

# How civically adolescents are committed as a citizen of the country: A quantitative study

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## **Abstract**

***Civic commitment is the willingness to act following a common direction; it's one of the pre-requisites for avoiding a considerable number of evils. Individual must review the impact of their actions on others. Citizens of a country are civically committed when they can critically analyze their acts to determine whether the actions are right or wrong.. Keeping this in view a study was conducted to explore the civic commitment of the senior secondary school students. The research was done on a sample of 200 students (boys and girls- 100 each) selected by using simple random sampling technique. Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques are used for data analysis. The study revealed that senior secondary school girls are superior to the boys in their civic sense. Both boys and girls do experience conducive and healthy home environment which induce quality like civic responsibility among them.***

***Keyword: civic commitment, senior secondary school, sense of community connectedness, patriotism, help needy.***

## **1.INTRODUCTION**

Every citizen is a gift for a country who can contribute substantially in nation building by participating in the state of affairs by engaging in democratic issues. The laws of the state are applicable to all citizens irrespective of color, creed, sex, and caste. When citizens of a country are civically engaged, they possess and generate the feeling of brotherhood and group living. Education plays a vital role in developing civic commitment among citizens by enabling them to function effectively and to understand the laws of their land. Civic commitment involves basically commitment of an individual being a

citizen of a country. Commitment among the citizens is the trait of sincere and steadfast fixity of purpose, it is an act of binding oneself intellectually or emotionally to the civic responsibilities, and it is loyalty, allegiance, dedication, and belongingness toward the country by committing it is just as dedicating yourself to a particular thing. Civic is civil, or it is relating to the befitting citizens as individuals. One should feel pride in their city that's civic pride, civic engagement or civic commitment is the collective actions of individuals which are designed to identify as well as address several of public concern. Civic commitment is the willingness to act following a common direction; it's one of the pre-requisites for avoiding a considerable number of evils. Individual must review the impact of their actions on others. One should understand and recognize the aspirations of the society in which they live, and he cannot live in isolation. Citizens of a country are civically committed when they can critically analyze their acts to determine whether the actions are right or wrong. The dimensions of civic commitment include the feeling of patriotism, sense of community connectedness, helping the needy and so on.

## **2. REVIEWS OF LITERATURE**

Bowen (2011) opined that when students participate in civic activities, they become sensitive to social issues and seem to be committed to a community cause. Matthews & Howells (2006) explored the relationship between parental education and civic interest of the children. It was revealed that there exists a significant positive correlation between the parental education and the civic participation of the children that's why the parents who were more educated and have political interest likewise their children also have a more political interest. Hope (2013) reported that through

the support of adults, adolescents are more civically engaged, whereas lack of support of adults leads to undermining civic engagement efforts. Research studies document that home plays a vital role in shaping the child's personality and imparting human values. Whatever do parents children always imitate them whether good or bad? If we consider the senior secondary school students they are at an adolescent stage which is very crucial in every individual's life. These days it is observed that adolescents lack patience, healthy competition and run after possession of worldly things. Depletion of moral values is widespread. It is evident that parenting pattern is also one of the measure factors for inducing desirable qualities that in turn develops civic commitment. Keeping this in view a study was conducted to explore the civic commitment among senior secondary school students.

**Objectives:** The below-listed objectives are framed in the study:

- To explore the level of civic commitment of the senior secondary school students.
- To find out difference among the senior secondary school boys and girls in their civic commitment

**Hypotheses:** There exists no significant difference between senior secondary school boys & girls in their civic commitment.

**Methodology:** The study is a descriptive survey of nature. Simple random sampling technique used for selection of the sample. Collection of data was done by students of Jalandhar district of Punjab. The sample comprised of 200 senior secondary school students which included 100 girls and 100 boys from rural as well as urban locality. The tool of Civic commitment scale (self-developed, reliability 0.84) were used in the study.

