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EXAMINING THE LINK BETWEEN ADAPTIVE SKILLS AND ALTRUISM AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS: VARIATIONS ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigates the relationship between adaptive skills and altruism among higher secondary students in the context of developing social competencies influenced by adversity quotient. In contemporary educational settings, the ability of students to adapt to challenging circumstances and demonstrate prosocial behaviours such as altruism has gained increasing importance. Adaptive skills enable individuals to effectively cope with academic, social, and emotional challenges, while altruism reflects a willingness to help others and contribute positively to society. Understanding the association between these attributes is essential for promoting healthy social development among adolescents. The study adopted a descriptive survey method to examine the relationship between adaptive skills and altruism among higher secondary students. The sample consisted of higher secondary students representing different socio-demographic groups. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation was used to analyze the relationship between the variables for the total sample and subsamples based on gender and socio-economic status.

The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between adaptive skills and altruism among higher secondary students in the total sample ($r = 0.404$, $p < 0.01$), indicating a moderate level of association between the two variables. Gender-wise analysis showed that male students exhibited a significant but weak positive correlation ($r = 0.329$, $p < 0.01$), whereas female students demonstrated a stronger moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.494$, $p < 0.01$). Further analysis based on socio-economic status indicated significant positive relationships across all groups. Students belonging to high socio-economic status showed a weak positive correlation ($r = 0.371$, $p < 0.01$), students with average socio-economic status exhibited a moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.425$, $p < 0.01$), and students from low socio-economic status demonstrated a weak positive correlation ($r = 0.332$, $p < 0.01$). Overall, the results indicate that higher levels of altruism are associated with increased adaptive skills among higher secondary students. The study highlights the importance of fostering altruistic values and adaptive competencies within educational environments to enhance students' social skills and resilience in the face of adversity.

ANALYSIS

Relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism among Higher Secondary Students for Total Sample

Data and results of the correlation coefficient for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for total sample was calculated and results are presented in table.

Table 1

Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for total sample

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r-value	Level of significance
Adaptive Skills	158.50	15.17	400	.404	.01
Altruism	175.85	18.79	400		

From table it is clear that Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for total sample is 0.404 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists moderate relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive moderate correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for total sample.

Relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism among Higher Secondary Male Students

Data and results of the correlation coefficient for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for male higher secondary students was calculated and results are presented in table.

Table 2

Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for Male Higher Secondary Students

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r-value	Level of significance
Adaptive Skills	159.49	14.79	204	.329	.01
Altruism	173.21	16.64	204		

From table it is clear that Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for male higher secondary students is 0.329 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists weak relationship

between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive weak correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary male students.

Relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism among Higher Secondary Female Students

Data and results of the correlation coefficient for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for female higher secondary students were calculated and results are presented in table.

Table 3

Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for Female Higher Secondary Students

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r-value	Level of significance
Adaptive Skills	157.47	15.52	196	.494	.01
Altruism	178.60	20.47	196		

From table it is clear that Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for female higher secondary students is 0.494 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists moderate relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive moderate correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary female students.

Relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism among Higher Secondary Students with High SES

Data and results of the correlation coefficient for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with high SES were calculated and results are presented in table.

Table 4

Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for Higher Secondary Students with High SES

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r-value	Level of significance
Adaptive Skills	160.99	17.04	112	.371	.01
Altruism	181.18	16.58	112		

From table it is clear that Pearson’s product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with high SES is 0.371 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists weak relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive weak correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with high SES.

Relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism among Higher Secondary Students with average SES

Data and results of the correlation coefficient for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with average SES was calculated and results are presented in table.

Table 5
Pearson’s product moment coefficient of correlation for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for Higher Secondary Students with average SES

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r-value	Level of significance
Adaptive Skills	161.11	14.67	152	.425	.01
Altruism	176.55	19.96	152		

From table it is clear that Pearson’s product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with average SES is 0.425 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists moderate relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive moderate correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with average SES.

Relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism among Higher Secondary Students with Low SES

Data and results of the correlation coefficient for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with low SES was calculated and results are presented in table 6.

Table 6
Pearson’s product moment coefficient of correlation for Adaptive Skills and Altruism for Higher Secondary Students with low SES

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	r-value	Level of significance
Adaptive Skills	153.53	12.76	136	.332	.01
Altruism	170.67	17.91	136		

FINDINGS

Hypothesis 1: There exists significant relationship between Adaptive skills and Altruism among Higher secondary students in Total sample

Table 1 reveals that the Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for total sample is 0.404 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists moderate relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive moderate correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for total sample. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis 2: There exists significant relationship between Adaptive skills and Altruism among Higher secondary students based on Gender (Male / Female)

Table 2 reveals that the Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for male higher secondary students is 0.329 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists weak relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive weak correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary male students. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

P Table 3 reveals that the Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for female higher secondary students is 0.494 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists moderate relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive moderate correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary female students. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis 3: There exists significant relationship between Adaptive skills and Altruism among Higher secondary students based on Socio-economic status (High/ Average/ Low)

Table 4 reveals that the Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with high SES is 0.371 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism

score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists weak relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exist a significant positive weak correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with high SES. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

Table 5 reveals that the Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with average SES is 0.425 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists moderate relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exists a significant positive moderate correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with average SES. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

Table 6 reveals that the Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with low SES is 0.332 ($P < 0.01$). It means that there is a significant positive correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism at 0.01 level. There is significant increase in Adaptive Skills score for increase in Altruism score. Magnitude of correlation coefficient showed that there exists weak relationship between Adaptive Skills and Altruism. It can be concluded that there exists a significant positive weak correlation between Adaptive Skills and Altruism for higher secondary students with low SES. Hence the hypothesis is accepted.

CONCLUSION

The hypotheses formulated for the study was tested and the conclusion is presented below.

- There exists significant relationship between Adaptive skills and Altruism among Higher secondary students in total sample - **Accepted**
- There exists significant relationship between Adaptive skills and Altruism among Higher secondary students based on Gender – **Accepted**
- There exists significant relationship between Adaptive skills and Altruism among Higher secondary students based on Socio-economic status – **Accepted**

The findings of the study clearly indicate that adaptive skills and altruism are positively and significantly related among students. This finding highlights the importance of psychological and behavioural adaptability in promoting pro-social attitudes among adolescents. The analysis based on gender indicates that adaptive skills may contribute more strongly to the development of altruistic tendencies among female students than among male students. Similarly, the analysis based on socio-economic status revealed significant positive correlations across all SES groups. These results suggest that regardless of socio-economic background, improvements in adaptive skills are associated with increased altruistic behaviour. Overall, the study concludes that adaptive skills play a vital role in fostering altruistic attitudes among higher secondary students. Hence, educational institutions should emphasize the development of adaptive competencies through value-based education, life-

skills training, and cooperative learning activities to promote socially responsible and empathetic individuals.

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