

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

A study to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme (STP) on strategies for reducing test anxiety among school students at selected schools in Bhopal, M.P.

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ABSTRACT

Aim: A study to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme (STP) on strategies for reducing test anxiety among school students at selected schools in Bhopal, M.P. **Material and methods:** The present study was carried out in the School at Bhopal. From the eligible population 60 samples (n=60) were selected by using simple random sampling technique of lottery method. **Results:** The mean percentage of cognitive aspect is 65.84 with standard deviation of 6.01; mean percentage of respondents on psychological aspect is 63.87 with standard deviation of 1.92, mean percentage of respondents on social aspect is 59.3 with 1.85; mean percentage of physiological aspect is 59.12 with standard deviation of 3.4. The overall mean percentage is 63.22 with standard deviation of 10.34 on pre-test test anxiety. **Conclusion:** The present study reveals that there was a significant reduction in test anxiety after giving structured teaching programme on strategies for reducing test anxiety among School Students. It also reveals that there was significant association between post-test test anxiety and demographic variables such as educational status, type of family & place of living.

Keywords: structured teaching programme (STP), Anxiety, school students

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INTRODUCTION

Anxiety is a basic human emotion consisting of fear and uncertainty that typically appears when an individual perceives an event as being a threat to the ego or self-esteem. In some instances, such as avoiding dangerous situations, anxiety can be helpful. However when taken to extremes, it may produce unwanted results.[1-5]

Stress comes in all forms and is an unavoidable consequence of life. Transient feeling of anxiety and stress is a part of life for every individual. In the course of normal development transient feeling of anxiety is experienced and usually mastered by every child and adolescent. Anxiety may be focused around certain issues or situation. A mild degree of anxiety and stress may be stimulating, motivating, and may help to overcome stress; but high degree of stress may be disrupting. Adolescence is a transition period that involves physiological, psychological and social changes. Emotional problems such as symptoms of anxiety and depression may develop due to these

changes. Although many of these problems may not meet diagnostic thresholds, they may develop into more severe disorders and may have an impact on their functioning.[6-15]

Testing is a primary tool for measuring students' comprehension of course material in many courses. Test anxiety experienced by students may adversely affect the ability of testing to measure student's comprehension of course material.

NEED FOR STUDY

Anxiety can affect each student in different ways; there are several symptoms that are quite common. Some of these are emotional, which include feelings of fear, disappointment, anger, depression, or helplessness. Other symptoms are more behavioral, ranging from fidgeting or pacing to substance abuse or other self-destructive behaviors. There are also physiological symptoms, which include fast heartbeat, feelings of nausea, headaches, sweating, and other disruptions in bodily functions. Finally, many people

experience cognitive symptoms, such as negative thinking about oneself, racing thoughts, loss of memory and “blinking” out.[16-25]

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“A study to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on strategies for reducing test anxiety among School Students at selected School in Bhopal M.P.”.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students in selected School.
2. To provide structured teaching programme on strategies for reducing test anxiety among School Students in selected School.
3. To assess the post-test level of test anxiety among School Students in selected School.
4. To compare pre and post-test level of test anxiety among School Students in selected School.
5. To find out the association between the level of post-test test anxiety and selected demographic variables among School Students in selected School.

ASSUMPTION

This study assumes that

1. Test anxiety is a normal phenomenon among University students.
2. Test anxiety negatively affects the performance.
3. Structured teaching programme may help the University students to reduce test Anxiety.

HYPOTHESIS

H1: The post-test mean test anxiety will be significantly less than pre-test mean test anxiety among the University students.

H2: There will be significant association between level of post-test test anxiety and demographic characteristics of University students.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

1. Effectiveness:

It means the extent to which the specific intervention strategies adopted by the researcher to achieved the desired objectives.

2. Structured Teaching Programme:

In this study structured teaching programme means a programme of information which includes a class related to test anxiety and strategies for reducing test anxiety to educate the School Students and thereby making an effort to reduce test anxiety.

3. Strategy:

Strategies are the interventional techniques which are used for reducing test anxiety.

4. Test anxiety:

Test anxiety is a psychological condition in which a person experiences distress before, during, or after a test or other assessment to such an extent that this

anxiety causes poor performance or interferes with normal learning.

DELIMITATION

1. The study period was limited to 6 weeks.
2. The study was limited to School Students of School, Bhopal, M.P.
3. The study did not use any control group.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH APPROACH: This chapter deals with the types of research approach used, setting of the study, the different variables used, the population, sampling technique and sample selection, the inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria, the development of the tool, the validity and the reliability of the tool, the description of the tool, collection of data, pilot study, procedure of data collection and plan for data analysis which was used in assessing the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on strategies for reducing test anxiety among School students.

RESEARCH DESIGN: In this study one group pre-test, post-test quasi-experimental design was adopted.

STUDY SETTING: The present study was carried out in the -----School at Bhopal.

POPULATION: Population was School Students in -----School at Bhopal.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLE TECHNIQUE: From the eligible population 60 samples (n=60) were selected by using simple random sampling technique of lottery method.

CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE SELECTION

The sample for the study was selected based on the following criteria:

Inclusion criteria

The study includes

- Selected School at Bhopal.
- Both male and female students.
- Students who were willing to participate.

Exclusion criteria

- Students who were absent at the time of data collection.
- Students who were physically ill.

