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# CONSTRUCTION AND VALIDATION OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS POLITICS SCALE (ATPS)

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## ABSTRACT:

The aim of this study is to construct and validate a scale for measuring the attitude towards politics. This paper reveals the various stages involved in the development process of the Attitude Towards Politics Scale (ATPS). The development of the tool involved a well-defined process. The preliminary ATPS consisted of 56 items in the form of statements based on five dimensions. The pilot study was carried out with 100 B.A (history) students who were randomly selected from two colleges of arts and science in Tirunelveli. Item whole correlation was calculated and the items at 0.01 significant level were selected. The investigator had validated the scale by establishing the validity and reliability. The final scale consisted of 40 items and the reliability of the scale was established by split half method. The present paper brings to light the process of construction and validation of the ATPS.

*Keywords: Attitude towards Politics, Attitudes, Validation*

## INTRODUCTION:

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" says Nelson Mandela. Democracy provides people with the opportunity to be active citizens rather than passive subjects (Christopher M. Federico, 2009). India being a democratic nation expects a active participation of its citizen in the political structure for its successful functioning. India is one of the youngest countries in the world, with an estimated 65 percent of the population under the age of 35. Political attitude refers to the attitude and beliefs of common citizen about the political system, related institutions, leadership and other events of public life. Consistent political attitude is essential to determine the exercise of their political rights like whom to vote, whom to support, ensure their political participation in parties, election and voting. According to Plato "one of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics, is that you end up being governed by your inferiors". Youth's alienation from the political scene is widely observed worldwide. This is also evident from the 2016 legislative elections in India. "Political propaganda is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind" (George Orwell). The corruption that prevails in the society and the political behaviour of politicians have pictured politics as a gambling for power and place. The youth believe that a career in politics may ruin their life and run towards a safe and secure job. They think that participating in politics as waste of time. They demand their rights but when it comes for duties they take a step behind. According to Almond and Powell "Political

participation is the involvement of the members of the society in the decision making process of the system". This negligence can interrupt the process of interaction between individuals and the political system, interrelationships between government and citizens, citizens' rights and duties, obligations and duties of government. This attitude towards politics must change and development of healthy political attitude is needed for constructive political system. Hence, the present paper brings to light the procedure of construction and validation of the ATPS, which can be used to measure the attitude of younger generation towards politics.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To construct a reliable and valid scale to measure the Attitude towards Politics among college students.
- To validate the Attitude towards Politics Scale (ATPS)

#### POPULATION:

The scale was constructed to measure the attitude towards politics among the students who undergo undergraduate course in history at arts and science colleges.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF THE DRAFT TOOL:

To construct the tool the investigator referred books, existing relevant tools and articles and discussed with guide and other experts. This background enabled the investigator in enlisting dimensions and frame out 56 statements for the draft tool. Each statement is provided with responses such as strongly agree, agree undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The tool consisted of 25 positive and 31 negative statements. The scoring for each statement was given accordingly.

#### SCORING KEY

Items	Scores				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree.
Positive Statements	5	4	3	2	1
Negative Statements	1	2	3	4	5

#### VALIDATION PROCESS OF THE TOOL

##### ESTABLISHING VALIDITY:

After framing, the draft was given to a team of eminent professors for screening and validation. They ensured the appropriateness of language, relevance of items, essentiality of the item and conciseness of the statements. Some statements were reframed for clarity. Thus the face validity and content validity of the tool was established.

**STUDY:**

The pilot study was carefully planned and carried out. In order to validate the scale, the test was administered to 100 students from department of history who were studying in college and Sadakhappadullah College of arts and science in Tirunelveli. In order to ensure construction of common tool for both genders the sample was derived equally from 50 male and 50 female. The sample was derived using simple random sampling technique. The recorded scores were scored as per the scoring key. The item vs. whole correlation was calculated with the obtained data scores.

**TABLE I: ITEM VS. ITEM WHOLE CORRELATION**

Item no	'r' Value	Remark	Item no	'r' Value	Remark
1	.166	Rejected	29	.493	selected
2	.348	selected	30	.137	Rejected
3	.520	selected	31	.216	Rejected
4	.359	selected	32	.449	selected
5	.612	selected	33	.306	selected
6	.364	selected	34	.393	selected
7	.184	Rejected	35	.451	selected
8	.171	Rejected	36	.397	selected
9	.505	selected	37	.100	Rejected
10	.302	selected	38	.408	selected
11	.361	selected	39	.491	selected
12	.184	Rejected	40	.400	selected
13	.323	selected	41	.373	selected
14	.313	selected	42	.348	selected
15	.445	selected	43	.402	selected
16	.356	selected	44	.297	selected
17	.432	selected	45	.100	Rejected
18	.160	Rejected	46	.331	selected
19	.309	selected	47	.352	selected
20	.179	Rejected	48	.193	Rejected
21	.436	selected	49	.259	selected
22	.409	selected	50	.326	selected
23	.391	selected	51	.366	selected
24	.109	Rejected	52	.339	selected
25	.170	Rejected	53	.193	Rejected
26	.366	selected	54	.057	Rejected
27	.161	Rejected	55	.337	selected
28	.487	selected	56	.264	selected

significance level was retained the other items were rejected. Based on it 16 statements were deleted. Thus the final tool contained 40 statements.

#### RELIABILITY:

Reliability of the tool was established using test re-test method and split-half method. For calculating the test retest method the tool was given to same students after 15 days. Then the two sets of scores were correlated using Karlpearson's product moment formula. The reliability co-efficient obtained was 0.734.

For computing the split half method, the entire tool was divided in to two equal halves and the co-efficient of the reliability was calculated by Spearman Brown formula came out as 0.794. Dimension wise reliability of the tool was also calculated, which made the scale fairly reliable.

TABLE 2 : DIMENSION-WISE RELIABILITY

Dimensions	Formula	Split half reliability
Attitude towards politics	Spearman-Brown prophecy	.662
Attitude towards political participation		.578
Attitude towards politicians		.866
Attitude towards political party		.729
Attitude towards election and voting		.422

TABLE 3: RELIABILITY OF ATPS

Scale	Method	Formula	Reliability Value
Attitude towards Politics Scale (ATPS)	Split half reliability	Cronbach's Alpha	.756
		Spearman- Brown prophecy	.794
		Guttman Split half	.788
	Test Re-test method	Karl pearson's product moment	0.734

#### TOOL:

The final scale entitled attitude towards politics scale (ATPS) consisted of 40 statements in five dimensions viz attitude towards politics, attitude towards political participation, attitude towards politicians, attitude towards political party and attitude towards elections and voting.

scale was formed with five point likert scale. The maximum score for the tool is calculated 200 and minimum score is 40. Thus the theoretical score ranges from 40-200.

TABLE 4: FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF STATEMENTS AMONG DIMENSIONS OF ATPS

Dimensions	Attitude Towards Politics Scale (ATPS)		
	Positive Statements	Negative Statements	No. of items
Attitude towards politics	5	3	8
Attitude towards political participation	4	2	6
Attitude towards politicians	1	9	10
Attitude towards political party	2	8	10
Attitude towards election and voting	4	2	6
<b>Total items</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>

#### CONCLUSION:

Citizen's political attitude can row politics of the nation in right direction. Healthy political attitude lays a strong foundation in instilling ethical political system and democracy for a nation. The above developed and validated ATPS helps the educational institutions to measure student's attitude towards politics and to guide and motivate them in developing healthy and effective citizens of a democratic society.

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