

A Study on Conformity among Special Educators

Mahesh Kumar Choudhary¹, Ajit Kumar²

¹Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Mohhan Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

²Composite Regional Centre, Ahmadabad, Gujrat, India

Abstract: *The study is done to know the conformity among special educators. The samples for the study consist of 80 special educators who are working with children with special needs. Out of this eighty 40 are male and 40 are female. The subjects were drawn from twin city of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The subject asked to give opinion on given opinionnaire. The Item wise analysis was done, the difference in conformity of male and female also calculated and t-test was conducted to find out the statistical significance between the mean conformity of male and female. The derived conclusions indicate that the male subjects showed lower conformity then female subject.*

Keywords: Conformity, Special Educator, children with Special needs, Disability

1. Introduction to Conformity

Conformity involves changing your behaviors in order to "fit in" or "go along" with the people around you. In some cases, this social influence might involve agreeing with or acting like the majority of people in a specific group, or it might involve behaving in a particular way in order to be perceived as "normal" by the group.

Conformity is something that happens regularly in our social worlds. Sometimes we are aware of our behaviour, but in many cases it happens without much thought or awareness on our parts. In some cases, we go along with things that we disagree with or behave in ways that we know we shouldn't. Some of the best-known experiments on the psychology of conformity deal with people going along with the group, even when they know the group is wrong.

2. Definitions of Conformity

"Conformity is the most general concept and refers to any change in behaviour caused by another person or group; the individual acted in some way because of influence from others. Note that conformity is limited to changes in behaviour caused by other people; it does not refer to effects of other people on internal concepts like attitudes or beliefs. Conformity encompasses compliance and obedience, because it refers to any behaviour that occurs as a result of others' influence - no matter what the nature of the influence." (Breckler, Olson, & Wiggins, *Social Psychology Alive*, 2006)

Types of conformity based on behaviour and belief

There are two types of conformity - compliance and internalization. Compliance is shallow conformity in which individual change behaviour but not the belief. Internalisation is deep conformity in which individual change behaviour and belief both.

3. Need and Significance of the Study

It seems that conformity has its advantages and disadvantages. One of the main advantages of conformity is

the ability for the authority to gain and maintain control. Social control states that regulation of group behaviour promotes compliance to rules through the internalisation of group norms and standards. Ross (2009) suggested that belief systems exert greater control than rules or laws therefore control through conformity is more successful than rules and punishment. It will allow a teacher to teach a large group with ease due to students conforming to expectations of quiet note-taking. The need of this study is to know the conformity among special educators working with children with disability. With this consideration the present study is taken up to find the conformity among special educators.

Objectives

- 1) To study the conformity among special educators.
- 2) To find out the difference on conformity among the male and female special educators.

Hypothesis

- 1) There will be no significant difference on conformity among the male and female special educators.

4. Methodology

In this present study the descriptive method is used to find out the conformity among special educators.

Sample and sampling technique

Purposive sampling technique used to select the sample, which consists of total eighty special educators who are working with children with special needs. Out of this eighty 40 are males and 40 are females. Sample includes those special educators who are working with children with special needs either in special school or in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in the twin city of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Tool

The researchers used the opinionnaire on conformity available in the department of psychology, Osmania University. The research tool consists of three parts: Part I includes profile of the participants such as name, gender, age, educational qualification, occupation, income and

residential localities. Part-II include the opinionnaire without percentage which consist of all together twelve items. Part – III also include the opinionnaire with percentage of opinion which also consist of all together twelve items.

Scoring

Response on part-II of the tool without percentage was compare with the response on part-III of the tool with percentage and change in any response was recorded for each item and for each sample. If the response in the corresponding item of Part-II and Part-III of the tool is same then it is scored as '0' and if the response is different then it is scored as '1'. Each subject of the sample was given an identification number by serially numbering from one to eighty and enlisted in a master sheet. The collected data was coded and entered against the identification number of each subject.

Data Collection

Individual special educators were contacted and appointment was taken for data collection. They were explained the purpose of the study and appropriate instruction were given. They were given first opinionnaire without percentage of opinion and asked to give their opinion. After some interval of time they were again given opinionnaire with percentage of opinion and asked to give their opinion. The filled forms were collected from the respective teachers to analyze the data using appropriate statistical measures.

Quantitative Analysis of Data

The collected data were scored and analyzed by using the percentage and t-test statistical technique with respect to various dependent and independent variables. It is further interpreted and presented below in the table-1 and also in graphical form.

