

A Probe into the Power Motivation among tribal college Students of Assam

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Abstract: The current research study investigates the motivational pattern viz Power motivation among the tribal students of Assam. The sample consisted of 240 college students (120 tribal and 120 non-tribal) ranging from 18-24 years, 60 males and 60 females for both tribal's and non-tribal's. Attempts were made to include all the prominent tribes of Assam viz. Bodo Kachari, karbi, Miris, Lalung, Dimasa Kachari and Rabhas, Thematic Apperception Test, Power motive Scale and a semi structured interview schedule were used to gather information about their family types, parental deprivation, parental relations, social and political belongingness. Mean, Standard Deviation, and t-test were the statistical measures adopted in this 2x2 factorial design study. In addition to this discriminant analysis has been worked out to strengthen the predictive validity of the obtained data. TAT scores reveal significant difference between the tribal's and non-tribal on power motivation. However results obtained on gender difference indicates similar scores among both the cultures. Cross validation of the TAT results was done by using the power motive scale by T.S. Dapola which confirms the results on need for power through TAT scores. Power motivation has been studied in three directions i.e. coercion, inducement and restraint. An interesting finding is that on coercion tribal's score high showing significant difference whereas in inducement or seduction the non-tribal's scored high showing significant difference. On the other hand on restraint no difference exists between both cultures. Discriminant analysis has been worked out between the variables n-power, coercion, inducement and restraint. Results indicated that inducement or seduction (.502) is the dependent measure which has the most discriminating power between these two cultures.

KEY WORDS: Power Motivation, Tribal, Social, Political, Predictive Validity, Cross Validation, Coercion, Inducement, restraint.

I. INTRODUCTION

Power motivation is an important social motive which refers to "the ability or capacity of a person to produce intended effects on the behavior or emotions of another person." (Winter 1973). The goals of power motivation are to influence, control, cajole, persuade, lead, charm others, and to enhance one's own reputation in the eyes of other people. People with strong power motivation derive satisfaction from achieving these goals.

Power motivation can be expressed in many ways:

- By impulsive and aggressive actions, especially by men in lower socioeconomic brackets.
- By participation in competitive sports.
- By joining organization and holding office in these organizations.
- By obtaining and collecting possessions.
- By associating with people who are not particularly popular with others and are more easily controlled by the high n-power person.
- By choosing occupations such as teaching, diplomacy, business, and the clergy-occupations in which they have a chance to have an impact on others.
- By building and disciplining their bodies.

Power motive is one of the most widely researched motives. The leading advocate of this motive was the pioneering behavioral scientist Alfred Adler who developed the concept of inferiority complex and compensation. He felt that every small children experiences a sense of inferiority. When this feeling of inferiority is

combined with what he sensed as innate need for superiority, the two rule of behavior. The person's life-style is characterized by striving to compensate for feelings of inferiority which are combined with innate drive for power.

Many psychologists do not accept the tenet that the power motive is inborn. Existing evidence suggest that they may stem from parents rearing practices Parents who place great emphasis on excellence and competition tend to produce children who are higher in achievement motivation and sometimes in power motivation as well. (Dweek&Elliott, 1983).

The problem of the tribes in Assam is a sub-national issue, particularly in context of the non-tribal's of Assam. Here, a large number of its population is in the early phase of development as compared to the non-tribal's. In India, Tribal development has become a constitutional obligation. The constitution of India directs the state to promote special care in terms of education and economic interests of the ST's are protected from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. In matters of political representations jobs also special reservations have been provided. Now gradual changes are seen in their life, as they are getting opportunity to interact with other social groups. Yet development is slow. Could this be due to lack in need for power?

There is dearth of research in Assam on power motivation. An attempt has been made to carry out a study on such motivational variable which may facilitate the investigation program for the upliftment of tribal

population of Assam. Therefore, the present study tries to focus on motivational patterns of tribal's and non-tribal's which are nurtured and shaped in their respective cultural milieu.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of this research project are to:

- To find out the differentiating cultural elements prevalent among tribal's
- To assess the motivational drive among tribal's viz n-power and to find out whether their motivational pattern really differ from the non-tribal college students.
- To explore the area where these tribal's with the existing motivational pattern can utilize their full potential.
- To find out the possibilities of providing the enriched stimulating environment which can help in shaping their motives in the right direction.