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

Section 1: Demographic data of the students

This was used to collect information on age, sex, educational status, family income, type of family, religion, medium of instruction in 10th standard, place of living and attending private tuition.

Section 2: Modified Westside Test Anxiety Scale

This was used to collect and record the data on test anxiety of Students. Modified Westside Test Anxiety Scale was developed from Westside Test Anxiety Scale by Richard Driscoll. The Westside Test Anxiety Scale was modified because it consists only 10 items and there is no item regarding physiological symptoms of test anxiety. The modified tool consists

of twenty items in a statement form, with a five point rating scale in English. The scale is constructed to measure cognitive, psychological, social and physical impairment which is related to exam. All the questions are in a positive statement form. The tool consists of 10 questions from cognitive aspect, 3 questions from psychological aspect, 2 questions from social aspect & 5 questions from physiological aspect.

Each statement had five alternative responses. In this extremely carries 5 marks, high carries 4 marks, moderately carries 3 marks, lightly carries 2 marks, and not at all carries 1 mark. The test anxiety score is calculated by sum of scores of the twenty questions divided by 20. The maximum score is 5 and minimum score is 1.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table-1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among School

Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age in years		
a. 15	6	10
b. 16	19	31.67
c. 17	28	46.67
d. 18	7	11.67
Sex		
a. Male	32	53.33
b. Female	28	46.67
Educational status		
a. 11 th STD	27	45.00
b. 12 th STD	33	55.00
Family income (In Rupees)		
a. Rs. 5000 and below	2	3.33
b. Rs. 5001 to 10,000	26	43.33
c. Above Rs 10,000	32	53.33
Type of family		
a. Nuclear	45	75.00
b. Joint	15	25.00
Religion		
a. Hindu	43	71.67
b. Christian	4	6.67
c. Muslim	12	20.00
d. Others	1	1.66
Medium of instruction in 10 th Standard		
a. English	46	76.67
b. Kannada	14	23.33
c. Others	0	0.00
Place of living		
a. Urban	33	55.00
b. Rural	27	45.00
Attending private tuition		
a. Yes	9	15.00
b. No	51	85.00

The table 1 depicts that 6 (10%) of students were 15 years, 19 (31.67%) were 16 years, 28 (46.67 %) were 17 years and 7 (11.67%) were 18 years. With regard to sex, 32 (53.33%) were males where as 28 (46.67%) were females. In relation to educational status, 27 (45%) were studying in 11th Standard and 33 (55%) were studying in 12th Standard. The family income of majority of respondents 32 (53.33%) were above 10,000, whereas 26 (43.33%) were between rupees 5001-10,000, 2 (3.33%) had rupees 5000 and below. The majority of respondents 45 (75%) belongs to nuclear type of family where as 15 (25%) belong to

joint type of family. With regard to religion, maximum numbers 43 (71.67%) were Hindus where as 4 (6.67%) were Christians, 12 (20%) were Muslims and 1 (1.66%) were others. According to medium of instruction in 10th standard 46 (76.67%) were from English medium, 14 (23.33%) were from Kannada medium & none of them from other medium. In relation to place of living 33 (55%) were from Urban area where as 27 (45%) were from rural area. The majority of respondents 51 (85%) were not attending private tuition; whereas 9 (15%) were attending private tuition.

