

Alienation Among Non-Resident Paramedical and Nursing Students of Mizoram

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Abstract

Alienation is a concept that found its place in the very beginning of humanity on earth, experienced at every stage of civilization throughout history. It is a condition in which individuals no longer have meaningful connection with their community or culture, and feel disconnected from the social environment around them. The present study examined the levels of alienation among 125 non-resident students of RIPANS, Aizawl and addressed whether gender, age and length of stay are determinants of alienation. ‘*Alienation Scale for Non-Resident Students*’ developed by the researcher was used for collection of data. The results indicated that the students’ level of alienation is moderate and no significant differences based on age and length of stay was found but there was difference based on gender.

Keywords: Alienation, Non-Resident Students, Paramedical And Non-Resident Students, Student Mobility

INTRODUCTION

With the increase in internalization and globalization of higher education across the globe, many students move across the world and from state to state within the country in search of quality higher education. Many students across the country are enrolled in different institutions both in and outside the country to pursue higher education. At the same time, students across the country also move from state to state in pursuance of higher education in different fields. Due to the expansion of professional higher educational institutions in Mizoram, students from various states across the country migrated in order to receive education. With the increase in non-resident students studying in Mizoram, certain problems and challenges are inevitable and could lead to different kinds of problems in their studies and everyday life. Alienation is evident especially in the secondary education and higher education (Tezcan, 1997). It is a sociological concept developed by German philosopher Karl Marx that describes the estrangement (emotional or physical) of an individual from society. It is a condition in which individuals no longer have meaningful connection with their community or culture, and feel disconnected from the social environment around them. According to Finifter (1972) “Alienation is a society-based phenomena that results in one's extraction from any society, institution or association in which he or she belongs.” However, in the context of higher education, the idea of student alienation became widespread in response to the student unrest of the late 1960s (Case, 2007). A person feels alienated when there is a feeling of disconnection from oneself at the personal level, education, work as well as from social environment at conscious level and unconscious level. In the technological, cultural, social system alienation among the students is increasing gradually. Particularly when it comes to students from various backgrounds entering

a new environment for the first time, feeling of alienation is an extremely serious obstacle for their development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bezuidenhout et al. (2011) in their study titled “Alienation and engagement in postgraduate training at a South African medical school” conducted semi-structured interview on 16 selected medical students and Based on an overall impression of each interview, five students were characterised as having had predominantly alienating learning experiences (alienated students), while 11 students were considered to have had mainly engaging experiences (engaged students). All five students who were identified as alienated were performing poorly academically.

Oksuz and Ozturk (2017) in their study of “Relationship between levels of student alienation and Hemsehrilik attitudes of university students: A Study on Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University Students” studied 300 university students at Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University in 2015-2016 academic year in spring term. It was found that university students’ alienation levels were affected by class and parents’ home city. The study also revealed that there is no significant difference in the levels of alienation of the students between males and females. It also showed that there is a significant difference in the levels of alienation of the students between grade levels.

Alamoudi et al. (2018) in their study “Effect of alienation on academic achievement performance of medical students of King Faisal University” revealed that there is no significant relationship between male and female students regarding alienation and academic achievements. It is also found that there is no significant relation between alienation and participation in the college activities. It was revealed that alienation was not a contributing factor in the participating students’ academic achievements.

Kumar (2018) conducted a study on “Alienation among male and female undergraduate students of government and private universities” and found that male and female undergraduate students of both government and private universities were not found to be differed significantly on total alienation and it’s all dimensions. Similarly, when it was studied for government universities only, it was found that male and female undergraduate students of government universities do not differ significantly on total alienation and it’s all dimensions. In the same way, it was also observed that male and female undergraduate students of private universities do not differ significantly on total alienation and it’s all dimensions.

Tao et al. (2022) in their study titled “Investigation and analysis of medical students' sense of alienation” showed that the overall level of alienation of medical students was low and the alienation of boys is slightly higher than that of girls. The sense of alienation of freshmen is significantly lower than that of sophomores, juniors, and seniors in all dimensions. Junior grade students have a higher level of alienation. In terms of overall alienation, freshman year is the lowest, and senior year is lower than sophomore year. The findings indicates that grade, family economic level, and whether the only child is important factors affecting the alienation of medical students.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the level of alienation among non-resident students of paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram?
2. Is there any difference in alienation between non-resident male and female paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram?

