



ISSN: 0976-3376

Available Online at <http://www.journalajst.com>

ASIAN JOURNAL OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Asian Journal of Science and Technology
Vol. 08, Issue, 12, pp.7070-7072, December, 2017

RESEARCH ARTICLE

EFFECT OF SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ON PUBLIC SPEAKING FEAR OF THE COLLEGE STUDENTS

*Ramaprabou, V.

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Tagore Arts College, Puducherry

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 26th September, 2017
Received in revised form
14th October, 2017
Accepted 19th November, 2017
Published online 30th December, 2017

Key words:

Public speaking fear,
College students, Age,
Gender, Place of living.

Copyright©2017, Ramaprabou. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ABSTRACT

The present investigation was undertaken to study the effect of socio demographic factors on public speaking fear. For this 74 college students studying in various colleges of Puducherry were approached at random using convenient sampling method. Public Speaking Fear questionnaire developed and standardized by Mc Croskey (1970) was used for data collection. Analysis was done by using independent sample t test and one-way ANOVA. Findings of the study revealed that the socio demographic factors like age, gender, course of study and place of living has significant effect on the public speaking fear of the students.

INTRODUCTION

Public speaking is an act of oral communication that combines physiological, linguistic, psychological, and cultural factors. Public-speaking competence is one of the determinants of success, a strategic skill to gain a competitive edge, credibility, and a positive reputation. Public speaking exceeds the function of conveying information, the voice, the rhythm, and the expressiveness of the speech are valued when it comes to persuading the people. However, one of the barriers to the communication process is fear of public speaking—a type of anxiety prevalent among most of the people. Fear of speaking leads to communication impairments with an impact on the individual's personal, social, and emotional life. Individuals with public speaking anxiety most often experience a variety of symptoms in a public speaking situation, including palpitations, sweating, gastrointestinal discomfort, diarrhea, muscle tension, and confusion (North & Rives; 2001). Approximately 85 percent of the general population report experiencing some level of anxiety about speaking in public (Gibson, J.W., Gruner, C.R., Hanna, M.S., Smythe, M.J. and Hayes, M.T. 1980; Burnley, M., Cross, P., & Spanos, N. 1993). Some times experienced public speakers too feel nervous before a performance or speaking. When the fear becomes so intense it interferes with the ability to perform effectively. In the case of students, this fear may lead to avoiding certain courses or even majors where oral presentations are required.

It is because when they are more conscious about the evaluation or assessment of others about their speech (Seiler and Beall, 2011) it creates a kind of uneasiness which could affect the presentation or physical exhaustion, stammering and sweating (University of Wisconsin, 2012). This often affects their decision against certain careers because they would require occasional speaking before a group. Students who are very anxious about public speaking in class may sometimes avoid social events they would like to attend or may not talk to classmates they would like to get to know. This type of fear or lack of confidence in addressing public are found more prevalent among the students arts and science colleges, particularly among those who are hailing from rural areas. On these grounds it is believed that study of fear of public speaking among college students may help the teachers to identify such students and give them special training to strengthen the public speaking skills so as to enable them to face the community and job market. Hence an attempt was made to study the effect of socio demographic factors on the fear of public speaking among college students studying in different colleges of Puducherry.

Objective

To study the effect of socio demographic factors like age, gender, place of living and course of study on public speaking fear of college students.

Hypotheses

- College students do not differ significantly in their public speaking fear on the basis of their socio demographic status like age.

*Corresponding author: Ramaprabou, V.,

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Tagore Arts College, Puducherry

- College students do not differ significantly in their public speaking fear on the basis of their gender.
- College students do not differ significantly in their public speaking fear on the basis of their course of study.
- College students do not differ significantly in their public speaking fear on the basis of their residential status.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Population

The study was conducted among 74 college students who are studying in various colleges functioning in and around Union Territory of Puducherry. Convenient sampling method was used for collecting the data. The data were collected individually from the students through questionnaire.

Tools Used

Public Speaking Fear questionnaire developed and standardized by Mc Croskey (1970) has been used in this study. This questionnaire aims at measuring Public Speaking Fear of college students consisting of 34 statements with five answering options from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Higher the score indicates higher the fear. This scale holds a reliability of 0.65 and validity value of 0-72 and hence it is used in its original form for data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. With the help of the one way ANOVA test, the difference between the age groups of college students are compared with respect to their public speaking fear using SPSS and the results are exhibited in the following table

Age	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	F	LS
18	8	86.84	12.40	4.38	3.75	0.01
19	25	86.65	11.44	2.29		
20	17	85.75	13.13	3.18		
21	24	77.12	9.57	1.95		
Total	74	83.53	12.02	1.39		

Hy : College students do not differ significantly in public speaking fear on the basis of their age.

