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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### DEVELOPMENT AND STANDARDIZATION OF MENTAL MATURITY SCALE FOR PRE-SERVICE STUDENTS.

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#### Abstract

The present study is designed to construct the mental maturity scale for pre-service teachers. The Mental maturity scale was developed and standardized by administering it on 55 randomly selected pre-service teachers of Madurai district and conducting item analysis to eliminate the inconsistent items in a tool. The final form of mental maturity scale consists of 42 items classified into 7 sections namely mental health, self-awareness, problem solving, cognitive self management, multiple intelligence, social attitude and emotional maturity. All the items of mental maturity scale are Likert type with five point rating.

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#### Introduction:-

Maturity implies putting away of childish things and regarding oneself as an adult ready to shoulder responsibilities that develop upon one in general in worldly affairs. It is related to the kind of personality one has developed. It is also concerned with the extent to which one is able to think act for oneself. A mature person is highly socialized and independent. He has built up a set of values for himself which guide his actions and behavior consistently. Emotional stability, intensity, social adjustment, professional interests and life aspirations go on increasing with the process of attaining maturity. A mature person is expected to understand things of importance and be aware of his rights and duties. A mature person does not act impulsively and does not waste time in the world of his own imagination.

Mental maturity is generally believed that a person with average intelligence acquires mental maturity between 13 and 15 years of age and a brilliant one gets it within 16 and 25 years of age. By the term mental maturity we mean mature ideas. The criteria of mental maturity are:

- The power of independent judgement without being guided by one's caste, class, traditions, or some influential person.
- Readiness to fulfill one's responsibility and duty.
- To analyse a situation objectively without being influenced by one's sentiments.
- To reach a right decision when confronted with complex situations.
- To decide issues with a spirit of give and take and not to overlook future consequences when overpowered by emotions.

The ultimate aim of teacher education is to prepare effective teachers who are capable of bringing about the desired behavioural changes in pupils. The quality of teaching is determined by the quality of teaching learning process

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made in the classroom situations. So the pre-service teachers must improve mental maturity. Then only they can improve the quality of school education. So the investigator decided to construct and standardize the mental maturity scale for pre-service teachers.

**Objectives:-**

- To construct the mental maturity scale for Pre-service teachers.
- To standardize the mental maturity scale for Pre-service teachers.

The Mental maturity scale was constructed to measure the skill of mental maturity of Pre-service teachers. The steps followed for its construction and standardization are as follows:

1. Planning
2. Preparation of Preliminary form
3. Pre-tryout
4. Editing
5. Pilot study
6. Item Analysis
7. Preparation of final form

**Planning:-**

During planning it was decided to prepare the statements with reference to mental health, self-awareness, problem solving, cognitive self management, multiple intelligence, social attitude and emotional maturity.

**Preparation of Preliminary form:-**

The investigator developed the preliminary form of mental maturity scale for pre-service teachers with 70 simple, clear and concise statements for better understanding. Care was taken to avoid ambiguity and repetition in the statements. At the end of each statement, five graded options were given namely. "Strongly agree", "Agree", "Undecided", "Disagree" and "Strongly disagree" having scores 5,4,3,2 and 1 for positive statements and 1,2,3,4 and 5 for negative statements. The investigator classified the statements of preliminary form of mental maturity scale under different sections namely mental health, self-awareness, problem solving, cognitive self management, multiple intelligence, social attitude and emotional maturity.

**Pre-tryout:-**

The Preliminary form of mental maturity scale for pre-service teachers was given to 10 teacher educators for their observation and criticism regarding the clarity of statements, appropriateness of the language and the pattern against each statement. Based on their suggestions, the developed research tools were further edited.

**Editing:-**

Soliciting the responses of the teacher educators approached at the pre-tryout stage, the editing of the developed research tool was completed. On the basis of criticisms and suggestions of the experts involved, 5 statements were rejected and 65 statements were retained.

**Pilot study:-**

For the standardization of the constructed tool, the investigator conducted a pilot study. The constructed tool was administered on 55 randomly selected pre-service teachers studying in DIET, Madurai district. The pre-service teachers were instructed to mark their responses for all the statements of mental maturity scale. Further, they were given assurances that their responses would be used only for research purpose. They were also convinced that their responses would be kept confidential. There was no time limit, but the pre-service teachers took 40 to 50 minutes for giving responses to all the statements of the tool. The responses of pre-service teachers were scored according to the positive or negative nature of statements.

**Item Analysis:-**

The investigator used item whole correlation to find out 'r' values. The item having 'r' values between 0.35 and 0.65 were retained and the other items were rejected. In the final mental maturity scale, 42 items were retained with positive (32) and negative (10) items.

