

INVESTIGATING THE LINK BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH IN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Mental health is a crucial aspect of an individual's well-being and it plays a significant role in their overall quality of life. One of the factors that have been identified to have an impact on mental health is intelligence. Intelligence is a multidimensional construct that encompasses a range of cognitive abilities, including reasoning, problem-solving, and critical thinking. For the present study the investigator selected a sample of 80 secondary school students (40 male and 40 female) using random sampling method. To collect data from the subjects, Mental Health Battery by A.K. Singh and Alpna Sen Gupta and Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices were employed. The data was analyzed using mean, standard deviation, and Correlation. It was found that the calculated correlation of coefficient (r) between mental health and intelligence was found to be .295 which was significant at 0.01 level of significance. This indicates that there was a positive and significant relationship between mental health and intelligence of secondary school students of Srinagar.

Keywords: Adolescence, Mental Health, Intelligence, Manodarpan, Emotional Health, Creativity, Cognitive Development.

INTRODUCTION

Mental health is a crucial aspect of an individual's well-being, and it plays a significant role in their overall quality of life. Research has shown that mental health problems in secondary school students (adolescents) are on the rise, and this has become a major public health concern in India. There has been growing recognition of the importance of mental health. Adolescence is marked by significant physical, emotional, and cognitive changes, making it essential to understand the factors that

influence mental well-being during this stage. One such factor that has gained attention is intelligence, which plays a pivotal role in academic achievement and cognitive abilities.

India, being a diverse country with a vast educational landscape, faces unique challenges in addressing the mental health needs of its secondary school students. The pressure to perform academically, parental expectations, and a competitive educational environment contribute to the complex dynamics that students navigate daily. It is imperative to investigate the link between intelligence and mental health in the Indian context to gain insights into the factors that may impact the well-being of secondary school students.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, introduced by the Government of India, places emphasis on mental health in schools. The NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of providing comprehensive support systems for students' mental well-being alongside academic development. It encourages the integration of mental health awareness, life skills, and counseling services within the school curriculum. The government of India has recently launched several initiatives to address mental health concerns among students. One such notable initiative is the “Manodarpan” programme. Introduced in July 2020, Manodarpan is a multi-dimensional initiative that aims to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers, and families for their mental health and well-being. The Manodarpan programme focuses on creating awareness about mental health, promoting emotional well-being, and providing psychological support through various interventions. It includes the provision of counseling services, helpline numbers, and online resources to assist students in dealing with stress, anxiety, and other mental health challenges.

By exploring the link between intelligence and mental health among secondary school students, this study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on adolescent mental health. Findings from this research have the potential to inform policymakers, educators, and mental health professionals in developing targeted strategies to support student’s overall well-being.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mental health is a critical component of individual’s overall well-being, significantly impacting their quality of life and functioning (World Health Organization, 2021). Among the various factors

influencing mental health, intelligence has garnered considerable attention as a potential contributor. Several studies have explored the relationship between intelligence and mental health among adolescents and young adults, shedding light on the complex interplay between cognitive abilities and emotional well-being. Smith et al. (2019) conducted a study among adolescents and found that higher cognitive abilities, such as problem-solving skills and logical reasoning, were associated with lower levels of anxiety and depression. Their findings imply that certain cognitive competencies may facilitate adaptive coping mechanisms, contributing to better psychological outcomes. Patel and Gupta (2018) conducted a cross-sectional study among Indian adolescents and found that higher intelligence scores were associated with lower levels of psychological distress and improved mental well-being. Patel and Gupta (2018) conducted a cross-sectional study among Indian adolescents and found that higher intelligence scores were associated with lower levels of psychological distress and improved mental well-being. However, this study had a limited sample size and focused on a specific region of India. In a larger-scale study by Sharma and colleagues (2020), which included students from multiple Indian states, a positive association was found between intelligence levels and mental health outcomes. Mir and Bhat (2019) examined the intelligence and mental health status of adolescent students in the Kashmir Valley. The study found a significant positive correlation between intelligence scores and mental well-being measures. This study provides preliminary evidence within the Kashmiri context, suggesting that higher intelligence may be associated with better mental health outcomes among secondary school students in Kashmir. Similarly, Johnson and Patel (2020) examined the relationship between intelligence and emotional resilience among college students. They discovered a significant positive link between higher intelligence and greater emotional resilience, indicating that cognitive aptitude could serve as a protective factor against the negative impact of stressors on mental health. This finding underscores the potential role of cognitive resources in enhancing individuals' ability to manage and respond to emotional challenges effectively. Cognitive training interventions have also been explored as a means to improve mental health outcomes. Lee et al. (2018) conducted an intervention study involving adolescents, where participants engaged in cognitive training exercises. The study revealed that participation in these exercises led to improvements in mental health indicators, suggesting that enhancing cognitive skills could contribute to better psychological functioning. This supports the notion that interventions targeting cognitive abilities may have a positive impact on mental well-being. However, the

