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Vision of morality among youth in Punjab and Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

The present study entitled "Vision of morality among youth in Punjab and Tamil Nadu" was undertaken to assess and compare the vision of morality among youth in everyday life in both states. The sample comprised of 300 young adults, 150 Punjab (75 females and 75 males), 150 Tamil Nadu (75 females and 75 males) aged between 18-20 years studying in Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore. The results revealed that the mean scores of vision of morality dimensions showed significant differences among youth in both the settings. Overall, the study concluded that Punjab youth has a better vision of morality.

Keywords: Vision of morality, youth, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, PAU, TNAU

Introduction

Morality indicates the correctness or incorrectness of an act and guides people's behavior to select whatever is good or bad. It is the ability to distinguish between the goals, choices, and activities that are labeled as appropriate or the ones which are termed to be improper (Aardweg & Aardweg 1988) [1]. Morality is to act on the peculiarity and to feel conceit once we perform the correct actions and feeling guilty once we do not. The set of morals or values is consequent upon a specific viewpoint, belief, or societal expectations or it can be resulting from a norm that an individual think should be worldwide (Barnhart & Barnhart 1989) [3].

From time immemorial, the quest for moral principle is an intrinsic phenomenon which makes social life governable and blissful. As such, every person, irrespective of age, color, sex or social standing is subject to the dictates of the moral principle. This is because the concept of morality serves a holistic function as it serves as the bedrock upon which the edifice of a truly righteous and egalitarian society rests (Slavin 1991) [19].

Conceptually, youth are the engine room of societies. They are the drivers of any developmental trend and activity in society and major determinants of the extent of growth and development in any given society. Youth are usually very energetic and are always willing to go the extra mile if need to achieve what they believe in and hold on to.

Youth are the forerunners of cultures. They are the leaders of any progressive nation and action in culture and foremost elements of the degree of growth and development in any given culture. Young people usually have a sense and a feeling for what contributes to a humanly dignified world. Youth implies and denotes optimism and faith. Each cohort of young person's plans out its private progression to understand its thoughts and desires of lifespan.

Literature review

According to Rushton (1980, 1981) and Staub (1978) [16, 17, 20], the thread that weaves consistently through these findings is the relationship of self to value and the corresponding influence of personal value on behavior. From a philosophical and ethical perspective, this privately valued self can be labeled conscience. It is labeled private morality. The argument for an interpersonal morality needs little introduction. Historically, ethical guidelines (e.g., the Ten Commandments) have insisted upon the intrinsic unity of ethical ideals and interpersonal behaviors. From another standpoint, social psychological literature, particularly research on pro-social behavior has highlighted the importance of pro-social behaviors for the proper functioning and maintenance of human societies.

McClelland *et al* (1978) [6] argued that there is a relationship between psychosocial maturity and tendencies to act pro-socially. Conn (1981) [1] has interpreted the developmental theories

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of Piaget, Erikson, and Kohlberg as exemplifying the foundational components of human authenticity. His schema envisions these developmental theorists as documenting the human striving for self-transcendence which is realized through human care and concern for others. Finally, two recent critiques of academic psychology have raised the possibility of interpersonal morality that is pro-social.

Bergin (1980) ^[4] challenged what he terms the clinical-humanistic bias of contemporary psychotherapeutic theorizing and argues that consideration must be given a theistic value system that embraces pro-social actions. Wallach and Wallach (1983) have viewed psychology in general and psychotherapy in particular, as dominated by an egoistic frame of reference; they offer as an alternative a psychological view of the person which values a distinctly pro-social dimension. Unlike private and interpersonal morality, the viewing of social morality is a more recent phenomenon. Philosophical and ethical theorizing, particularly since 1970, has established the need to consider a social morality. In philosophical writings, two seminal works have appeared which argue to this position.

John (1971) ^[11] developed a theory of justice which gives priority to the social fabric and the needs of the disadvantaged. From a different perspective, Macintyre (1981) ^[13] has maintained that the contemporary debate regarding what is moral cannot be divorced from the role of social context and communal goals and purposes. Interestingly, it is in the context of a pro-social moral position that these disparate if not ethical moral theories are reconciled. Likewise, theological theorizing has endorsed a distinctly social character.

Groome (1980) ^[9] fashioned a view of religious education which takes on a distinctly social character whereas, Hauerwas (1981) ^[10] has argued for a normative social ethic that is sensitive to the social needs of society, and situates this ethic in the context of symbolic and story forms of social theorizing. Finally, psychology is not immune to the implications of social morality. Current questioning of psychotherapeutic practices and social values reflects the need for mental health professionals to address the concerns of social morality.

