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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF FRESHER COLLEGE STUDENT'S BEHAVIOUR - A PSYCHO-GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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#### ABSTRACT

It is a well known fact that psychology and environment are closely interrelated. Any kind of environmental change brings a psychological change among the human being. In my present study I try to examine a causal relationship how new environment (environment of college campus) brings lots of psychological change among the newcomers of college coming from different schools. In my study I also try to analyse the positive and negative impacts of above mention psychological change on the new students. It is generally seen that many students having good academic profile in the school can not cope up with the new environment which creates a significant academic degradation of that students. On the other hand many students having medium academic profile can adjust themselves well with this environment which helps to bring a momentous academic progression of that students. On the basis of different parameters which are related to the new students of college I discuss the student's failure and success in the context of environmental change as well as the psychological change of the students. I collect information about the new college students from five different colleges of West Bengal and on the basis of these information I also mention some causal effect relation of student's behavioural change with changing environment and it's impacts on the student's academic profile in this paper.

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## INTRODUCTION

According to Lewin (1936) "Every psychological event depends upon the state of the person and at the same time on the environment, although their relative importance is different in different cases," (Strongman, 2003). Human being constantly reacts with surrounding environment and gains experiences. These experiences vary at different age levels. The reactions given by individuals to the environment differ from one individual to another. An emphasis upon the psychology underpinning individual spatial behaviour that has emphasized the role of cognitive and decision-making factors that intervene in the relations between a multidimensional environment and human action (Johnston, Ron, 2005, p-42). Behavioural geography treats man as a responder to stimuli. It seeks to identify how different individuals respond to a particular stimuli and also how the same individual responds to the same stimulus in different situations (Adhikari, 1995, p-271). The relationship between mankind and social environment is a theme that has held the attention of man from the beginning of civilization (Dikshit, 2006, p242). Physical and social environments always play a significant role in changing human behaviour as well as human psychology.

Kates (1962) was a major exponent of the behaviouristic approach. In his study of the flood-plain management, he said that "the way men view the ranks and opportunities of their uncertain environments plays a significant role in their decisions as a resource management (Adhikari, 1995, p-272)." The explosive growth of world's population, with its consequent demand for more foodstuffs, keeps the world in a state of perpetual crisis (Chandna, 2011, p-529). So it is very urgent to create more precious students from different academic institutions. But in reality it is seen all over the world that many students primarily having excellent academic profile will fail to keep their loftiness in case of higher studies.

It is mainly because of their flexibility in taking decisions to particular stimuli which is the new social environment of college. Student's activities in colleges especially in the last few centuries of West Bengal have had a great impact on the socio-economic development through their success and failure. The social environment of college offers a range of positive and negative opportunities related to student's success and failure but some students fail to take the correct one. So at present it should be a matter of concern to all the responsible members of the human society why a great number of students fail to keep their success in higher study.

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## Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the present research are as follows-

- To identify the nature of new college students coming from different school.
- To analyse the psychological as well as behavioural changes of these students.
- To calculate the rate of college level success and failure of these students.
- To find out the reason behind their success and failure in college
- To determine different parameters of success and failure of the student.
- To highlight the positive and negative impacts of behavioural and psychological changes of the students on their higher studies.

## The study area

The present study is based on five colleges of West Bengal. It is a state in eastern India and nation's fourth populous state located at 22°56'67"N and 88°36'67"E coordinates. Chandannagore Govt. College is one of the oldest college in Hooghly district in W.B. at 22°87'N and 88°38'E coordinates. It offers undergraduate courses in arts, commerce and sciences and is affiliated to the University of Burdwan. Bankura Christian College is the oldest college in Bankura district in W.B. It is located at 23°25'N and 87°06'67"E coordinates and offers undergraduate courses in arts and sciences. Asansol B.B. College is located at 23°68'00"N and 86°99'00"E coordinates in Burdwan district of W.B. It is established in 1944 and offers undergraduate courses of arts, commerce and sciences. Burdwan Raj College is located at 23°23'23"N and 87°86'67"E coordinates in Burdwan town. Haldia Govt. College is the oldest government college in Purva Medinipur district. It is situated at 22°03'00"N and 88°06'00"E coordinates and is affiliated to Vidyasagar university.

