

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF EMPLOYABILITY OF POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARS

Omede U. David¹, P. R. Kanani² and B. N. Kalsariya³

Babayade International College, P.M.B 656, Idah, Kogi State. Nigeria (West Africa). Phone +2348059954970

Professor & Head, Dept. of Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh - 362001

Associate Professor, Polytechnic in Agricultural, JAU, Sidsar, Junagadh - 362001

Email : ugbedave@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The agricultural graduates and post graduates should be enabled with some marketable professional abilities and employability skills to be successful in this competitive technology driven world. In order to know the background and socio-economic aspects of the respondents, it is important to analyse these characterizations in depth. The socio-economic characteristics of people vary with location to location, time to time and society to society. Therefore, the study was undertaken on socio-economic characteristics of employability of postgraduate scholars studying in JAU, Junagadh. The sampling of 120 postgraduate research scholars studying in any semester and subjects at College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University. The result of research finding revealed that majority (81.67 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars studying in College of Agriculture JAU, Junagadh are from rural native. One-third (33.33 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars studying in JAU had up to ₹ 1,00,000/- annual family income, followed by 30.83 per cent were with ₹ 1,00,001/- to 2,00,000/- annual family income, 20.00 per cent with ₹ 2,00,001/- to 3,00,000/- annual family income. Majority (80.83 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had educated fathers with above SSC level of education. Great majority (71.67 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had educated mothers with at least primary to graduate level of education.

Keywords: socio-economic, employability, postgraduate, scholars

INTRODUCTION

An individual's employability therefore extends beyond knowledge and skills to include individual attributes and characteristics that make individuals valued assets to both prospective and current employer. The responsibility lies with the individual to manage and develop his or her career and it is important that individuals know what their career needs are (Van der Heijde and Van der Heijden, 2006) and what they can do to improve their employability so as to be successful in their careers. Yorke (2006) accordingly defines employability as the skills, understandings and personal attributes that make graduates more apt to obtain employment and be successful in their occupation to their own advantage, but also to the advantage of the labour force, the community and the economy. The socio-economic characteristics of people vary with location to location, time to time and society to society.

The phenomenon for a nation when major portion of its population is active (in the working age 15-50 years) is referred to as the stage of reaping the demographic dividend. During this phase most of the population contributes to the

country's Gross Domestic Product. It's a phase of lower dependency ratio – that refers to the number of children or elderly dependent on each earning person. The lower the dependency ratio - the higher economic growth will be, all other things being equal. This extra boost to growth is the demographic dividend, and it's one reason why China has grown so fast in recent decades and why it might see slowing growth in the decades ahead. Such has been the case of nations that have undergone through this phase.

Even if the economic and social situation of the country is ignored, the quality of workforce is also an area of concern. We have a remarkable 60% of total population available for working and contributing towards GDP, but out of the total pool only 25 % is capable of being used by the market.

Youth unemployment has been at an increasing rate in India. Despite the whopping rise in the number of agricultural graduates and postgraduates every year, hardly there is an attempt that links trends of employment needs of various sectors of economy (public, private or self-entrepreneurship) and clients (students, farmers and agro-

industry) against the kind and number of manpower produced by the system of higher agricultural education. The need for developing the employability level of agricultural graduates is therefore the need of the hour. Realizing significant role of agricultural postgraduate research scholars in the development of agriculture and economy of the country, a study on socio-economic characteristics of employability of postgraduate scholars studying in JAU, Junagadh was undertaken.

OBJECTIVE

To know the socio-economic characteristics of employability of postgraduate scholars

METHODOLOGY

In order to know the background and socio-economic aspects of the postgraduate scholars, it is important to analyse these characterizations in depth; in all four socio-economic variables were structured using appropriate tools. The study was to know the socio-economic characteristics of postgraduate scholars studying in Junagadh Agricultural University. On the basis of extensive review of literature and discussion with experts, socio-economic characteristics of the postgraduate scholars were selected and information were collected analyzed and presented in tables with the aim to draw a general picture of the postgraduate scholars.

The study was undertaken in the College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh. The study was undertaken using purposively sampling of 120 postgraduate research scholars studying in any semester and subjects at the College of Agriculture. The data were collected through structural interview schedule. The socio-economic variables undertaken in this study were native of the student, annual family income, father's education and mother's education. The variables were measured with the help of suitable scales with modifications and structured schedules.

In order to measure the native of the respondent, it refers to urban or rural background of the students from where they have taken their primary education and passed their childhood. The respondents were classified into two groups, viz., rural and urban and scores of 1 and 2 were given respectively to quantify it. Annual family income was considered as the gross income of the respondent's family. The respondents were classified into six groups' viz. up to ₹ 1,00,000/-, ₹ 1,00,001/- to ₹ 2,00,000/-, ₹ 2,00,001/- to ₹ 3,00,000/-, ₹ 3,00,001/- to ₹ 4,00,000/-, ₹ 4,00,001/- to ₹ 5,00,000/- and above ₹ 5,00,000/- of annual family income.