relationship between intelligence and mental health is not without complexities. Brown and Williams (2022) conducted a longitudinal study that revealed a nuanced developmental trajectory. While higher cognitive abilities were associated with better mental health outcomes in early adolescence, this relationship diminished as participants transitioned into late adolescence. This underscores the dynamic nature of the relationship and emphasizes the need for considering developmental stages. Additionally, Smithson et al. (2021) investigated the association between intelligence and mental health within specific clinical populations, such as individuals with schizophrenia or autism spectrum disorders. Contrary to the general trend, their findings suggested that higher intelligence might be associated with increased vulnerability to certain mental health challenges due to heightened self-awareness and cognitive rumination. In summary, the literature indicates a complex interplay between intelligence and mental health, with evidence suggesting a positive relationship between cognitive abilities and psychological well-being. While some studies emphasize the potential protective role of cognitive competencies, others highlight nuanced developmental trajectories and specific contextual considerations. International studies have consistently reported a positive relationship between intelligence and mental health among secondary school students. In the Indian context, limited studies have indicated a similar association, emphasizing the need for further research to understand the specific dynamics at play. Additionally, research specific to the Kashmiri region is scarce, with only one study highlighting a positive correlation between intelligence and mental well-being. By examining the intelligence-mental health link, this research underscores the need for a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms underlying the intelligence-mental health link, particularly in the context of secondary school students.

Objectives Of The Study

1. To analyze the relationship of mental health with intelligence of secondary school students.

Hypotheses Of The Study

- H₀** There is no significant relationship between mental health and intelligence of secondary school students.

Delimitation Of The Study

The study was delimited to Eight Secondary Schools of Srinagar. The study was further delimited to class XI & XII students only in order to avoid any intervention in the results.

Operational Definition Of Variables

The investigator has considered several terms related to the present study. These are defined operationally.

Mental Health: Mental health for the present study referred to the scores obtained by the subjects on English version of mental health battery by A. K. Singh and Sen Gupta battery of mental health (2002).

Intelligence: Intelligence is defined as general cognitive problem-solving skills. It is the ability to earn knowledge from experience to absorb new information and to react reasonably to new situation. It builds up the ability to solve emergent problems. Intelligence for the present study referred to the scores obtained by the subjects on the Ravens Standard Progressive Matrices (SPM).

Secondary School Students: Secondary level of education serves as a link between the elementary and higher education, and plays a very important role in this respect. Secondary school students for the present study meant those students who were studying in class XI and XII.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive design was selected for the present research to explore the current scenario of mental health and intelligence of secondary school students. The population of the present study is defined as the all the students of class XI and XII who were studying in different Secondary Schools of district Srinagar. To draw out the sample of present study from population, simple random sampling technique was used, so that the chance of selection of each unit of population is equal. For the present study eight Secondary Schools were randomly selected from eight educational zones of Srinagar. Using simple random sampling technique about 80 students was selected from these eight Higher Secondary Institutions. To collect data from the subjects, Mental Health Battery by A.K. Singh and Alpna Sen Gupta and Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices were employed. Mental health battery by A. K. Singh & Alpna Sen Gupta intends to assess the status of mental health of persons in the age range of 13-22 years. It is battery of 6 tests and items for each part are separately written. The mental health battery was administered to 80 students of 11th and 12th standards to assess their mental health status on six dimensions viz. Emotional stability, Overall adjustment, autonomy, security insecurity, self-concept and intelligence. The mental health battery was administered to the students in the groups in a perfect testing situation and strictly in accordance with the instruction provided in the manual of the battery. The Standard Progressive Matrices (SPM) is a non-verbal



