



Helping Attitude Of Secondary School Students Of Dhemaji District, Assam

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Abstract

Helping attitude refers to an individual's willingness or concerns to help in others' welfare. It is a voluntary action-centric attitude to help others that may be both reward oriented or completely selfless. The present study is an attempt to investigate the helping attitude of secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam. The sample participants consisted of 245 (122 male and 123 female) students of class IX and X from 12 government and private secondary schools of Dhemaji district, Assam. The 'Helping Attitude Scale' (Gary S. Nickell, 1998) was used to collect the data from the selected sample students. The present study revealed that there is a significant difference in helping attitude among the students as their gender (male and female), school governance (government and private) and Caste (General, SC, ST and OBC) were concerned. But no difference in helping attitude was found when their residential status was considered.

Keywords: Helping Attitude, Secondary School Students

1. Introduction:

Helping attitude refers to an individual's willingness or concerns to help in others' welfare. It is a voluntary action-centric attitude to help others that may be reward-oriented or completely selfless. Helping attitude can be considered as the predisposition of helping behaviour. According to Nickel (1998) helping attitude is the feelings, beliefs, and behaviour related to those people who like to help others. Helping attitude is one of the important character strengths of an individual that impact a lot in the individual as well as social wellbeing. It boosts different positive emotions among the students that are beneficial for their life. It can enhance self-esteem and positive thoughts. Sometimes, an individual's helping attitude involves some expectations in return, such as love, materials, service, etc. (Baron & Byrne, 1999).

There are many studies conducted on helping attitudes among individual of different age groups. Jan (2017) conducted a study on helping attitudes among the college students. The sample for the study was 200 college students of Ganderbal district who were selected using the purposive sampling technique. The researcher used the Helping attitude scale developed by Gary S Nickell to collect the data for their study. The study revealed that there was a significant difference in the helping attitude of the students as far as their gender was considered. Ajmal, Rajan & Haridas (2021) conducted a study on

helping attitudes among NSS volunteers and non-volunteer adolescent students. The study was conducted among 200 adolescent students from schools of Thrissur district, Kerala. The study revealed that there is no difference between NSS volunteer and non-volunteer students, but they found that female students possess a better helping attitude than male adolescents. Nirmal (2019) conducted another study on the helping attitude of nurses working in private and government hospitals. The study was conducted on 60 nurses selected purposively from various private and government hospitals in 3 districts of Kerala. The study suggested that government nurses have a more helping attitude than private hospital nurses. Baruah & Buragohain (2014) conducted a quantitative study on the helping attitude among secondary school students of Golaghat district, Assam. The study was conducted among 300 students from 15 secondary schools. The sample students were selected using the quota sampling technique. The researcher adapted the Helping attitude scale developed by Gary S. Nickell. The study found that there was no significant difference in helping attitude among the students as far as their gender, caste, and territory were concerned. Sonowal & Buragohain (2016) conducted another study on the helping attitude of adolescent students. The primary objective of the study was to make an experiment on the effectiveness of two helping attitude exercises (Help journey, helping attitude inspiring story) among the adolescent students. The participants of the study had consisted of 32 adolescent students of bhakat sapor school of Majuli district, Assam. The study revealed that a helping attitude can be significantly taught by using those exercises.

The researcher found different studies related to the helping attitude of students at a different level. Few studies (Sonowal & Buragohain, 2016; Baruah & Buragohain, 2014 etc.) were also conducted in Assam, but the researcher didn't find any studies which were conducted among secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam. Therefore, the researcher decided to conduct the present study to investigate the helping attitude among the secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam.

2. Objectives: the objectives that guided the present study are as given below-

- To find out the level of Helping Attitude of Secondary School Students of Dhemaji district, Assam.
- To compare the level of Helping Attitude between Male and Female Secondary School Students of Assam.
- To compare the level of Helping Attitude between Urban and Rural Secondary School Students of Dhemaji district, Assam.
- To compare the level of Helping Attitude between Government and Private Secondary School Students of Dhemaji district, Assam.
- To compare the level of Helping attitude among the students as far as their caste is concerned.

3. Hypotheses of the study: Following hypotheses are made based on the objectives of the present study.

H1: There is no significant difference between Male and Female Secondary School Students of the Dhemaji district as far as their Helping Attitude is concerned.

H2: There is no significant difference between Urban and Rural Secondary School Students of the Dhemaji district as far as their Helping Attitude is concerned.

