

Original Research Article

Attitude analysis of agriculture graduates towards

Agriculture education

ABSTRACT: *The present study was conducted to analyze the attitude of agriculture graduates towards agriculture education. It is very important to analyze the attitude of agriculture studies towards agriculture education, as this is the one of important sector to serve the farming community in future. The study was conducted in Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar with 60 numbers of respondents by random sampling method. It has been observed that most of the respondents belong to general category, rural back ground, having good academic performance, interested to work as agriculture scientist and neutrally favorable towards agriculture education.*

Keyword: *Agriculture, education, post graduates, attitude*

INTRODUCTION:

Agricultural Education is the teaching of agriculture, natural resource, and land management through hands on experience and guidance to prepare students for entry level jobs and for further education to prepare them for advanced agricultural jobs. Agricultural education provides instruction about crop production, livestock management, soil and water conservation and other aspects of agriculture. In India, agriculture is the source of income for most of the people either directly or indirectly. Agriculture is the engine of growth for most developing countries and agricultural development is one of the most effective ways to alleviate hunger and poverty (Amungwa & Baye, 2014). Agriculture contributes the 15% of the total GDP (gross domestic product) of the nation. So, education in the area of agriculture is important to achieve the new dimension in the farming sector of the nation. Agriculture education provide the platform for developing new varieties, technologies, to envelop mechanization in farming, understand the rural community, their perception towards new technologies, to develop new and appropriate methods to transfer of technologies, to know their problems in overall development and to suggest them to solve the problem themselves. Agriculture has also been a major source of livelihood for the rural poor and employing up to 83 percent of women as primary producers of food. In spite of its great potential, agriculture is still left to the elderly or uneducated youths (Okiror & Otabong, 2015).

First Agriculture College in India was established in 1960 panthnagar under the land grant commission act. At present 60 state agriculture universities, 60 research institutes, 6 national bureau, 15 national research centers, 19 project directories, 78 AIICRPs, 641 KVKs, 2 central agriculture colleges, 6 deemed universities are contributing their services to uplift the farming community as well as development of the nation. All the services are divided in three areas; those are Research, Education, and Extension. In the process of education students are exposed to various field visits, internships, learning experience programs along with the course work. Nearly 10k students are coming out every year to serve the farming sector, which is known as BACKBONE of the Indian economy. Leavy and Smith, (2010) reported that many young people are not choosing to pursue livelihoods in the agricultural sector, especially as farmers. But pertinent question is

as to how far these efforts in teaching has been really effective at field condition and what is the perception of agriculture graduated towards agriculture education, is it sustainable to meet the future prospects of the nation. In order to answer these issues the present study designed and conducted with the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the socio personal characters of the agriculture graduates.
2. To study the motivation behind to join in agriculture sector.
3. To study the attitude towards agriculture education.

METHODS AND MATERIALS:

The research design adopted in the study was ex-post- facto in nature. The research study was conducted in Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology which is providing education for state, national and international students in agriculture discipline. 60 number of students selected randomly for the study. The data were collected through a pre tested interview schedule, which comprised items related to personnel, social, motivation to join in agriculture, attitude towards the agriculture. The collected data was analyzed through the statistical methods viz., mean and standard deviation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

A. Socio personal characters of the respondents:

The following table depicts the map of socio personal characters of the respondents.

Table-1 Socio personal profile of the respondents

S.NO	VARIABLES	CATEGORIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Caste	General caste	35	58.33
		Backward caste	10	16.66
		Schedule caste	3	5
		Schedule tribe	12	20
2	Birth order	First child	33	55
		Second child	21	35
		Third child	5	8.3
		Fourth and above child	1	1.6
3	Academic performance	Distinction	20	33.3
		First class	30	50
		Second class	10	16.66
4	Extracurricular activities	Participated	27	45
		Not participated	33	55
5	Family background	Rural	39	65
		Urban	21	35
6	Size of the family	Small (2 adults and 1or 2 children)	33	55
		Big (grand parents,parents,childrens)	28	46.6
7	Family	Agriculture	27	45

	occupation	Government services	29	48.33
		Private services(others)	4	6.66
8	Father educational status	Illiterate	12	20
		HSC (high school education)	6	10
		UG (undergraduate)	26	43.33
		PG (post graduate)	16	26.66
9	Mother educational status	Illiterate	31	51.66
		HSC (high school education)	22	36.6
		UG (undergraduate)	14	23.3
		PG (post graduate)	3	5
10	Family income	Low(below2 lakhs)	13	21.6
		Medium(2-10lakhs)	28	46.6
		High(above 10lakhs)	19	31.6