### 3. RESULTS, DISCUSSION, AND ANALYSIS

#### 3.1. Result relating to Civic Commitment of the senior secondary school students

**Table no. 1**

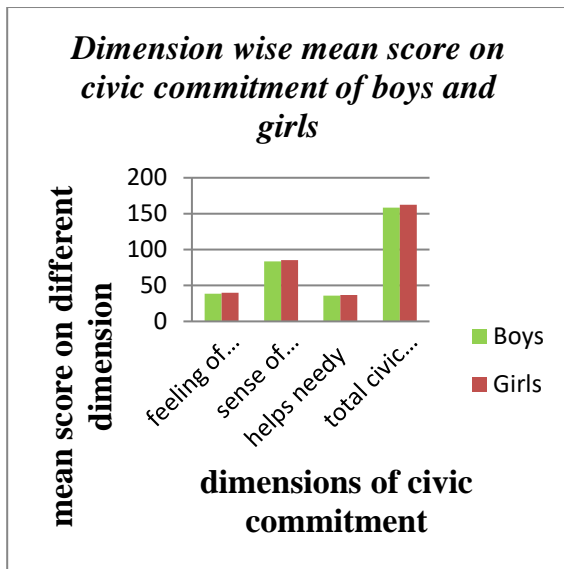
(Data regarding the civic commitment of senior secondary school students)

Gender	N	Dimensions of civic commitment			
		Feeling of patriotism	Sense of community connectedness	Helps Needy	Composite score
Boys	100	38.73	83.76	35.98	158.47
Girls	100	39.9	85.5	36.87	162.27
Boys and Girls (Total)	200	39.31	84.63	36.42	160.37

The above table shows the mean score of the senior secondary school students in civic commitment. The mean score of the boys and girls on 'feeling of patriotism' are 38.73 and 39.9 respectively. The total mean score of boys and girls on the feeling of patriotism is 39.91. The above-stated scores indicate that both boys girls o possess a moderate level of feeling of patriotism. Referring to the 'sense of community connectedness' the mean score of the boys, girls and boys and girls total are 83.76, 85.5, and 84.63 respectively. This reflects that both senior secondary school boys and girls have reasonable sensitivity for the issues of the community.

Similarly on 'helps needy dimension' the mean score possessed by the boys and girls are found to be 35.98 and 36.87 respectively. This reflects that both boys and girls are helpful in nature. Both boys and girls tend to help the needy ones. The composite mean score of boys and girls on civic commitment are 158.47 and 162.27 respectively. This reflects that both boys and girls possess a moderate level of civic commitment. This can be stated that the senior secondary school boys and girls own reasonable feeling of patriotism, sense of community connected and having an attitude of sharing

and cooperation. The data also have been shown graphically in the below-given figure.



(Graphical presentation of dimension wise mean score on the civic commitment of boys and girls)

### 3.2. Percent wise level of civic commitment score of senior secondary school students

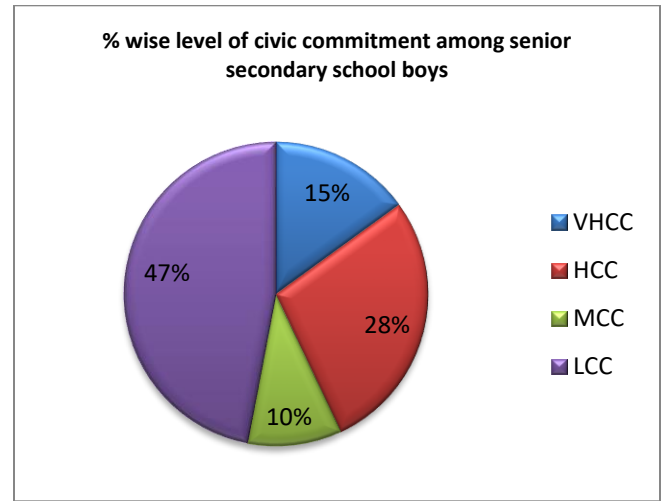
Table no. 2

(Percent wise level of civic commitment score of senior secondary school students)