Eldridge (1983) ^[7] argued that professionals can integrate social action strategies into their professional practices. Butcher (1983) ^[5] has reviewed the literature concerning the mental health practitioner as a change agent and argues that change agency is a necessary and inevitable role for the psychological professional in today's complex society.

Bandura (1974) ^[2] explained the most enlightening statement on the role of pro-social behavior and social morality's relation to psychology comes from him. He has stated, "if psychologists are to have a significant impact on common problems of life, they must apply their corrective measures to detrimental societal practices rather than limit themselves to treating the casualties of these practices". A theme implied throughout the above writings is the essential importance and social consequences of pro-social behaviors.

Grant (1981) ^[8] found a discernible quality in the adolescent's moral response was its variability; that is, the adolescent often varied his or her behavior according to a personal moral code, a set of behaviors appropriate for peer relationships, or a moral stance which was consistent with the adolescent's social or political philosophy. Moreover, current thrusts in contemporary educational theorizing have come to view a minimum level of pro-social behavior as vital both for the

educational mission of the American school and for the character development of individual students Kagan (1981) ^[12]

The main objectives of the study is to study the locale wise differences in vision of morality among youth in Punjab and Tamil Nadu states and to determine the locale wise differences among gender in two settings.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in constituent colleges of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The sample comprised of 300 young adults aged between 18-20 years studying in Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Sample selection from PAU - the schematic presentation of the sample selection. Three colleges that included College of Agriculture, College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, College of Home Science were purposively selected (College of Basic Sciences & Humanities not selected because, it is not available in TNAU, Coimbatore). In TNAU colleges selected were Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Coimbatore and Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai.

The sample was equally distributed across both the gender. Total of 300 sample students were randomly selected and surveyed. The sample of both the genders was such drawn that it equally represents the three socio-cultural zones of Punjab and Tamil Nadu. In Punjab regions included Malwa, Majha and Doaba whereas in Tamil Nadu the selected regions East zone, West zone, North zone, and South zone. Respondent's socio-cultural zones details were collected from their respective College Dean's Office.

Tools for data collection - vision of morality scale by Shelten and McAdams (1990) ^[18]

The vision of morality in everyday life of youth was assessed by using the Vision of Morality Scale by Shelten and McAdams (1990) ^[18]. The scale has three dimensions, which are, Private Morality, Interpersonal Morality, and Social Morality.

Locale-wise gender distribution of respondents across different levels and dimensions of vision of morality

The comparison of vision of morality among youth in everyday life in Punjab and Tamil Nadu was presented in Table 1. Non-significant differences existed between females and males in all the three levels of dimensions of vision of morality in both the settings. The total sample showed significant differences among Punjab youth in a high level of the social dimension. Personal and interpersonal dimensions exhibited non-significant differences in the total sample of both the settings. Shelton and McAdams (1990) ^[18] study illustrated a positive relationship between visions of morality scores and participants' involvement with social service activities. Additionally, Punzo (1993) ^[15] reported a predictive association between higher scores on the visions of morality scale and participants' likelihood to link moral thought and behavior together. No significant results were found in the sample contrary to the findings of Staub (1978) ^[20], who found highly significant differences consistently between males and females.

Locale-wise distribution of the female respondents across different levels of vision of morality

Locale-wise distribution of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu females across different levels of vision of morality was presented in Table 2. Significant locale differences existed between rural and urban females of Punjab in the medium and high level of interpersonal dimension. Non-significant differences were exhibited between rural and urban females of Punjab in all three levels of personal and social dimensions. In the case of Tamil Nadu, significant differences were found in the medium and high level of interpersonal dimension for rural and urban females, respectively. Urban females had significant differences in the low level of personal dimension. No significant differences were found in the social dimension. Concerning the total sample, only Tamil Nadu females show significant differences in the low level of personal dimension, whereas, other dimensions highlighted non-significant differences.

Locale-wise distribution of the males across different levels of vision of morality

The locale-wise distribution of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu males across different levels of vision of morality was depicted in Table 3. Significant differences were found among rural and urban males of Punjab in the medium and high level in all the dimensions of vision of morality. On the other hand, Tamil Nadu males showed the non-significant difference in all the three levels of dimensions of vision of morality. In total sample, significant differences existed among Tamil Nadu and Punjab males in medium and high levels of the social dimension. Non-significant differences were found in personal and inter-personal dimensions in males of both the settings.