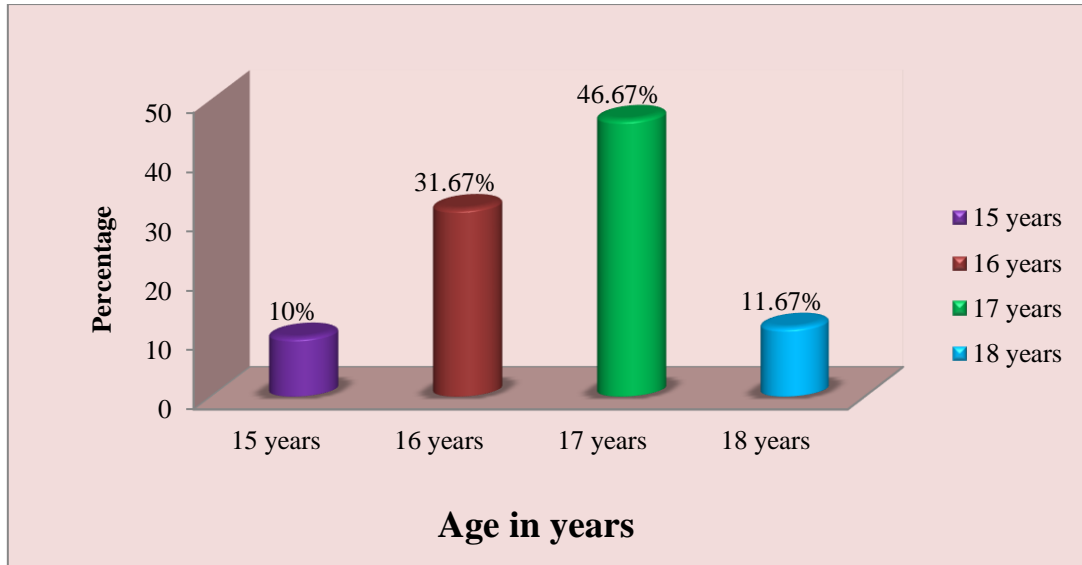


Fig-1 Distribution of age in years among School Students

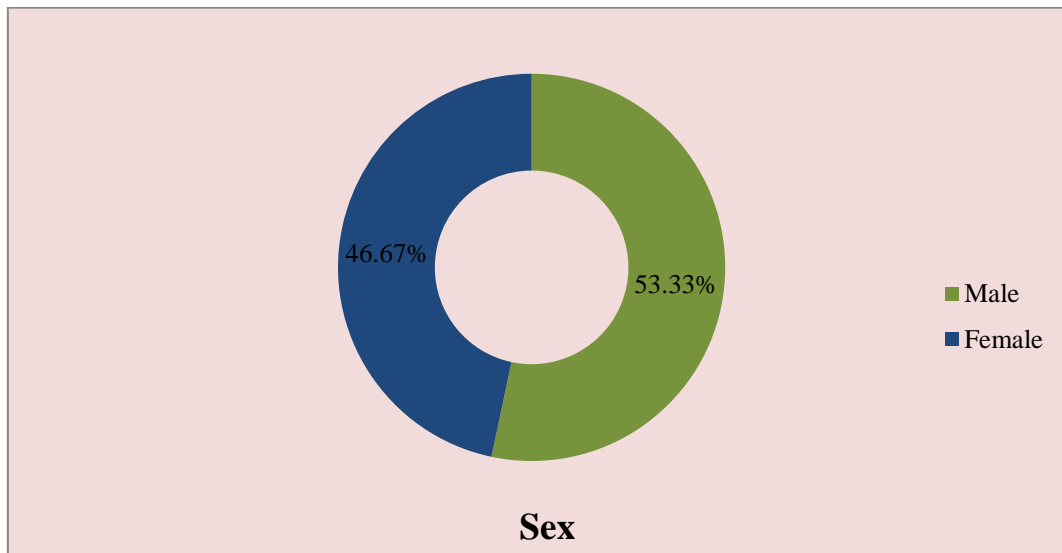


Fig-2 Distribution of sex among School Students

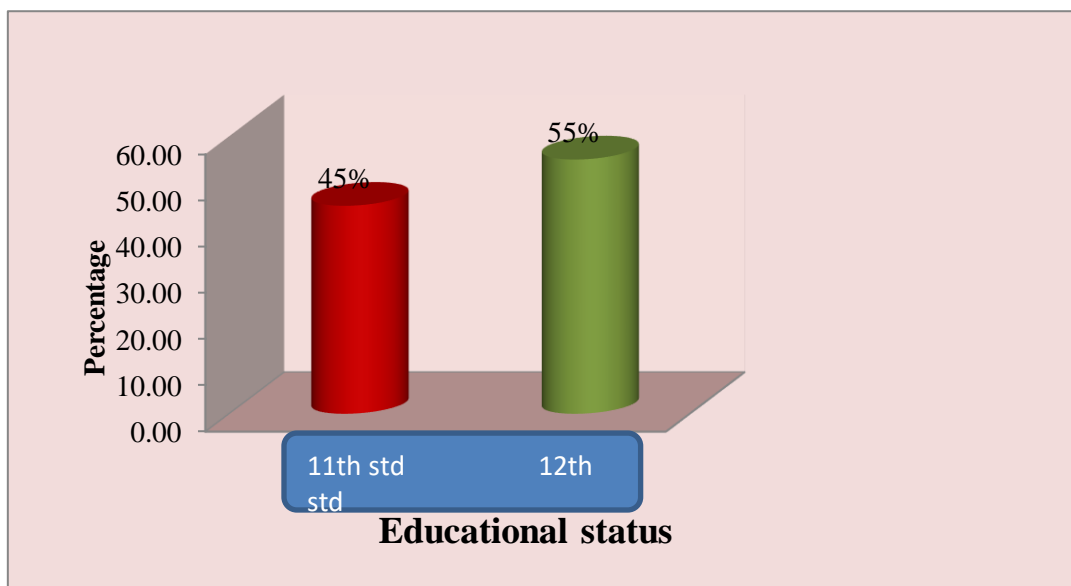


Fig-3 Distribution of educational status among School Students

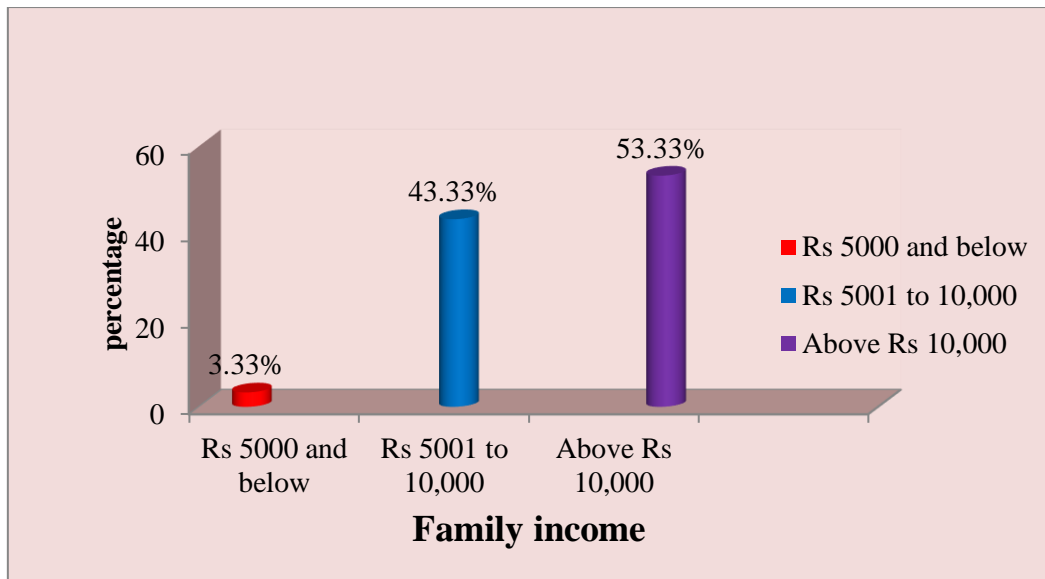


Fig-4 Distribution of family income among School Students

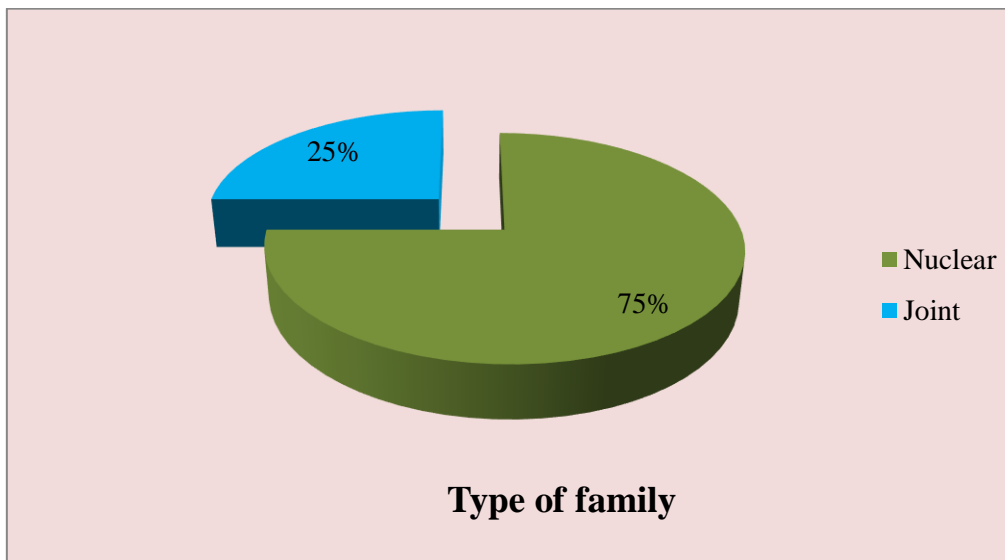


Fig-5 Distribution of type of family among School Students

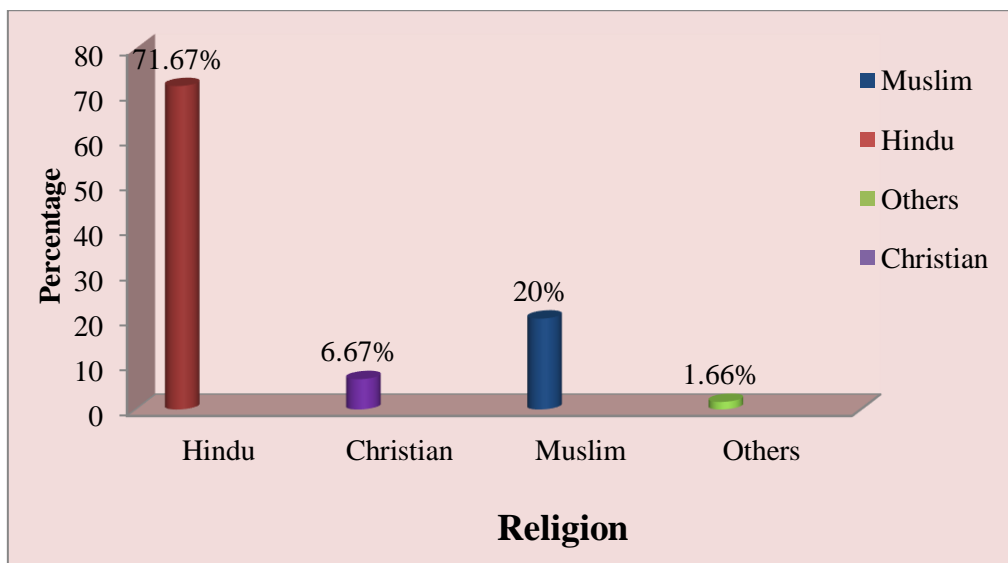


Fig-6 Distribution of religion among School Students

