ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to assess the triarchic abilities among adolescents of both early and late, and to find out their relationship with academic achievement and shyness. This study was carried out with adolescents, as adolescence is a phase separate from both early childhood and adulthood, and it is a period that requires special attention and protection. The sample consisted of 639 students between the ages of 12 to 19, selected from various schools and colleges of Udupi district, Karnataka state. Following hypotheses were formulated for the present study: The selected sample will have moderate levels of Triarchic Abilities; Demographic variables significantly influence Triarchic Abilities; Adolescents with higher levels of Academic Achievement will have higher Triarchic Abilities; Adolescents with higher levels of shyness will have lower Triarchic Abilities and Adolescents with higher levels of shyness will have lower Academic Achievement. The tools included were Sternberg Triarchic Abilities Test (Sternberg, 1993) and Shyness assessment Test (D'Souza, s2006), in order to obtain information about their levels of triarchic abilities and shyness respectively. Academic achievement was assessed by using the grade point average. The data collected, was subjected to One-Way ANOVA followed by Scheffe’s post hoc test, chi square test and contingency coefficient to test the hypotheses formulated.

The results of the present study revealed that 53.1% of the adolescents in the selected sample had lower, 46% had medium levels and 9.9% of them had higher levels of triarchic abilities. A predictive relationship between triarchic abilities and academic achievement was observed. But no significant relationship between triarchic abilities and total shyness was observed. Results of the study have also showed the influence of demographic variables such as developmental stages, gender, urban and rural areas, parental education and occupation on all the three variables i.e. triarchic abilities, academic achievement and shyness. Findings suggest that early adolescents have better triarchic abilities compared to the late adolescents. It has also been observed that adolescents from urban areas have high triarchic abilities than adolescents from rural areas. Further adolescents from urban areas had higher analytical and practical ability compared to the adolescents from rural areas and adolescents from rural areas had higher creative ability compared to the
adolescents from urban areas. It was also evident from the findings that there is a significant relationship between levels of academic achievement and the levels of triarchic abilities of adolescents. Adolescents with lower levels of triarchic abilities had lower levels of academic achievement. In particular, lower levels of creative ability were observed among adolescents with lower academic grades compared to adolescents with high academic grades. Thus, the assessment of intellectual abilities based on the triarchic abilities revealed that the majority of the sample had lower level of triarchic abilities; demographic variables significantly influenced the levels of triarchic abilities of the sample; developmental stage wise analysis showed that early adolescents had higher level of triarchic abilities compared to the late adolescents; significant association between triarchic abilities, academic achievement and shyness was observed.