

Beliefs and Attitudes towards Pakistan among Indian College students in relation to gender.

Mohammad Irfan and Ramsha farooqi

Dept. of Psychology Govt. College, Malerkotla, and Institute of Psychology, Faculty of Education and Psychology, Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract -The objective of this study to Presence of a set of attitudes toward Pakistan, set of belief and attitudes may have favourable and unfavourable attitudes toward Pakistan among male and female Indian Punjabi students. The total sample of present investigation consisted of 80 Punjabi Indian students studying at Government College Malerkotla, Tara Vevek College Gangan Majra and Sample comprised of 40 males students and 40 females students. The results depicted that male and female students have same attitude and belief towards Pakistan. Further the results depicted that male and female students have favourable attitude and belief in “Sports’ and ‘Culture’ categories” towards Pakistan. There is no significant difference among the attitude and belief in Most favourable and favourable categories.

Keywords: *Beliefs, Attitude, Indian and Pakistan Students, Gender.*

The story of Indo-Pak relations has been mainly a story of conflict. This conflict emanates from and finds manifestation in a number of problems. These problems are Psychological, Political, Social and Geographical. At the base of the conflict are interests and objectives of ideology, image of each other and power struggle between India and Pakistan.

India and Pakistan emerged on the world map as sovereign independent countries in August 1947, but their relations are still strained. As the basis of the partition of India was the “two nation theory” and it was felt that the partition was supposed to put an end to the religious fanaticism but it has not yet beyond proved true. The religious fanaticism continues to be one of the main characteristics of Pakistan which is symbolized by the official name given to the country, “Islamic Republic of Pakistan” and by the policy she has adopted towards Kashmir. This fanaticism has widened the gulf between India and Pakistan. The people of Pakistan consider India a country of Hindus and in their opinion secularism in India is a “hoax “because they feel that Muslims are not treated at par with the Hindus.

The story of Indo-Pak is a story of two neighbours, having different religious ideologies, socio-economic bases, international outlook and national interest. These differences are responsible for poisoning the relations of the two countries. Besides, there are problems created after the partition of the country and the various external factors which are still keeping the two countries apart and determining their relations.

Like attitudes, prejudices are both positive and negative. Stimulus objects are valenced as either barriers or facilitations. For present purposes, we will attend almost exclusively to negative prejudice, however, since more is known about it and since understanding negative prejudice must be considered as a greater social urgency. While it has been customary to assume that positive and negative attitudes lie at opposite poles on a continuum, there is reason to believe that they are not equally opposite psychologically. An individual's deep hatred for a given ethnic group is rooted in psychological variables which are in many respects different from the variables responsible for his love for some other group. In the first instance he may experience a need to keep certain people away, even

perhaps to destroy them; while in the second instance he may experience feelings of effective identification. In support of this distinction, there is some slight evidence which suggests that the emotional supports for positive and negative prejudices are different.

As Allport (1954) comments, "A person acts with prejudice in the first instance because he perceives it in a certain way partly because his personality is what it is". These comments suggest that personality variables may contribute significantly in the development of prejudice. There is obviously something within the individuals that predisposes them to develop prejudice. For instance, an anxiety-ridden person is likely to develop prejudice by attributing the cause of his anxiety to some other persons or groups. Individuals with higher levels of anxiety display higher levels of prejudice than non-anxious persons. On the basis of these findings one may easily infer that psychologically sick personalities are more prone to develop prejudice as compared to healthy personality. One of the important characteristics of healthy personality is that the person reveals himself.

Up to this point our discussion of international tensions has been cast in terms of an analysis of the dynamic interaction of nations and other international groups. But just as we found it necessary when studying the dynamics of psychological groups to take account of the psychology of the individual so in studying international tensions we must consider the individual. The problem of international tensions is ultimately a problem of the psychology of the individuals; War is declared by and fought by individuals; peace and international unity are the products of the actions of individuals.