Table 1: Percentage of conformity of male and female N=80

Sl.No.	Statements	% of Conformity by male.	% of Conformity by female.	Total % of Conformity
1.	Girls like reading books and boys like watching movies	22.50	35.00	28.75
2.	Boys in the city opt for higher education abroad	32.50	35.00	33.75
3.	Girls like eating sweets	25.00	32.50	28.75
4.	Girls like boy to have long hair	22.50	25.00	23.75
5.	Men are better cook than women	35.00	35.00	35.00
6.	Men cry more than women	25.00	42.50	33.75
7.	Maximum height of men in India is 5feet 3inches	22.50	27.50	25.00
8.	Girls have been found to be excellent football players	30.00	42.50	36.25
9.	Women have been found to support late marriages	30.00	35.00	32.50
10.	All boys like swimming	27.50	32.50	30.00
11.	Men are very good writers	22.50	30.00	26.25
12.	Girls like blue colour more than white	25.00	33.33	29.11

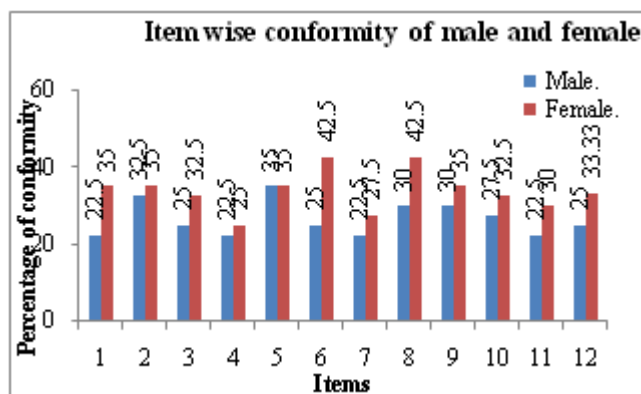


Figure 1: Percentage of conformity of male and female

Table -1 and figure -1 clearly shows that in the entire items conformity takes place. The highest percentage of conformity done by male is 35% in item No.5 whereas the highest percentage of conformity done by female is 42.50% in item No.6 and 8. The lowest percentage of conformity done by male is 22.50% in item No.1, 3, 7 and 11; on the other hand the lowest percentage of conformity done by female is 25% in item No.4. Table also shows that highest percentage of conformity done by total sample is 36.25% in item No.8, whereas the lowest percentage of conformity done by total sample is 23.75% in item No.4. Figure-1 also shows that in all the items the percentage of conformity of

female is higher than that of the male but in item No. 5; the percentage of conformity of male and female is equal that is 35.

Table 2: Mean percentage of conformity of males and females. N=80

Sl. No.	Sample	No. of sample	% of sample	Mean % of conformity	Total mean % of conformity
1.	Female	40	50	40.5	36.2
2.	Male	40	50	32.0	

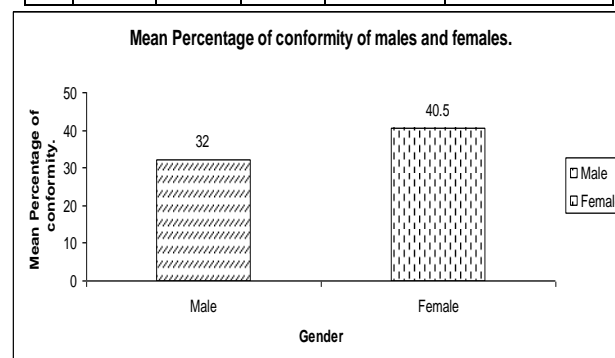


Figure 2: Mean Percentage of conformity of males and females.

Table-2 and figure-2 clearly shows that in all the mean conformity of male is 32.00 and that of the female is 40.5

which is higher than that of the male. Total mean conformity of the sample is 36.2, which is lower than the mean of female conformity but higher than the mean of male conformity.

Table 3: Comparison of mean score of the conformity with respect to gender, N=80

Sl. No.	Sample	No. of sample	Mean	Standard deviation	t-value
1.	Female	40	4.05	1.6	2.59 with df 78
2.	Male	40	3.20	1.2	

P<0.05

Table 3 shows that the mean conformity of female is 4.05 with standard deviation of 1.6; whereas the mean conformity of male is 3.20 with standard deviation of 1.2. The t- value is 2.59 and the p-value is less than at 0.05 levels with degree of freedom 78, hence it is significant. Thus the null hypothesis that, 'there will be no significant difference on conformity among the male and female special educators' is rejected.

