

ASSESSMENT OF VALUES AMONG STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

The Universal Human Values Cell (UHVC), Punjabi University, Patiala conducted a survey in 2022 to explore value-priorities of the students and faculty of the University. This survey provided the information regarding the values prioritized by the respondents. Following the completion of the survey, feedback was provided to all the respondents to help individual become aware of their personal value system.

This survey was based on Refined Theory of Basic Human Values by Schwartz et al., (2012). According to this theory, individuals rank their personal values based on the importance each value holds for them, these relative ranks given to multiple values determines the behaviour of the individual. People adapt their values to their life circumstances, therefore depending upon their learning experiences, education, gender, age and socialization they upgrade or downgrade the importance they attribute to each value.

The survey was based on Schwartz Portrait value questionnaire (PVQ- RR male and female version and PVQ-RR Hindi). This questionnaire assesses four higher order human values namely Openness to Change, Conservation, Self-Enhancement and Self-Transcendence which encompass 19 fundamental human values (Self-Direction Thought, Self-Directed Action, Stimulation, Hedonism, Achievement, Power Dominance, Power Resources, Security-Personal, Security-Societal, Tradition, Conformity-Rules, Conformity-Interpersonal, Face, Humility, Universalism-Nature, Universalism-Concern, Universalism-Tolerance, Benevolence-Care and Benevolence-Dependability).

Table 1: Description of the values assessed using the Schwartz Portrait Value Questionnaire

VALUES	SUB VALUES
<u>Openness to change: Emphasizes independence of thought, action, and feelings and readiness for change</u>	Self -Direction thought: Freedom to cultivate one's own ideas and abilities
	Self -direction action: Freedom to determine one's own actions
	Stimulation: Excitement, novelty, and change
	Hedonism: Pleasure and sensuous gratification
<u>Self- Enhancement: Emphasizes pursuit of one's own interests and relative success and dominance over others</u>	Achievement: Success according to social standards
	Power Dominance: Power through exercising control over people
	Power Resources: Power through control of material and social resources

<p><u>Conservation:</u> <u>Emphasizes order, self restriction, preservation of the past, and resistance to change</u></p>	<p>Security -Personal: Safety in one's immediate environment</p>
	<p>Security-Societal: Safety and security in the wider society</p>
	<p>Tradition: Maintaining/preserving cultural, family, and religious traditions</p>
	<p>Conformity-rules: Maintaining/preserving cultural, family, and religious traditions</p>
	<p>Conformity-interpersonal: Avoidance of upsetting or harming other people</p>
	<p>Face: Maintaining one's public image and avoiding humiliation</p>
	<p>Humility: Recognizing one's insignificance in the larger scheme of things</p>
<p><u>Self - Transcendence:</u> <u>Emphasizes concern for the welfare and interests of others</u></p>	<p>Universalism-nature: Preservation of the natural environment</p>
	<p>Universalism-concern: Commitment to equality, justice, and protection for all people</p>
	<p>Universalism- tolerance: Acceptance/understanding of those who are different from oneself</p>
	<p>Benevolence-care: Devotion to the welfare of in-group members</p>
	<p>Benevolence-dependability: Being a reliable and trustworthy member of the in-group</p>

Table 2: Demographic details of the participants

Age	Mean = 23.17 years
Gender	Female = 71 % Male = 29%
Educational Qualification	Undergraduate = 31.2% Graduate = 22 % Post Graduate = 38.2% MPhil/PhD = 8.6%
Place of Residence	Rural = 54% Urban = 46 %
Religion	Sikh =62.2 % Hindu =32.6 % Others =5.2 %
Relationship Status	Unmarried= 91 % Married = 9 %
Designation	Student = 87.6% Employed= 12.4 %
Family Type	Joint = 33% Nuclear = 66%

The survey was completed by 445 participants out of which 315 were females (71%) and 130 were males (29%). The average age of the participants was 23.17 years. Across the whole sample, 31% of the participants were undergraduates, 22% were graduates, 38% were post graduates and 8 % had done MPhil/ PhD. Based on the place of residence, 54 % of the participants belonged to rural area, 46% to urban area, whereas, based on religion, 62.2% were Sikh, 32.6% were Hindu and 5.2% of the respondents belonged to religions other than these

two. Majority of the participants were students (87.6%) and unmarried (91%). Participants mostly belonged to the nuclear family (34%).

