

**IMPACT OF FESTIVALS ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIAL
AWARENESS OF SECONDARY LEVEL SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH
MICRO EVIDENCE FROM BURDWAN DISTRICT OF WEST
BENGAL, INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to analyze the opinion of parents teachers and secondary level students about the enhancement of social awareness including some selected indicators like adverse effects of pollution, adulteration, adverse effects of taking fast food and participation in health awareness program like blood donation camp etc.in relation to the participation in festivals. The study covers 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls) of class-VIII, IX & X, 200 teachers comprising of 100 in trained and 100 in untrained categories and 200 parents both in urban and rural areas encompassing of 'Below Poverty Line' (BPL) and 'Above Poverty Line' (APL) of families. The results of chi-square test revealed that parents and students are in the same level of opinion about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals. It is further revealed that APL category of parents is more in favor of the enhancement of social awareness of students than the BPL category of parents. Again boys and girls are almost in the same level of opinion about the enhancement of social awareness in them. From the results of student's t-test in terms of multiple response analysis of attitudes of teachers under trained and untrained categories, there is no difference in opinion of respondents rather it

supports the fact that enhancement of social awareness of students is possible after participation in short term festivals.

Key Words: Festivals, Social awareness, Enhancement, Chi-square test, Students't- test, Analysis.

Introduction

Man is a social animal. As a social animal man likes to participate in various colorful festivals for the creation and develop relationship with other members of the society. So many festivals are performed in our society. Categorically the festivals are of three types: social, local and religious. It is assumed that social qualities like cooperation with others, leadership quality, discipline, helping attitude as well as social awareness in adverse effects of pollution (air, water and sound pollution), adulteration in foods, adverse effects of taking fast food etc. are developed in an individual after participation in festivals. The tendency to participate in health awareness program organized by different NGO's or fair committee is also increased in an individual due to participation in festivals. (Singh, 2011)

Types of Festivals

Various types of festivals are given in the following tabular form. (indiaonlinepages.com, Festivals in India)

Festivals	Social	Marriage Party, Marriage Anniversary, Birthday Party, Funeral Party, Annaprasan, Grihaprobesh etc.	
	Local	Nabanna, Different types of Gajan, Mela, Jhapan, Jalsa etc.	
	Religious	Hindu	Bhai Douj, Chaitra Navratri, Dhanteras, Diwali, Dussehra,

			Ganesh Chaturthi, Guru Purnima, Hanuman Jayanti, Holi, Janmastami, Kumbh Mela, Maha Shivaratri, Mahavir Jayanti, Ram Navami, Ramlila, Ratha yatra, Vasant Panchami.
		Muslim	Barawafat, Hazarat Alis Birthday, Jamat-ul-Vida, Id-ul-Fitr (Ramzan Id), Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid), Milad-un-Nabi, Muharram, Shab-e-Barat, Shab-e-Miraj.
		Sikh	Birthday of Guru Ramdassji, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Guru Purab, Holla Mohalla, Installation of Guru Granth Sahibji, Lohri, Sodal Mela.
		Jain	Deep Diwali, Mahamastak Abhishek, Mahabir Jayanti, Paryushan.
		Buddhist	Buddha Purnima, Hemis Gompa, Losar, Ullambana.
		Christian	Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Easter Day, Halloween, St. Andrews Day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception

List of various festivals celebrated in West Bengal: Inhabitants of West Bengal celebrate innumerable types of important as well as other festivals which are given in the following tabular form. (www.indianetzone.com/5/festivals_west_bengal.htm)

	Important festivals	Other type of festivals
Festivals celebrated in West Bengal	Bengali new year, Dol purnima, Ratha yatra,	Ganesh chaturthi, Kalpataru utsav, Shivaratri, Guru

	Janmashtami, Rakhi purnima, Durga puja, Bhai fonta, Kali puja, Jagadhatri puja, Christmas, Saraswati puja, Muharram, Eid-UI-Fitr, Eid-Uz-Zoha etc.	purnima, Buddha purnima, Jamai shashthi, Bipattarini brata, Jhulanyatra, Shab-e-Barat, Vishwakarma puja, Annakut utsav, Kartik puja, Itu puja, Charak puja & Gajan, Lohri, Gurupurab etc.
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Development of social awareness in relation to the participation in social, local and religious festivals