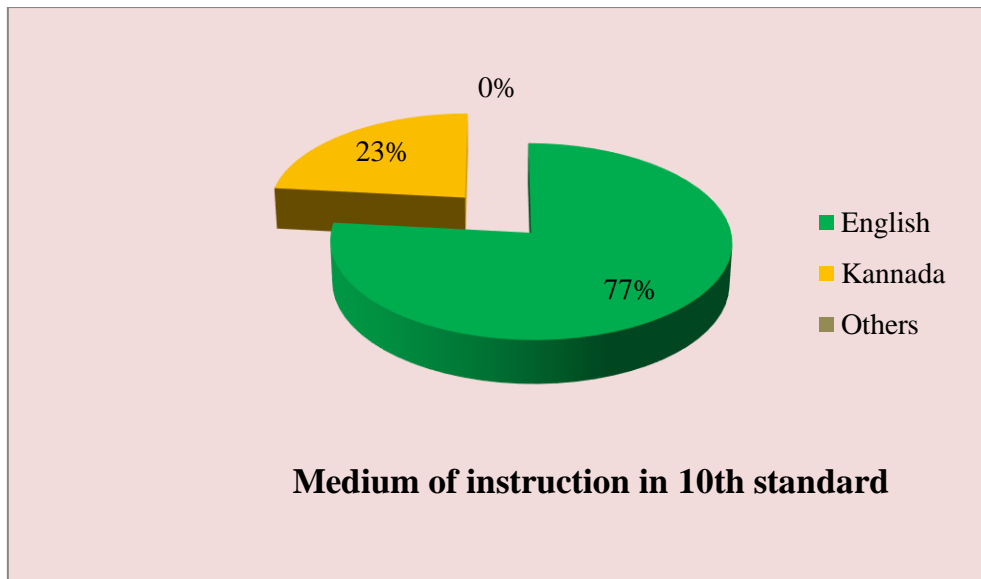


Fig 7 Distribution of medium of instruction in 10th standard among School Students

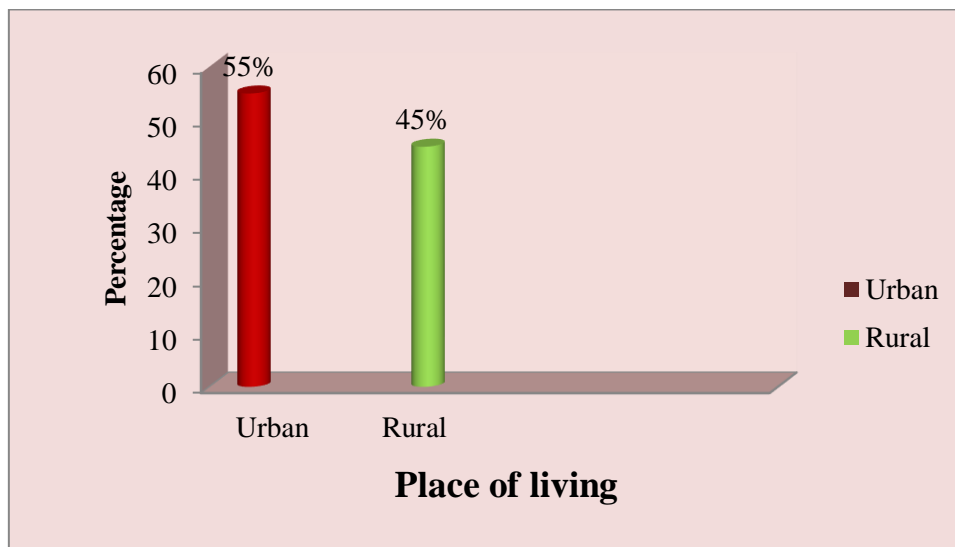


Fig-8 Distribution of place of living among School Students

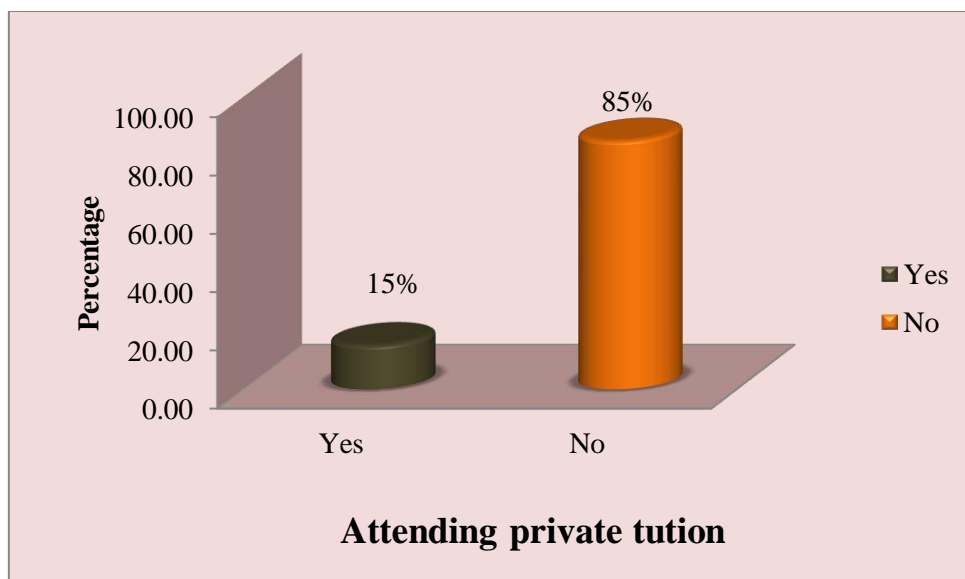


Fig-9 Distribution of attending private tuition among School Students

TABLE-2 Frequency and percentage distribution of pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students

Level of test anxiety	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Comfortably low test anxiety	0	0
Normal test anxiety	4	6.67
High normal test anxiety	19	31.67
Moderately high test anxiety	17	28.33
High test anxiety	16	26.67
Extremely high test anxiety	4	6.67

The above table 2 depicts the frequency and percentage distribution of pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students, none of them had comfortably low test anxiety, 4 (6.67%) of them had normal test anxiety, 19 (31.67%) of them had high

normal test anxiety, 17 (28.33%) of them had moderately high test anxiety, 16 (26.67%) of them had high test anxiety and 4 (6.67%) had extremely high test anxiety before structured teaching programme.