## Database and Methodology

The present study is totally based on primary data collection and observation method. The author randomly selects five general degree colleges of West Bengal for data collection. From these five colleges 1000 students (5x200=1000) have been taken by the simple random sampling method for further analysis. All the necessary information about the students have been collected through the pre planned questionnaire and personal enquiry method. For collecting the necessary information about the nature of students fourteen parameters have been selected by the author. Both quantitative and qualitative techniques have been used for the study. For detailed analysis and interpretation many books and literatures review have been done by the author.

## Selected parameters for examine student's behaviour

For the purpose of present study of new college student's behaviour I determine some parameters related to the student. I consider six parameters for the analysis of the psychology of the new student who able to carry their good academic profile also in college. On the other hand I also consider six parameters for analyzing the psychology of the student who fail to keep their good academic profile in college because of their inability to adjust with the new environment of college campus.

### PICTURES OF COLLEGES UNDER THE STUDY.



BURDWAN RAJ  
COLLEGE,  
BURDWAN, W.B.  
COORDINATES-  
23°23'23"N &  
87°86'67"E.

ASANSOL  
B.B. COLLEGE,  
ASANSOL, W.B.  
COORDINATES-23°68'  
N & 86°99' E



BANKURA CHRISTIAN  
COLLEGE, BANKURA,  
W.B., COORDINATES-  
23°25' N &  
87°06'67" E.

CHANDANNAGORE  
GOVT. COLLEGE,  
HOOGHLY, W. B.,  
COORDINATES-22°87'  
N & 88°38' E.



HALDIA GOVT.  
COLLEGE,, PURVA  
MEDINIPUR, W.B.,  
COORDINATES-22°03'  
N & 88°06' E.

## Parameters related to successful students (P)

**Definite aim in life (P1):** In every colleges there are some student who have strong aim in life. They always try to focus on their aim at any cost. As a result they able to adjust to the new college environment which help them to be successful also in college.

**Family responsibility (P2):** There are also some students in colleges who have great responsibility to their families. In this kind of student always feel a sincere responsibility and any how try to be a independent member of their families. That's why they able to manage the present situation of new college and score good marks also in college.

Name of the colleges	Selected Parameters														Total
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	B	N	
Chandernagore Govt. College	15	17	5	13	12	8	12	21	41	15	21	3	11	6	200
Burdwan Raj College	20	22	3	19	17	3	7	31	34	10	16	6	9	3	200
Bankura Christian College	11	25	7	9	9	10	6	40	21	18	22	10	7	5	200
Haldia Govt. College	14	11	4	17	9	5	11	38	32	12	19	16	10	2	200
Asansol B.B.College	9	11	6	13	21	6	17	29	47	6	11	9	11	4	200
Grand total	69	86	25	71	68	32	53	159	175	61	89	44	48	20	1000

Source: Primary data collected by the Author

**Vagabond nature (P3):** There are also few student of highly vagabond nature who always try to concentrate on themselves without seeing the surrounding circumstances. They do not keep any information about the others and focus on their own work.

**Maintaining good scheduled (P4):** One kind of student also found in college campus who maintain good schedule for their every work. In this kind of student always follow a standard routine and also able to maintain everything without hampering their study.

**Library work (P5):** In this kind of student like to spent their free time by utilising library. Actually they are good reader and always try to collect information by reading various books in the library except waste their free time in college canteen or common room.

**Central attraction (P6):** Some student also has a tendency to stay at central attracted point of teachers and friends which force them to be a good student of classes. For fulfilling this desire in this kind of student always tries to stay up to date about their subject matters which also help them to score good result.

#### Parameters related to unsuccessful students (Q)

**Political attraction (Q1):** Every college should have a political setup. A organising committee also exist among the student influencing by present political party. Some important posts of this committee are General Secretary, cultural secretary, president, assistant general secretary etc who enjoy lots of unauthorised power in the college campus. For this among the new student some are attracted by this political organisation and spent a valuable time by hampering their study.

**Immature love affairs (Q2):** Influencing by the environment of college campus some students engage in immature love affairs. In this kind of student waste their maximum time for making their love affairs. In this kind of student like to spent their time in canteen, park and common room by without follow their classes.