The festivals affect the social awareness in the following ways :(Roy, 2005)

Social awareness

- 1) Adverse effects of pollution
 - ❖ Air pollution,
 - ❖ Water pollution,
 - ❖ Sound pollution.
- 2) Adulteration
- 3) Adverse effects of taking fast food
- 4) Participation in health awareness program
- 5) Creating cultural reflection
- 6) Have an effect on the quality of life of the participants
- 7) Address the concerns of the students and diminish the negative impact

Objectives

The study entails the following objectives:

1. To know about the different type of festivals and social awareness closely related to festivals.
2. To assess the role of festivals in relation to enhance the social awareness of the secondary level students.
3. To enumerate the difference in opinion about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the parents and secondary level school students.

Hypothesis

The following hypotheses are selected to substantiate our study:

Null hypotheses

H_0^1 : There is no difference in opinion about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the parents and secondary level students.

H_0^2 : There is no difference in opinion about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the teachers under trained and untrained categories.

Alternative hypotheses

H_1^1 : There exists a significant difference in opinion about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the parents and secondary level students.

H_1^2 : There exists a significant difference in opinion about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the teachers under trained and untrained categories.

Data Source and Methodology

The primary data collected during 2013-2014 from 200 secondary level school students 100 boys & 100 girls of class- VIII, IX, & X, 200 teachers comprising of 100 in trained and 100 in untrained categories and 200 parents (100 in APL & 100 in BPL) both in urban as well as in rural areas in Burdwan district of West Bengal. A self made structured questionnaire was used by considering different kinds of indicators associated with social awareness. The indicators like ‘adverse effects of pollution’ (air pollution, water pollution, sound pollution), ‘adulteration’, ‘adverse effects of taking fast food’ and ‘participation in health awareness program’ have been selected for the purpose of the study.

Materials and methods

1. Chi-square test to determine any significant variation of opinions among the parents and secondary level school students.
2. Attitudes of teachers under trained and untrained categories towards the enhancement of social awareness in relation to the participation in festivals: Student’s t-test in terms of multiple response analysis.
3. Tabular representations are used to make a comparative static analysis of collected data.
4. Charts and diagrams are used to make more appropriate for the representation.

Results and Discussion:

The chi-square test has been used to examine whether any significant variation of opinion among the respondents exists or not. For this, responses of parents and secondary level school students are collected and represented in terms of the following figure:

Table No- 1 opinion of different respondents selected for the study about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals.

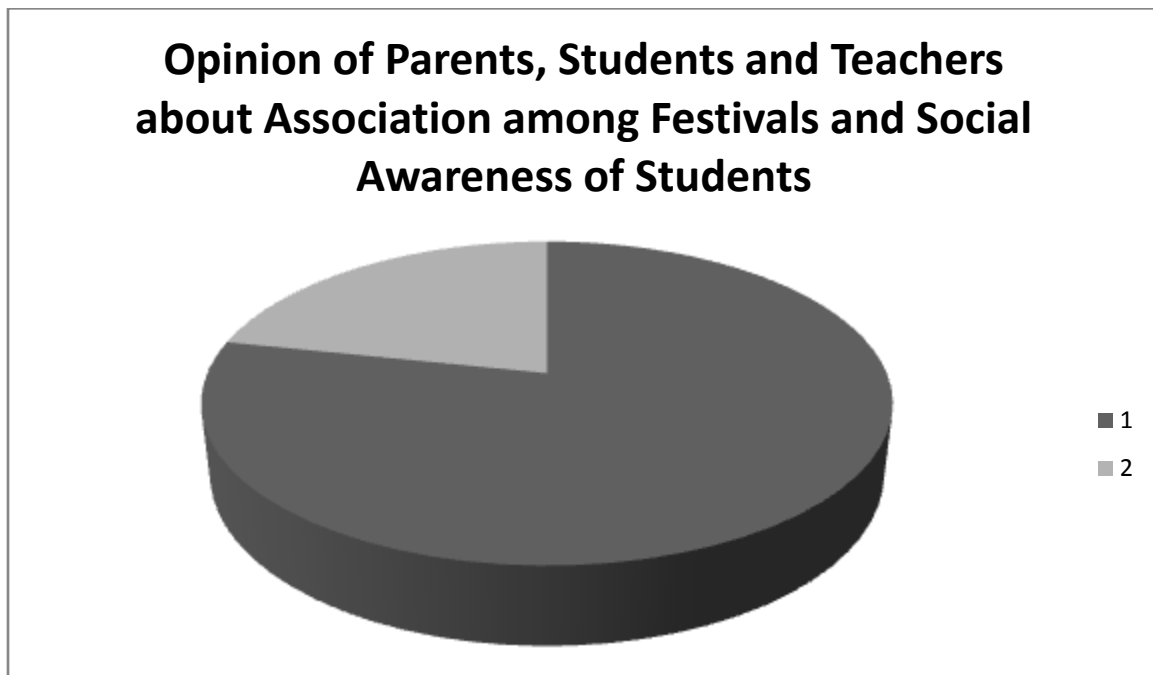
Respondent	In favor of the enhancement of social awareness	Not in favor of the enhancement of social awareness	Total
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Parents	146(73)	54(27)	200(100)
Secondary level students	156(78)	44(22)	200(100)
Teachers	168(84)	32(16)	200(100)
Total	470(78.3)	130(21.7)	600(100)