The actual income in rupees itself was considered as a score to quantify this variable of the respondents. Whereas, father's Education of respondents were measured in years of formal education completed by the father of the respondent. For each completed formal year, one score was assigned and for no formal education, zero score was assigned to quantify this variable. The respondents were classified into five categories viz., respondents with father having no formal education, respondents with education of the father up to primary level, respondents with education of the father up to SSC, respondents with education of the father up to HSC and respondents with education of the father with graduate and above level.

In case of mother's education of respondents were measured in years of formal education completed by the mother of the respondent. For each completed formal year one score was assigned and for no formal education zero score was assigned to quantify this variable. The respondents were classified into five categories viz., respondents with mother having no formal education, respondents with education of the mother up to primary level, respondents with education of the mother up to SSC, respondents with education of the mother up to HSC and respondents with education of the mother with graduate and above level.

The collected data were classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful. The statistical measures such as percentage and mean score were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio Economic Characteristics

(1) Native of the scholars

This refers to urban or rural place of birth of the postgraduate scholars from where they had passed their childhood and taken their primary level education. The native place of postgraduate scholars plays an important role on their behaviour. It is assumed that persons who have work for the development of farmers should have knowledge about life, social system, customs, problems, needs and psychology of the farmers. Generally, the postgraduate scholars with rural background have positive tendency towards the development of rural area, farming and farmers. The native place of the individual also plays a decisive role in developing the employability skills and their capability to cope with diverse

job situations. Thus, to understand the role of this factor on employability of the postgraduate scholars, information was collected and data with regards to native place are presented in Table 1 and illustration in Fig. 1.

Table 1: Postgraduate scholars according to native place
(n = 120)

Sr. No.	Native place	No.	Per cent
1	Urban	22	18.33
2	Rural	98	81.67

It is evident from Table 1 that majority (81.67 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars studying in College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh are from rural native, whereas 18.33 per cent were from urban area. The higher agricultural education deals with agricultural and rural development, thus, syllabus in higher agricultural education is dominated by subjects dealt with various topics of agricultural and rural

Table 2 : Postgraduate scholars according to their annual family income

(n = 120)

Sr. No.	Annual income	No.	Per cent
1	Up to ₹ 1,00,000/-	40	33.33
2	₹ 1,00,001/- to 2,00,000/-	37	30.83
3	₹ 2,00,001/- to 3,00,000/-	24	20.00
4	₹ 3,00,001/- to 4,00,000/-	08	06.67
5	₹ 4,00,001/- to 5,00,000/-	05	04.17
6	Above ₹ 5,00,000/-	06	05.00

The result from Table 2 revealed that one third (33.33 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars studying in JAU had up to ₹ 1,00,000/- annual family income, followed by 30.83 per cent were with ₹ 1,00,001/- to 2,00,000/- annual family income, 20.00 per cent with ₹ 2,00,001/- to 3,00,000/-, 6.67 per cent with ₹ 3,00,001/- to 4,00,000/-, 4.17 per cent with ₹ 4,00,001/- to 5,00,000/-. While, only 5.00 per cent were with more than ₹ 5,00,000/- of annual family income. The low economic status of postgraduate scholars can be attributed to the fact that majority of them had rural background and agriculture as the main source of family income and occupation.

The probable reason for this may be that the economy of India had improved from 2011–2015 which may had led to the increase in family annual income of postgraduate

development.

This might have restricted urban students toward agriculture education which would be useful to them in improving parental occupation as well as getting job for their livelihood. This may be the probable reason for a large proportion of the respondents having rural background.

(2) Annual family income

It refers to total annual earning of the family through all sources of the postgraduate research scholars. An estimation of annual family income gives an idea about the job preferences and job competencies of the postgraduate scholars, thus expected to play a role in developing their level of employability. To understand the relationship between annual family income and employability of postgraduate scholar studying in JAU, necessary data were collected and presented in Table 2.

scholars of 19 per cent earning above ₹ 3,00,000/- in 2015 in this current study.

(3) Father's Education

Father's education is an important factor affecting the employability of the postgraduate scholars studying in JAU. High level of education of the father, motivates the children to choose strong and successful careers. Fathers with higher level of education understands the need of better education imparted to their children, also gives them the freedom to choose an occupation of their talent. This has a presumed effect in developing the employability skills of the children. To understand the role of father's education in developing the employability skills of the postgraduate scholars studying in JAU, data was collected, analyzed and accessible in Fig.1.