**Engage in social network sites (Q3):** In colleges some student engage themselves with their mobile phones for using social network sites. In the present age of high technology every student can easily access the social network sites like face book, twitter, whatsapp, Hangouts etc which have a great impacts on their study. In this kind of student always like to spent their valuable time by using this network sites except doing attention on their study.

**Addiction to alcohol (Q4):** Influencing by senior student some new student will discover themselves as chains smoker and alcoholic immediately. Consequently they cannot carry forward their good school level academic profile.

**Village level poverty (Q5):** In every colleges some student with good academic profile admit from remote village with high poverty. In this kind of student always feel a deep depression and cannot cope up with the highly modernised college campus which causes their failure in college.

**Irregularity (Q6):** Some of the student who scored good results in school level ca not keeps their good result because of their highly irregular nature. They do not follow any routine of academic year attentively. They treat their college as a place of wondering and come in the college like visitor.

#### Parameters related to exceptional students

**Parameter-B:** This parameter indicates those exceptional students who can maintain a balance between parameters P and Q. These students always try to keep a good relation among both students who fall under the P and Q parameters and also score medium results.

**Parameter- N:** Parameter N is used for those kind of students they are not come any above mention categories. They are totally exceptional in nature.

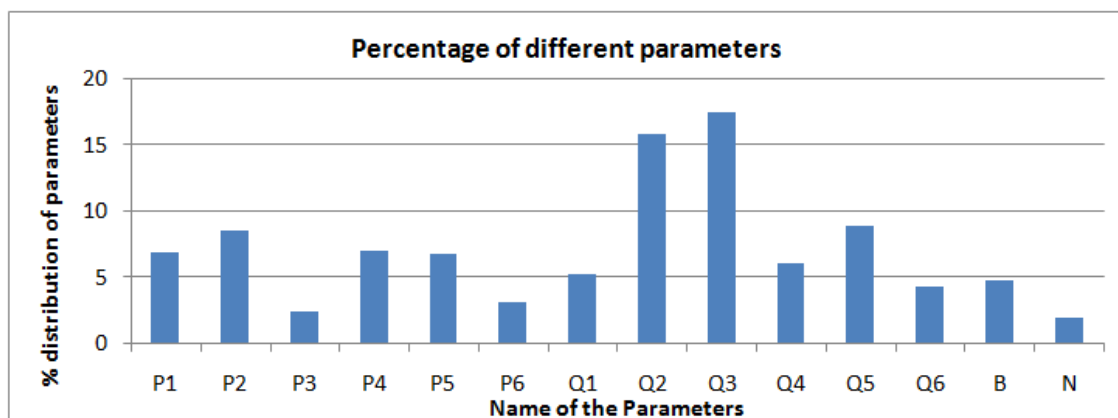
#### Data analysis and interpretation

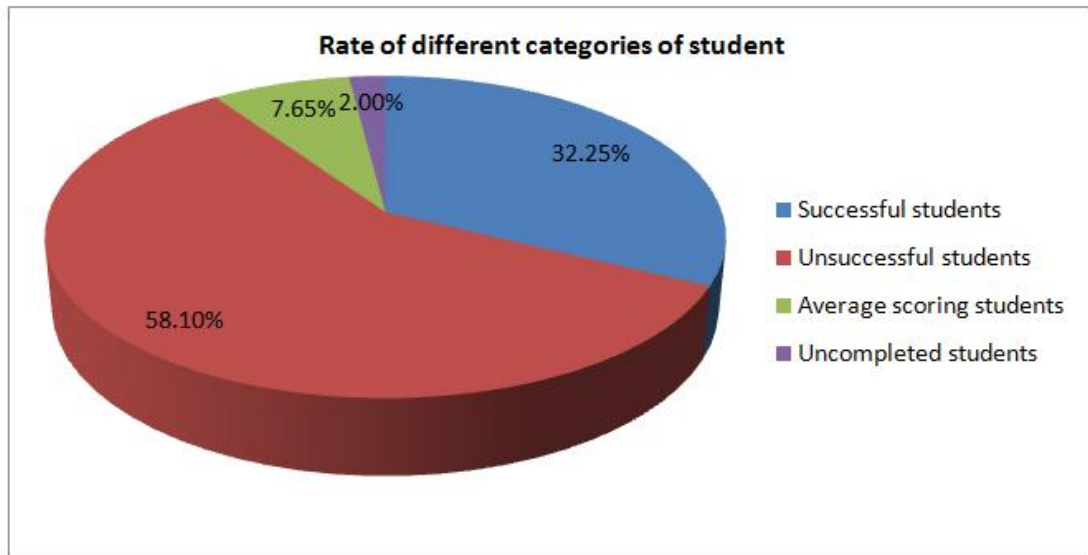
The following information about the students of different colleges have found by the primary survey. The information are based on some selected parameters which have been made by the author. There are fourteen parameters which convey the interest of different students.