This is not meant to deny the critical significance of economic, political, and other such factors in international tensions. We have tried to indicate the relevance of these factors in our foregoing discussion. But the point is that the manner in which these economic, political and other such influences work in international tensions is psychological; i.e., they become effective through and are guided and channeled by the needs, perceptions, beliefs and attitudes of the individuals. The prime psychological questions to be considered in connection with the ones of international tensions are: (1) What needs of the individual are served by international conflicts? (2) How do the beliefs and attitudes of the individual come to make international conflicts seem appropriate ways of satisfying these needs?

(a) Needs and International Tensions

The needs underlying international tensions are manifold. They may be considered in seven categories:

- (i) Frustrated needs leading to aggressiveness.
- (ii) Needs for direct gain.
- (iii) Needs for power and prestige.
- (iv) Patriotic and nationalistic needs.
- (v) Needs for "escape from peace."
- (vi) Needs for resolving ambiguous crisis situations.
- (vii) Needs for group belongingness and conformity.
- (viii) Needs for war itself.

(b) Beliefs and Attitudes and International Tensions

The needs served by war are manifold, and most of them are capable of being satisfied in other ways than through international conflict. That raises our second main

question: How do the beliefs and attitudes of the individual come to make international conflict seem an appropriate way of satisfying these needs? The answer may be trace through the following cognitive and emotional factors:

- (i) Ethnocentric belief.
- (ii) Stereotyped beliefs concerning other nations.
- (iii) Negative attitudes towards other nations.
- (iv) Predominance of nationalist over internationalist attitudes.
- (v) Oversimplified perceptions of causes and cures of international tensions.
- (vi) Belief in the inevitability of war.
- (vii) Cognitive "set" toward international tensions and war.
- (viii) "Wishful thinking" about the outcome of war.
- (ix) Emotional blocks to cognitive reorganization concerning international tensions.

The explanation of the way these cognitive and emotional factors operate in the individual's thinking about international relations.

(1) Ethnocentric beliefs:- The beliefs of all individuals tend to the ethnocentric; i.e., the individual believes that the ways of his culture and his nation are the "right" ways and that the ways of other people, being different, are thereby "wrong" The individual's perspective is narrow, and he is not easily able to "see" things from the point of view of the people of the world.

(2) Stereotyped beliefs concerning other nations:- Certain traits are widely believed to characterize given nationalities, and there is relatively little differentiation made among the people of country. Evidence on the beliefs of people in other countries about the rest of the world is meagre, but it seems certain that extreme "Stereotyping" is the rule.

(3) Negative attitudes toward other nations:- This fertile soil for the development and maintenance of negative attitudes toward other nations. Frustrations of many of the individuals needs lead to emotional reactions that, because of the stereotyped belief about alien peoples, may be directed against them as accessible targets, Feelings of insecurity may lead to generalized fears that become associated with perceptions of other nations. It may even happen that feelings of guilt arising out of a failure of one's own nation to live up to certain ideals, such as democracy, peacefulness, etc., may be reationalized and projected into foreign nations. The growth including selectivity of perception, the attitude "climate" of the nation as a whole, the social support for attitudes, etc. Negative attitudes toward foreign countries are, moreover, frequently reinforced through the persuasion of leaders of the nations or special interest groups who wish for ulterior reasons to consolidate the attitudes of the people against the foreign country.

(4) Pre-dominance of nationalist over internationalist attitudes:-Coupled with the negative attitudes toward foreign countries (and possibly as a partial function of these negative attitudes) tend to be strong positive attitudes toward one's own country.

(5) Oversimplified perceptions of causes and cures of international tensions:- Ethnocentric and stereotyped beliefs about other nations, negative attitudes toward them, and the predominance of nationalist over internationalist attitudes, all set the stage for the needs of the individual to be seen as capable of satisfaction through international tensions and war.

(6) **Beliefs in the inevitability of war:-** Another important contribution condition for the recurrence of international tensions and war is the widespread belief that war is inevitable. War never really surprises anyone; it is the occasional period of international harmony that is apt to be considered remarkable. The path to war is cut deeply men's minds.

(7) **"Wishful thinking" about defense and war:-** In the face of these various cognitive and emotional tendencies predisposing the individual toward war in service of his many needs, there is an insufficient restraining force in his fear of the outcome of war. 'Wishful thinking' may interfere decisively with his realistic appraisal of the success of war in accomplishing whatever he wishes it to.

