

A STUDY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AND DECISION MAKING CAPACITY OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the relationship of decision-making styles of Principals with mental health. Data were obtained from 80 Principals of +2 schools drawn randomly from three districts of Madhya Pradesh. It was found that scores on decision making were positively correlated with mental health and mental health is a good predictor of decision making process.

Every educational institution requires a pattern of administration to propel it efficiently and effectively toward realization of its goals, to maintain and sustain it on an even keel, to steer it through often-uncharted problem areas. The educational administration is human process. In it are involved the human beings who are there to gain something. Its major objective is to build the personality of the rising generation. Decision-making is one of the basic functions of administration and it is closely related with the mental health of the individual. A person having sound mental health can only make a good decision. Educational administration in India is still continuing with its traditional and routine functions. Much has changed in the larger system, the Indian Society. But, educational administration in India has not addressed itself to these changes with the result that it suffers from "Social Mindlessness". The administrators in the field of education are hopelessly floundering with the traditional values. Hobb (1970), Henning (1962) and Bowers (1973) were of the view that the greatest drawback with out educational system is lack of power to make good decisions. Decision is a moment in the process of policy formation. It is much less than policy but in nature it is not different from it (Terry, 1958). In the context of organizational functioning, administration and decision making are largely, inseparable. Decision-making is considered to be the heart of administration. It is the process through which administrator's work to accomplish their tasks. The power of an administrator in the organization is defined in terms of the decisions that he is allowed to make.

Mental health is an ingredient of personality. The study of personality gives us some of the aspect of mental health. Personality, in a general sense, is defined as your effect upon other people and this is directly related to mental health.

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METHOD

Sample

A total of 80 Higher Secondary Schools' Principals participated as subjects in this study. Questionnaires were administered to the sample.

Tools

The decision-making capacity of educational administrators was measured by Decision-Making Test by Pandey (1991). This test assesses the decision-making capacity needed in educational administration. The DMT consists of 6 items and measures six decision-making styles. The test retest reliability is for work ethics 0.61, Future Precedents 0.83, Political Decision 0.51, advising others 0.31, Management Decision 0.51, Public Relation 0.51. The final test-retest reliability coefficient is 0.86. Mental health was assessed by Mental Health Scale constructed and standardised by Pandey (1995). According to the test constructor the test measures the mental health of the educational administrators and bears a test-retest reliability of .78.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to study the relationship between mental health and decision making capacity of educational administrators Product Moment Correlation was calculated which has been shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1								
<i>Correlation between Mental Health and Variables of Decision Making</i>								
<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
1.	Work Ethics,	1.00						
2.	Future Precedents	.51	1.00					
3.	Political Decision .49	.48	1.00					
4.	Advising Others	.40	.51	.63	1.00			
5.	Management Decision	.69	.52	.49	.71	1.00		
6.	Public Relation	.60	.59	.50	.62	.48	1.00	
7.	Mental Health	.57	.67	.46	.39	.71	.59	1.00

It is observed from Table 1 there is a significant and positive correlation between each of the dimension of decision making and mental health.

The obvious implication of this finding is that the mental health of an individual is one of the important factors, which influences the decision-making capacity.

This information also has certain implications for school and college administration. Principals' decision making as conceptualized in this study seems to be a positive factor of their administration, particularly their adjustment to the students and ministerial staff. If n is so; this information may be utilized for strengthening administration of schools and colleges in various ways.

The Multiple 'R' as calculated by Doolittle Method was found to be 83, which is significant at .05 level. This indicates that Principals' mental

health affects their decision-making capacity. In order to check whether there is a significant difference between the mean across on the decision-making capacity of educational administration with high and low mental health, t-test was carried out. The result has been shown in Table 2.

S.No.	Groups compared	N	Mean	S.D.	t-Value
1.	High decision Making Capacity	40	21.04	3.31	3.62*
2.	Low Decision Making Capacity	40	23.10	7.21	
* Significant at .01 level					

Table 2 shows that obtained t-values of 3.62 exceed the minimum required value of 2.58 at 0.1 level of confidence by a big margin and therefore, it is significant. On the basis of this, it is strong base to believe that true difference exists between the mean across on mental health with high and low decision-making capacity. The scoring procedure of the decision making inventory which was used in the present study was such that the lower the score, the higher the decision making capacity is lower in comparison to administrators who have high power of decision making have a better mental health.

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