From the above table it is identified that the public speaking fear is more among the students who are 18 years old (86.84) when compared to the other age groups. However it is visible that as age goes up the fear of public speaking is coming down as it is evident from the mean scores of 21 years old age group (77.12). The difference between the age groups also statistically established by the obtained 'F' ratio (3.75) which is significant at 0.01 level. Hence the stated research hypothesis "College students do not differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their age" is not proved. Hence it may be concluded that college students differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their age. This finding is also supported by the study conducted by Giabani (2014) stating that age has significant impact on Public speaking anxiety. The stated hypothesis is rejected.

Table 2. With the help of independent sample 't' test, the difference between the gender groups of college students are compared with respect to their public speaking fear using SPSS and the results are exhibited in the following table

Sex	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	LS
Male	19	78.26	10.04	2.30	2.50	0.05
Female	55	85.35	12.19	1.64		

Hy : College students do not differ significantly in public speaking fear on the basis of their gender.

From the table it is identified that the public speaking fear of female students are higher (85.35) than the male students (78.26). The difference between the groups on public speaking fear is also established by the obtained 't' value (2.50) which is statistically significant at 0.05 level. Hence the stated research hypothesis "College students do not differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their gender" is not proved. Hence it may be concluded that college students differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their gender. The stated hypothesis is rejected.

Table 3. With the help of independent sample 't' test, the difference between the educational groups of college students are compared with respect to their public speaking fear using SPSS and the results are exhibited in the following table

Course	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	LS
Arts & Science	39	88.23	11.06	1.77	3.88	0.05
Professional	35	78.29	10.95	1.8		

Hy : College students do not differ significantly in public speaking fear on the basis of their course of study.

From the table it is identified that the public speaking fear of arts and science students are more (88.23) than the professional students (78.29). The difference between the groups on public speaking fear is also established by the obtained 't' value (3.88) which is statistically significant at 0.05 level. Hence the stated research hypothesis "College students do not differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their educational type" is not proved. Hence it may be concluded that college students differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their educational type. The stated hypothesis is rejected.

Table 4. With the help of independent sample 't' test, the difference between the residential groups of college students are compared with respect to their public speaking fear using SPSS and the results are exhibited in the following table

Residence	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	LS
Rural	33	87.48	7.77	1.35	2.34	0.05
Urban	41	81.95	12.39	1.93		

Hy : College students do not differ significantly in public speaking fear on the basis of their residential status.

From the table it is identified that the public speaking fear of rural students are more (87.48) than the urban students (81.95). The difference between the groups on public speaking fear is also established by the obtained 't' value (2.34) which is

statistically significant at 0.05 level. Hence the stated research hypothesis "College students do not differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their domicile" is not proved. Hence it may be concluded that college students differ in public speaking fear on the basis of their domicile. The stated hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion

The present study concluded that there is a significant difference in the public speaking fear of the college students on the basis of their age, gender, course of study and place of living. The same is also supported by a study made by Kumar, P., Kaur, J. and Thakur, N. (2017), reported that though there is no significant difference between the socio demographic factors on the public speaking anxiety of the students, there exists a significant difference in public speaking anxiety among students from different socio economic levels.

REFERENCES

- Burnley, M., Cross, P. and Spanos, N. 1993. The effects of stress inoculation training and skills training on the treatment of speech anxiety. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality* 12:355-366.
- Giabani, A. 2014. Determining the Role of English Language Competence in Influencing the Public Speaking Anxiety of International Post Graduate Students at the University of Utara, Malaysia. *International Journal of Learning & Development*. 4.
- Gibson, J. W., Gruner, C. R., Hanna, M. S., Smythe, M. J., & Hayes, M. T. 1980. The basic course in speech at U.S. colleges and universities: III. *Communication Education*, 29, 1-9.
- Kumar P, Kaur J & Thakur N. 2017. Public Speaking Anxiety in Relation to Different Demographic Factors. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, Vol. 4, (4), DIP:18.01.024/20170404, DOI:10.25215/0404.024
- Mc Croskey J.C. 1970. Measures of Communication-bound anxiety, *speech monographs*, 37, pp. 269-277.
- North, M., & Rives, J. 2001. Virtual reality therapy in aid of public speaking. *International Journal of Virtual Reality* 3:2-7.
- Seiler, W., and M. Beall. 2011. *Communication: Making Connections*. 8th ed. Sydney: Pearson Education.
- University of Wisconsin 2016. Public Speaking Anxiety. Retrieved from <http://www.uw-stout.edu/counsel/speechanxiety.cfm>.