Percentage distribution of different parameters including five colleges

Parameters	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	B	N
% of parameters	6.9	8.6	2.5	7.1	6.8	3.2	5.3	15.9	17.5	6.1	8.9	4.4	4.8	2.0

Source: Calculated by Author





These parameters cover the maximum behavioural attitudes of the students that is the student's interest. In the school level there exists many kind of mandatory rules and regulations by which students force to concentrate on their studies. But in the colleges there do not exist any kind of regulations except some universities norms like attendance, course fees etc. Besides this the surrounding environment of colleges campus is totally different from the environment which exist in school campus. As a result many kind of psychological as well as behavioural changes have seen among the new college students coming from different schools which have a great impact on their studies. The following parameters are mainly responsible for their further success and failure.

#### Description of these parameters

- P- Indicates the interests of students which are responsible for their success also in college.
- Q- Indicates the interests of students which are responsible for their failure in college.
- P1- Indicates of those students who have definite aim in life.
- P2- Indicates those kind of students who feel a strong responsibility for their family.
- P3- Indicates the students of vagabond nature basically self-centred.
- P4- Indicates those students who always maintain a good schedule.
- P5- Indicates those students who prefer library work.
- P6- Indicates those students who try to stay centrally attracted by teachers and class mates.
- Q1- Indicates those students who engage themselves in student's politics.
- Q2- Indicates those students who fall in immature love affairs.
- Q3- Indicates those students who are addicted to access social network sites.
- Q4- Indicates those students who are smoker and alcoholic in nature.
- Q5- Indicate those students coming from remote village with high poverty.

- Q6- Indicates those students who are basically irregular in character. They do not follow any routine or schedule.
- B- Parameter B indicates an exceptional character. Students under this category always try to maintain a balance between P and Q.
- N- There are also some students who are not come any above mention category. These students also exceptional in nature.

#### Procedure for analysis

For the analysis of student's college level succession the following formulas have been introduced by the author based on the findings data about the students of different colleges.

1. Rate of successful students also in college =  $(P1+P2+P4+P5) + (1/2P3+1/2P6)$ .
2. Rate of unsuccessful students in college =  $(Q1+Q2+Q3+Q4+Q5+Q6)$ .
3. Rate of average scoring students =  $B+1/2P3+1/2P6$
4. Rate of students who will fail to complete their courses =  $100\% - (\text{percentage of successful students in college} + \text{percentage of unsuccessful students in college} + \text{percentage of average scoring students})$

#### Calculation

By using the above formulas now we can calculate the percentage of different categories of students.

- Rate of successful students also in college =  $(6.9+8.6+7.1+6.8) + (2.5/2+3.2/2) = 22.3+2.85=32.25\%$ .
- Rate of unsuccessful students in college =  $(5.3+15.9+17.5+6.1+8.9+4.4) = 58.1$ .
- Rate of average scoring students =  $4.8+2.5/2+3.2/2= 7.65$ .
- Rate of students who will fail to complete their courses =  $100\% - (32.25+58.1+7.65) = 100\% - 98.00 = 02\%$ .