Locale-wise gender differences in the mean scores (\pm SD) of the youth of respondents across different dimensions of vision of morality

The distribution of mean scores (\pm SD) of the Punjab and

Tamil Nadu youth across different dimensions of vision of morality was elucidated in Table 4. The data showed non-significant differences among females and males of Punjab in all the dimensions of vision of morality. Tamil Nadu males had significantly better scores in interpersonal dimension. Contradictorily, in the total sample, Punjab youth showed significantly better scores in all the dimensions of vision of morality.

Locale-wise distribution of mean scores (\pm SD) of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu females across different dimensions of vision of morality

The locale-wise distribution of mean scores (\pm SD) of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu females across different dimensions of vision of morality in Table 5. Urban females of Punjab showed significantly better scores for the personal dimension of vision of morality. Non-significant locale differences were found in interpersonal and social dimensions among Punjab females. In the account of Tamil Nadu females, locale distribution had a non-significant difference in all the dimensions of vision of morality. With regard to the total sample, Punjab females displayed significantly better scores in all dimensions of vision of morality.

Locale-wise comparison of mean scores (\pm SD) of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu males across different dimensions of vision of morality

Table 6. exhibited the locale-wise distribution of mean scores (\pm SD) of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu males across different dimensions of vision of morality. The data revealed that urban males of Punjab had significantly better mean scores for the interpersonal dimension. Personal and social dimensions show non-significant differences among Punjab males. In the case of Tamil Nadu males, non-significant differences were found in all the three dimensions of vision of morality. Contrastingly, with regard of the total sample, personal and social dimensions of Punjab males had significantly better scorers as compared to Tamil Nadu males.

Table 1: Locale-wise gender distribution of respondents across different levels and dimensions of vision of morality

Dimensions of Vision of morality	Levels	Punjab (n ₁ =150)			Tamil Nadu (n ₂ =150)			Total (n=300)		
		Females	Males	Z-value	Females	Males	Z-value	Punjab	TN	Z-value
		f (%)	f (%)		f (%)	f (%)		f (%)	f (%)	
Personal	Low	0 (0.00)	1 (1.33)	1.003	2 (2.67)	3 (4.00)	0.485	1 (.67)	5 (3.33)	1.650
	Medium	67 (89.33)	63 (84.00)	0.961	65 (86.67)	65 (86.67)	0.064	130 (86.67)	130 (86.67)	0.000
	High	8 (10.67)	11 (14.67)	0.736	8 (10.67)	7 (9.33)	0.218	19 (12.67)	15 (10.00)	0.729
Inter personal	Low	2 (2.67)	1 (1.33)	0.583	3 (4.00)	0 (0)	1.738	3 (2.00)	3 (2.00)	0.000
	Medium	51 (68.00)	57 (76.00)	1.091	57 (76.00)	55 (73.33)	0.471	108 (72.00)	112 (74.67)	0.522
	High	22 (29.33)	17 (22.67)	0.931	15 (20.00)	20 (26.67)	1.055	39 (26.00)	35 (23.33)	0.536
Social	Low	1 (1.33)	2 (2.67)	0.583	2 (2.67)	4 (5.33)	0.865	3 (2.00)	6 (4.00)	1.015
	Medium	64 (85.33)	58 (77.33)	1.257	65 (86.67)	66 (88.00)	0.183	122 (81.33)	131 (87.33)	1.430
	High	10 (13.33)	15 (20.00)	1.095	8 (10.67)	5 (6.67)	0.822	25 (16.67)	13 (8.67)	2.083*

*Significant at 5% level

Table 2: Locale-wise distribution of the female respondents across different levels of vision of morality