1.3 HYPOTHESES:

In view of the above objectives, relevant psychological tests have been adopted in the present investigation on which the following hypotheses are formulated:

- Tribal college students score low on n-power as compared to non-tribal college students.
- The female college students score lower on n-power as compared to male college students among tribal as well as non-tribal college students.
- Positive relationship exists between the scores obtained on the Power Motive Scale and TAT Scores on n-power.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design:

In the present investigation 2X2 factorial design has been adopted. Two main independent variables are investigated having two different factors namely:

Culture- Tribal Vs Non-Tribal
Sex- Male Vs Female

2.2 Sample:

The sample will include 120 tribal college students and 120 non-tribal students i.e. 240 altogether ranging from 18 to 24 years, out of which 60 students are male and 60 students are female in each group. Tribal college students were from the popular tribes of Assam viz. Bodo Kachari, Karbi, Miris, Lalung, Dimasa kachari, Rabha

2.3 Procedure/Method:

Descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test the hypotheses or answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. Descriptive data are typically collected through a questionnaire, interview or observation. Thus the current research will adopt a descriptive method undergoing the procedure of (1) Selecting sample of a population, 2) Collecting information through questionnaires, 3) synthesizing

findings based on the collected data in order to gauge the motivational pattern of the tribal and the non-tribal students.

2.4 Data Collection:

2.1.1 Sampling Technique

The sampling technique that the researcher will adopt is that of Purposive sampling method.

2.1.2 Research tools

This research will be conducted around two major tools of research to assess the achievement motivation of the students and exploring the cultural components. 1) Interview Schedule 2) Thematic Apperception Test.

2.1.1.1 The Interview Schedule:

The interview schedule is one of the important sources of data collection. The items are taken from the following category:

- Demographic- It consists of items like age, sex and education.
- Home environment: It includes items related to home conditions and parental relationship.
- Cultural Variables: The items related to social and political belongingness are taken as investigating factors
All the questions included were close ended.

2.1.1.2 Thematic Apperception Test-

Thematic Apperception Test, also known as TAT is a widely used projective technique used both in clinical as well as non-clinical setting. It was developed by Murray in 1935. According to Murray the purpose of TAT is to reveal "some dominant drives, emotions, sentiments, complexes and conflicts of personality" This test consists of a series of ambiguous pictures. Persons taking the test are asked to make up stories about them. These are then scored for the presence of achievement -related content according to carefully developed scoring manuals. The result is a score for achievement motivation. However as TAT is administered on the Indian Sample so the Indian Adaptation of this test by Dr Uma Choudhury has been used.

2.1.1.3 Power Motive Scale:

The power motive scale by T.S. Dhapola and Dr. Gopal Singh was prepared to measure the power motives of persons which could be used on persons who were above 15 years of age. This paper and pencil test is adopted to see the predictability of TAT scores obtained on need for power. It consists of 32 negative and positive statements. The subjects had to encircle 'yes' if the statements were true for them and 'no' if the statements were not true.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Data Analysis of Interview Schedule:

240 students were given the schedule and the response rate was 100%. The first five questions which were based

upon demographic information. It shows that the mean age of the tribal and non-tribal college students are 21.08 and 21.06 respectively. Again with regard to education students from different educational status viz., graduation and post graduation were matched. Number of students in graduation were 20 males and 24 females among both tribal and non-tribal while in post-graduation number of students were again 40 males and 36 females, among tribal's as well as non-tribal's. Again most of the students were from middle class family from both cultures. Therefore it can be inferred with assertion that the subjects were matched on demographic variables viz., age, educational status, family class.

Responses on questions pertaining to family environment are presented below:

TABLE NO 1(a) Table 1 (A): Showing Type of Family among tribal and non-tribal college students

TYPE OF FAMILY	TRIBALS (N=120)	NON-TRIBALS (N=120)
JOINT	12	5
NUCLEAR	108	115
AVERAGE NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS	7.61	5.87

The data obtained indicates that very few subjects had joint family. In tribal it is 10% and in non-tribal's it is only 4.15% as compared to nuclear families in tribal's and non-tribal's being 90% and 95.85% respectively. On the other hand the average number of family members of the tribal's are 7.61 which is higher the non-tribal's being 5.87. This indicates commonality in relation to the type of family showing nuclear pattern.

Table 1(B): Showing Parental deprivation

	TRIBALS		NON-TRIBALS	
	Dead	Alive	Dead	Alive
FATHER	24 (20%)	96 (80%)	14 (11.66%)	106 (88.33%)
MOTHER	11 (9.15%)	109 (91.85%)	6(5%)	114(95%)

It has been observed that most of the subjects have both parents alive. Among tribal's 80% of their father are alive while among non-tribal's 88.33% are alive. In case of mothers it was seen that among tribal's 91.85% were alive and again among non-tribal's it was 94%. It appeared that both these groups of students were reared and nurtured by both parents.

