

Original Article

A Comparative Study of Locus of Control among College Students Studying in Ranchi University, Ranchi

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Abstract

In Present Study, the researcher examined effect of level of education (Undergraduate & Postgraduate) and gender (Male & Female) on Locus of Control among college students studying in Ranchi University, Ranchi. This study is based on sample of 80 college students divided into two groups 40 males and 40 females. In each group 20 students are from UG and 20 students are from PG. To choose the samples, a method known as stratified random sampling was used. In order to evaluate the students' sense of control over their own lives, the Locus of Control scale, which was developed by Hasnain and Joshi (1992), was used. In order to verify our hypothesis, we used a t-test. According to the results of the present research, college students at Ranchi University, Ranchi, did not believe that their gender or level of education had any influence on their sense of control over their lives.

Keywords: Locus of Control, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Reinforcement and Individual Perception

Introduction

There is a correlation between a stronger sense of agency and a higher level of happiness. The book "Locus of Control" gives light on the ways in which individuals differ in their perspectives on life, responses to problems, and planning for the future. When referring to an individual's feeling of agency in regard to the results of their own life events and the outcomes of events that occur in the outside world, the phrase "locus of control" is used. It is a reference to the manner in which an individual perceives the basic causes that lie behind the events that have occurred to them.

Locus of control is a straightforward concept. Various forms of reward are outlined as guiding behaviors. Reward or punishment are two examples of reinforcements. The beliefs that individuals develop on the reasons for their behaviors are influenced by the reinforcement they experience throughout their life.

"A locus of control orientation is a belief about whether the outcomes of our actions are contingent on what we do (internal control orientation) or on events outside our personal control (external control orientation)." (Zimbardo, 1985, 275)

Types of Locus of Control :

There exist two categories of locus of control -

Internal Locus of Control

Control is seen as emanating from inside when one has an internal center of control. Each of us is capable of managing our own conduct.

External Locus of Control

It is said that control is derived from outside sources when one has an external locus of control. A person with an external locus of control thinks that forces outside their control determine their behavior and the results they achieve. One asset-based research strategy in the field of psychology is the Locus of Control. Knowing how people react to challenges, envision their own futures, and approach life in general is crucial.

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Review of Literature

- The purpose of this research is to analyse how gender and location impact college students' locus of control, as shown in a study by Wagmare (2016). A total of 120 undergraduates from arts colleges were chosen for this research; 30 males and 30 females, split evenly between urban and rural areas, made up the sample. The Ratters Locus of Control Scale developed by Srivastava and Anand Kumar. Data were analysed using means, standard deviations, and 'F' values, and a 2X2 factorial design was used for scale collecting. The results of this research show that college students' locus of control differs significantly across genders. College women tend to have a stronger internal locus of control than men, while men tend to have a stronger outward locus of control. College students from urban and rural areas do not vary much with respect to locus of authority.
- A research titled "A Comparative Study on the Usage of Locus of Control between Men and Women" was carried out by Verma and Shah (2017). The purpose of this research was to find out whether girls and boys behave differently when it comes to taking charge of their own lives or letting other people do it for them. Men and women between the ages of 18 and 22 were the subjects of the comparative research. A total of 120 people were included in the sample, including 60 males and 60 females. This was accomplished by using Levenson's locus of control scale. Individual Control (I), Powerful Others (P), and Chance Control (C) were each measured with 8 statements. With identical scores in strong others and chance control, there was little to no difference between the sexes when it came to the externality aspects. When it came to the internality aspect, however, there was a little gender gap; women scored higher on the individual control subscale. Therefore, the findings indicate that the use of an internal or external locus of control is not significantly influenced by gender.
- In their research titled "Internal Locus of Control of Undergraduate Students with respect to Stream and Gender," Kaur and Singh (2021) examined this same topic. The purpose of the research was to look at the internal locus of control of undergraduates by gender and stream. Two hundred and sixteen undergraduates from two different private and public universities in Chandigarh were randomly chosen to make up the sample (using lottery technique). The Locus of Control Scale, developed by Nongtdu and Bhutia (2018), was used for data collection. The internal locus of control raw score, which was generated independently according to the research questionnaire, was considered. The results showed that stream has a substantial effect on ILO. When it came to internal locus of control, gender was not a major factor. Internal locus of control was not shown to be significantly affected by stream and gender when these two factors were considered simultaneously the two main types of locus of control, internal and external.
- The research conducted by Yadav (2023) investigated the connection between the academic performance of undergraduate students and their sense of control over their own lives. There were undergraduate students from the humanities department at the University of Delhi in India who participated in the study. The participants' ages ranged from 18 to 21 on average. As part of their sample, the researchers utilised 137 undergraduate students. Rotter's internal-external locus of control (IE) (1966) scale was used by the researchers in order to examine the students' sense of control over their own lives. In order to obtain information from the pupils, a questionnaire created in Google Forms was used. There was no association found between the students' internal locus of control and their academic achievements, according to the findings of the research.

