

# Attitude towards Modernization – A Study of College Students of District Baramulla

Afshana Rashid\*, Dr. Usha Vaidya\*\*

\* Research Scholar, Rabindranath Tagore University

\*\* H.O.D. Department of Arts and Liberal Arts, Rabindranath Tagore University

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## Abstract

*Theory of modernization is used to explain the process of modernization within social structures. Modernization refers to a model of a progressive transition from a ‘pre-modern’ to a ‘modern’ society. Historians refer modernization to the processes of urbanization and industrialization and the spread of education. Kendall (2007) Notes, “Urbanization accompanied modernization and the rapid process of industrialization.” In sociological critical theory, modernization is referred to an overarching process of rationalization. When modernization increases within a society, the individuals become increasingly important, eventually replacing the community as the fundamental unit of society. The present paper shall be an attempt to investigate and compare the attitude of male and female students towards modernization in district Baramulla.*

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## Introduction

Human society has changed much over the last centuries and this process of ‘modernization’ has affected our lives to a great extent. Modernization is the process of changing the conditions of a social structure, an organization or a group of people in ways that change the privileges of that group

according to modern knowledge or modern technology. There are differences of emphasis with respect to the meaning of modernization due to its relationship with the concept of ‘development.’ The transition from the traditional to the modern society can be treated with a primarily negative emphasis in terms of removing institutional obstacles to

development, or with a positive emphasis in terms of creating the socio-cultural environment necessary for development. According to Lerner, modernization is a social process of which development is the economic component. Development or modernization refers to a particular kind of social change. Thus, the participation of social science disciplines in the discussion of development is recognized as important and is often being expressed in the ‘social conditions of economic growth’ or ‘non-economic barriers to economic growth’ types of formula. All societies pass through the same stages of development, moving from traditional environment to modern industrial society and from there further to post-industrial or postmodern forms. The goals of higher standard of life, social justice and freedom security are more of the accepted goals of modernism. Socioeconomic modernization is an underlying factor influencing civic culture and democracy at the level of society, and commitment and classroom socialism at the level of business schools. People’s general attitudes to change are extended to modernism and new technologies in general – television, the electronic mail, in vitro fertilization, new learning and teaching methods, female ordination, males plaiting their hair and wearing earrings or agitation for gay rights.

Within the basic assumptions of modernization theory, there is a considerable variety of emphasis on different levels- according to whether conceptual priority is assigned to institutions, cultural orientations or social processes. It has been seen that in societies with relatively more rural population than urban, there is a lower level of tolerance of modernization and that urban and city inhabitants accept modernization more easily. Yogendra Singh, defends the concept of modernisation. According to Singh, it is broader than the two processes of Westernisation and Sanskritisation. It is, indeed a ‘culturally universal’ and not necessarily confined to any single society. Like science, modernity is not an exclusive possession of any one cultural group. It rather belongs to the humanity as a whole. This does not mean that it should reveal the same pattern everywhere. It need not always take place on the model of England, Germany, America or France. It can take place on the model of Russia, Japan, India, Australia, or any other country for that matter. What is important to modernisation is that a commitment to “scientific world view” and a belief in the philosophical and humanistic viewpoint of science on contemporary problem. We live in a dynamic world and change is inevitable. The use of new technology, tools, adoption of new values,

customs and practices in organizations are all aspects of change and modernization. There are, however, contradictions in the attitudes of various generations towards change. The generally urban-ward movement, particularly among the youngsters, has spelled greater independence for them with diminishing parental control and influence on their lives which may bring many undesirable changes to their behaviour. Such changes along with the rapid development in information technology play an important role in shaping their behaviour. This paper is an attempt to unmask the attitudes of the college students towards change and the various facets of modernization. The sample consists of 120 students studying in a college located in district Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir. Attitude towards modernization was measured by using Modernization attitude scale which consists of 35 different items measuring five different dimensions: Social Mobility, Position of Women, Family Planning, Marriage, and Religion and Superstition. Mean, t-test, SD and correlation were used to analyze the data and conclusions were drawn on the basis of the results. Statistical analysis showed a positive attitude of the college students towards different facets of modernization. However, a significant difference was found between male and female students on two different dimensions

of modernization i.e., position of women and social mobility with female students scoring higher on both the dimensions.

## **Review of Literature**

A lot of work has been done in the direction of modernisation in India and other countries. The most important works have been cited as supporting studies for the present study. K. R. Davis, 2015 attempted to unmask the attitudes of the college students towards change and the various facets of modernization. Modernization means a process by which modern scientific knowledge covering all aspects of human life is introduced at varying degree, first in western civilization and later diffused to the non-western world by different methods & group with the ultimate purpose of achieving a better & non satisfactory life in the broader sense of the term, as accepted by the society concerned. According to Yogendra Singh, Hindu society consists of certain traditions which are in fact value theme. Before the emergence of modernization, the Hindu society was based on the following components: (1) hierarchy, (2) Holism, (3) karma, and (4) transcendence. These value components are found in Hindu scriptures such as Geeta, Mahabharata, Ramayana, Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads.

