

**IMPACT OF FESTIVALS ON ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIAL QUALITIES  
OF SECONDARY LEVEL SCHOOL STUDENTS IN BURDWAN  
DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This paper attempts to analyze the opinion of parents and secondary level students about the enhancement of social qualities like co-operation, leadership quality, helping attitude and discipline of students in relation to the participation in festivals. The study covers 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls) 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 secondary level school students are in the same of opinions about the enhancement of social qualities of students in relation to the participation in festivals. It is further revealed that BPL category of parents is more in favor of the enhancement of social qualities of students than the APL category of parents. Again boys and girls are in the same level of opinion about the enhancement of social qualities among them.*

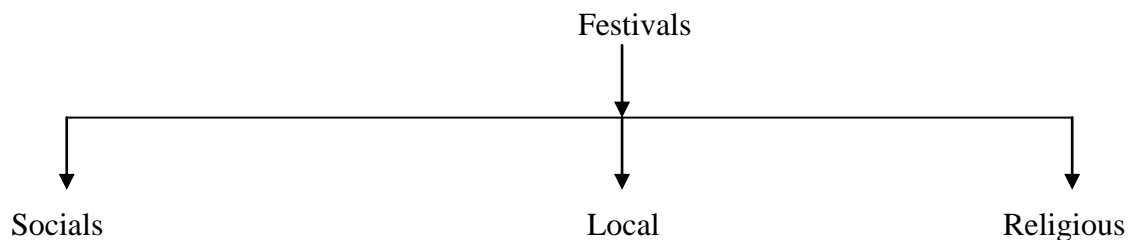
**Key Words:** Festivals, Social Qualities, Chi-square test, Leadership

**Introduction**

Man is a social animal. As a social animal man likes to develop the relationship with the other members of the society. To maintain such relationship, he participates in social festival like marriage, marriage anniversary, birthday party etc. He also participates in religions festivals like Durgapuja, Diwali, Ed-ul-Fetar, X-mas day etc. An individual gets an opportunity to develop his social qualities like cooperation with others, leadership quality, discipline, extends helping hands to others in their evil days through the participation in festivals. Festivals also enhance the creative and economic nature of an individual ( Singh, 2011).

### **Types of Festivals**

In general, festivals can be classified into three broad categories as follows:



(Ex.- Marriage, Marriage Anniversary, Birthday etc.)

(Ex- Chaitra Sankranti, poush Mela, Local fair etc.)

(Ex- Holi, Durgapuja, Diwali, Dasera, Geneshchaturdasi, Maharram, X-Mas day, Good Friday, Buddha Purnima, Mahabir Jayanti, Nanak jayanti etc.)

### **Development of social qualities/ behaviors in relation to the participation in social/ religious festivals**

The following indicators are used to judge the impact of festivals in enhancing quality in social life through participation of secondary level students (Roy, 2005).

#### **Social qualities / behaviors-**

- Cooperation
- Leadership quality
- Helping attitude
- Discipline

### **Objectives**

The followings objectives are laid down for the purpose of the study:

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

### **Hypothesis**

The following hypothesis is selected to substantiate our study:

#### **Null hypothesis:**

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no difference in opinion about the enhancement of social qualities of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the parents and secondary level students.

H<sub>1</sub>: There exists a significant difference in opinion about the enhancement of social qualities of students in relation to the participation in festivals among the parents and secondary level students.

### **Data Source and Methodology**

The primary data collected during 2013-2014 from 200 secondary level school students 100 male & 100 female and 100 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 qualities (e.g., cooperation leadership quality, helping attitude, and discipline) of secondary level school students.

