

**PERCEIVED LONELINESS AMONG UNIVERSITY FOREIGN  
STUDENTS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR GENDER AND STREAMS OF  
EDUCATION**

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**Introduction**

Higher education is one of the most globalised activities. India's higher education system is the third largest in the world next to the United States and China. Higher education is a powerful tool to build knowledge for an information-based society. It contributes to economic development and promotes sustainable human development. At the same time, it improves relevance with closer links with the world of work and achieves quality in its teaching, research and business. The World Declaration of Higher education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (1998) states that "Higher education should be considered as a public role. Furthermore the declaration affirms the role of higher education in the "consolidation of human rights, sustainable development, democracy and peace, in a context of justice", and that "international cooperation and exchange are major avenues for advancing higher education throughout the world". Internationalization of higher education system had been one of the thrust areas of the UGC. The UGC in its 10<sup>th</sup> plan document mentioned that in the context of globalization of higher education, it is necessary to evolve a policy to promote the free flow of students from other nations to India as well as allow Indian students to get education in other nations. For globalization of higher education UGC has initiated a programme for the promotion of Indian Higher Education in Abroad (PIHEAD). At present, majority of foreign students are coming from Nepal, Kenya, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and also from other countries of south and Southeast Asia, Middle East and Africa to pursue higher studies in Indian Universities. UGC had also formulated regulations for entry and

operation of foreign educational institutions in India which envisages that every foreign university operation in India should register with UGC. In addition to others, the most important mode of the globalization of higher education is to establish the campuses/centers of the foreign Universities in host countries. India itself is an important higher education provider that encourages reputed Universities capable of providing education of International standards. In the present time, people go to foreign countries and foreigners come to India for getting education. India is the emerging destinations for international students. As per the study entitled, “Global Student Mobility 2025”, the number of foreign students is expected to increase to 7.2 million by 2025. China and India will be the countries, which will contribute over half of the global demand of foreign students by 2025. Our country has a share of approximately 7% of the global student market with somewhere between 200000 students having decided to pursue higher education studies in India 2009-2011. Government of India offers a number of scholarships every year to international students who are interested to pursue their studies in India. Many students from India go to abroad in order to pursue higher education in foreign countries and many International students come to India for higher education. According to the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India, 2.64 Lakh Indian students have gone abroad for studies. UNESCO’s Global Digest 2009 indicates that India sends the highest number of students abroad after China. India always encourages foreign providers to open foreign Universities in India to provide education of foreign standards in India. With the advent of globalization, in the early 1990,s foreign providers started entering the higher education market in India by offering degree programmes mainly in the professional disciplines. In mid-2006, there were 438 foreign providers attempting to enter the Indian market for higher education. There has been a steady growth in the number of foreign providers from 144 in 2000 to 319 in 2014 and to 438 in 2006. The Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill 2010 was cleared by the cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Now this bill (No. 57 of 2010) has been introduced in the Parliament on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2010 for discussion and its approval. The provisions of section 25 of the Indian companies Act 1956 will be applicable to foreign educational institutions. But, when the foreign students come to India for study, they feel lone in different academic atmosphere. Loneliness causes them to feel empty, alone and unwanted and those who are alone often crave human contact, but their state of mind makes it more difficult to form connection with others. It

can also be a symptom of psychological disorder such as depression, anxiety, isolation. and that lead to different type of problems such as social, educational and adjustment problems also. The present study tries to find out the differences in perceived loneliness of university foreign students studding in various disciplines.

### **Objectives of the study**

- ❖ To study the difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign undergraduate students on the basis of their gender and streams of education.

### **Hypotheses of the study**

- ❖ There exists a significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in different arts, science, and management streams.

### **Methodology**

It is a descriptive in research and survey method has been used. All under graduate university foreign students studying in Lovely Professional University constitute the population for the present investigation. The investigators have selected sample of 200 undergraduate students by using simple random sampling technique. In order to collecting evidences form the samples, the investigators have used perceived loneliness scale constructed and standardized by Parveen Kumar Jha and for result analysis t-test and Analysis of Variance were also used.