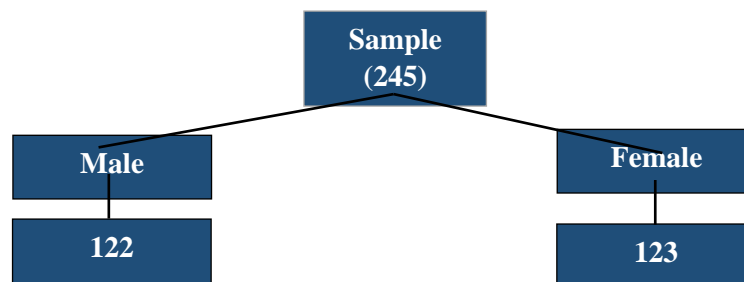
H3. There is no significant difference between Government and Private Secondary School Students of Dhemaji district, Assam.

H4: There is no significant difference among SC, ST, OBC, and General students as far as their Helping Attitude is concerned.

4. Methodology: The researcher used a descriptive survey method to conduct the present study.

Population and Sample: The population of the present study included all the students of all government and private secondary schools (Under Secondary Education Board of Assam and Central Board of Secondary Education) of Dhemaji district, Assam. A Sample of 245 (122 male and 123 female) secondary school students (Class IX and Class X) was selected for the present study. To select the data sample, the researcher applied two sampling techniques. First, 12 secondary schools were selected using disproportionate stratified random sampling, and then the sample students from those selected schools were drawn using the incidental sampling technique.

Figure 1: Sample structure of the present study



Tools and Data collection: To collect the data about their helping attitude, the researcher used the "Helping Attitude Scale" (Gary S. Nickell,1998). The standardized scale consisted of 20 items in a 5-point Likert-type scale. The reliability of the original scale was .847. On that scale, the respondents get a score from 1 to 5 on each item based on their response. The sum of scores of all the items is considered as the Helping Attitude score of the students. To collect the data, the researcher personally visited all the

schools. Proper permission from the concerned authority was taken during the time of collection of data.

Statistical techniques and software used: The researcher used Mean, SD, Skewness, Kurtosis, t-test and F-test in analyzing the present data. Two statistical software, i.e., Microsoft office excel 2016 and IBM SPSS statistics 26 to analyze the data in the present study.

Delimitation of the present study: The present study is confined to the secondary schools of Dhemaji district, Assam.

5. Analysis and Interpretation: The analysis and interpretation are presented accordingly as per the objectives of the present study.

I. Level of Helping Attitude of Secondary School Students of Dhemaji district, Assam:

The Mean, Standard Deviation, Skewness, and Kurtosis of helping attitude are found 71.39, 7.47, -.472, and -.199, respectively (Table-1).

Table-1: Level of Helping Attitude of secondary school students of Dibrugarh district.

Mean	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis
71.39	7.47	-.472	-.199

Table-1 shows that the skewness value is -.472, which implies that the distribution is negatively skewed. Therefore, it refers that more participants in the group scored higher than the mean score (i.e., 71.39). The Kurtosis value is -.199, which implies that the distribution is mesokurtic as the kurtosis value lies between +1 and -1.

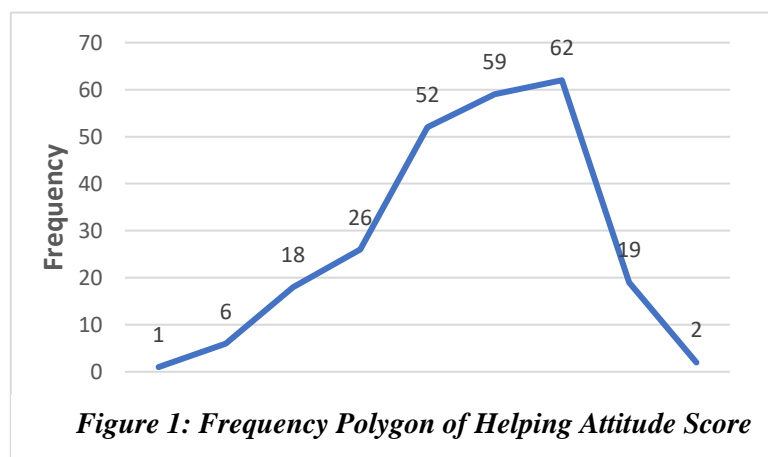


Figure-1 shows that the highest number of students scored in the range between 75-80 (i.e., near but slightly higher than the mean score). A small number of students (i.e., 1)

scored in the lowest range of score (i.e., 45-50) and only two (2) students scored in the highest range of score (i.e., 85-90).