### **Materials and methods**

1. Chi-square test is used to determine any significant variation of opinions among the parents and secondary level school students.
2. Tabular representations are used to make a comparative static analysis of collected data.
3. 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:

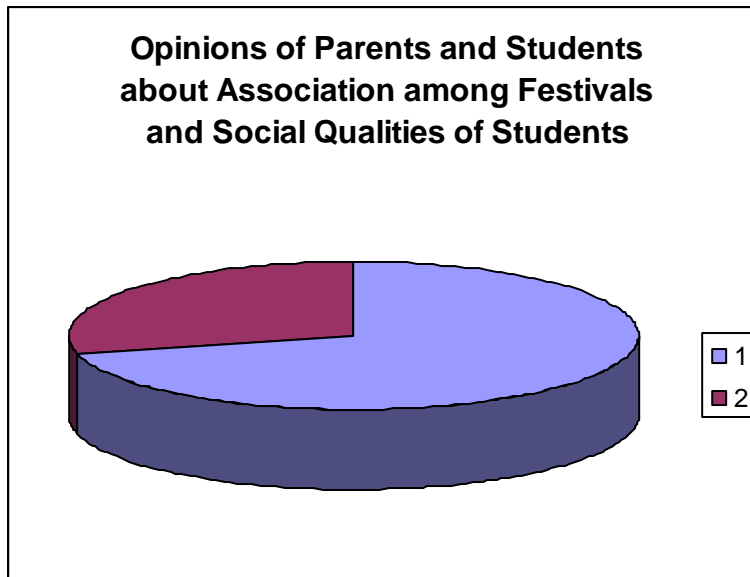
**Table No - 1: Opinion of different respondents selected for the study about the enhancement of social qualities and of students in relation to the participation in festivals.**

Respondents	In favor of the enhancement of social qualities	Not in favor of the enhancement of social qualities	Total
Parents	148(74)	52(26)	200(100)
Secondary level	136(68)	64(32)	200(100)
Total	284(71)	116(29)	400(100)

Source: Field survey, 2013-2014

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

Table -1 describes the opinion of the parents as well as secondary level school students about enhancement of social qualities of students. From the above analysis (vide table-1), we can conclude that most of the parents as well as secondary level school students think positive response about the enhancement of social qualities although the percentage is higher in case of parents than the students (Hyslop, 2013). The calculated value and the observed value of chi-square are shown in the table below (vide table – 2)



**N.B:** Series -1 indicates percentage of parents and students in favour of opinions  
 Series: 2- indicates percentage of parents and students in favour of opinions

The above pie-chart signifies that most of the respondents (i.e., 71 %) are in favour of the significant association among festivals and enhancing social qualities in life of the students.

**Table No- 2 Testing of the hypothesis**

Variables compared	Calculated value ( $X^2$ )	Critical value (5% level)	Critical value (1% level)	Degrees of freedom	Significant level
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					1%`	5%
Opinion of parents and secondary level school students about the enhancement of social qualities of students in relation to the participation in festivals.	1.75	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, 1.75 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 qualities of students in relation to the participation in festivals.

**Table No-3: Opinion of parents about the enhancement of social qualities of students in relation to the participation in festivals.**

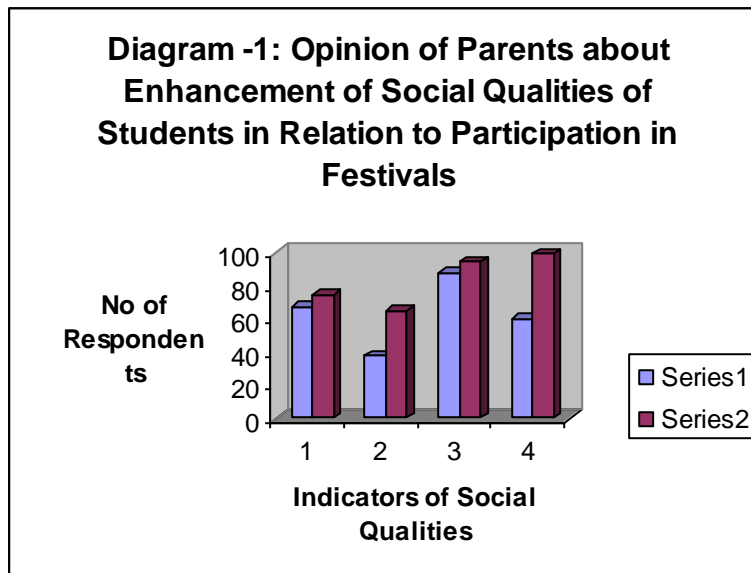
Respondent	Variables	No of sample selected	Social qualities			
			Cooperation	Leadership quality	Helping attitude	Discipline