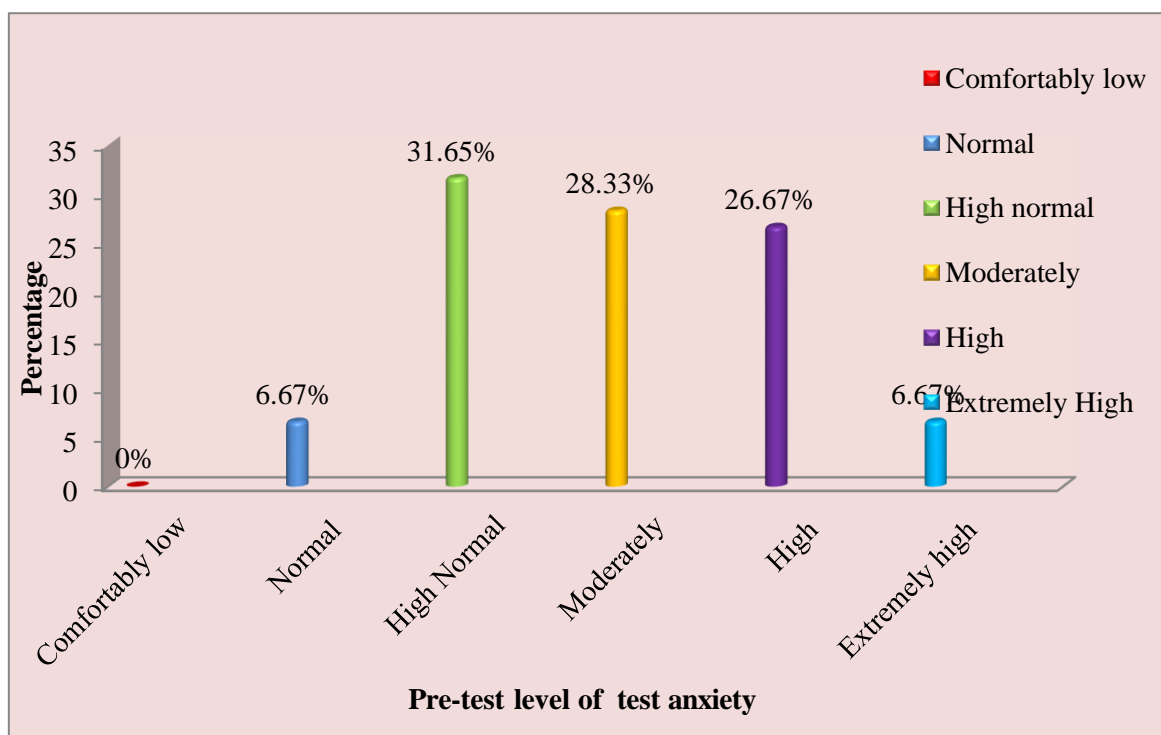


Fig-10 Pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students

TABLE 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of post-test level of test anxiety among School Students

Level of test anxiety	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Comfortably low test anxiety	16	26.67
Normal test anxiety	26	43.33
High normal test anxiety	18	30
Moderately high test anxiety	0	0
High test anxiety	0	0
Extremely high test anxiety	0	0

The above table 3 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of post-test test anxiety among School Students 16 (26.67%) had comfortably low test anxiety, 26 (43.33%) had normal test anxiety, 18 (30%) had high normal test anxiety and none of them had moderately high test anxiety, high test anxiety and extremely high test anxiety after structured teaching programme.