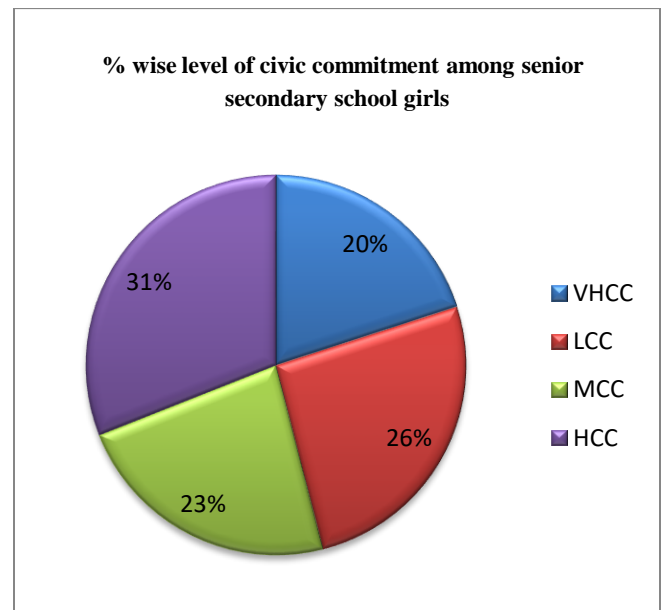
Gender	N	Level of civic commitment							
		Low		Moderate		High		Very high	
Boys	100	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
		4	4	1	10	2	28	15	15
Girls	100	7	7	0	0	8	8	20	20
		2	2	2	23	3	31	20	20
		6	6	3	3	1	1	2	2

The above table shows that 15% of boys have very high, 28% of them have high, 10% have moderate and 47% of

boys have low civic commitment whereas 20% of girls possess very high, 31% high, 23% have moderate and 26% of girls have low civic commitment. Majority of students falls under low level of civic commitment. It shows that the majority of students have low civic commitment. It may be assumed that secondary school students do not get a lot of opportunities to engage themselves in civic duties and there might be not effective environment prevalent at home.



Graphical presentation of percentage wise level of civic commitment among senior secondary school boys



Graphical presentation of percentage wise level of civic commitment among senior secondary school Girls

**3.3. Result relating to the difference among the senior secondary school students in their civic commitment**

**Table no.4**

<b>Gend er</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>MEA N</b>	<b>S.D</b>	<b>SE D</b>	<b>t- val ue</b>	<b>Interpreta tion</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>10 0</b>	<b>158. 47</b>	<b>10. 81</b>	<b>1.5 4</b>	<b>2.4 6</b>	<b>Significan t at 0.05 level</b>
<b>Girls</b>	<b>10 0</b>	<b>162. 27</b>	<b>11. 18</b>			

(Difference among senior secondary school boys and girls in civic commitment)

The above table shows the group difference between senior secondary school boys and girls on their civic commitment. A look at the above table depicts that the mean score and S.D of the senior secondary boys on civic commitment are 158.47 and 10.81 respectively and for senior secondary girls it is 162.27 and 11.18 respectively. The calculated 't'- value is 2.46 which is higher than the tabulated value with 198 df, i.e. 1.97. This reflects that the senior secondary school boys and girls differ to each other in civic commitment significantly. Based on the above showed result it could be stated that the hypothesis no.1, i.e. 'There exists no significant difference between senior secondary school boys & girls in their civic commitment.' is thus rejected. It indicates that the senior secondary school girls are superior to boys on civic commitment

**5. CONCLUSIONS**

The study revealed that the civic commitment of senior secondary school boys is different from the girls. Girls are more civically committed than boys founded in through the research. It is required to inculcate the sense of community connectedness, feeling of patriotism and habits of help needy, because they are going to serve in World of work and represent themselves in the society. It is suggested to follow that practices in the teaching which can promote these things with this it should embrace the activities from the

elementary stage which can lead to civic commitment among all students as the adolescent stage is also known as Stage of transition.

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