Parents	APL	100	68	38	88	60
	BPL	100	75	65	95	100

Source: Authors calculation based on field survey 2013-2014

Table-3 describes that parents belong to APL and BPL categories have no significant difference in opinion about the enhancement of social qualities of students like cooperation, helping attitude and discipline though the parents of BPL category are comparatively more in favor for the development of said social qualities in students than the parents belong to APL category. During field survey, it has been found that the parents belong to APL and BPL categories have a significant difference in opinion about the development of leadership quality in students. Parents belong to BPL category think that the leadership quality will develop in greater extent to the students participating in festivals actively (Haine, 2006).

The opinion of parents is represented in terms of the following diagram ( Diagram -1)



**N.B:** Series -1 indicates opinions of number of parents consisting in APL category

Series- 2 indicates opinions of number of parents consisting in BPL category

Indicators in Social Quality

1 = Co-operation, 2 = Leadership Quality, 3 = Helping Attitude, 4 = Discipline

The above diagram (Diagram 1) indicates that APL and BPL section of parents are not in the same level of opinion about the different indicators of social qualities through participation of students in festivals. The BPL section of parents dominates in most of the cases

**Table No - 4: Opinion of secondary level school students about the enhancement of social qualities in relation to the participation in festivals.**

Respondent	Variables	No of sample selected	Social qualities			
			Cooperation	Leadership quality	Helping attitude	Discipline
students	M	100	64	50	81	80
	F	100	60	43	80	89

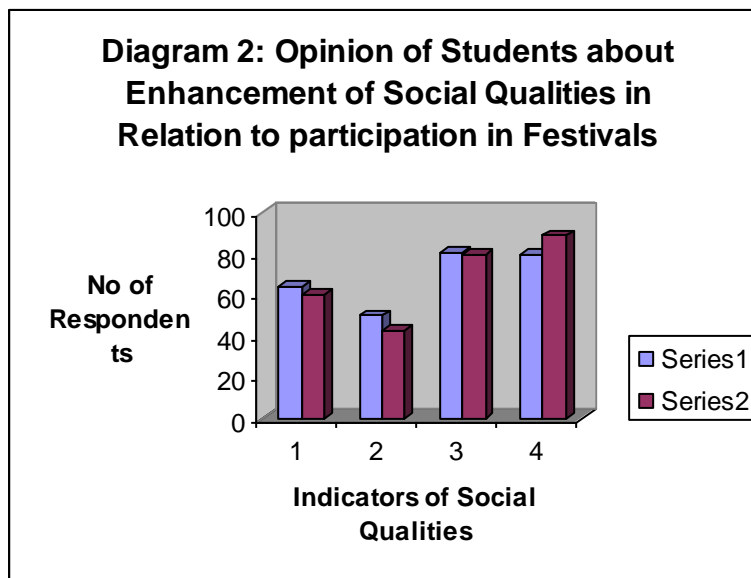
Source: Authors calculation based on field survey 2013-2014

Table- 4 describes that boys and girls have no significant difference in opinion about the enhancement of social qualities of them like cooperation and helping attitude but they are



significantly different in relation to the social qualities like discipline and leadership quality. From field survey, it has also been found that boys are more cooperative but less disciplined than girls. Again boys have more leadership quality than girls but they are in same proportion according to helping attitude ( Bunson, 2009).

The opinions of students of both the sexes is represented in terms of the following diagram-



**N.B:** Series -1 indicates opinions of number of boys' students

Series- 2 indicates opinions of number of girls' students

Indicators in Social Quality

1 = Co-operation, 2 = Leadership Quality, 3 = Helping Attitude, 4 = Discipline

Diagram - 2 implies that there exists little variation among the boys' and girls' students regarding the responses of forming social qualities through participation in festivals among them.

## **Conclusion**

This paper highlights the role of festivals on the enhancement of social qualities of students of Burdwan district of West Bengal. The opinion of parents belonging in different socio-economic status and secondary level students (boys and girls) are considered for discussion. The result of the study revealed that the parents as well as students have positive thinking about the enhancement of social qualities of students in relation to the participation in festivals although there exists little variation of opinion among the respondents.

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