### **Results pertaining to difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in arts stream**

To find out the difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in arts stream, t-test was applied and the result is presented in table no.1

**Table no. 1**

### **Perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in arts stream**

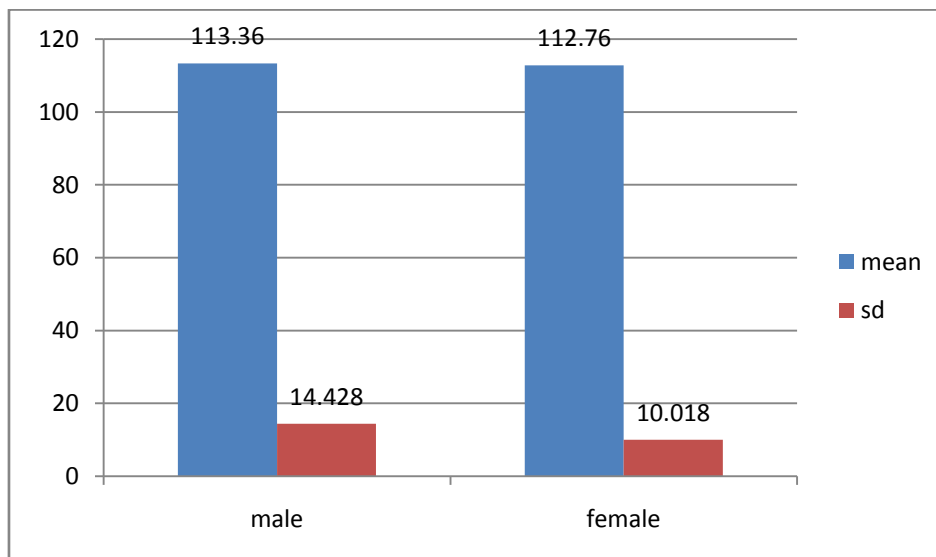
Stream	Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	SEd	t-ratio
Arts	Perceived Loneliness	Male	25	113.36	14.428	48	3.513	.171
		Female	25	112.76	10.018			

Table value at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance is 2.01 and 2.68

Table no.1 depicts that the calculated t-value for the perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in arts stream is .171 which is found to be insignificant. Therefore, it can be interpreted that there exists no significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in arts stream. Thus, the proposed hypothesis is rejected.

The difference in standard deviation and mean scores of perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in arts stream has shown graphically below:

**Graph no. 1**



**Results pertaining to difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in science stream**

To find out the difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in science stream, t-test was applied and the result is presented in table no. 2

**Table no. 2**

**Perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students  
studying in science stream**

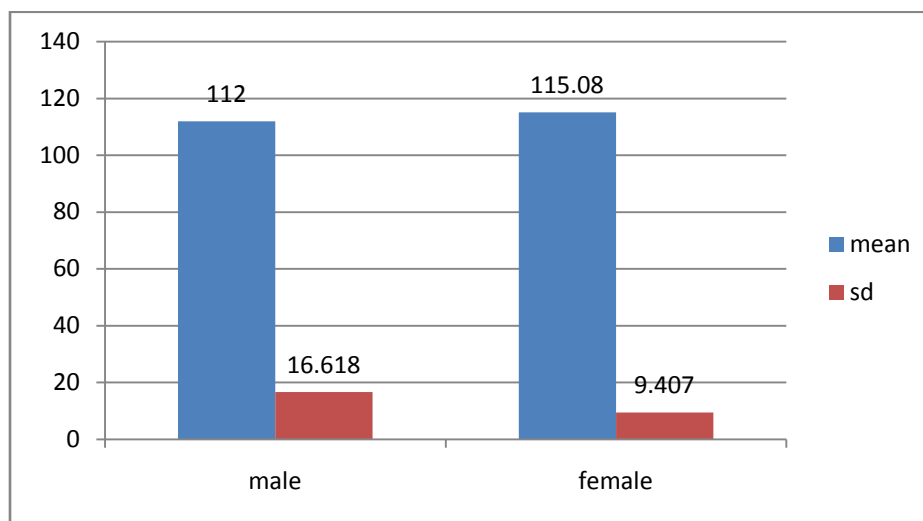
Stream	Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	SEd	t-ratio
Science	Perceived Loneliness	Male	25	112.00	16.618	48	3.819	.806
		Female	25	115.08	9.407			

Table value at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance is 2.01 and 2.68

Table no.2 depicts that the calculated t-value for the perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in science stream is .806 which is found to be insignificant. Therefore, it can be interpreted that there exists no significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in science stream. Thus, the proposed hypothesis is rejected.

