

A Study of Psychometrics of front Benchers and Back-Benchers of High School Students of Sultanpur City

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INTRODUCTION :

India is a democratic country. Education plays an important role to provide opportunities for the development of the potentialities of individual to contribute for the development of the nation. Educational backwardness and mental retardation of children is most crucial problem for society and teachers. Providing educational facilities of offering scholarship did not solve the problem of student's backwardness. Students who sit passively on the back-benches, brooding of day dreaming and consider the schooling process as boring are important for the teachers.

Key words: Psychometrics, front Benchers, Back-Benchers, Educational Backwardness, Mental Retardation

NEED AND IMPORTANCE:

In absence of any sound rationale these students are considered as "dullards" by their teachers and not "up to the mark" by their parents. It appears that front benchers have better understanding than the back-benchers. It is necessary to develop better understanding among pre-service teachers and in-service teachers about the front benches and back benches. Basically investigations are correct about the miss-conceptions generally held by teachers with regard to children who usually sit either on the front benchers or on the back benchers kept in the class room. In fact the sitting of students gives peculiar notions about their personality, mental make up and patterns of behavior.

The study reveal worth while as it may clarify the meanings of the terms "Front-Benchers" and "Back-Benchers".

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OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

1. To find out teacher's perception of the essential characteristics of front-benchers and back-benchers students.
2. To study what according to the teachers impel and prompt these students either to sit on the front benches or on the back benches.
3. To find out whether there are any difference in intellectual functioning of the two

selected groups of front benchers and back benchers.

4. To find out whether there are any difference in the personal problem of front benchers and back benchers differ with respect to personal adjustment.
5. To discover whether front benchers and back benchers differ with respect to personal adjustment.
6. To assess whether the two groups differ in respect of academic achievement.
7. To study whether front benchers and back benchers differ with respect to their sociometric status.

METHODOLOGY:

The study was based on the sample drawn from the high school student of Sultanpur city. The subjects consisted of one fifty (150) student of class IX of eight different schools of Sultanpur city. The selection of subject was purposive. Selecting seventy five front benchers and seventy five back benchers. They largely represented the cross section of the usual high school student's population of Sultanpur city. Subjects of the both sexes were included in the sample.

Among the seventy five front benchers fifty were boys and twenty five were girls, among the seventy five back benchers forty five were boys and thirty were girls. Occupation of the parents of the front benchers in majority of cases was business, sixteen percent and nearly

thirteen percent of the parents were formers and clerks respectively. Nearly twenty six percent of the fathers of back benchers were farmers, nearly twenty nine belong to business and 23% belongs to teaching. The income level of parents of the front benchers and back benchers varies between (5000) five thousand to fifteen thousand and above, thirty eight 38% of the parents where as in case of back benchers only 18% got a monthly salary of more rupees ten thousand.

TOOLS:

1. Dr. Jalota's Group test General Mental Ability.
2. Dr. M.S.L. Saxena's Personality Inventory.
3. Hindi Version of Mooney's Problem Checklist (High School form)
4. Dr. S.P. Ahluwalia's Sociometric Test.
5. Examination marks if Ist terminal obtained from the school record were taken as indicative of scholastic achievements.

DATA COLLECTION:

All relevant data collected in the month of Jan-03, various test used in the study were administered on all the students of class IX taken as a sample. The Class teachers helped the investigator in routine administration of the test. The peoples were neither informed of the nature of the research of inquiry nor were told about their participation as back benchers and front benchers. The usual precautions were taken to ensure valid responses. Active co-operation of Heads of participation as back benchers and front benchers. The usual precautions were taken to ensure valid responses. Active co-operation of Heads of participating institutions, enthusiastic support of class teachers and lively interest taken by the pupils enabled this investigation to be carried out in a some what natural setting. These things contributed a great deal in strengthening the validity and reliability of the results of this preliminary investigation.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS :

The collected data were coded, categorized and tabulated. There after, various measures of central tendency as well as those of variability were computed. In order to find out how for the means were dependable, standard errors of means of different variables were also calculated. For assessing whether there existed

recognizable statistically significant difference between means of different variables of the two contrasted groups namely "Front benchers and back benchers" the mean difference between observed values on different variables of the two groups, standard error of mean difference and corresponding value of 't' were compared with the tabulated value in order to interpret and test of the statistical significance of the difference between means of all the variables under study of the two groups.

Much statistical sophistication was not attempted because the present investigation was launched as a pioneering exploratory study. The main intention of this preliminary investigation, it may be noted was initiate research in an unexplored field rather than to arrive at any conclusive proofs.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The study concluded following findings

- (1) The most frequent characteristics of front benchers mentioned by the teacher respondent were studious habits, intelligent, good natured, curious to learn, active and smart, disciplined and good at home work. Some teachers felt that students who are extrovert, hard of hearing, over protected, talk active may at times occupy the front benchers.
- (2) Teachers felt that the most frequently observed characteristics of back benchers were mischievous, weak in studies, disinterested in school and home work, idler quarrelsome and indiscipline, truent and delequent. Some of the teachers felt that introvert; submissive physically weak and obedient students also occupy the back benches occasionally. Students interested games found interested in sitting on the back benches.
- (3) According to teachers respondent those students who are good at studies and regular at home occupied the front benchers as they wished to create a good impression on the teachers. Some teachers hinted that they specially asked mischief mongers who usually disturbed the class routine to sit in the front row so that an eye might be kept on them. Majority of teachers said that dullard's shriker and students of Vagabond nature occupy the back benches to avoid the

vigilant eye of the class teachers. Isolated shy type of students at time occupied these benches in order to enjoy their dream world, undisturbed by the class work. Physical conditions of the classroom might also compel them to sit on these benches because of shortage of furniture.

- (4) The testing of difference between means revealed that the variable of chronological age there was no significant difference between the means of front benchers and back benchers.
- (5) Difference between mean IQ's of front benches and back benches was found as significant at .01 levels. It means in the sample group front benches definitely keep higher IQ's than back benchers.
- (6) The testing of significant of difference between means reveals that mean difference in socio-metric status score of front benchers and back benchers was found significant at .05 levels.
- (7) No statistical significant difference was found in all the problem area as well as a grand total except in one area namely relation to people in general. This difference was found to be significant at 0.05 level. There were only nine specific problems which troubled the "front benchers" and "back benchers" most possibly differentiated between them.
- (8) The testing of mean difference shows that the mean difference of total personality adjustment scores was significant at .01

level, which means total adjustment scores of the "front benchers" is higher than of the "back benchers".

- (9) The S.D. (Standard Deviation) and Standard error of means of the total academic achievement are found to be higher for the "front benchers" which shows the variability is comparatively greater in the marks of the "front benchers" than those of the "back benchers".

CONCLUSION:

A systematic analysis of the data reveals the following tentative conclusion.

- (1) It can conveniently be conclude that the two contrasted groups namely "front benchers" and "back benchers" have many interesting similarities and differences.
- (2) In general "front benchers" sampled in this study have higher IQ's are compared with that of the "back benchers".
- (3) Even in sociometric status "front benchers" are found to be substantively higher than the "back benchers".
- (4) Both the groups have a variety of personal problems. There appears to be some differences in the frequency of problems but these can not be considered as a highly marked.
- (5) On an average "front benchers" appear to be superior in academic achievement as compared with the "back benchers".
- (6) Lastly even on the variable of personality adjustment "front benchers" are found to be substantively high than the "back benchers".

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