Source: field survey 2013-2014

Note: Figures in the bracket indicates the percentage to total.

Table -1 describes the opinion of the parents, secondary level school students and teachers about enhancement of social awareness of students. From the above analysis (vide table-1), we can conclude that most of the parents, secondary level school students as well as teachers think positive about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to participation in festivals although the percentage of teachers in favor of opinion is highest among the respondents.



N.B: Series -1 indicates percentage of parents, students and teachers in favor of opinions

Series -2 indicates percentage of parents, students and teachers not in favor of opinions

The above pie-chart signifies that most of the respondents i.e. parents, students and teachers (78.3 %) are in favor of the significant association among festivals and enhancing social awareness of the students.

Table No- 2 Testing of the hypothesis H_0^1 / H_1^1

The calculated value and the observed value of chi-square are shown in the table below (vide table – 2)

Variables compared	Calculated value (X^2)	Critical value (5% level)	Critical value (1% level)	Degrees of freedom	Significant level	
					1%`	5%
Opinion of parents and secondary level school students about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals.	1.35	2.70	6.63	1	P>0.01	P>0.05

Source: Authors calculation based on field survey 2013-2014.

It should be noted (vide table-2) that the observed value of chi-square(X^2) i.e., 1.35 is smaller than the critical value both at 1% and 5% level of significations (i.e., X^2 , .01, d.f.1=6.63 and X^2 , .05, d.f.1=2.70 for degrees of freedom 1). Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected both at 5% and 1% level of significance. So we can conclude that there is no difference in opinion about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the parents and students.