The difference in standard deviation and mean scores of perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in science stream has been shown graphically below:

**Graph no. 2**



**Results pertaining to difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in management stream**

To find out the difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in commerce stream, t-test was applied and the result is presented in table no. 3

**Table no. 3**

**Perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in management stream**

Stream	Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	SEd	t-ratio
Commerce	Perceived Loneliness	Male	25	105.96	12.795	48	4.015	2.809
		Female	25	117.24	15.471			

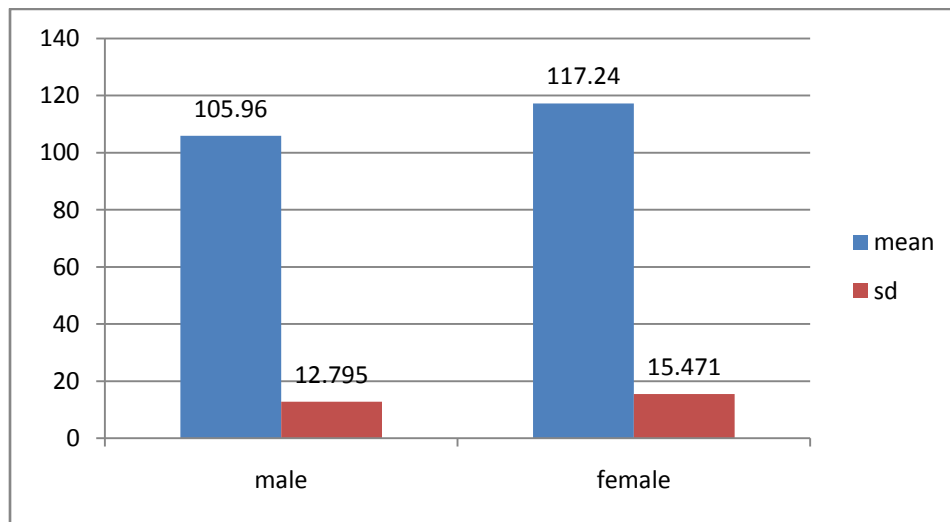
Table value at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance is 2.01 and 2.68

Table no.3 depicts that the calculated t-value for the perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in commerce stream is 2.809 which is found to be insignificant. Therefore, it can be interpreted that there exists no significant difference in

perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in commerce stream. Thus, the proposed hypothesis is rejected.

The difference in standard deviation and mean scores of perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in commerce stream has been shown graphically below:

**Graph no.3**



**Pertaining to difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign undergraduate male and female students studying in arts, science and management streams**

To find out the difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign undergraduate male and female students studying in arts, science and management streams, F-test was calculated and result is presented.

**Table no. 4**

**Results of ANOVA on Perceived Loneliness by Genders and Streams**

<i>Source</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F-ratio</i>

<i>Gender</i>	1280.180	1	1280.180	6.443
<i>Stream</i>	1870.260	2	623.420	3.138
<i>Interaction (Gender × Stream)</i>	958.260	2	319.420	1.608
<i>SS<sub>within</sub></i>	38146.800	192	198.681	
<i>SS<sub>total</sub></i>	2662016.000	200		

Level of significance 0.05\*, Level of Significance 0.01\*\*

The table no.4 depicts that our calculated main effect of gender on perceived loneliness was 6.443. It is significant at both the levels. It means that perceived loneliness has positive impact that creates significant difference over under graduate male and female students. So far as the significant main effect of different streams are concerned, undergraduate students of different streams like arts, science and management experienced many differences in perceived loneliness. Furthermore the gender in interaction with the stream shows significant effect on perceived loneliness.

### Conclusions

- ❖ There exists no significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in arts stream. It may be due to good support from the administration and policy makers.
- ❖ There exists no significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in science stream. Good cooperation from the all faculty members of the university may be the reason behind having no difference.



- ❖ There exists no significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in commerce stream. It may be due to the fulfillment of their educational needs and their expectations towards their career.
- ❖ There exists no significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign male and female undergraduate students studying in management stream. Good support from everyone around them may be a reason for no existing difference.
- ❖ There exists a significant difference in perceived loneliness of university foreign undergraduate students with respect to gender and stream. Full support from everyone around the students may be the reason for having no difference.

### **Recommendations**

- ❖ College administration and policy makers should provide such facilities to the foreign students so that they can feel adjusted in a new environment.
- ❖ Proper cooperation, support and special attention should be provided to them taking into account their educational needs.
- ❖ Foreign students should not be restricted to hard and fast rules that make them feel unadjusted in academic atmospheres.

### **Suggestions**

- ❖ A similar study can be conducted taking into account other universities in India.
- ❖ The study can be carried out with foreign students studying in other universities
- ❖ The study can also be conducted over students studying in higher classes also.
- ❖ The study can be carried out by taking more variables like metacognitive abilities and self-awareness etc.

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