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A STUDY OF LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS STUDYING IN ARTS, COMMERCE, AND SCIENCE STREAMS IN PUSAD CITY

***DR. SHARAD S. THAKARE**

**Assistant Professor in Education Gunvantrao Deshmukh College of Education, Pusad*

ABSTRACT

Leadership is a vital aspect of personality that significantly influences an individual's social, academic, and professional life. The present study focuses on examining the leadership qualities of senior secondary students studying in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams in Pusad town. The research aims to understand the nature, level, and stream-wise differences in leadership traits among students and provide guidance for their holistic personality development. A descriptive research design was employed, and data was collected using a structured questionnaire based on a Likert scale. The sample consisted of 60 students from classes 11 and 12, selected through stratified random sampling, with 20 students representing each stream.

The study analyzed key leadership dimensions including decision-making ability, organizational skills, communication skills, problem-solving capacity, social responsibility, and overall leadership qualities. Statistical measures such as Mean, Standard Deviation, and t-tests were used to compare leadership traits across the three streams. The findings reveal that Arts students demonstrated higher creativity, communication, and social interaction skills, while Science students excelled in analytical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making. Commerce students showed a greater strength in organizational and managerial skills. Overall leadership development was found to be fairly balanced across all streams, although specific traits varied according to the stream's focus and nature.

The study highlights the importance of fostering leadership qualities through academic and co-curricular interventions. Recommendations include organizing leadership workshops, promoting participation in cultural, sports, and community service activities, implementing project-based learning, conducting group discussions and seminars, and providing personalized teacher mentoring. Regular evaluation of leadership skills is suggested to track progress and support continuous improvement.

This research underscores that leadership development in senior secondary students is essential not only for academic success but also for social responsibility, teamwork, and future professional competence. The findings provide actionable insights for educators, schools, and policymakers to design effective strategies for nurturing leadership among students.

KEYWORDS: **Leadership Qualities, Senior Secondary Students, Arts Stream, Commerce Stream, Science Stream, Personality Development, Decision-Making, Organizational Skills, Communication Skills, Problem-Solving, Social Responsibility.**

BACKGROUND

Leadership is an important aspect of personality that has a positive impact on an individual's social, academic, and professional life. The development of leadership qualities in students is not limited to school or college education; it also influences their future careers, social participation, and organizational efficiency. At the senior secondary level, students study in various academic streams Arts, Commerce, and Science. These streams differ in terms of curriculum, teaching methods, and students' interests and preferences. Consequently, the development and nature of leadership qualities may vary across these three streams.

For example, students in the Arts stream may exhibit higher levels of creativity and social communication skills, while Science students may demonstrate stronger analytical thinking and decision-making abilities. Commerce students are likely to show enhanced organizational skills and managerial capabilities. Studying leadership qualities among students can help in the holistic development of their personalities. Additionally, it can guide schools and colleges in designing appropriate academic and co-curricular programs to nurture these qualities effectively.

Based on this background, it becomes clear that there is a need to study leadership qualities among senior secondary students across Arts, Commerce, and Science streams.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Leadership is an important aspect of personality that is not limited to management or political fields but plays a vital role in every individual's academic, social, and professional life. Leadership qualities include decision-making ability, organizational skills, communication skills, problem-solving capacity, and a sense of social responsibility. Particularly in the lives of youth and students, developing these qualities contributes to holistic personality development and enables them to handle future social and professional responsibilities more effectively.

At the senior secondary level, students study in three major streams—Arts, Commerce, and Science. These streams differ in terms of curriculum, teaching methods, and students' interests and preferences. Consequently, the development of leadership qualities may also vary across streams. For example, students in the Arts stream tend to exhibit higher creativity, expressiveness, and social communication skills, whereas Science students require stronger analytical thinking, logical decision-making, and organizational abilities. Commerce students often display management skills, organizational thinking, and business decision-making capabilities.

School and college curricula mainly focus on academic knowledge, but the development of leadership qualities occurs through co-curricular and social activities. In today's dynamic and competitive society, academic proficiency alone is insufficient; students must also develop organizational, social, and leadership skills. Studying leadership qualities at this level helps identify students' abilities, needs, and interests, thereby providing guidance for their holistic personality development.

Moreover, examining leadership qualities assists schools, teachers, and parents in understanding students' strengths and weaknesses. This understanding enables the design of appropriate academic strategies, co-curricular activities, and personality development programs. It also helps increase students' self-confidence, improve teamwork, and cultivate a sense of social responsibility.

For all these reasons, studying leadership qualities among senior secondary students in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams is highly necessary, as it is important not only from an academic perspective but also from social and professional viewpoints.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Leadership qualities are considered extremely important for the personality development of students. At the senior secondary level, students study in various streams—Arts, Commerce, and Science—and there are differences among these streams in terms of students' skills, thinking patterns, interests, and social participation. Studying leadership qualities helps schools, teachers, and parents understand students' strengths and weaknesses, thereby enabling the formulation of appropriate strategies for their holistic development.