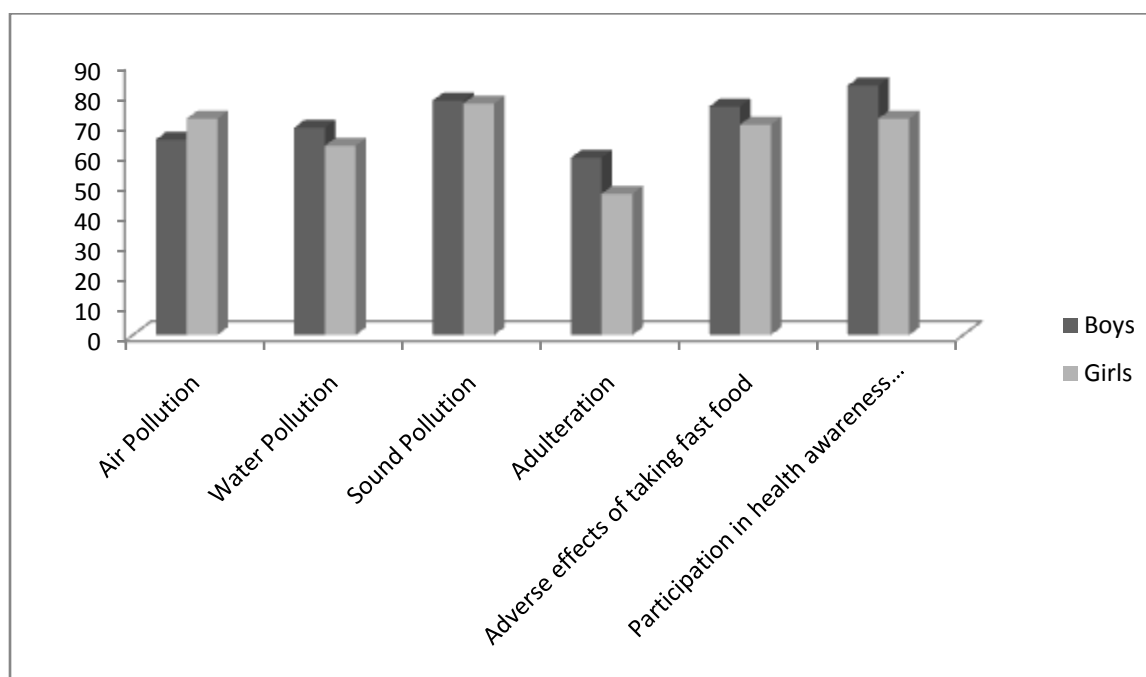
Table No-3: Opinion of students about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals

Respondent	Variables	No of sample selected	Social awareness					
			Adverse effects of pollution			Adulteration	Adverse effects of taking fast food	Participation in health awareness program
			Air	Water	Sound			
Students	Boys	100	65	69	78	59	76	83
	Girls	100	72	63	77	47	70	72

Source: Authors calculation based on field survey 2013-2014

Table-3 describes that boys and girls have no significant difference in opinion about sound pollution but they have slightly different opinion about air and water pollution. From the study, it is revealed that girls have more awareness about air pollution than boys whereas boys are more positive about water pollution. Students are not so aware about adulteration, only 59% boys and 47% girls are aware about adulteration. Boys are more conscious than girls about the adverse effects of taking fast foods. From field survey, it has also been found that boys are more interested than girls about the participation in health awareness program like blood donation camp etc. occasionally arranged by different NGO's or fair committee.

Diagram-1: Opinion of students about the selected indicators related to social awareness in association with the festivals.



From the diagram, it is evident that students (both boys and girls) are more aware about sound pollution than air and water pollution. They are not so aware about adulteration in foods but surprisingly aware about the immediate effects of taking fast food. They are almost in the same level of opinion about the participation in health awareness program though boys are more interested in it than girls.

Table No. 3: Attitudes of teachers under trained and untrained categories towards the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals: Student’s t-test in terms of Multiple Response Analysis. (Testing of the hypothesis H_0^2 / H_1^2)

Teachers	Sample(N)	Mean	S.D.	t-value	p-value	df
Trained	100	19.3	9.60	0.06	1.98	198
Untrained	100	18.9	9.57			

Source: Authors calculation based on field survey 2013-2014.

From the above analysis (vide table-3), it is clear that calculated value of 't' is smaller than the table value with little variation of Mean and S.D. among the opinions of the respondents. Therefore we can conclude that there exists no significant variation of attitudes of trained and untrained teachers about the enhancement of social awareness of secondary level school students in relation to the participation in festivals.

Conclusion:

This paper highlights the role of festivals on the enhancement of social awareness of students of Burdwan district of West Bengal. The opinion of parents belonging in different socio-economic status, teachers under trained and untrained categories and secondary level students (boys and girls) are considered for discussion. The result of the study revealed that the parents and students are favored the idea of participation in festivals for enhancing the social awareness of students. From the study it has also been found that teachers are think positive about the enhancement of social awareness of students in relation to the participation in festivals. So we can conclude that through participation in festivals the social awareness as well as social performance of secondary level students is gradually increased. Further study is needed for establishing the said fact for higher level of students.

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