3. Is there any difference in alienation between non-resident students of paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram based on their age?
4. Is there any difference in alienation between non-resident students of paramedical and nursing students based on their duration of stay in Mizoram?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the level of alienation among non-resident paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram.
2. To compare alienation between non-resident male and female paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram.
3. To compare alienation between non-resident students paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram below 20 years and above 20 years.
4. To compare alienation between non-resident paramedical and nursing students who have stayed in Mizoram for less than one year, one-two years and more than three years.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference between non-resident male and female paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram.
2. There is no significant difference between non-resident resident paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram below 20 years and above 20 years.
3. There is no significant difference between non-resident paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram who have stayed in Mizoram for less than one year, one-two years and more than three years.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted using Descriptive Survey Method. Descriptive survey method is a type of research design that helps to obtain information to systematically describe a phenomenon, situation or population.

TOOL USED

“Alienation Scale for Non-Resident Students” developed by the researcher was used to collect data. The scale comprised of 50 statements with four dimensions – i) Social Alienation ii) Academic Alienation iii) Emotional Alienation; and iv) Institutional Alienation.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The sample consists of 125 non-resident students from Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences (RIPANS) Aizawl, Mizoram which were selected by using Stratified Random Sampling.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of alienation among non-resident paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram.

Level of Alienation	N	Percentage
Extremely High	16	12.8%
High	18	14.4%
Moderate	51	40.8%

Low	26	20.8%
Extremely Low	14	11.2%
Total	125	100%

The above table shows that majority of the students, i.e., 51 students (40.8%) have moderate level of alienation and the least number of students i.e., 14 students (11.2%) have extremely low level of alienation. There are 16 students (12.8%) who possesses extremely high level of alienation while 18 students (14.4%) have high level of alienation. There are also 26 students (20.8%) who have low level of alienation.

2. To compare alienation between non-resident male and female paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	SED	df	t-value	Level of significance
Male	50	122.8	32.97	5.52	123	2.71	Significant
Female	75	137.75	25.6				

The above table shows the comparative analysis based on gender and the Mean scores of both male and female non-resident students are 122.8 and 137.75 respectively. The result showed that there is a significant difference between male and female non-resident students as the t-value i.e., 2.71 is greater than the critical value at 0.01 which is 2.63. Therefore, the null hypothesis “There is no significant difference between non-resident male and female paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram” is rejected. Hence, there is a significant difference between non-resident male and female paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram.

3. To compare alienation between non-resident paramedical and nursing students below 20 years and above 20 years.

Age	N	Mean	SD	SED	df	t-value	Level of Significance
Below 20 yrs	52	143.27	27.69	5.27	123	0.82	NS
Above 20 yrs	73	129.99	30.91				

From the above table, the Mean score of non-resident students who are below 20 years and above 20 years are 143.27 and 129.99 respectively. The t-value is 0.82 which is smaller than the critical value at 0.1 which is 2.63. This shows that null hypothesis “There is no significant difference between non-resident resident paramedical and nursing students below 20 years and above 20 years” is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference between non-resident resident paramedical and nursing students below 20 years and above 20 years.

4. To compare alienation between non-resident paramedical and nursing students who have stayed in Mizoram for less than one year, one-two years and more than three years.

Source of Variance	df	Sum of the Squares	Mean Squares	F-ratio
Between Sets	2	4744.13	2372.06	0.009
Within Sets	122	32815650.14	268980.74	

The above table shows that the F-ratio is 0.009 which is smaller than the critical value at 0.01 i.e., 4.82. The null hypothesis “There is no significant difference between non-resident paramedical and nursing

students who have stayed in Mizoram for less than one year, one-two years and more than three years” is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference between non-resident paramedical and nursing students who have stayed in Mizoram for less than one year, one-two years and more than three years.

CONCLUSION

The causes of student alienation are multifaceted including curricular, institutional and socio-cultural factors. Alienated students feel unrelated with curricula and devoid of opportunities to establish meaningful connections with others. This study investigated levels of alienation among non-resident paramedical and nursing students of Mizoram and the result showed that majority of the students have moderate level of alienation. The result also showed no significant differences based on age and duration of stay while there was significant difference based on gender.

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