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A STUDY OF THE RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES OF HINDU ADOLESCENTS STUDYING IN TRADITIONALLY HINDU ORIENTED AND NON-HINDU ORIENTED SCHOOLS IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

This research was undertaken to examine whether the type of school, geographical area, sex and the subjects studied in the advanced level classes such as Arts and Science have a bearing on the religious attitude of Hindu adolescent students. The reasons given by the students themselves for their pro religious and anti religious activities were also probed into. This is a pioneering study yielding certain interesting inductions which seem to be worthy of further investigation.

The instrument used for gathering data was a general questionnaire and Likert attitude scale designed by the researcher. The Likert scale devised for this purpose was found to have a high reliability and validity.

As the population of interest could not have been found by any other means, a purposive, stratified proportionate sample was selected on the judgement of experts. The final sample consisted of 682 care was taken to match the paired groups compared so that the extraneous variables cancel out.

The data collected from questionnaire I was subjected to qualitative analysis and data from the Likert scale was used for the purpose of testing the following hypothesis.

those in non-Hindu oriented schools.

I No significant difference exists between, the religious attitude of Hindu adolescent students studying in traditionally Hindu oriented schools and those studying in Non-Hindu oriented schools.

II No significant difference exists between the religious attitude of Hindu adolescent students studying in Jaffna schools and Colombo schools.

III No significant difference exists between the religious attitude of Hindu adolescent girls and boys.

IV No significant difference exists between the religious attitude of Hindu adolescent students in the Arts and Science Courses of the advanced level classes.

The validity of the above hypothesis was tested by statistical inference. On the results of the test all the four hypothesis put forward were rejected. Alternate hypothesis were formed and subjected to a one failed test. On the results of it the following conclusions were arrived at.

The religious attitude of Hindu adolescent students in Hindu oriented schools is significantly higher than

those in non-Hindu oriented schools.

The religious attitude of Hindu adolescent students in Jaffna schools is significantly higher than that of those in Colombo Schools.

The religious attitude of the Hindu adolescent girls is significantly higher than that of the boys.

The religious attitude of the Hindu adolescent students following the Science Course in the advanced level classes is significantly higher than those of the students in the Art Courses.

Considering the fact that the highest score possible was 200, and the means of the different categories of the sample range from 123.86 to 148.02 it can be concluded that the Hindu adolescent students have a fairly high attitude towards religion.

The conclusions drawn in this investigation cannot be generalised due to the limitation of the sample.

It is hoped that the findings of this investigation would be of use to religious educators and social psychologists.