at the level of government and civil society have perhaps contributed towards the emergence of the spirit of nationalism in women.

#### 4.1 Limitations of the study

1. There were only two colleges taken for the study.
2. There could have been an element of social desirability.
3. There was difficulty in finding high number of males as compared to females.
4. The sample is comparatively small in size and it may not be appropriate to make a generalization that there is no gender difference in the spirit of nationality, but this study is indicative of there being no gender difference with regard to the spirit of nationality, and future research may confirm the above proposition.

#### 4.2 Suggestions for improvement

1. Higher number of students could have been included.
2. There should have been more number of colleges taken for the study.



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Notes

1. See: <http://www.slideshare.net/VinayaRansing/self-preparing-questionnaire-up-load>

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