5. Major Findings of the Study

- Conformity takes place in all the items.
- The highest percentage of conformity done by male is 35% in item No.5.
- The highest percentage of conformity done by female is 42.50% in item No.6. and 8.
- The lowest percentage of conformity done by male is 22.50% in item No.1, 3, 7 and 11.
- The lowest percentage of conformity done by female is 25% in item No.4.
- The highest percentage of conformity done by total sample is 36.25% in item No.8.
- The lowest percentage of conformity done by total sample is 23.75% in item No.4.
- Except in item No. 5, in all the items the percentage of conformity of female is higher than that of the male.
- In item No. 5, the percentage of conformity of male and female is equal that is 35%.
- The mean conformity of male is 3.2 and that of the female is 4.05, which is higher than that of the male.
- Total mean conformity of the sample is 3.62 which are lower than the mean of female conformity but higher than the mean of male conformity.

6. Summary of the Study

Our study was designed to examine the gender difference in conformity of special educators. The people working as special educators in special schools or in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in twin city of Hyderabad and Secunderabad were selected for the study. The total number of subjects participated were eighty. The investigator uses the tool on conformity available in the department of psychology, Osmania University. The tool consists of total twelve items. In the first time the subject were given the opinionnaire without percentage where as in the second time they were given the opinionnaire with percentage. Data was collected by giving opinionnaire to the samples. The necessary instructions and purpose of the study was explained to them, the filled forms were collected and score

were analyzed as per the objectives of the study. The changes in response (conformity) in the opinionnaire were calculated by comparing the opinionnaire with percentage and without percentage. The percentage of conformity calculated item wise for male and female as well as for the total sample. It is observed from the result that more or less conformity takes place in all the items. It is also observed that conformity of male is lower than the female in almost all the items. The mean conformity of female is also higher than to that of the male.

7. Conclusion

The present study reveals that 36.2 percent of conformity done by the special educators. Study also shows that percentage of conformity of male is lower than that of the female. The difference in conformity of male and female is significant at 0.05 levels.

References

- [1] Bond, Rod; Smith, Peter B. (1956), Culture and conformity: A meta-analysis of studies using Asch's (1952b, 1956) line judgment task. *Psychological Bulletin*, Vol 119(1), Jan 1996, 111-137. doi: 10.1037/0033-2909.119.1.111
- [2] Cooper, Harris M.,(1979) Statistically combining independent studies: A meta-analysis of sex. differences in conformity research. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Vol 37(1), Jan 1979, 131-146. doi: 10.1037/0022-3514.37.1.131
- [3] E Pronin E., Berger J. and Molouki S. (2007), Alone in a Crowd of Sheep: Asymmetric Perceptions of Conformity and ssTheir Roots in an Introspection Illusion, *Journal of Personality and Social* ,2007, Vol. 92, No. 4, 585–595 *Psychology*.
- [4] Hornsey, Matthew and Majkut, Louise and Terry, Deborah and McKimmie, Blake (2003), On being loud and proud: Non-conformity and counter-conformity to group Norms. *British Journal of Social Psychology* 42:pp. 319-335.
- [5] Jessica J. Good and Diana T. Sanchez,(2010),Doing Gender For Different Reasons: Why Gender Conformity Positively And Negatively Predicts Self-Esteem, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*,34 (2010), 203–214.
- [6] Payel Kundu & Denise Dellarosa Cummins (2012): Morality and conformity: The Asch paradigm applied to moral decisions, *Social Influence*.
- [7] Robert B. Cialdini and Noah J. Goldstein (2004),Social Influence: Compliance and Conformity. *Annu. Rev. Psychol.* 2004. 55:591–621
- [8] Ronald Friend, Yvonne Rafferty and DanaBramel, (1990) Apuzzling misinterpretation of the Asch "conformity" study. *European journal of social psychology*, vol.20, 29-44(1990).
- [9] Van Cappellen, Patty, Corneille, Olivier, Cols, Stephanie and Saroglou, Vassilis (2011), Beyond Mere Compliance to Authoritative Figures: Religios Priming Increases Conformity to Informational Influence Among Submissive People. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 21: 2, 97 — 105