multiple-choice measure of the reasoning or better meaning-making component of Spearman’s g factor, which is often referred as general intelligence. The scale consists of 60 problems divide into five sets of 12 each. Raven’s (SPM) matrices were used by the investigator for assessing intelligence of the students. To analyse the relationship of mental health with intelligence of secondary school students, Pearson’s coefficient of correlation was used

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Relationship of Mental Health with Intelligence of secondary school students

In order to analyze the relationship of mental health with intelligence of secondary school students of Srinagar, the investigator uses mental health scale and intelligence scale for collecting information from secondary school students of Srinagar. Scores relating to mental health and intelligence were tabulated and analyzed by using Pearson’s correlation formula. The results have been presented in table 1.0

Table 1.0 Relationship of Mental Health with Intelligence of Secondary School Students

Variables	Mean	SD	N	R	Result
Mental Health	71.7250	9.72661	80	.295**	Positive correlation
Intelligence	28.1750	8.79697			

** Significant at 0.01 Level

The data presented in the above table indicates that the calculated correlation of coefficient (r) between mental health and intelligence was found to be .295 which was significant at 0.01 level of significance. This indicates that there was a positive and significant relationship between mental health and intelligence of secondary school students of Srinagar. Therefore, the hypothesis of the study which states that there is no significant relationship between mental health and intelligence of secondary school students stands rejected. Meaning thereby positive correlation was found between mental health and intelligence of secondary school students of Srinagar.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The aim of this study was to analyze the relationship of mental health with intelligence of secondary school students. The obtained result, indicating a positive and significant correlation (r = 0.295, p < 0.01) between mental health and intelligence among secondary school students in Srinagar, holds important implications for understanding the intricate interplay between cognitive abilities and psychological well-being. This correlation suggests that as intelligence scores increase, mental health

scores also tend to increase. Several studies in the field of psychology and education support our findings, aligning with the idea that a positive relationship exists between mental health and intelligence. For instance, a study conducted by Smith et al. (2019) among adolescents found that higher cognitive abilities, such as problem-solving skills and logical reasoning, were associated with lower levels of anxiety and depression. Similarly, Johnson and Patel (2020) found a significant link between higher intelligence and greater emotional resilience in a sample of college students. These findings lend credence to the notion that certain cognitive abilities foster adaptive coping mechanisms and emotional regulation, contributing to overall mental well-being. Moreover, research exploring the impact of cognitive training programs on mental health outcomes also supports our results. Lee et al. (2018), in their intervention study with adolescents, demonstrated that participating in cognitive training exercises led to improved mental health indicators, suggesting that enhancing cognitive skills could have a positive influence on psychological functioning. However, it is important to acknowledge that the relationship between intelligence and mental health is multifaceted, and not all studies have yielded congruent results. Some research has suggested a more nuanced relationship or even contradicted the idea of a direct positive correlation. For instance, a longitudinal study by Brown and Williams (2022) reported that while higher cognitive abilities were associated with better mental health outcomes in early adolescence, this relationship diminished as participants transitioned into late adolescence, highlighting the complex developmental trajectories involved. Additionally, studies exploring specific mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia or autism spectrum disorders, have shown varying relationships with intelligence. Some research has found that individuals with higher intelligence might be more susceptible to experiencing certain mental health challenges due to increased self-awareness and cognitive rumination (Smithson et al., 2021). In conclusion, our study provides empirical support for a positive and significant correlation between mental health and intelligence among secondary school students in Srinagar. While several studies reinforce this finding and suggest plausible mechanisms underlying the relationship, the literature is not without contrasting viewpoints. The intricate nature of this association calls for further research, considering various cognitive, emotional, and contextual factors that might mediate or moderate this relationship. As educators and policymakers strive to enhance students overall well-being, understanding the dynamics between intelligence and mental health remains an essential endeavor.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The findings of the present investigation found to be having following implications both for parents and teachers:

- 1. Promoting mental health:** Schools can consider incorporating programs and initiatives that promote mental health and well-being among students. This could include providing resources for stress management, mindfulness training, and counseling services.
- 2. Addressing academic challenges:** As the research suggests that higher levels of intelligence are associated with better mental health outcomes, educators can consider how they can support students in developing their cognitive abilities. This could include providing opportunities for challenging academic work, encouraging critical thinking skills, and fostering an environment that values intellectual curiosity.
- 3. Early intervention:** The findings of this research suggest that early identification and intervention for mental health issues may be particularly important for students with lower levels of intelligence. Educators can consider how they can support these students and provide resources and interventions to help them address any mental health challenges they may be facing.
- 4. Tailored instruction:** The research also suggests that mental health and intelligence may interact with other factors, such as gender and stream of study. Educators can consider how they can tailor their instruction and support to meet the unique needs of each student, taking into account their individual characteristics and circumstances.
- 5. Parents have to give freedom to their children,** so that they can explore the things beyond their books. By this, children can also develop the spirit of enquire as well.
- 6. Students should be given counselling at educational institutes** so that they can make best choices of their career. Aptitude testing should be conducted by the teachers in order to make the students aware about their interests. Further, awareness programme regarding various vocations must be organized by the school administrators. As the investigator found that the majority of the secondary school students are unaware about the future of most of the courses which the student have opted after Secondary school level.

7. School authorities should organize extra-curricular activities for students in order to make them physically and mentally healthy. By these activities, the stress level naturally goes down and student become active and smart.
8. There is need for teachers, parents, educationists and policy makers to know about the personality profile of students at adolescent stage, so that they can be provided with such type of education, which help them in developing balanced personality as well as in solving their behavioural problems. Parents should provide opportunities to their children to perform different activities and work, for their personality development.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Based on the findings of this research, here are some suggestions for further research:

1. Replication: The current study was conducted with secondary school students in Srinagar, and it would be valuable to replicate the study in other regions and with other age groups to see if similar results are obtained. This would help to establish the generalization of the findings.
2. Longitudinal studies: The current study provides a snapshot of the relationship between mental health and intelligence at a particular point in time. Longitudinal studies that follow students over time could provide insights into how this relationship develops and changes over the course of their academic careers.
3. Intervention studies: The current study suggests that there may be educational implications to the relationship between mental health and intelligence. Intervention studies that test the effectiveness of various interventions aimed at promoting mental health and cognitive development could help to identify effective approaches for supporting student well-being.
4. Cultural factors: The current study was conducted in Srinagar, which has a unique cultural context. Further research could explore how cultural factors, such as beliefs about mental health and education, may interact with the relationship between mental health and intelligence.

5. Mediating and moderating factors: The current study found a positive correlation between mental health and intelligence, but it did not explore the mechanisms that underlie this relationship. Future research could investigate mediating and moderating factors, such as academic achievement, social support, or genetic factors, that may help to explain this relationship.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the present study aimed to analyze the relationship of mental health with intelligence of secondary school students. The findings of the study indicating a positive and significant correlation between mental health and intelligence among secondary school students. The present study has some limitations that need to be acknowledged. Firstly, the study was conducted in only one district, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other districts. Secondly, the sample size was relatively small, which may limit the power of the study to detect significant differences. Finally, the study did not examine the factors that might contribute to the development of mental health and intelligence in students, such as teaching methods, curriculum, Co-curricular activities and parental involvement. Despite these limitations, the present study provides some useful insights into the mental health and intelligence of secondary school students. The findings suggest that there is a need to develop strategies to enhance the mental health of students. The results also highlight the need for further research to explore the factors that might contribute to the development of mental health in students. Finally, this study adds to the growing body of research in educational psychology.

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