

A Study on Spiritual Intelligence among MBBS Medical Students of a Tertiary Care Hospital in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Tanmoy Kumar Satpathy, Sasmita Samanta

¹PhD Scholar, KIIT School of Business Management, KIIT Deemed To Be University, ²Bhubaneswar (ODISHA)Pro Vice Chancellor, KIIT Deemed To Be University Bhubaneswar (ODISHA)

Abstract

Introduction: Spiritual intelligence is very important nowadays. This study was done to assess the spiritual intelligence among medical students.

Methodology: This cross sectional study was conducted on 200 MBBS students in a Medical College and Hospital of Bhubaneswar to ascertain the levels of different dimensions of Spiritual Intelligence using Likert Scale.

Result: The total mean score of male MBBS students was found to be 61.2 ± 2.12 and that of female MBBS students as 62.4 ± 3.96 . This difference was found to be statistically significant.

Conclusion: Overall females' students have better spiritual intelligence than male students.

Key Words: *Spiritual, Intelligence, medical, students*

Introduction

Human beings are distinguished from animals by a higher level of intelligence.¹ Intelligence is one of the interesting areas for the researchers in the area of human psychology. Researchers differentiate four types of basic intelligence which are (i) Physical intelligence, (ii) Rational intelligence, (iii) Emotional intelligence and (iv) Spiritual intelligence.

In 1997, D.Zohar came up with the concept of "Spiritual Intelligence" in her book "Rewiring the Corporate Brain".² In 2000, Zohar and Marshall defined SI as "the intelligence with which we address and solve problems of meaning and value, the intelligence with which we can place our actions and our lives in a wider, richer, meaning-giving context, the intelligence with which we can assess that one course of action or one

life-path is more meaningful than another.³ Zohar and Marshal believed that spiritual intelligence facilitates association between cause and emotion as well as body and mind and builds a supportive force for growth and development. It provides active, unity and meaningful center for soul to help people think about essential subjects and try to solve their problems.³

Spiritual Intelligence is the science of human energy management that clarifies and guides the structure of awareness. The application of this awareness is the key to personal fulfillment and good work performance. Spiritual Intelligence practice leads to a more satisfying, effective and productive work place. More over spiritual intelligence of an individual can be measured and developed. It is an important determinant of physical, social and emotional health.

D.King defines Spiritual Intelligence as "a set of mental capacities which contribute to the awareness, integration and adaptive application of the transcendent aspects of one's existence, leading to such outcomes as deep existential reflection, enhancement of meaning, recognition of a transcendental self and mastery of spiritual states".⁴ He came up with a Spiritual Intelligence Self Report Inventory(SISRI) and gave the following

Corresponding Author:

Mr. Tanmoy Kumar Satpathy

PhD Scholar, KIIT School of Business Management,
KIIT Deemed To Be University, Bhubaneswar
(ODISHA) Email:tanmoy.satpathy@gmail.com
Phone:7008559061

four components of spiritual intelligence:⁵

1. Critical Existence Thinking (CET)
2. Personal Meaning Production (PMT)
3. Transcendental Awareness (TA)
4. Conscious State Expansion (CSE)

The present study was conducted with the following objectives:

1. To study the students on each dimensions of spiritual intelligence
2. To examine the difference, if any, between male and female students

Materials and methods:

This cross sectional study was conducted among MBBS medical students of Hi – Tech Medical College and Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The total MBBS students population (from 1st yr. to 4th yr.) was 500. The 4th professional MBBS students decline to participate due to their upcoming examination. The total student population was 400.

Calculation of sample size:

The sample size was calculated by the formula $n = N / (1 + Ne^2)$ where

n = required sample size

N = Population size = 400

e = Allowable error or level of precision = 5% = 0.05

Hence $n = 400 / [1 + 400(0.05)^2] = 200$

Sampling Technique

Using gender as a factor, stratification of students was done into two groups: male and female. A sample of 200 students was drawn out of whom 100 were male students and 100 were female students.