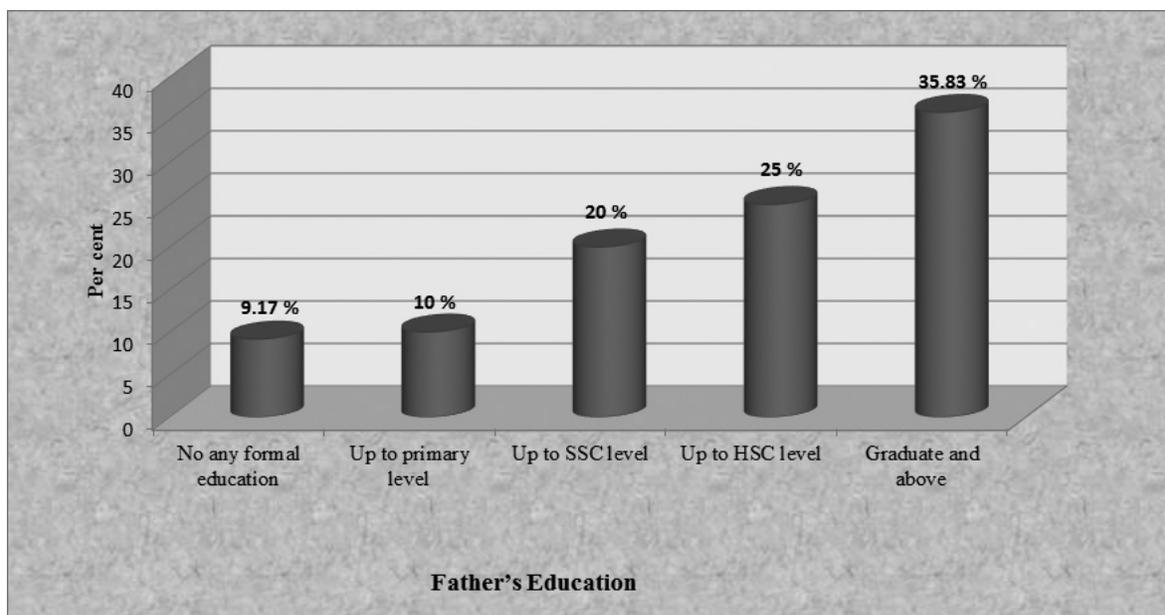


Fig. 1: Postgraduate scholars according to their father's education

It is detected from Fig.2 that though majority of the respondents are from rural background, 35.83 per cent of postgraduate scholars had graduate level of fathers' education, followed by 25.00 per cent with up to HSC level of fathers' education, 20.00 and 10.00 per cent of postgraduate scholars had up to SSC level and primary level of father's education, respectively. Only 9.17 per cent of postgraduate scholars had father with no any formal education. This indicates that majority (80.83 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had educated fathers with above SSC level of education.

This might be that some of the parents of postgraduate scholars had serviced in government or private, so they had educated. From above finding, also reflected that thirteen per cent of respondent's father educated up to SSC level, in rural area they understand the education status.

(4) Mother's Education

It is said that mother is the first teacher of any child and she plays a very vital role in developing and inculcating good tradition, custom, progressive taste of development and outlook among children. Such lessons help children in mounting good habits leading towards growth and progress during their employable age. Considering this, the level of education was studied to understand its role on the employability of the postgraduate scholars. The data pertaining to this are offered in Fig. 2.

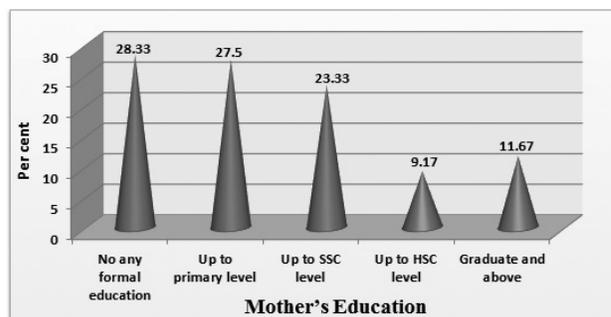


Fig. 2 : Postgraduate scholars according to their mother's education

It can be inferred from Fig. 2 that slightly more than one-fourth (27.50 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had up to primary level of mother's education. While slightly less than one-fourth (23.33 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had up to SSC level of mother's education, followed by 11.67 per cent of them with graduate and above level of mother's education, 9.17 per cent with up to HSC level of mother's education. Only 28.33 per cent had mothers who had no any formal education.

The result indicates that a great majority (71.67 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had educated mothers. The reason for this great majority might be due to the increasing awareness of women's education in the society and availability of better educational facilities for women even in the villages.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority (81.67 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars studying in College of Agriculture JAU, Junagadh are from rural native. One-third (33.33 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars studying in JAU had up to ₹ 1,00,000/- annual family income, followed by 30.83 per cent were with ₹ 1,00,001/- to 2,00,000/- annual family income, 20.00 per cent with ₹ 2,00,001/- to 3,00,000/- annual family income. Majority (80.83 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had educated fathers with above SSC level of education. Great majority (71.67 per cent) of the postgraduate scholars had educated mothers with at least primary to graduate level of education.

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