Table 1 (C): Showing Parental Relations

PARENTAL RELATION	TRIBALS	NON-TRIBALS
Good	104 (86%)	106 (88.33%)
Bad	16 (13.50%)	14 (11.66%)

In Assam both tribal's and non-tribal's show good relationship among parents. The percentages of families where healthy relation prevails among parents surpass that of families with strained parental relations for both tribal's as well as non-tribals. The families with good relations for tribal's and non-tribal's are 86% and 88.33% respectively. Whereas bad relations were 13.50% and 11.66% among tribal's and non-tribal's respectively. The above data thus shows that congenial atmosphere exist in the homes of families among both the cultures.

The interview schedule also consisted of questions relating to incidence of drug addiction in the families and social and political belongingness. Results are displayed on the tables below:

TABLE 1 (d) INCIDENCE OF DRUG ADDICTION IN FAMILY

Type of Drug Addiction	Tribals	Non-tribals
Cigarette	54	62
Paan	77	81
Alcohol	72	38
Hard Core	0	0

Incidence of drug addiction show that among tribal's 45% are addicted to cigarette and among non-tribal's it is 51.66% and to in terms of Paan it is 64.17% and 67.5% among tribal's and non-tribal's respectively. However tribal's are more addicted (60%) as compared to non-tribal's (31.66%). It has been observed that alcohol known as rice beer which is brewed from rice, is commonly used rather than Indian made foreign liquor. It is generally consumed during festive occasions and community festivals.

TABLE 1 (e) SHOWING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL BELONGINGNESS

Type	Tribal's	Non-Tribal's
Hereditary Aristocracy	0	0
No Class Distinction	102	84
Existence of Wealth Distinction	18	36
Representing Level Affiliation	30	45
Representing one level above community	20	32
Representing within the community	18	30

From the above table there is an indication that hereditary aristocracy is not prevalent among tribal's as well as non-tribal's. Class distinction do not exist in tribal society where as in non-tribal society due to their cultural difference and advancement in economic and political belongingness the percentage is higher than tribal's. Social and political belongingness is quite low among the tribal's in comparison to non-tribal. Hence tribal development has been very slow.

3.2 Analysis of TAT responses

The Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) has proved to be very effective tool in researching achievement. The scoring methodology (Murray) with some modification is utilized. Qualitative experiences of the stories are also included at the time of scoring.

Table 2: Showing Mean and Standard Deviation for the scores obtained on TAT for n-Power for tribal and non-tribal college students

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Total tribal students	8.27	4.24
Total non-tribal students	10.31	5.48
Tribal male	8.18	3.96
Tribal female	8.35	4.54
Non-Tribal male	10.30	4.94
Non-Tribal female	10.32	6.02

Table 3: t values for tribal and non-tribal students on n-power

	t-values
Total tribal's Vs Non-tribal's	3.23**
Tribal Male Vs tribal female	0.21
Non-tribal male Vs Non-tribal female	0.02
Tribal male Vs non-Tribal male	2.59
Tribal Female Vs non-tribal female	2.02

**significant at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance

Table 4: Showing Mean and SD Values for Coercion, Inducement and Restraint

	Coercion		Inducement		Restraint	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Tribal College Students	3.40	2.42	2.86	2.24	2.01	1.82
Non-tribal College Students	2.71	2.65	5.33	2.95	2.38	2.60

The scores obtained on M and SD of the n-power among tribal and non-tribal students are 8.27 (4.24) vs 10.31 (5.48). The t-value (3.23) is found to be significant at .01 level. Thus it has been observed that tribal's have low need for power as compared to non-tribal's. It also confirms the finding's of Ojha, Hardeo (1993) in which Santhal tribal's were found to score low on autonomy and dominance. Thus our hypothesis (1) has been retained.

On gender difference among tribal male and tribal female the M and SD scores are 8.13 (3.96) vs. 8.35 (4.54). Its t-value being 0.21 is neither significant at .01 level nor significant at .05 level of significance. Even in case of non-tribal male and female the M and SD score are 10.30 (4.94) vs. 10.32 (6.02). The t-value is 0.02 which is not significant at .01 or at .05 level of significance. This indicate that neither the tribal's nor the non-tribal's show difference in gender on need for power. This is contrary to the Indian setting where females inculcate only feminine qualities as submission, dorsility and skill in various household tasks (Tandon 1981) female in most part of India are confined to their homes and do not share equal responsibility and status with males. But in Assamese culture females enjoy high status and share equal responsibility and liabilities with males. Infact most common dowry system prevalent in most parts of India do not exist in this particular culture. Thus hypothesis no 2 is partially rejected.