(8) **Emotional blocks to cognitive reorganization concerning international tensions:-** The achievement of harmonious international relations is problem-solving behaviour that, though on a grander and more complex scale, involves the same principles of cognitive reorganization as those involved in solving a problem in the laboratory or in social relations among a small face-to-face group.

It has been shown by the researchers that Americans appear to be most prejudiced and have stereotyped attitude against Chinese, Catholics appear to be most prejudiced and hostile toward the Negroes ; Protestants next most prejudiced and Jews ; and people with no religious affiliation least prejudiced (Merton, 1940; Allport and Kramer, 1946 ; Bettlheim and Janowitz,1950) . Triandis (1962) also found that ethnic prejudice was highest among Catholics , next among Protestants and lowest among Jews. Foss (1950) reported that atheists and agnostics seem to be less prejudiced.

Dodd (1935) mentioned on the basis of his findings that amount of hostility shown by different groups towards each other was closely related with the recent group conflict. Dudycha (1942) found that the attitude towards Japanese and Germans become more favourable during world war II. In the same way Sinha and Upadhyaya (1960) also observed that the attitudes of Indian towards Chinese become more negative after the border dispute between India and China. Studies in India have been conducted by Adinarian (1953, 1957a), Kothurkar (1954,1955,1962) Rath and Das (1958), Rath and Sircar (1960), Sinha and Singh (1960), Chandra (1967), Mohan and Mohan (1968), Anant (1971a, 1971b) to analyse the existing structure of stereotypes and prejudices in different social groups in India. In Pakistan, Abdul Haque (1973) studied on 'Mirror image hypothesis in the context of Indo-Pak conflict. The results show that both Indian and Pakistani respondents consider themselves as peace loving ,trustworthy, religious kind , idealistic democratic and hospitable ; and viewed the opponents (enemy images) to be threatening, cruel, shellfish, war-monger, greedy and '420' (cheat) , demonstrating a mirror image phenomenon . However, along with similarities, the Pakistani respondents differentiated themselves as being brave , lion-hearted and righteous and labeled the Indians as coward, bhagora (runaway) , and superstitious. Similarly, the Indians distinguished themselves as being artistic and Philosophical, and described Pakistanis as aggressive, intolerant and stupid. Such a result was explained in terms of inter-cultural similarities and differences that existed in the meaning of various concepts in the sub-continent. Upmanyu and Vasudeva (1980) conducted a study on the attitude of educated North Indians toward Chinese, Pakistanis and Russians and found differences among the attitudes of border and non-border area students toward the people of these different nationalities. The attitude of students as a whole was found to be favourable towards

Russians and unfavourable attitude towards Chinese and Pakistanis. The border area students in comparison to non-order area students showed significantly more unfavourable attitude toward Chinese. Although there was no significantly differences in the attitudes of border and non-order area students towards Pakistanis, yet the attitude of was unfavourable.

Objectives :- The objective of this study as follows;

1. Presence of a set of attitudes toward Pakistan.
2. That set of belief and attitudes may have favourable and unfavourable attitudes toward Pakistan.
3. To search out areas of favourable and unfavourable attitudes among male and female students

Hypothesis :-

1. Every subject has a set of attitude toward Pakistan.
2. Each set has favourable and unfavourable attitudes.
3. There is no difference in attitude toward Pakistan between male and female students

METHOD

Sample:

The total sample of present investigation consisted of 80 Punjabi Indian students studying at Government College Malerkotla, Tara Vevek College Gangan Majra and Sample comprised of 40 males students and 40 females students. Age ranges of the sample was 18-22 years. The sample was drawn using purposive random sampling technique. The socio-economic status and religion were matched of all subjects .

TEST:

Self made five-point scale of attitude toward Pakistan. This test consists of ten areas about which attitude is to be determined. These are: Trade, Cultural exchange, Sports events, Opening border, Medical facilities, Joint military programme, Terrorist activities, Trust in Pak government, Nuclear threat, Defeat in sports.