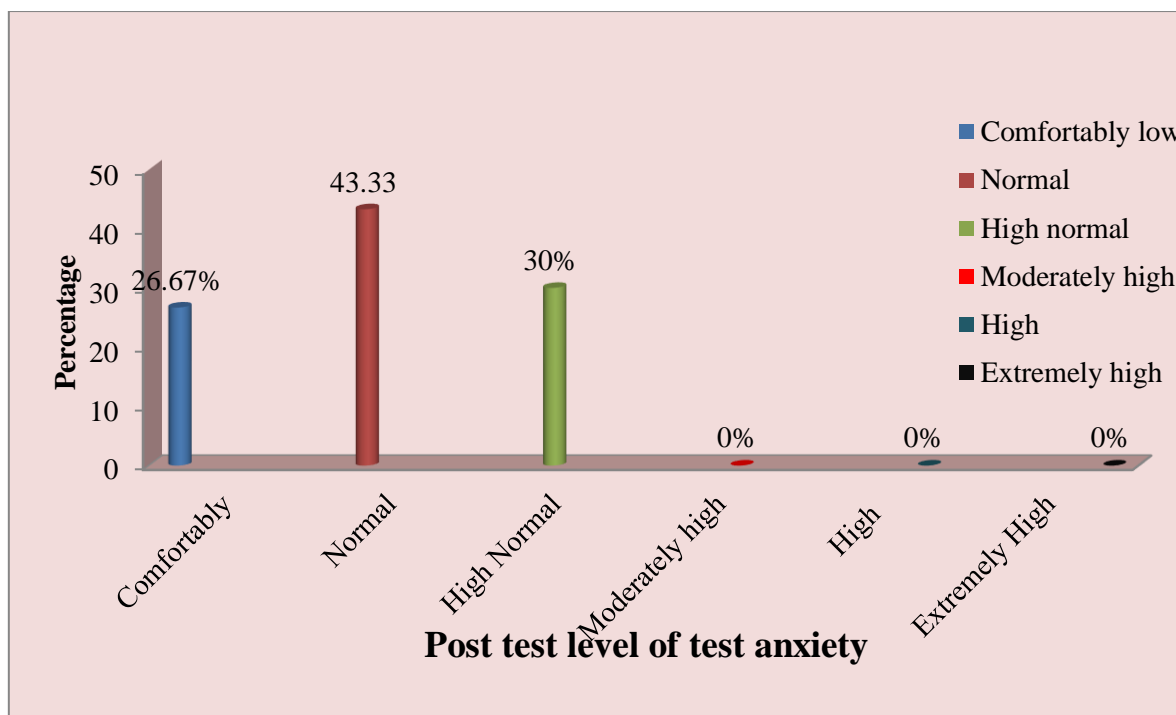


Fig-11 Post-test level of test anxiety among School Students

TABLE-4: Mean, Standard Deviation, Mean Percentage of pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students

Aspects of test anxiety	Statements	Range score	Mean	SD	Mean%
Cognitive aspect	10	20-44	32.92	6.01	65.84
Psychological aspect	3	6-14	9.58	1.92	63.87
Social aspect	2	2-10	5.93	1.85	59.3
Physiological aspect	5	8-22	14.78	3.4	59.12
Overall aspect	20	43-83	63.22	10.34	63.22

Table-4 shows the mean, standard deviation, mean percentage of pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students. The table shows the mean percentage of cognitive aspect is 65.84 with standard deviation of 6.01; mean percentage of respondents on psychological aspect is 63.87 with standard deviation

of 1.92, mean percentage of respondents on social aspect is 59.3 with 1.85; mean percentage of physiological aspect is 59.12 with standard deviation of 3.4. The overall mean percentage is 63.22 with standard deviation of 10.34 on pre-test test anxiety.

TABLE-5: Mean, Standard Deviation, Mean Percentage of post-test level of test anxiety among School Students

Aspects of test anxiety	Statements	Range score	Mean	SD	Mean%
Cognitive aspect	10	13-31	22.63	4.75	45.26
Psychological aspect	3	4-11	6.53	1.61	43.53
Social aspect	2	2-7	4	1.59	40
Physiological aspect	5	7-15	10.43	2.3	41.72
Overall aspect	20	28-58	43.6	7.82	43.6

Table-5 shows the mean, standard deviation, mean percentage of post-test level of test anxiety among School Students. The result shows the mean percentage of cognitive aspect is 45.26 with standard deviation of 4.75; mean percentage of psychological aspect is 43.53 with standard deviation of 1.61; mean

percentage of social aspect is 40 with standard deviation of 1.59 and mean percentage of physiological aspect is 41.72 with standard deviation of 2.3. Overall the result indicated that the School students scored mean percentage of 43.6 with standard deviation of 7.82 on post-test test anxiety.

Table 6: Comparison of pre-test and post-test level of test anxiety among School Student

	Mean	SD	Mean %		
			Mean	SD	Mean %
Pre test		100	63.22	10.34	63.22

Post test	100	43.6	7.82	43.6
Effectiveness		19.62	5.34	19.62

Table 6 shows comparison of pre-test and post-test level of test anxiety among School Students. The mean percentage of pre-test test anxiety is 63.22 with standard deviation of 10.34 and means percentage of post-test test anxiety is 43.6 with standard deviation of 7.82. The difference between pre-test and post-test mean percentage is 19.62

TABLE 7: Comparison of mean and standard deviation of pre and post-test level of test anxiety among School Students

Aspects of test anxiety	Respondents Knowledge						Paired 't' test
	Pre test		Post test		Enhancement		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Cognitive Aspect	32.92	6.01	22.63	4.75	10.28	3.42	23.36***
Psychological Aspect	9.58	1.92	6.53	1.61	3.05	1.69	13.99***
Social Aspect	5.93	1.85	4	1.59	1.93	1.27	11.77***
Physiological Aspect	14.78	3.4	10.43	2.3	4.35	2.17	15.53***
Overall aspect	63.22	10.34	43.6	7.82	19.62	5.34	28.47***

NS= not significant. S= Significant, * p < 0.05 level, ** p < 0.01 level, *** p < 0.001 level

The above table 7 shows mean standard deviation & paired t-test value on the four aspects of test anxiety in pre & post-test. Mean reduction of post-test score of cognitive aspect is 10.28, psychological aspect is 3.05, social aspect is 1.93 and physiological aspect is 4.35. The data indicated that post-test score were significantly less than pre-test score t=28.47 at p<0.001 level. The results evidences that the post-test test anxiety is significantly less than the pre-test test anxiety. Hence research hypothesis H₁ was accepted. The result indicated that the structured teaching programme was effective.