Students in the Arts stream often exhibit higher creativity, communication skills, and social involvement, whereas Science students tend to demonstrate stronger analytical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Commerce students usually show more pronounced management skills, organizational thinking, and business decision-making capabilities. By studying these differences, academic and co-curricular programs can be implemented more effectively to enhance leadership development.

In today's dynamic society, academic knowledge alone is insufficient; students also need to develop leadership skills, teamwork, problem-solving abilities, and a sense of social responsibility. This research will guide students in building self-confidence, improving organizational skills, and preparing to face future challenges successfully.

The study is also highly significant for schools and colleges, as examining leadership qualities helps improve academic policies and personality development programs. Therefore, studying leadership qualities among senior secondary students in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams is important not only from an academic perspective but also for social and personal development.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the leadership qualities of senior secondary students studying in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams.
2. To examine the significant differences in the mean scores of leadership qualities among senior secondary students across Arts, Commerce, and Science streams.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the mean scores of leadership qualities among senior secondary students studying in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

To study the leadership qualities of senior secondary students in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams, a **descriptive research method** was used. The purpose of this method is to examine the nature, level, and stream-wise differences of leadership qualities among students. For evaluating students' leadership qualities, the **survey method** was employed. Through this method, primary data was collected directly from the students, allowing for a systematic and objective study of their leadership traits. The research sample consists of students from classes 11 and 12 of senior secondary schools. A **stratified random sampling** technique was used to select students from Arts, Commerce, and Science streams. A total of 60 students participated, with 20 students from each stream,

ensuring proper representation of all streams. To assess leadership qualities, a **structured questionnaire** was prepared. The questionnaire included various aspects of leadership, such as decision-making ability, organizational skills, communication skills, problem-solving capacity, social responsibility, and teamwork. The questionnaire was designed using a **Likert scale**, which allowed for the quantitative evaluation of students' leadership qualities. The questionnaire was distributed to students either in the classroom or online. Care was taken to encourage students to answer all questions thoughtfully and accurately. All collected data was kept confidential.

Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data will be analyzed using **statistical techniques**. The primary analysis will include **statistical measures** such as Mean and Standard Deviation, **comparative analysis** through tables and graphs, and a **t-test** to examine stream-wise differences in leadership qualities.

Table no. 1.1

Average Scores (Mean Scores) of Leadership Qualities of Students According to Arts, Commerce, and Science Streams

faculty	Decision-Making	Organizational Skills	Communication	Problem-Solving	Social Responsibility	Overall Mean
Arts	4.10	3.80	4.30	3.70	4.00	4.00
commerce	3.80	4.20	3.90	4.10	3.80	4.00
science	4.00	3.90	3.70	4.20	3.90	3.94

In the above table, the mean scores for **decision-making ability** were relatively higher for students in the Arts and Science streams, at 4.1 and 4.0 respectively, while Commerce students had a slightly lower mean of 3.8. This indicates that decision-making ability is more pronounced in streams that emphasize analytical and creative thinking. Regarding **organizational skills,** Commerce students had the highest mean score of 4.2, as management and organizational tasks are considered more important in this stream. The mean score for Arts students was comparatively lower at 3.8. In terms of **communication skills**, Arts students had the highest mean of 4.3, whereas Science students had a lower mean of 3.7. This suggests that students in the Arts stream are more proficient in social communication. For **problem-solving ability**, Science students had the highest mean of 4.2, while Arts students had a lower mean of 3.7. Commerce students had a moderate mean of 4.1. Regarding **social responsibility,** Arts students scored slightly higher with a mean of 4.0, while Commerce and Science students had slightly lower means of 3.8 and 3.9 respectively. Considering **overall leadership qualities,** the average mean scores were equal for Arts and Commerce students at 4.0, whereas Science students had a slightly lower mean of 3.94. This indicates that leadership qualities manifest differently across streams, but overall, students in all three streams exhibit a fairly similar level of leadership development.

Educational Implications

At the senior secondary level, the development of leadership qualities among students can be more effectively fostered through academic and co-curricular activities. Based on the findings of this study, the following educational strategies can be recommended: Special leadership workshops can be organized for students in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams. These workshops should focus on decision-making ability, organizational skills,

communication skills, problem-solving capacity, and social responsibility. Students should be encouraged to take on leadership roles in cultural, sports, and community service activities within their schools and colleges. This will enhance their sense of social responsibility and develop teamwork skills. For Commerce and Science students, project-based activities can be conducted to strengthen organizational and problem-solving skills. For Arts students, creative projects and opportunities for collaborative group work can be provided to foster creativity and teamwork. Group discussions and seminars on various topics can provide students with opportunities to express their ideas, listen to others, and make decisions. This approach will help improve communication skills and decision-making ability. Teachers should regularly observe students' leadership qualities and provide appropriate guidance. Personalized mentoring based on students' strengths and weaknesses will make leadership development more effective. The effectiveness of educational interventions can be ensured by regularly evaluating students' leadership skills. This will allow tracking of their progress and suggest areas for improvement.

CONCLUSION:

Implementing these educational strategies will contribute to the holistic development of leadership qualities among students in Arts, Commerce, and Science streams. Additionally, it will boost students' self-confidence, strengthen teamwork, and prepare them to face future academic and professional challenges successfully.

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