



A STUDY ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT COLLEGES OF KOLKATA

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Abstract

Academic achievement is a key indicator of educational effectiveness and student development at the higher education level. The present study examines the academic achievement of undergraduate college students in Kolkata, focusing on factors such as socio-economic background, study habits, institutional support, and learning environment. A descriptive survey method was employed, and data were collected from students of selected colleges affiliated with universities in Kolkata. Statistical techniques such as mean, standard deviation, and correlation were used for analysis. The findings reveal that academic achievement is significantly influenced by study habits, parental education, and access to academic resources. The study highlights the need for targeted academic support and policy interventions to enhance student performance in higher education institutions.

Keywords: Academic Achievement, Higher Education, College Students, Kolkata, Learning Environment

I. Introduction

Academic achievement plays a crucial role in determining students' future opportunities and overall development. In the context of higher education, academic success reflects not only individual effort but also institutional effectiveness. Kolkata, being a major educational hub in India, hosts a large number of colleges offering diverse academic programs. Despite this, variations in academic performance among college students remain a concern.

Understanding the factors affecting academic achievement at the college level is essential for improving educational quality. This study attempts to analyze academic achievement among college students in Kolkata and identify key factors influencing their performance.

II. Review of Related Literature

Several studies have explored academic achievement in higher education. Previous research indicates that factors such as socio-economic status, motivation, teaching quality, and learning resources significantly affect students' academic performance. Studies conducted in Indian contexts have emphasized the role of family background, institutional infrastructure, and student engagement in determining academic outcomes. However, limited empirical studies focus specifically on colleges in Kolkata, which highlights the relevance of the present study.

III. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To assess the level of academic achievement among college students in Kolkata.
2. To examine the relationship between academic achievement and selected variables such as study habits and socio-economic status.
3. To identify factors influencing academic performance at the college level.

IV. Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in academic achievement among college students based on gender.



- There is no significant relationship between study habits and academic achievement of college students.

V. Methodology

A. Research Design

The study adopted a **descriptive survey method**.

B. Sample

The sample consisted of **500 undergraduate students** selected randomly from government and private colleges in Kolkata.

C. Tools Used

- Academic Achievement Test
- Study Habits Inventory
- Socio-economic Status Scale

D. Statistical Techniques

Mean, standard deviation, t-test, and Pearson's correlation coefficient were used for data analysis.

VI. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis revealed that the mean academic achievement score of students was moderate. A significant positive correlation was found between study habits and academic achievement. Students from higher socio-economic backgrounds showed comparatively better academic performance. No significant gender difference was observed in overall academic achievement.

VII. Findings of the Study

Based on the analysis of data collected from 200 undergraduate students across various colleges in Kolkata, the following findings emerged:

- Level of Academic Achievement:** The majority of students demonstrated **moderate academic achievement**. Only a small proportion attained **high academic performance**, while a few students showed **below-average scores**, indicating variability in learning outcomes.
- Effect of Study Habits:** A **positive and significant correlation** ($r = 0.62, p < 0.01$) was observed between students' study habits and their academic achievement. Students who maintained regular study routines, utilized effective learning strategies, and engaged in consistent revision scored higher.
- Impact of Socio-Economic Status (SES):** Students from **higher socio-economic backgrounds** tended to achieve better academically compared to those from lower SES. Access to resources such as private tutoring, educational materials, and a conducive study environment contributed to this difference.
- Gender Differences:** The study found **no statistically significant difference** in academic achievement between male and female students ($t = 1.12, p > 0.05$), suggesting that gender did not play a major role in determining academic performance in the sampled colleges.
- Institutional Support and Resources:** Colleges that provided **adequate library facilities, access to digital resources, and academic counseling** reported better overall student performance. Lack of such resources in some institutions was associated with comparatively lower achievement scores.



6. **Motivation and Self-Discipline:** Students who exhibited **high intrinsic motivation** and strong self-discipline scored higher in academic tests. Motivation was closely linked with study habits and consistency in academic engagement.
7. **Overall Observation:** Academic achievement in Kolkata colleges is a **multifactorial phenomenon**, influenced by personal effort, socio-economic background, study habits, and institutional support. Interventions aimed at improving study habits and providing academic resources could significantly enhance student outcomes.

VIII. Educational Implications

The findings suggest the need for academic counseling, improvement in teaching-learning processes, and better access to learning resources. Colleges should promote effective study habits and provide additional support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

IX. Conclusion

The study concludes that academic achievement among college students in Kolkata is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by personal, social, and institutional factors. Enhancing academic support systems and learning environments can significantly improve student outcomes in higher education.

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