

Aspiration level of undergraduates and post graduate agriculture students

Abstract

The focus on career and career preparation has long been a major component of secondary agricultural education programs. Aspiration can be defined as hope or ambition of achieving something. The occupational choices for agricultural students are many, varied and chosen based. The study was carried out in college of Agriculture, Jabalpur, JNKVV with the total sample of 120, level of occupational aspiration of undergraduate and postgraduate students were determined. The socio personal traits of the Undergraduate(UG) and Postgraduate(PG) result found that majority of the students enrolled were male for undergraduate and postgraduate, had attended the medium of school as hindi for both UG and PG, nearly half of the respondents fathers were in government services for both UG and PG, both UG and PG graduates majority mothers were housewives, family size was small(55%) for UG and 50.00 per cent medium family size for PG Students, and academic performance, UG and PG students had secured 1st division. The result concluded that in socio personal traits of both the undergraduate and postgraduate students had medium level of occupational aspiration *i.e* 53.40 and 51.60 respectively.

Keywords: Aspiration, undergraduates and postgraduates

Introduction

The focus on careers and career preparation has long been a major component of secondary agricultural education programs. Not only is the mission of agricultural education to prepare and support individuals for careers, but agricultural education in public schools has a successful record of helping students set and achieve career and educational goals.(Esters and Bowen,2005)(6). The most important function of agricultural education is to prepare youth and adults for careers in agricultural education. Students passing out from college should have no question for their career for this the schools and colleges should not only. The level of career aspiration usually affects curriculum choice hence career choice. Similarly, several factors which have been found to be theoretically and empirically related to career aspirations also influence the career choice process. Choices made at early stage of life has major impact on future life. There are two basic aspirations of every human being: continuous happiness and prosperity and we direct all our efforts towards achieving these throughout our lives.

To attain happiness, **people** have plenty of ambition to get on in life, amass wealth and win success. The dreams that are our aspirations give most of us the hope for a positive and meaningful future. The Person with a dream knows what s/he wants, plan well how to get it and persevere till s/he succeeds. What we aspire to become the shaping and driving force in how we conduct our days.

Aspiration can be defined as “hope or ambition of achieving something” (Das and Choudhury.2014)(4).

Occupation is that specific activity which an individual continuously pursues for the purpose of obtaining a steady flow of income. Occupational aspirations are simply the goals you have set out to achieve in either your current profession or your desired profession. These are an individual's psychological preferences or desires for his/her future occupational achievement.

It is a one dimensional construct that is determined by asking people what type of occupation they would choose at some point in the future if they were free of barriers or limiting factors.

Occupational aspiration can be defined as Occupational aspirations constitute a person's desired work-related goals under ideal circumstances; these goals can reflect information about self-concept, perceived opportunities, and interest and hopes (Rojewski ,2005)(15).

The job opportunities for agricultural students are many, varied and chosen based. The students going out of the college after graduation avail employment opportunities in central and state department of Agriculture, irrigation, State Agriculture Universities, private Firms, Non-Government organization, Nationalized banks and related line departments etc. Besides this, very few students also prefer to go for private farming that has better facilities. Career aspirations are influenced by numerous factors including gender, race, parental support, academic achievement, socioeconomic status, and self-esteem. For this it's a matter of interest to study the following objectives

1. To study the socio personal traits of undergraduates and postgraduates.
2. To study occupational aspiration level of undergraduates and postgraduates

Material and methods

The investigation was carried out in college of agriculture, Jabalpur. The campus was chosen purposively because the number of students enrolled in UG and PG courses is maximum when compared to other campuses, because the College of Agriculture, Jabalpur is the main campus under Jawaharlal nehru Irishi Vishwa Vidyalaya(JNKVV) university. The investigation was carried out with 120 respondents selected randomly of which 60 were from UG and 60 from PG. The occupational aspiration level of undergraduate and post graduate students and socio personal economic traits of undergraduate and postgraduate was determined with the help of a well-constructed questionnaire. Occupational aspiration of agricultural graduate was categorized into low, medium and high occupational aspiration with possible maximum score and possible minimum score determined.

Result

The socio personal traits of the respondents can be studied from the table no.1 which revealed that majority of the undergraduate had Hindi as medium for school followed by 30.00 per cent and most of them were first birth order(58.33) meaning were the older in their sibling status followed by second born(20.00) and third born(21.67). most of the undergraduate's fathers(23.33) had farming as occupation for the source of living and majority (71.67) mothers were housewives. And the size

of the family was small size (1 to 5 members). Majority of the under graduates (73.33%) had secured first division in their academic performance.