Study Instrument used:

The spiritual intelligence self reporting inventory (SISRI) constructed by King David has been used to measure the level of spiritual intelligence through Likert scale. This questionnaire has 24 items and has four dimensions.⁵ For scoring the following Likert scale was

used:

- (A) 0 – Not at all true of me
- (B) 1 – Not very true of me
- (C) 2 – Somewhat true of me
- (D) 3 - Very true of me
- (E) 4 - Completely true of me

Statistical Analysis :

The statistical analyses were done through SPSS soft ware version 20. Student's unpaired t test was applied to test the Null Hypotheses to determine the test of significance between the mean scores on different dimensions of spiritual intelligence of the male and female MBBS medical students.

Results

A total of 200 students participated in the study. Out of 100 were boys and 100 were girls. The students were in the age group of 19 years to 24 years.

Items of the Questionnaire for the corresponding dimensions

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Item nos. of the questionnaire
1	Critical Existence Thinking (CET)	1,3,5,9,13,17,21
2	Personal Meaning Production (PMP)	7,11,15,19,23
3	Transcendental Awareness (TA)	2,6,10,14,18,20,22
4	Conscious State Expansion (CSE)	4,8,12,16,24

Level of Spiritual Intelligence determination according to the scores

Scores	Spiritual Intelligence Level
65 – 96	High
40 – 64	Moderate
0 – 39	Low

The mean age of the male students was 21.54 ± 1.59 and that of female students was 21.48 ± 1.66 as shown in table no.1.

Table No. 1: Distribution of age of the study participants

Age group in years	Students		Total no. of students
	Male	Female	
19 – 20	31 (47%)	35 (53%)	66
21 – 22	36 (54%)	31 (46%)	67
23 – 24	33 (49%)	34 (51%)	67
TOTAL	100	100	200
Mean	21.54	21.48	
S.D.	1.59	1.66	

Different dimensions of spiritual intelligence were compared among male and female students as shown in table no.2.

Table No. 2 : Distribution of scores of spiritual intelligence of different dimensions of the male and female MBBS students

Dimensions of spiritual intelligence	Male students $n_1 = 100$		Female students $n_2 = 100$		Value of t	p -value
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.		
Conscious State Expansion (CSE)	12.6	2.41	12.2	3.56	0.9317	0.3526
Critical Existence Thinking (CET)	17.6	3.62	16.6	4.61	1.7021	0.0896
Personal Meaning Production (PMP)	13.4	2.14	13.2	3.27	0.5118	0.6094
Transcendental Awareness (TA)	18.6	2.22	20.4	4.97	3.30	0.0011

There was no significant association between male and female students in the dimensions of conscious state expansion, critical existence thinking and personal meaning production. But a statistically significant difference was found between male and female students

regarding transcendental awareness (p value of 0.0011).

The mean value in the composite score for spiritual intelligence showed that female students scored more (62.4) in comparison to male students (61.2). This was found to be statistically different (p value of 0.0082).

Table No. 3: Comparison of total scores on spiritual intelligence of male and female MBBS Students under study

Students	Number	Total mean score	S.D.	Value of t	P – value
Males	100	61.2	2.12	2.6716	0.0082
Females	100	62.4	3.96		

Discussion

In present context, only academic intelligence is not enough. In his book, "Intelligence Reframed", Gardner offers that one might add a "Philosophical Intelligence" which would combine spiritual, moral, emotional, transcendental, cosmic and religious intelligencies.⁶

As per results of this present study, it is ascertained that there was no significant difference between male and female MBBS students of Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital, Bhubaneswar on their levels of spiritual dimensions of CSE, CET and PMP but on Transcendental Awareness dimension, the female MBBS students had greater mean scores in comparison to the male MBBS students which was found to be statistically different. In another study done among adolescents in Aligarh(UP), significant difference was found between male and female in all the dimensions of spiritual intelligence.⁷

On the composite score the findings of the present study that females score significantly better than males was different from the study done in Aligarh,⁷ which showed male scoring significantly better than females.

Conflict of Interest: None

Source of Funding: Self

Ethical Clearance: From Institutional Ethical Committee of KIIT

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