PROCEDURE:

In this study, mature and educating subjects were selected as they have more chance to form Crystallized attitudes. Test was administered to college students as and where they were available in college in their free period. They were instructed that “this test consists of ten questions. Each question is asked with reference to developing relations with Pakistan. You have to answer each question. Below each question, there are given five options and you have to tick any one which seems more suitable to you from your point of view.”

Each subject read those questions very carefully and marked ticks one by one. Some of them clarified few questions as and when required. To complete the test, each subject took nearly 8-10 minutes. Tests were taken back after completion. Then scoring is done.

Results and Discussion

Table-1:- Rank order and Most Favourable, Favourable, Neutral, Disfavourable and Most Disfavourable scores of Indian Punjabi Male students towards Pakistan.

Category	MF	R1	F	R2	N	R3	DF	R4	M D	R5	Total
Trade	68	4	56	2.5	12	10	25	7	17	8	178
Culture	57	5	57	1	21	6	25	7	18	7	178
Sports	72	2.5	56	2.5	18	7.5	17	10	15	10	178
Cross-Border Programme	72	2.5	43	7	16	9	25	7	22	6	178
Medical Exchange	73	1	49	4	18	7.5	22	9	16	9	178
Joint Military Programme	23	9	36	8	32	2	44	4	43	1	178
Terrorist Activities	35	6	28	10	59	1	28	5	28	4	178
Pakistan Government	32	8	48	5	22	5	50	2	26	5	178
Nuclear Threat	20	10	44	6	28	3	56	1	30	3	178
Defeat in Games	33	7	35	9	27	4	46	3	37	2	178
Total	485		452		253		338		252		1780

MF- Most favourable, F- favourable, N- Neutral, DF- Disfavourable, MDF- Most disfavourable
R- Rank order

Table-1 depicted that 178 Male students have obtain total scores (485) for ‘Most favourable’ attitude and 452 scores for ‘Favourable’ attitude for their ten items. Further results indicated that in ‘Most favourable category’, The rank order of “Medical Exchange” was on the top. The maximum scores of ‘Most favourable’ attitude for Medical Exchange were 73. Male Students have 2nd order ‘Most favourable’ attitude towards “Cross border programs” and “Sports” and their scores were 72 and 72. The lowest rank order in ‘Most favourable’ attitude was “Nuclear threat” and the scores were 20. Likewise, the results explained that Male students have maximum scores(57) in ‘Favourable’ attitude in “Culture” categories on the top. They expressed favourable attitude about the statement that ‘India should have more cultural events with Pakistan’. Journalists ranked 2nd ‘Favourable’ attitude towards “Trade and Sports” Categories that should be given more freedom to make “Trade and Sports” facilities easily available. Students expressed least rank ‘Favourable’ belief and attitude about “Terrorist activities”. Students have ‘Most disfavourable’ attitude for joint military Programme. The top rank order in ‘Most disfavourable’ attitude scores were 48 in Joint Military Programme and least rank order in ‘Most disfavourable’ attitude scores were 15 in Sports category. students have maximum scores(56) in ‘Disfavourable’ attitude in “Nuclear threat” categories on the top and least rank order in ‘disfavourable’ attitude scores were 17 in Sports category. After analysis the interview schedule, the results clearly depicted that Male Students have Most favourable attitude and belief for Medical Exchange i.e. People should be given more freedom to make medical facilities easily available, Cross-border

programmes i.e. Border should be open for the people of both countries to have good intimacy with each other. and sports i.e. India should have more events with Pakistan. Likely, Male Students have favourable attitude and belief for Culture i.e. India should have good culture exchange . but Most disfavoured and disfavoured attitude and belief for “Joint Military Programme” i.e. India should have joint military programme and “Nuclear threat” i.e. Pakistan is a serious threat to India.

Table-2:- Rank order and Most Favourable, Favourable, Neutral, Disfavourable and Most Disfavourable scores of Indian Punjabi Female students towards Pakistan.