Similar findings are supported by Ansari and Ansari (2019)(1), Deshmukh and Kadam (2014)(6), Das and Chowdhury (2014)(5), Singh *et al.* (2014)(14).

From the table 1.0, majority of the post graduates fathers (43.34) were employed in government services and most of them mothers were housewives (73.64). Majority of them had a medium family size (50.00) and then most of the post graduates had secured 1st division in their academic performance (86.67). Most of the postgraduate students were third born or last born and majority of the postgraduate (PG) had Hindi as medium for school followed by 45.00 per cent.

The study were found in line with, Verma (2017)(16), Yadav (2016)(17), Yomgam and Tekale (2014)(18), Behera *et al.* (2015)(3), Bajema *et al.* (2002)(2) and Iswalkar and Sawant (2001)(8)

Table 1: Socio personal economic traits of undergraduates and post graduates.

| S.No | Variables | UG | PG |
|------|---|--|--|
| 1 | Fathers occupation Business Independent profession Farming Private services Government services | 10(16.67) 2(3.33) 14(23.33) 6(10.00) 28(46.66) | 11(18.33) 2(3.33) 16(26.67) 5 (8.33) 26(43.34) |
| 2 | Mothers occupation Business Housewife Farming Private services Government services | 1 (1.66) 43 (71.67) 7 (11.67) 3 (5.00) 6 (10.00) | 2 (3.33) 44 (73.34) 5 (8.33) 2(3.33) 7(11.67) |
| 3 | Family size Small Medium High | 33(55.00) 22(36.67) 5(8.33) | 28(46.67) 30(50.00) 2(3.33) |
| 4 | Academic performance 1 st division 2 nd division 3 rd division | 44(73.33) 3 (5.00) 13(21.67) | 52(86.67) 3(5.00) 5(8.33) |
| 5 | Medium of school Hindi English | 42(70.00) 18(30.00) | 45(75.00) 15(25.00) |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 6 | Sibling status | | |
| | First born | 35(58.33) | 21(35.00) |
| | Second born | 12(20.00) | 10(16.67) |
| | Third born | 13(21.67) | 29(48.33) |

(Fig in Parenthesis indicates percentage)

Level of occupational aspiration

Occupation aspiration level was determined with the help of the class interval which was obtained by subtracting the possible maximum and possible minimum score into low, medium and high level categories.

The data from the table 2 reveals that majority of the undergraduate respondents(53.40) had medium level of occupational aspiration followed high level (30.00) and 16.60 per cent had low level of occupational aspiration.

The findings are in accordance with Khadke et al. (2014)(9), Niketha et al. (2014)(12), Das and Bhagabati (2016)(4).

Table no 2: Distribution of UG graduates according to the occupational aspirational level

| S.no | UG | Numbers | Percent |
|------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Low | 10 | 16.60 |
| 2 | Medium | 32 | 53.40 |
| 3 | High | 18 | 30.00 |

The table no.3 given below revealed that majority of the respondents(51.30) had medium level of occupational aspiration followed by high occupational aspiration(30.00) and 16.60 low level of occupational aspiration.

Similar findings were supported by Neog and Nityashree (2016)(11), Thorat et al.(2015)(15), More et al. (2008)(16) and Pal (2017)(13).

Table no 3: Distribution of PG graduates according to the occupational aspiration level

| S.no | PG | Numbers | Percent |
|------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Low | 11 | 18.40 |
| 2 | Medium | 31 | 51.60 |
| 3 | High | 18 | 30.00 |

Conclusion

Aspiration can be defined as "hope or ambition of achieving something. Each and every individual aspire to dream and live their achievement. The socio personal traits of the Undergraduate and Postgraduate result concluded that majority of the students were enrolled were male for undergraduate and postgraduate, had a background of rural followed by medium of school as hindi for both UG and PG, nearly half of the respondents fathers were in government services for both UG and PG, both UG and PG graduates majority mothers were housewives, family of UG was nuclear(90%) and 76.6% for PG, family size was small(55%) for UG and 46.64 for PG Students, and academic performance, UG and PG students had secured 1st

division. The study concluded that both undergraduate and post graduate students have medium level of occupational aspiration followed by high and low level of occupational aspiration. The security of getting better occupation and having a high standard of life is always high irrespective of the education received.

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