Objectives

To explore student level of education related Locus of Control.

To explore student gender-related Locus of Control.

Hypotheses

- 1.The levels of education (undergraduate and postgraduate) will not substantially influence locus of control.
- 2.Gender (male or female) will not substantially influence locus of control among students in higher education.

Method

Sample

The sample of the present study consisted of 80 college students from different colleges under Ranchi University, Ranchi. College students divided into two groups 40 males and 40 females. In each group 20 students are from UG and 20 students are from PG. Samples were selected through stratified random sampling method.

Instrument

Personal Data Questionnaire (PDQ)

The Personal Data Questionnaire will be prepared by the researcher. This questionnaire will be used to elicit information about respondent's Name, Age, Level of educational qualification, Gender, Place of residence, name of college in which he/she is studying etc.

Locus of Control Scale

Hasnain and Joshi (1992) created this scale. Item number thirty-six makes up this scale. With 16 yes answers and 20 no answers, we can see that the locus of control is internal and the other way around. These items were tried out on 500 randomly selected students studying in B.A. and B.Ed. Classes of Government Post Graduate college, Pithoragarh. The

participants might choose between three options: "Always," "Sometimes," and "Never" while answering the questions. The reliability's internal consistency coefficient was calculated using the Spearman-Brown prophecy formula in an odd-even process with a sample size of 50. After doing the necessary calculations, the dependability coefficient came out to be 0.55. The reliability coefficient of temporal stability after a two-week delay was determined to be 0.76 using the test-retest procedure with 50 participants. By comparing the respondents' scores on this scale with those on Roma Pal's (1983) scale, we were able to determine the scale's validity (N=50). As a result of these calculations, the correlation coefficient turned out to be 0.76.

Procedure

The Personal Data Questionnaire (PDQ) was utilized to gather information from the participants. The subsequent step involved distributing the Locus of Control Scale to each group, accompanied by detailed instructions. All scores were computed utilizing the appropriate scoring keys. The gathered scores underwent analysis through means, standard deviations, and t-values to fulfill the study's objectives.