Above table depicting the overall results of the socio personal characteristics of the Agriculture graduates. Distribution of the respondents across different castes showed that majority of the respondents (58.33) from general category, very less number of respondents from scheduled caste (5). Majority of the respondents are first born child (55%) followed by second born child (33%), rest 8.3 and 1.6 were third and fourth borned children respectively. In the area of academic performance majority of the respondents are first class (50%) followed by the distinction (33.3) and very less number of respondents had second class (16.6%) in their academics.

In extracurricular activities, 45% of the respondents are participated, 65% are not participated, which revealing the half of the people are interested in entertainment along with academics. The above table indicating that most of the respondents (65%) rural background and few of the respondents (35%) having urban background, which is indicating that rural people are more interested in agriculture then compared to the urban people. Above table showing that 55% are from small family, 45% are from big family. Most of the respondent's family occupation is Govt. services (48.8%) and agriculture (45%), very less number of respondents having private services (6.66%) and others as their occupation. Majority of the respondents (46.6%) from medium level income followed by high family income (31.6), rest belongs to low level of family income (21.6%).

Education status of the parents plays important role in deciding the children's academic activities. Most of the respondents fathers are graduated (43.3%) followed by post graduates (26.6%) then illiterates (20%) and less number completed their high school (10%). Half of the respondents mothers are illiterates (51.55%) followed by high school education (36.6%), graduation (23.5%), very less number had post-graduation (5%). It is indicating that most of respondents fathers are graduates and mothers are illiterates.

B. To study the motivation behind joining in agriculture:

Table no 2 shows the motivation behind joining in agriculture:

S.NO	MOTIVES	TOTAL SCORE	MEAN SCORE	RANK
1	To get white color job in State or Central Govtment.	101	1.68	VIII

2	To join civil services through PSCs.	104	1.73	VII
3	To work as executive in private enterprises.	87	1.45	IX
4	To join as extension worker involuntary organization.	82	1.36	X
5	To satisfy parents wish	117	1.95	V
6	To make own status in society.	137	2.28	III
7	To make strong economic position in society.	144	2.4	II
8	To start own Agricultural farm/Enterprises.	130	2.16	IV
9	To start carrier as agricultural researcher/scientist/teacher in state Agricultural University	149	2.48	I
10	To provide consultancy in agriculture and allied field.	113	1.88	VI
11	To develop own farm	113	1.88	VI
12	No alternative	80	1.33	XI

The above table revealing that motivation to join in agriculture **decipline, most** of the respondents are joined in agriculture to became researcher or scientist or teacher in agriculture universities, which occupies first rank with 2.48 mean score, followed by to make strong economic position in society with mean **score 2.4 , to** make own status in society with mean score 2.28. And no alternative is occupied last preference with 1.33 mean score to join as a motive in agriculture discipline.

C. Too study the attitude of agriculture graduated towards education:

Table no 3 shows the attitude of agriculture graduates towards education:

S.N	Level of Attitude	Categorizations	Range	Frequency	Percent
1	Strongly favorable	Above mean + SD	Above102.76	13	21.66
2	Favorable	Between mean + 0.5 SD and mean + SD	Between 89.64to102.76	11	18.33
3	Neutral	Between mean - 0.5 SD and mean + 0.5 SD	Between 63.39 to 89.64	16	26.6
4	Unfavorable	Between mean - SD and mean - 0.5 SD	Between50.266to 63.39	10	16.66
5	Strongly unfavorable	Below mean – SD	Below 50.26	10	16.66
Total				60	100

The above table showing attitude of the respondents towards **agriculture. Above** table indicating that most neutral (26.6%) followed by strongly favorable (21.66), favorable (18.33), unfavorable and strongly favorable (16.6).

Conclusion:

The findings of the investigation revealed that most of the respondents from general category, first born child, not participating in Extracurricular activities, family occupation is government services, having medium level of income. In case of parental educational qualification most of the respondents father completed graduation, mothers are illiterate. To work as a scientist or teachers is most important motivation to join in agriculture. In attitude analysis most of the respondents are neutrally favorable towards agriculture.

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