Dimensions of vision of morality	Levels	Punjab females (n ₁ =75)			Tamil Nadu females (n ₂ =75)			Total (n=150)		
		Rural	Urban	Z-value	Rural	Urban	Z-value	Punjab females	TN females	Z-value
		f (%)	f (%)		f (%)	f (%)		f (%)	f (%)	
Personal	Low	0 (0)	0 (0)	NA	0 (0.00)	2 (6.67)	2.274*	0 (0)	2 (2.67)	2.013*
	Medium	33 (94.29)	34 (85.00)	1.866	40 (88.89)	25 (83.33)	1.030	67 (89.33)	65 (86.67)	0.711
	High	2 (5.71)	6 (15.00)	1.866	5 (11.11)	3 (10.00)	0.174	8 (10.67)	8 (10.67)	0.000
Inter personal	Low	1 (2.86)	1 (2.50)	0.135	2 (4.44)	1 (3.33)	0.323	2 (2.67)	3 (4.00)	0.643
	Medium	27 (77.14)	24 (60.00)	2.261*	31 (68.89)	26 (86.67)	2.533*	51 (68.00)	57 (76.00)	1.543
	High	7 (20.00)	15 (37.50)	2.368*	12 (26.67)	3 (10.00)	2.562*	22 (29.33)	15 (20.00)	1.875
Social	Low	1 (2.86)	0 (0)	1.474	1 (2.22)	1 (3.33)	0.434	1 (1.33)	2 (2.67)	0.825
	Medium	30 (85.71)	34 (85.00)	0.124	40 (88.89)	25 (83.33)	1.030	64 (85.33)	65 (86.67)	0.333

	High	4 (11.43)	6 (15.00)	0.646	4 (8.89)	4 (13.33)	0.907	10 (13.33)	8 (10.67)	0.711
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*Significant at 5% level

Table 3: Locale-wise distribution of the males across different levels of vision of morality

Dimensions of vision of morality	Levels	Punjab males (n ₁ =75)			Tamil Nadu males (n ₂ =75)			Total (n=150)		
		Rural	Urban	Z-value	Rural	Urban	Z-value	Punjab males	TN males	Z-value
		f (%)	f (%)		f (%)	f (%)		f (%)		
Personal	Low	0 (0)	1 (2.17)	1.284	1 (2.86)	2 (5.00)	0.710	1 (1.33)	3 (4.00)	1.433
	Medium	27 (93.10)	36 (78.26)	2.595*	30 (85.71)	34 (85.00)	0.262	63 (84.00)	65 (86.67)	0.653
	High	2 (6.90)	9 (19.57)	2.290*	4 (11.43)	3 (7.50)	0.778	11 (14.67)	7 (9.33)	1.421
Inter personal	Low	1 (3.45)	0 (0)	1.622	0 (0)	0 (0)	NA	1 (1.33)	0 (0.00)	1.419
	Medium	27 (93.10)	30 (65.22)	4.204**	26 (74.29)	28 (70.00)	0.344	57 (76.00)	55 (73.33)	0.531
	High	1 (3.45)	16 (34.78)	4.880**	9 (25.71)	11 (27.50)	0.344	17 (22.67)	20 (26.67)	0.804
Social	Low	1 (3.45)	1 (2.17)	0.472	2 (5.71)	2 (5.00)	0.158	2 (2.67)	4 (5.33)	1.179
	Medium	25 (86.21)	33 (71.74)	2.174*	32 (91.43)	33 (82.50)	1.285	58 (77.33)	66 (88.00)	2.440*
	High	3 (10.34)	12 (26.09)	2.498*	1 (2.86)	4 (10.00)	1.831	15 (20.00)	5 (6.67)	3.397**

*Significant at 5% level, ** Significant at 1% level

Table 4: Locale-wise gender differences in the mean scores (\pm SD) of the youth of respondents across different dimensions of vision of morality

Dimensions of vision of morality	Punjab (n ₁ =150)			Tamil Nadu (n ₂ =150)			Total (n=300)		
	Females	Males	t- value	Females	Males	t- value	Punjab	TN	t- value
	mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)		mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)		mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)	
Personal	44.16 (\pm 6.06)	44.60 (\pm 6.42)	0.432	41.87 (\pm 6.77)	42.36 (\pm 6.48)	0.459	44.38 (\pm 6.22)	42.11 (\pm 6.61)	3.058**
Interpersonal	46.36 (\pm 6.67)	45.72 (\pm 6.43)	0.598	42.80 (\pm 7.70)	45.89 (\pm 7.17)	2.543*	46.04 (\pm 6.54)	44.33 (\pm 7.58)	2.097*
Social	44.00 (\pm 5.64)	44.16 (\pm 6.59)	0.160	41.99 (\pm 6.59)	42.05 (\pm 6.00)	0.065	44.08 (\pm 6.12)	42.02 (\pm 6.28)	2.877**

*Significant at 5% level, ** Significant at 1% level

Table 5: Locale-wise distribution of mean scores (\pm SD) of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu females across different dimensions of vision of morality