In this paper I argue that attitude towards modernization is affected by sex. Null hypothesis was tested and data was analysed accordingly. ‘C.R. Test’ was applied to find out the significance of difference in the said trait of testing groups of the sample. Dr. Hetal T. Patel 2012 asserted that “There is nothing more permanent than change” Modernization is not westernization purely. The modernized society believes in coexistence, co-operation and compromise rather than in conflict and competition. Asha Chawla; Kang, T. K. 2011 attempts to find out gender differences in attitudes toward modernization among adults belonging to middle socioeconomic status in Ludhiana city. Usrh 2010 writes about the use of new technologies, tools, adoption of new values and practices in organizations are all aspects of change and modernization. Manminder Kaur & Jaspreet Kaur investigated the relationship between mean scores of aggression and modernization of adolescents.

## **Methodology and Procedure**

### **Statement of Problem**

The problem thus reads “Attitude towards modernization-A Study of college students of District Baramulla”

### **Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives have been formulated for the present paper:

1. To study the attitude towards modernization of college students.
2. To compare the attitude towards modernization of male and female students.

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses have been formulated for the research:

1. There is a significant difference between attitude towards modernization of male and female students.

### **Sample for the Study**

The sample for the study consists of 50 college students (25= male and 25 female) randomly selected from Villages and Towns of District Baramulla.

### **Method**

For the purpose of the present study descriptive method was applied.

### **Tools used**

The following tools were used for the study:

1. Modernization Scale by Bhagavendra S. Singh, A. N. Tripathi and RamjeeLal.

## **Statistical Treatment**

The following statistical methods have been applied to the present study:

1. Mean;
2. SD;
3. Correlation

## **Discussion**

The overall discourse of the study revealed significant effect of gender towards modernization. However, modernization has contributed a lot to the enlargement and intensification to the substantive as well as theoretical concern of sociology and other social science theoretically; the modernization studies lead to enlargement to the social awareness. Directly or indirectly it added to the process of self-awareness in the developing nations in which most of such studies were addressed. Education plays an important role in modernizing the people in a channelized manner as education is the both receiver and giver of social change. The present study has practical and theoretical implications. From the practical point of view, its results are significant for educational institutions. It is generally considered that education moulds the character of the society.

It enables an individual to take part fully in the development of the nation. It is therefore, the job of educational institution to spell our clear cut aims and objectives of education and to plan the educational system in such a way that it fosters in the students to modify old values. The study has implications for teachers also. It is the teacher who actually presents the content of education to the students. He has a crucial role to play in developing the right kind of outlook and attitudes in the students. The teacher, has to impart instruction in such a manner that it may develop in students self-concept, a rational outlook, scientific orientation, questioning mind and the capacity of making decisions for themselves. From the theoretical point of view, the study establishes that education is not the sole factor that brings social change. Students of different gender and different socio-economic background differ in the attitudes. Therefore, the educational program should be designed in such a way that it is conducive to bring desirable attitudinal change in order to bring modernization among all students irrespective to their sex.

## **Analysis of Data**

The following analysis has been worked out from the data meant for the research in hand.

Table No. 1 Showing the mean and standard deviations of male students

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>S.E.</b>
Male Students	25	114	6.4	5.45

Descriptive statistics related to attitudes of male and female students towards modernisation and significance of difference.

Table No. 2 Showing the mean and standard deviations of female students

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>S.E.</b>
Female Students	25	129	8.41	14.92

It is clear from table 2 that the mean scores of female students is 129. The standard error is 14.92 as calculated.

Table No. 3 showing comparison of attitudes of male and female students on modernization scores.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>S.E.</b>	<b>r</b>
Males	25	114	6.4	5.45	0.66
Females	25	129	8.41	14.92	

It is clear from the table 3 that the mean scores of male and female students are 114 and 129 respectively. The standard error of mean difference is 5.45. Correlation value is .66 which is significant. It shows that male/female has a strong impact on the attitude of college students towards modernization.

**Results**

The present study has resulted in a number of conclusions in relation to attitude towards

modernization of male and female students as under:

1. Study shows that the mean scores of male students on attitude towards

modernization are 114. Which is comparatively a low score on the scale?

2. The mean scores of female students is 129. The standard error of mean difference is 14.92 as calculated which is quite different from that of the male students.
3. Male/female factor has a significant impact on the attitude of college students towards modernization.

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