Category	MF	R ₁	F	R ₂	N	R ₃	DF	R ₄	MDF	R ₅	Total
Trade	37	5.5	94	2	06	7.5	28	6	13	7	178
Culture	49	4	89	3	05	9.5	25	8	10	8	178
Sports	24	8	111	1	13	6	26	7	04	10	178
Cross-Border Programme	62	2	56	6.5	05	9.5	33	5	22	2	178
Medical Exchange	68	1	87	4	06	7.5	10	10	07	9	178
Joint Military Programme	05	10	30	10	33	2.5	74	1	36	1	178
Terrorist Activities	50	3	56	6.5	31	5	23	9	18	4	178
Pakistan Government	37	5.5	57	5	33	2.5	36	4	15	5	178
Nuclear Threat	21	9	40	8	48	1	48	3	21	3	178
Defeat in Games	28	7	34	9	32	4	70	2	14	6	178
Total	381		654		212		373		160		1780

MF- Most favourable, F- favourable, N- Neutral, DF- Disfavourable, MDF- Most disfavourable

R- Rank order

Table-11 depicted that 178 Female students have obtain total scores (381) for ‘Most favourable’ attitude and 654 scores for ‘Favourable’ attitude for their ten items. Further results indicated that in ‘Most favourable category’, the rank order of “Medical Exchange” was on the top. The maximum scores of ‘Most favourable’ attitude for Medical Exchange were 68. Female Students have 2nd order ‘Most favourable’ attitude towards “Cross border programs” and their scores were 62. The lowest rank order in ‘Most favourable’ attitude was “Joint Military Programme” and the scores were 05. Students have ‘Most disfavourable’ attitude for joint military Programme. The top rank order in ‘Most disfavourable’ and disfavourable attitude scores were 36 and 74 respectively in Joint Military Programme. And least rank order in ‘Most disfavourable’ attitude scores were 04 in Sports category. Female students have least rank order in ‘disfavourable’ attitude scores were 10 in Medical exchange category. After analysis the interview schedule, the results clearly depicted that Female Students have **Most favourable** attitude and belief for Medical Exchange i.e. People should be given more freedom to make medical facilities easily available, and Cross-border programmes i.e. Border should be open for the people of both countries to have good intimacy with each other. Likely, Female

Students have **favourable** attitude and belief for sports and trade i.e. India should have more sports events with Pakistan and should have strong trade relations with Pakistan but **Most disfavoured and disfavoured** attitude and belief for "Joint Military Programme" i.e. India should have not joint military programme.

Discussion of Results

To analysis of above results, The male students have most favorable attitude and belief in "Medical exchange", 'Cross border programs' and 'Sports' categories" where as the female students have also most favorable attitude and belief in "Medical exchange" and "Cross border programs" categories. The results depicted that male and female students have same attitude and belief towards Pakistan. Further the results depicted that male and female students have favourable attitude and belief in "Sports' and 'Culture' categories" towards Pakistan. There is no significant difference among the attitude and belief in Most favourable and favourable categories. Bhatt (2004), speaking on 'Asian confluences and encounters: Realities and resonances of values' said, "it is high time that we now have direct cultural understanding throwing off glasses of occidental Indologists." A renewal of cross-cultural interactions would not only help mutual understanding, trust, empathy and enrichment, it would also consolidate and vitalize the common spiritual root and resources. The two sides underlined the importance of interaction in the field of culture and related areas as a part of efforts to expand people-to-people contacts and agreed to work on the modalities of proposals identified by them (Mohd. Irfan,2004; Sanjeev Sharma,2004; Veena Singh,2004; Anil Kumar,2004; Sanam Sharma,2004. H.K.Dua (2004) expressed in his article, 'Balle-Balle is not peace, India Pak have to cross many hurdles' that the Balle-Balle mood has also been generated by daily exchange of jathas across the Wagah border and the bonhomie they experience on both sides. Such people-to-people exchanges improve atmospherics but have only limited impact on policy making which is generally in the hands of hardened decision-makers. They are not guided by inner desires or outburst of pent-up emotions (Mubashir Hasan,2003; Swati Mitra,2003).

Conclusion:- The results depicted that male and female students have same attitude and belief towards Pakistan. Further the results depicted that male and female students have favourable attitude and belief in "Sports' and 'Culture' categories" towards Pakistan. There is no significant difference among the attitude and belief in Most favourable and favourable categories.

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