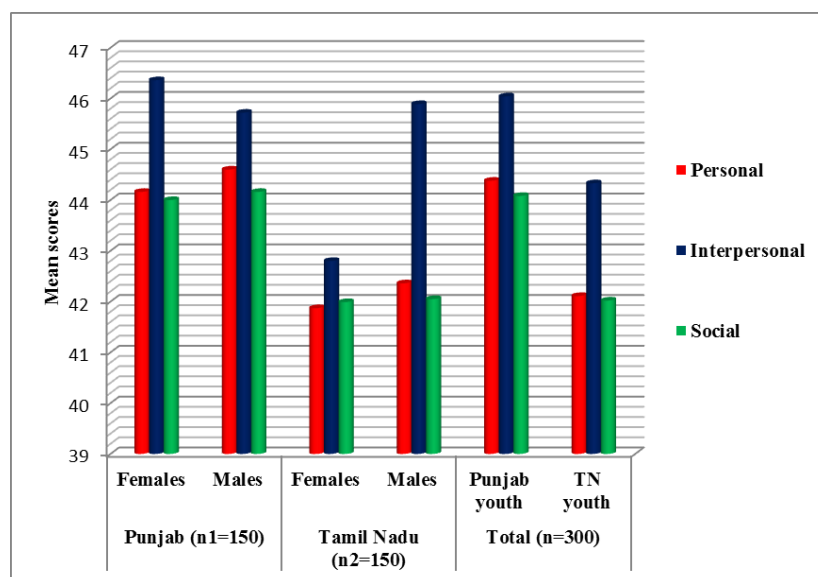
Dimensions of vision of morality	Punjab females (n ₁ =75)			Tamil Nadu females (n ₂ =75)			Total (n=150)		
	Rural	Urban	t- value	Rural	Urban	t- value	Punjab females	TN females	t- value
	mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)		mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)		mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)	
Personal	42.86 (\pm 6.30)	45.30 (\pm 5.68)	2.495*	42.65 (\pm 5.55)	40.67 (\pm 8.26)	1.728	44.16 (\pm 6.06)	41.87 (\pm 6.77)	3.090**
Interpersonal	45.66 (\pm 6.58)	46.98 (\pm 6.78)	1.209	42.96 (\pm 8.22)	42.57 (\pm 6.95)	0.314	46.36 (\pm 6.67)	42.80 (\pm 7.70)	4.277**
Social	43.77 (\pm 6.09)	44.20 (\pm 5.30)	0.460	41.48 (\pm 6.26)	42.77 (\pm 7.11)	1.178	44.00 (\pm 5.64)	41.99 (\pm 6.59)	2.841**

*Significant at 5% level, ** Significant at 1% level

Table 6: Locale-wise comparison of mean scores (\pm SD) of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu males across different dimensions of vision of morality

Dimensions of visions of morality	Punjab males (n ₁ =75)			Tamil Nadu males (n ₂ =75)			Total (n=150)		
	Rural	Urban	t- value	Rural	Urban	t- value	Punjab males	TN males	t- value
	mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)		mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)		mean (\pm SD)	mean (\pm SD)	
Personal	43.69 (\pm 6.57)	45.17 (\pm 6.33)	1.409	42.26 (\pm 6.36)	42.46 (\pm 6.66)	0.192	44.60 (\pm 6.42)	42.36 (\pm 6.48)	3.002**
Interpersonal	43.69 (\pm 5.63)	47.00 (\pm 6.63)	3.295**	45.43 (\pm 7.18)	46.31 (\pm 7.23)	0.747	45.72 (\pm 6.43)	45.89 (\pm 7.17)	0.219
Social	43.28 (\pm 6.71)	44.72 (\pm 6.53)	1.333	41.31 (\pm 5.96)	42.72 (\pm 6.03)	1.434	44.16 (\pm 6.59)	42.05 (\pm 6.00)	2.894**

*Significant at 5% level, ** Significant at 1% level

**Fig 1:** Locale-wise gender differences in the mean scores of the youth of respondents across different dimensions of vision of morality