II. Comparison of Helping Attitude between Male and Female Secondary School Students of Dhemaji District, Assam:

H_0 = There is no significant difference between male and female secondary school students as far as their level of Helping attitude is concerned.

Table-2: Comparison of Helping attitude between male and female secondary school students of Dhemaji District, Assam

Variables	Male (N=122)		Female (N=123)		T- value	p- value	df	Significance level
	M	SD	M	SD				
Helping Attitude	70.25	7.54	72.52	7.22	2.39	.00	243	Significant at .05 level

It is seen that the calculated value of 't' (i.e., 2.39) is larger than the table value (i.e., 1.97) at .05 level of significance and 243 degrees of freedom. Again, as the p-value (.00) is also smaller than .05, hence the null hypothesis regarding the difference between the mean scores of male and female secondary school students is rejected.

Therefore, it is found that there is a significant difference between male and female secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam, as far as their level of Helping attitude is concerned.

III. Comparison of Helping Attitude between Urban and Rural Secondary School Students of Dhemaji district, Assam:

H_0 = There is no significant difference between urban and rural secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam, as far as their level of Helping attitude is concerned.

Table-3: Comparison of Helping attitude between urban and rural secondary school students of Dhemaji District, Assam

Variables	Urban (N=32)		Rural (N=213)		t- value	p- value	df	Significance level
	M	SD	M	SD				
Helping Attitude	72.34	7.18	71.24	7.51	.77	.22	243	Not significant at .05 level

The calculated value of 't' (.77) is smaller than the table value (i.e., 1.97) at .05 level of significance and 243 degrees of freedom. Again, the p-value (.22) is also larger than .05; hence the null hypothesis is accepted.

Therefore, it is found that there is no significant difference between urban and rural secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam, as far as their level of Helping attitude is concerned.

IV. Comparison of Helping Attitude between Government and Private Secondary School Students of Dhemaji district, Assam:

H₀= There is no significant difference between Government and Private secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam, as far as their level of Helping attitude is concerned.

Table-4: Comparison of Helping attitude between government and private secondary school students of Dhemaji District, Assam

Variables	Government (N=207)		Private (N=38)		t-value	p-value	df	Significance level
	M	SD	M	SD				
Helping Attitude	75.05	5.72	70.71	7.56	3.35	.000	243	Significant at .05 level

Table 4 shows that the calculated t value is 3.35, which is larger than the table value 1.97 at 243 degrees of freedom and .05 level of significance. Again, the p-value is .000, which is smaller than .05. It is seen that both the values (t-value and p-value) reject the null hypothesis regarding the mean significant difference between the means of two groups (i.e., Government and Private).

Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference between government and private secondary school students of Dhemaji district, As far as their Helping Attitude is concerned.

V. Comparison of Helping attitude among the General, SC, ST, and OBC students of secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam.

H₀= There is no significant difference among the General, SC, ST, and OBC students of secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam.

Table 5: Summary Statistics (ANOVA)

Groups	Count	Average	Variance
General	50	70.80	50.44
SC	79	69.88	65.25

ST	45	71.26	55.15
OBC	71	73.56	43.96

Table 5: ANOVA result

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	532.14	3	177.38	3.271	0.021	2.64
Within Groups	13066.24	241	54.21			
Total	13598.38	244				

The ANOVA analysis { $F(3,241) = 3.271$ } shows that the p-value (i.e., .021) is smaller than .05, it implies that the p-value is significant at 0.05 level. Therefore, the null hypothesis will be rejected. It refers that there is a significant difference among General, SC, ST and OBC secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam, as far as their Helping Attitude is concerned.

6. Findings and Conclusion: In the present study, the researcher found out the level of helping attitude among the secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam. The researcher found that the mean, SD, skewness and kurtosis values of helping attitude of the secondary school students of Dhemaji district, Assam were (table-1) 71.39, 7.47, -.472, and -.199 respectively (Table-1). When analyzing the difference in helping attitude between the groups when their gender is concerned, the researcher found that there is a significant difference between the groups (male and female) as the p-value ($.000 < .05$) was significant at .05 level. Similarly, a significant difference was found in the helping attitude scores among the students from government and private schools. Again, a significant difference in the helping attitude was found among the students as far as their caste was considered. But no significant difference was found among the secondary school students of Dhemaji district, as far as their residence (Rural and Urban) was considered.

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