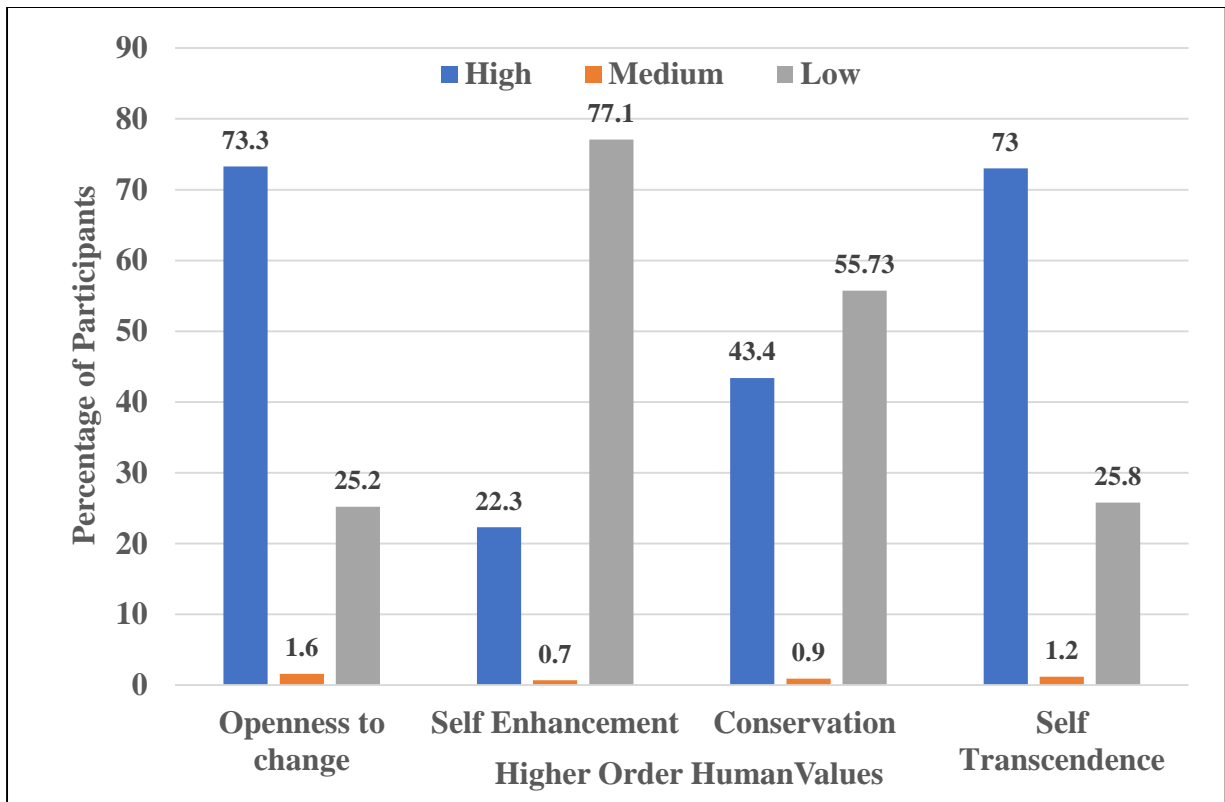


Figure 1: Graphical representation of the distribution of Higher Order Human Values among the participants

Out of 445 respondents (Figure 1), it has been found that among the four higher order values mentioned, the percentage of participants scoring in the ‘high’ category was 73.3% for openness to change, 22.3% for self enhancement, 43.4% for conservation and 73% for self-transcendence. The percentage of participants scores falling in the ‘medium’ category was 1.6% for openness to change, 0.7 % for self enhancement, 0.9% for conservation and 1.2 % for self-transcendence. The percentage of participants scoring low was 25.2 % for openness to change, 77.1 % for self enhancement, 55.73 % for conservation and 25.8 % for self-transcendence. This means majority of the participants assigned greatest importance to values namely Openness to Change and Self-Transcendence and lesser importance to Self - Enhancement and Conservation compared to the other values.

This survey assisted the participants in becoming more conscious of their value system and in gaining insight into how these values may affect their behaviour. This knowledge may enable them to actively engage on improving their value system.