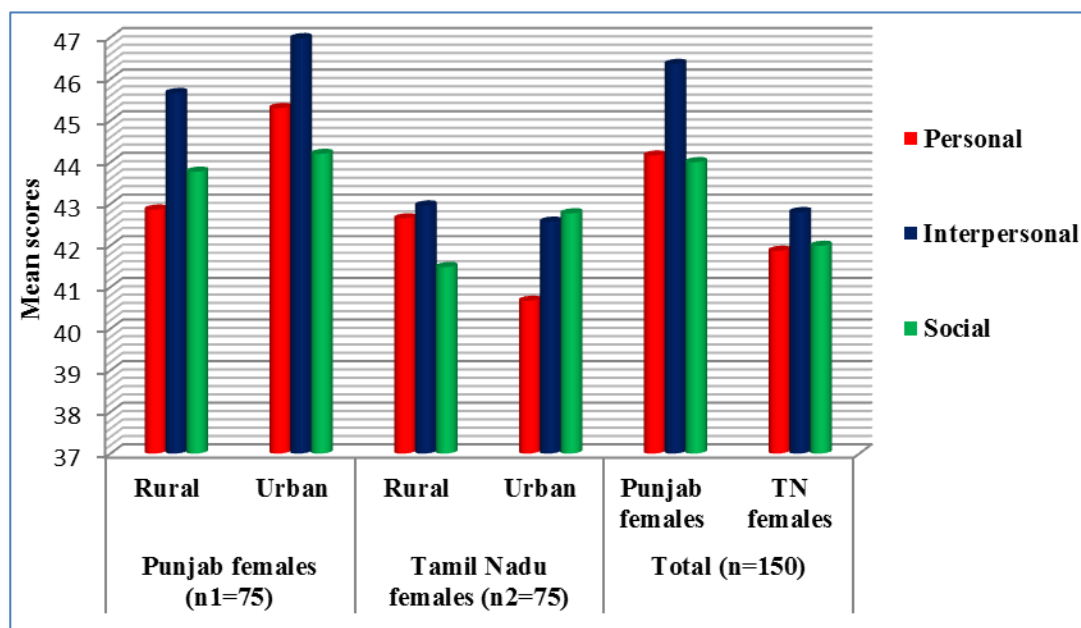


Fig 2: Locale-wise distribution of mean scores of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu females across different dimensions of vision of morality

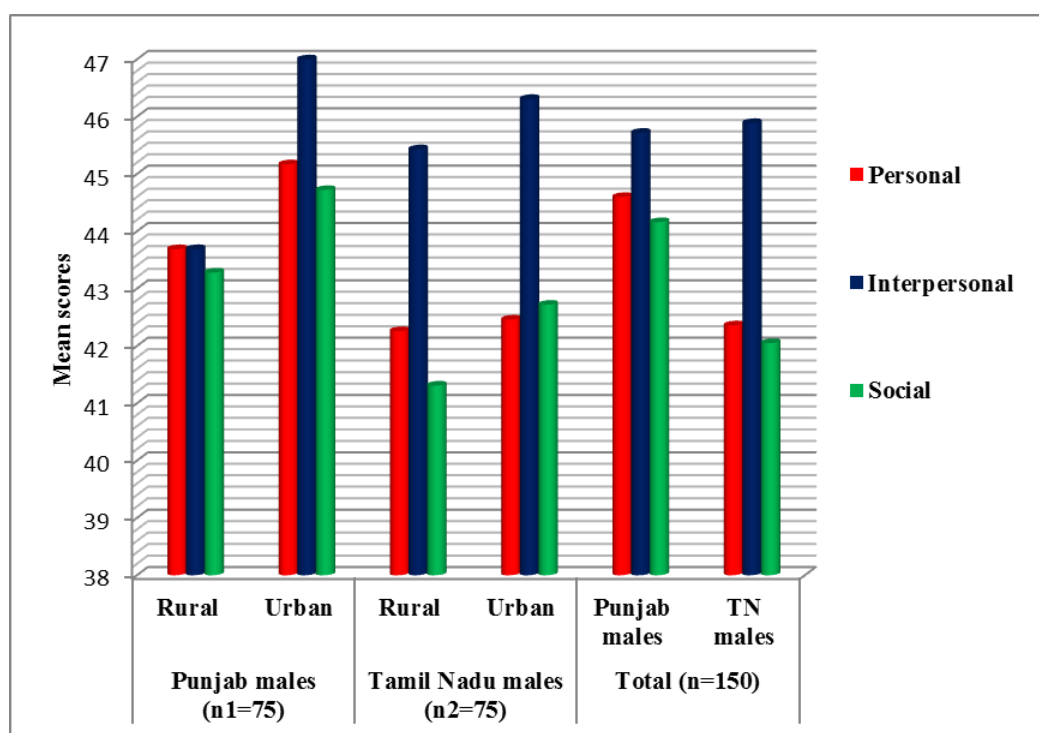


Fig 3: Locale-wise comparison of mean scores of the Punjab and Tamil Nadu males across different dimensions of vision of morality

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