#### Major findings

From the above analysis the major findings are listed below-

- A great number of psychological as well as behavioural changes have been observed among the new college students coming from different schools influencing by the new environment of college campus as there exist a close interrelation between emotional stability, psychological support and career resilience which are mainly responsible for their academic degradation or improvement. As a result many students who had good academic career in school level will not able to keep their academic performances in college. More than 55% students of these colleges fail to keep their school level results.
- The main causes behind their failure in colleges are joining in student's politics, falling in immature love affairs, using social network sites, addicting to smoke and alcohol, irregularity and village level poverty. Among these causes maximum number of students fail to keep their school level result because of their engagement in immature love affairs and social network sites. Among these 59.1% students 5.3% is due to student's politics, 15.9% is due to immature love affairs, 17.5% is due to social network sites, 6.1% is due to drugs addiction, 8.9% is due to family poverty and 4.4% is due to irregularity of the students.
- Among the new coming college students only 25.15% students able to keep their school level academic profile also in the colleges. The main causes of this are definite aim of the students, family responsibility of the student, too much library work, correct schedule maintain and vagabond nature of the students. 6.9% students able to keep their result as they always try to fulfil their definite aim and 8.6% students able because of their strong responsibilities to their families. Besides 7.1% students able because they maintain good academic routine and 6.8% because of their too much library work.
- There are also found that 7.65% students score medium results in colleges. They can not perform like their school level but they score a medium result because of their balancing characters. These students always try to maintain a balance between P and Q parameters. As for example these kind of students are available in students union and also in the library.
- It is also found that only 2% students will not able to complete their courses because of various causes like illness, mental disorder, poverty, unnatural death etc.
- In general it can be said from the above discussion that in every colleges a great number of students admit with high school level marks but all of them will not able to keep their school level academic profile because of their psychological, behavioural, physical and attitudinal changes. The changes mainly happen due to the new environment of colleges and also due to different association.
- Besides the above mention causes one of the important cause of student's failure is poverty. Rapid population growth is a threat to economic development, especially with respect to the per capita economic growth. In India the growth of economy is just being eaten up by even more rapid growth of population. The Indian economy continues to be an economy of shortages (Sinha, 2009, p-89).
- Another important factor is infrastructure of the colleges of West Bengal in India. Most of the colleges fail to provide sufficient infrastructure such as well furnished class room,

modernised lab, library with sufficient books and also the adequate professor. It is mainly because of low economic growth of the country accompanied with country's excessive population growth.

### Conclusion

Psychology is the Science of Mental Life, both of its phenomena and of their conditions. The phenomena are such things as we call feelings, desires, cognitions, reasoning, decisions, and the like; and, superficially considered, their variety and complexity is such as to leave a chaotic impression on the observer (William, J, p-02). So it is very difficult task to analyse psychological behaviour of students. Modern phenomenological psychology is the study of consciousness and experience, an individual's perception of the world being the crucial aspect of psychological investigation. It is implied that each of us perceives the world in a unique way, although there might be common elements in our experiences. And it is these perceptions that determine the way in which we react or the way in which we behave (Levine and Rodrigues, 2008, p-12). According to the phenomenological psychologists an individual's behaviour and work is totally depend on moment, place, surrounding environment and their present state. From this ground of thought it can be established that the behaviour and work of the new college students coming from school have been changed depending on the new association and surrounding environment of the college campus. Another important factor is responsible for changing the student's attitude is the adolescence. Adolescence is a crossroads from childhood to adulthood. Childhood experiences and biological characteristics are transformed into interests, competencies, and self-beliefs and begin to play an increasingly important role as the adolescent starts to make his or her way toward adult life.

This development is channelled by a variety of opportunities and constraints in the adolescent's social and institutional environment. Adolescents face two broad challenges during the transition from childhood to adult life: the entrance into production and reproduction fields of the culture and society. Entrance into production includes becoming an economically independent individual who is able to make his or her living in the society and economic system. This developmental trajectory consists typically of a complex set of decisions concerning schooling, education, and career. In turn, entrance into the reproduction domain includes a pattern of sequential commitments to romantic relationships, building up intimate relations, founding a family, and taking care of children (Lerner, Richard and Steinburg, 2004, p-85). Education has long been considered an important factor in shaping attitudes and behaviour. So it can be said that it is impossible to change the students characters for getting a high level output from the college like school level output as it is depend on human psychology. But it may be mention that if the guardian of these students should aware about these students we can get better output from the colleges as young people, particularly students are the great hope of Indian society to implement cultural transformation and socio economic development.

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