**Table 1:-** Item whole correlation for mental maturity scale.

Item. No.	r' Value	Remarks	Item number in mental maturity scale
1	0.514170691	Retained	1
2	0.314755875	Rejected	
3	0.286770536	Rejected	
4	0.050745996	Rejected	
5	0.470296511	Retained	2
6	0.425550036	Retained	3
7	0.031395406	Rejected	
8	0.651537975	Retained	4
9	0.407366878	Retained	5
10	0.534555892	Retained	6
11	0.29546716	Rejected	
12	0.230880957	Rejected	
13	0.403585573	Retained	7
14	0.593752854	Retained	8
15	0.374328076	Retained	9
16	0.057879103	Rejected	
17	0.071226087	Rejected	
18	0.565367422	Retained	10
19	0.427614185	Retained	11
20	0.565141707	Retained	12
21	0.448991621	Retained	13
22	0.405815439	Retained	14
23	0.398733473	Retained	15
24	0.405408639	Retained	16
25	0.486430903	Retained	17
26	0.465951917	Retained	18
27	0.466950226	Retained	19
28	0.526462766	Retained	20
29	0.205382954	Rejected	
30	0.592337104	Retained	21
31	0.227275458	Rejected	
32	0.327493852	Rejected	
33	0.345958714	Rejected	
34	0.405605684	Retained	22
35	0.389239412	Retained	23
36	0.326807346	Rejected	
37	0.402965297	Retained	24
38	0.41060083	Retained	25
39	0.490937768	Retained	26
40	0.402597389	Retained	27
41	0.38383348	Retained	28
42	0.453662757	Retained	29
43	0.632777954	Retained	30
44	0.44091366	Retained	31
45	0.630455047	Retained	32
46	0.522314852	Retained	33
47	0.232215771	Rejected	
48	0.110913755	Rejected	
49	0.245486829	Rejected	
50	0.553845456	Retained	34
51	-0.077709067	Rejected	
52	0.149146801	Rejected	

53	-0.181720204	Rejected	
54	0.357098688	Retained	35
55	0.627565969	Retained	36
56	0.595588646	Retained	37
57	-0.00274471	Rejected	
58	0.179960345	Rejected	
59	0.41938927	Retained	38
60	0.52725274	Retained	39
61	-0.079612746	Rejected	
62	0.389781483	Retained	40
63	0.381927493	Retained	41
64	0.285229562	Rejected	
65	0.397709655	Retained	42

**Table 2:-** Section-wise Distribution of Items of Mental maturity Scale.

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Item number in mental maturity scale	Positive items	Negative items	Total number of items
1.	Mental health	1-8	1,5,6	8	4
2.	Self-awareness	9-18	9,10,13,14,15	18	6
3	Problem solving	19-23	19,20,21,22	23	5
4.	Cognitive self-management	24-29	24,25,27,28	26	5
5.	Multiple intelligence	30-38	30,34,37,38	35	5
6.	Social attitude	39-54	39,40,41,42,43,44,45,	46,50,54	10
7.	Emotional maturity	55-65	55,56,59,60, 65	62,63	7

#### **Preparation of the final form:-**

After item analysis the final form of mental maturity scale for pre-service teachers was prepared with 42 retained items.

#### **Reliability and validity of the tool:-**

Split-half reliability coefficient of mental maturity scale was determined on the basis of scores of 55 randomly selected pre-service teachers. In the split-half method, the tool was divided into two equivalent halves and for these two halves half-test reliability coefficient was found using Karl Pearson's coefficient correlation formula. From the half-test reliability coefficient, whole-test reliability coefficient was estimated by using Spearman Brown Prophecy formula.

Whole-test reliability coefficient, Split half-test and Guttman Split-Half Coefficient of mental maturity scale for pre-service teachers were 0.797, 0.754 and 0.744 respectively. Hence the developed tool was reliable.

On the basis of opinions of experts the items of mental maturity scale were structured. Hence the developed tool has face validity and content validity.

#### **Conclusion:-**

The education of the students largely depends on their teachers. It is important that pre-service teachers who are the future teachers of the country must possess the skill of mental maturity. This will inculcate the pre-service teachers to be efficient. The great teacher should be necessarily equipped with knowledge, skills and competencies. The teacher should be properly enlightened, educated through proper training and develop sense of responsibility and love towards his profession and with rapid expansion of primary education both in number and extent, the teacher must come out of teacher educational institutions with great perfection in teaching competencies and allied aspects.

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