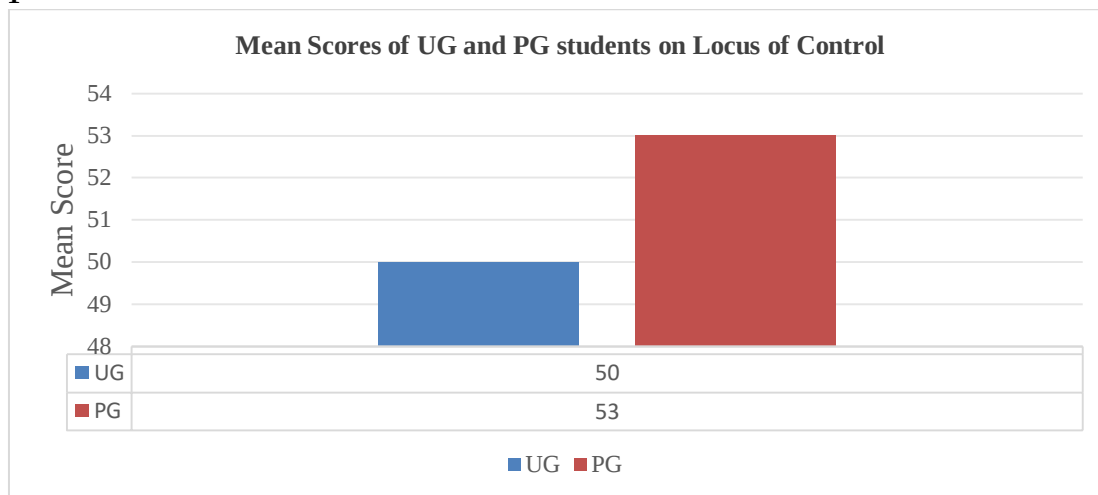
Results And Interpretations

We used means, standard deviations, and a t test to examine the data, and the results are in the tables.

Table-1
Comparison of UG and PG students on Locus of Control

Groups	N	Mean	SD	t	P value
UG	40	50	10	1.28	Not Significant
PG	40	53	11		

Figure-1

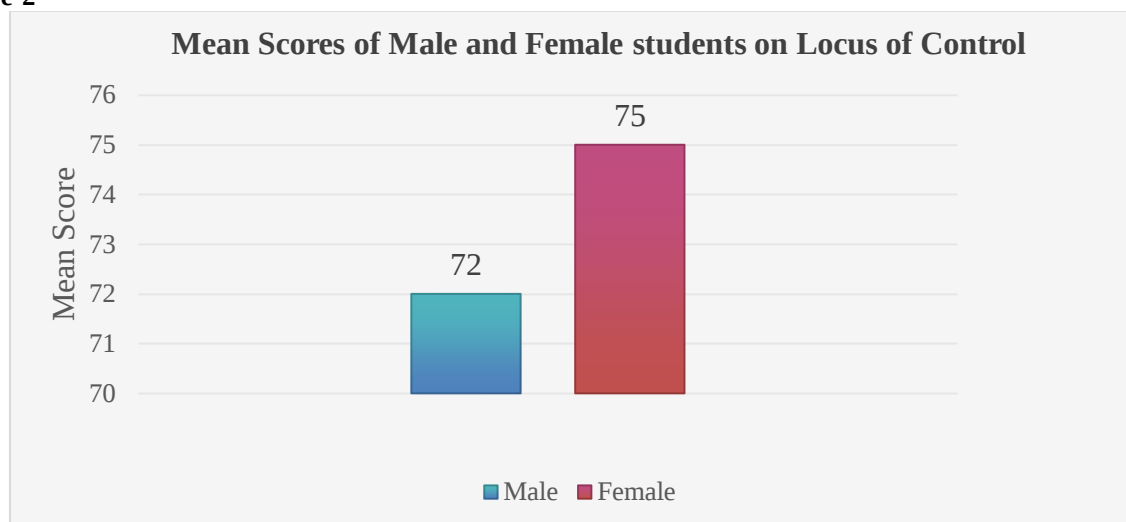


It is clear from table-1 and figure-1 that the Locus of Control levels of UG and PG students were almost identical. A t-value of 1.28, computed at the 0.05 level of significance, does not indicate statistical significance. So, we accept the null hypothesis that there would be no significant variation in Locus of Control between undergraduate and graduate students. An study by Kaur and Singh (2021) on the "Internal Locus of Control of Undergraduate Students with respect to Stream and Gender" lends credence to these results.

Table-2
Comparison of Male and Female students on Locus of Control

Groups	N	Mean	SD	t	P value
Male	40	72	12	1.07	Not Significant
Female	40	75	13		

Figure-2



The analysis of Locus of Control indicates that there is no statistically significant difference between the sexes, as illustrated in table 2 and figure 2. Given that the average scores of female students slightly exceed those of male students, it can be inferred that female students possess a slightly higher Locus of Control. Their difference, however, is minimal. This provides evidence for the null hypothesis, indicating that the Locus of Control among college students is not influenced by their gender. The research conducted by Waghmare (2016) on the "Effect of Gender and Location on Locus of Control among College Students" supports these findings.

Conclusions

1. The level of Locus of Control is about the same for UG and PG students.
2. The level of Locus of Control is about the same for both male and female students.

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