Table 8: Association between post-test level of test anxiety and demographic variables of the School Students (n=60)

Sl. No	Demographic variables	No	Low		Normal		High normal		Moderate		High		Extremely high		χ ² square
			No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
1	Age in years														7.97 df 6 N.S
	a. 15	6	1	1.67	4	6.67	1	1.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. 16	19	6	10	11	18.33	2	3.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	c. 17	28	7	11.67	9	15	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	d. 18	7	2	3.33	2	3.33	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	Sex														4.62 df 2 N.S
	a. Male	32	11	18.33	15	25	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. Female	28	5	8.33	11	18.33	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	Educational status														15.34*** df 2 S
	a. 1st Year PUC	27	5	8.33	19	31.67	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. 2nd Year PUC	33	11	18.33	7	11.67	15	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	Family income														1.34 df 4 N.S
	a. Rs 5000 and below	2	0	0	1	1.67	1	1.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. Rs. 5001 to 10,000	26	5	8.33	13	21.67	8	13.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	c. Above Rs 10,000	32	10	16.66	13	21.67	9	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	Type of family														7.92 df 2 S
	a. Nuclear	45	8	13.33	23	38.33	14	23.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. Joint	15	8	13.33	3	5	4	6.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	Religion														3.32 df 6 N.S
	a. Hindu	43	11	18.33	18	30	14	23.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. Christian	4	1	1.67	1	1.67	2	3.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	c. Muslim	12	4	6.67	6	10	2	3.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	d. Others	1	0	0	1	1.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	Medium of instruction														27.31*** df 4 S
	a. English	46	16	26.67	24	40	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	b. Hindi	14	0	0	2	3.33	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	c. Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	Place of living														1.17
	a. Urban	33	7	11.67	15	25	11	18.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	

	b. Rural	27	9	15	11	18.33	7	11.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	df 2 N.S
9	Attending private tuition														
	a. Yes	9	12	20	22	36.67	17	28.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.52
	b. No	51	4	6.67	4	6.67	1	1.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	df 2 N.S

The table-8 envisages that χ^2 test was used to find out the association between post-test level of test anxiety and Demographic variables of School Students. The variables such as educational status [$\chi^2 = 15.34$, $df=2S$], type of family [$\chi^2 = 7.92$, $df=2S$] and medium of instruction in 10th standard [$\chi^2 = 27.31$, $df=S$] were significant at 0.001 level i.e. $p < 0.001$. The rest of the socio-demographic variables were not significantly associated with post-test test anxiety. The results of Chi-square analysis indicated that there was significant association between post-test level of test anxiety and educational status, type of family & place of living of School Students. So the research hypothesis H_2 was accepted.

DISCUSSION

Demographic variables of the School Students

Based on age: - According to age 10% of students were 15 years, 31.67% were 16 years, 46.67 % were 17 years and 11.67% were 18 years. Based on sex :- With regard to sex, 53.33% were males where as 46.67% were females. Based on educational status:- In relation to educational status, 45% were studying in 11th std and 55% were studying in 12th Std. Based on family income:- The family income of majority of respondents 53.33% was above 10,000, whereas 43.33% were between rupees 5001-10,000, 3.33% had rupees 5000 and below. Based on type of family:- The majority of respondents 75% belongs to nuclear type of family where as 25% belong to joint type of family. Based on religion:- With regard to religion, maximum numbers 71.67% were Hindus where as 6.67% were Christians, 20% were Muslims and 1.66% were others. Based on medium of instruction in 10th standard:- According to medium of instruction in 10th standard 76.67% were from English medium, 23.33% were from Kannada medium & none of them from other medium. Based on place of living:- In relation to place of living 55% were from urban area where as 45% were from rural area. Based on attending private tuition:- The majority of respondents 85% was not attending private tuition, where as 15% was attending private tuition. Similar study was done by others authors.[26-45]

Assessment of pre-test & post-test level of test anxiety among School Students

The table-2 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students, none of them had comfortably low test anxiety, 6.67% of them had normal test anxiety, 31.67% of them had high normal test anxiety, 28.33% of them had moderately high test anxiety, 26.67% of them had high test anxiety and 6.67% had extremely high test anxiety before structured teaching

programme. The table 3 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of post-test test anxiety among School Students 26.67% had comfortably low test anxiety, 43.33% had normal test anxiety, 30% had high normal test anxiety and none of them had moderately high test anxiety, high test anxiety and extremely high test anxiety after structured teaching programme. Table 4 presents the mean, standard deviation, mean percentage of pre-test level of test anxiety among School Students. The table shows the mean percentage of cognitive aspect is 65.84 with standard deviation of 6.01; mean percentage of respondents on psychological aspect is 63.87 with standard deviation of 1.92, mean percentage of respondents on social aspect is 59.3 with 1.85; mean percentage of physiological aspect is 59.12 with standard deviation of 3.4. The overall mean percentage is 63.22 with standard deviation of 10.34 on pre-test test anxiety. Table 5 presents the mean, standard deviation, mean percentage of post-test level of test anxiety among School Students. The result shows that the mean percentage of cognitive aspect is 45.26 with standard deviation of 4.75; mean percentage of psychological aspect is 43.53 with standard deviation of 1.61; mean percentage of social aspect is 40 with standard deviation of 1.59 and mean percentage of physiological aspect is 41.72 with standard deviation of 2.3. Overall the result indicated that the School students scored mean percentage of 43.6 with standard deviation of 7.82 on post-test test anxiety. Similar study was done by others authors.[46-53]

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that there was a significant reduction in test anxiety after giving structured teaching programme on strategies for reducing test anxiety among School Students. It also reveals that there was significant association between post-test test anxiety and demographic variables such as educational status, type of family & place of living. The rest of the socio-demographic variables were not significantly associated with post-test anxiety.

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