Need for power has been studied in three directions i.e., coercion, restraint, inducement or seduction.

(i)Coercion: It refers to the individual's effort to force someone to do something. He is exposed to command others or initiate forceful argument with others. The M and SD scores obtained on n-coercion among tribal vs. non-tribal in 3.40 (2.42) vs. 2.71 (2.65). The t-value (2.11) is found to be significant at .05 level. This clearly indicate the picture of influence in both cultures, sex difference do not exist among tribal male and female as well as non-tribal male and female. Similar findings has been found on n-power.

(ii)Inducement or Seduction: The M and SD scores on Inducement or Seduction is 2.86 (2.24) vs. 5.33 (2.95) among tribal's and non-tribal's. The t-value (7.30) which is significant at .01 level. Inducement or seduction refer to the individual's effort to prevent doing something or making him do something by influence by gentle, persuasion, encouragement and clever seduction. In this sphere also the non-tribal have surpassed the tribal's which denotes simplicity and transparency in individuals belonging to the tribal cultures. Moreover sex groups of male and female in both the cultures did not show significant difference at both .05 and .01 level.

(iii)Restraint: This refers to a person who refers to a person who tries to prevent others from doing something. In other words he is restrained or imprisoned. The M and SD scores obtained among tribal and non-tribal students are 2.01 (1.82) vs. 2.38 (2.60). The t-value is 1.29 which is not significant at both .01 and .05 level. Difference exists in sex groups among both the cultures.

Table 5 (a): Showing M, SD of the n-power scores (on Power Motive Scale)

Variable	Tribal College Students		Non-tribal College students		t-value
	M	SD	M	S D	
n-Power	18.90	4.30	20.89	4.41	2.52*
	0	0	89	1	

Tribal 5 (b): Showing M, SD of the n-power scores for Tribal Male and Tribal Female (on Power Motive Scale)

Variable	Tribal Male		Tribal Female		t-value
	M	SD	M	S D	
n-Power	19.33	4.80	18.47	3.76	0.77
	3	0	47	6	

Tribal 5 (c): Showing M, SD of the n-power scores (on Power Motive Scale)

Tribal Female	Non Tribal Male				t-value
	M	S D	M	S D	
Variable					
n-Power	22.32	3.75	18.80	4.60	3.00
	2	5	80	0	

The M and SD scores obtained among Tribal vs. non-tribal are 18.90 (4.30) vs. 20.89 (4.41). The t-value was found to be 2.52 which is significant at .05 level of significance. This showed that non-tribal college students score high on need for power. This confirms the earlier results obtained through TAT scores. Thus hypothesis no (iii) is also accepted.

Again to see the gender differences male and female groups within tribal and non-tribal were also compared. The M and SD score among tribal male and non-tribal female were 19.33 (4.80) vs. 18.47 (3.76). The t-value 0.77 which showed no significant difference among tribal male and female among male and female on Power Motive Scale. This also confirms the earlier reported results obtained on TAT scores which also shows no significant difference between tribal male and non-tribal female.

On the other hand the M and SD score among male and female non-tribal college students were 22.32 (3.75) vs. 18.80 (4.60). The t-value (3.23) which showed significant difference at .01 level. The results obtained on this group are dissimilar to that obtained on TAT. The tribal culture is bound by conservative attitudes which are the major cause for low scores both on n-power of TAT and scores obtained on "Power Motive Scale".

Variables	Function
N-Power	.212
Coercion	-.126
Inducement or seduction	.502
Restraint	.089

The discriminant function is a phase of analysis which examines the function to determine the relative variables in discriminating between groups of tribal and non-tribal. Here, for the interpretation purposes the ranking of dependent measures are made in terms of relative discriminative power. The discriminant functions involve examining the signs and magnitude of the standardized discriminant weight (sometimes referred to as discriminant co-efficient). The obtained results indicated that Inducement or seduction has the highest discriminant weight (.502) (Table 4). Thus it can be inferred that Inducement or seduction is the dependent measure which has the most discriminating power between these two cultures namely tribal and non-tribal's on n-power.

IV. Limitations of the study:

- 1. The cultural elements prevalent among tribal's who produces significant difference on the level of motivation could not be extensively explored due to time constraints. The cultural elements are required to be studied thoroughly so that the co relational relationship with psychological and motivational factors can be established.
- The researcher could not study the tribal youths from their inhabiting areas.
- The present research project is studied including two factors culture and sex. This can be again undertaken by including some more factors like social roles etc.

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