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QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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Abstract

The present study is a survey in nature to find out quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in Madurai District. The investigator in order to find out quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students developed and validated a tool for the study. The investigator followed stratified random sampling method for the study. Data were collected from the sample. The data were given appropriate statistical treatments. The findings of the study reveal that the majority of higher secondary students (54.22%) are at average level of quantitative aptitude. In differential analysis, there is significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex. The male students are having more level of quantitative aptitude aptitude aptitude among higher secondary students are having more level of quantitative aptitude aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex. The male students are having more level of quantitative aptitude aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex. The male students are having more level of quantitative aptitude aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex. The male students are having more level of quantitative aptitude aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of locality.

Keywords: Quantitative; Aptitude; Higher Secondary Students.

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1. Introduction

An aptitude is an innate component of a competency to do a certain kind of work at a certain level. Aptitudes may be physical or mental. The innate nature of aptitude is in contrast to achievement, which represents knowledge or ability that is gained.

Quantitative aptitude is the ability to do numerical calculations. It refers to the physical and psychological disposition of students towards numerical values and its manipulations. The competitive examinations are having quantitative aptitude test. Especially in Banking Service examinations, the quantitative aptitude tests are being used to test the students' numerical ability.

The speed and the rate at which the students finish mathematical calculations and other similar mathematical operations are very much essential for banking sector. In these examinations there has been considerable number of failures from our Tamil Nadu. The study of mathematics subject will improve quantitative aptitude of higher secondary students. Every year a large number of higher secondary students get centum score in mathematics. The investigator being a mathematics teacher and researcher in the field of Education thought of the conduct of present study.

2. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To study the level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students.
- 2) To find out the significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex.
- 3) To find out the level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of locality.

3. Hypotheses

- 1) The level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students is average.
- 2) There is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex.
- 3) There is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of locality.

4. Terms and Definitions

- **Quantitative Aptitude** refers to numerical and mathematical ability of students or disposition towards numerical ability both physically and mentally.
- **Higher Secondary Students** refers to the students at 11th and 12thstd.

5. Delimitations and Scope of the Study

The study is confined only to higher secondary students in Madurai only. The subgroups identified for the study were sex and locality.

The finding of the study will reveal the level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in Madurai only. It cannot be over generalized and considered as an overall reflection of level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in other cities. However it may give an idea about level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students.

6. Planning of the Multiple Choice Items

The researcher studied the concept of quantitative aptitude in detail and decided to have 50 items. Each item has 4 alternate answers. The candidate has to choose any one item. The items are of multiple choice types.

7. Establishing Reliability of the Tool

7.1. Test and Retest Method

The test was administered among the 20 students and re-administered among the same 20 after of 15 days. The comparative performance and deviation were analyzed. The deviation is negligible. Hence the tool is assumed to be having reliability. Thus the reliability was ensuring the tryout.

7.2. Establishing Validity of the Tool

The face and content validity was established for this tool. The face and content validity was checked with Mathematics teachers in the Thigarajar Model Higher Secondary school and Sourashtra Girls higher Secondary school. The concurrent validity was checked by repeated administration of the tool. According to Garret, H.E (1967, P.365) the index of reliability is also taken as a measure of validity.

7.3. Scoring

The tool consists of 50 multiple choice items. Each item will get I mark. The total marks will be 50.

7.4. Sample

The investigator has followed stratified random sampling method for the Present study. There were 201 students taken for the study. The strata were Government, Government– Aided and Self-Finance higher secondary schools in Madurai.

8. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

HYPOTHESIS: 1

The level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students is average.

Table 1: Percentage Analysis for the Level of Quantitative Aptitude among Higher Secondary Students

Description	No of students	Percentage	
High	80	39.80	
Average	109	54.22	
Low	12	5.97	

It is evident from Table 4.1 that the higher secondary students who have high level of quantitative aptitude are 80 students out of 201 students forming 39.80 percentage. The students who have average level of quantitative aptitude are 109 out of 201 students in the sample covering a percentage of 54.22. The students at the bottom level are 12 with a percentage of 5.97.

It may be concluded from the above that the majority of higher secondary students are at average level of quantitative aptitude. But it is heartening to note that the higher secondary students covering about 40 percentages are having high level of quantitative aptitude. It is further noticed that the only 5.97 percentage of higher secondary students (single digit percentage) only have low level of quantitative aptitude.

HYPOTHESIS: 2

There is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex.

Sex	Ν	Mean	SD	't' Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance
Male	113	47.66	8.91	7.01382	1.960 for degree of freedom of 199	No
Female	88	40.05	6.72		at 0.05 level	at 0.05 level

 Table 2: Mean, S.D. 'T' Values for the Level of Quantitative Aptitude among Higher Secondary

 Students in Terms of Sex.

It is evident from table 2 that the obtained 't' value is 7.01382. It is more than the critical value of 1.960 for degrees of freedom of 199 at 0.05 level. Hence, it is significant. The male students (47.66) are having level of quantitative aptitude more than female students (40.05). The hypothesis stated as there is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex is rejected.

It may be concluded from the above table that there is significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex. The male students are having more level of quantitative aptitude compared to their counterparts.

HYPOTHESIS: 3

There is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of locality.

 Table 3: Mean, S.D. 'T' Values in Level of Quantitative Aptitude among Higher Secondary Students in Terms of Locality.

Locality	Ν	Mean	SD	't' Value	Critical Value	Level of Significance
Rural	66	43.65	8.58	0.439986	1.960 for degree No	No
Urban	135	44.66	9.00		199 at 0.05 level	Significance

It is evident from table 3 that the obtained 't' value is 0.439986. It is less than the critical value of 1.960 for degrees of freedom of 199 at 0.05 level. Hence, it is not significant. The hypothesis

stated as there is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of locality is accepted.

It may be concluded from the above table that there is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of locality.

9. Findings of the Study

The following are the findings of the study:

- 1) The majority of higher secondary students (54.22%) are at average level of quantitative aptitude. But it is heartening to note that the next major chunk of higher secondary students (39.40 percentages) is having high level of quantitative aptitude. It is further noticed that the only 5.97 percentage of higher secondary students (single digit percentage) only have low level of quantitative aptitude.
- 2) There is significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of sex. The male students are having more level of quantitative aptitude compared to their counterparts.
- 3) There is no significant difference in level of quantitative aptitude among higher secondary students in terms of locality.

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