

ATTITUDE OF STUDENTS TOWARDS HIGHER EDUCATION

Prins N. Radadiya¹, Hemlata Saini² and Shruti Zala³

1 & 3 Master Student, B. A. College of Agriculture, AAU, Anand- 388 110

2 Assistant Professor, B. A. College of Agriculture, AAU, Anand – 388 110

Email id: hlatahem@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Education is vital for students as it offers specialized knowledge and skills crucial for career success and personal development. It gives critical thinking, problem-solving abilities and Strength. Additionally, it provides networking opportunities, promotes diversity and encourages research and innovation. Higher education enhances earning potential, facilitates social mobility and contributes to societal progress. Hence, considering the importance of these characteristics and review of past research studies, an attempt has been made in this investigation to ascertain the relationship between profile of students and their attitude towards higher education so that this study entitled “attitude of students towards higher education” was undertaken in middle Gujarat. A sample of 60 students was taken from Anand agriculture University, Gujarat. The data were collected with the help of google form. The result found that majority of the students had high attitude towards higher education and out of seven independent variables one variables viz. academic performance were found to be positive and highly significantly correlated with attitude towards higher education.

Keywords: anand agriculture university, attitude, higher education.

INTRODUCTION

Universities serve as pivotal institutions in shaping students' educational journeys. Beyond imparting knowledge, they cultivate critical thinking, analytical skills and personal growth. Through coursework, students delve deep into their chosen fields, while also exploring diverse disciplines. Moreover, universities give a favourable environment to research and innovation, enabling students to contribute to leading edge progress. Beyond academia, universities prepare students for the workforce by providing specialized training, practical experiences and networking opportunities. They also serve as hubs for exposing students to new ideas, perspectives and experiences. Ultimately, universities play a multifaceted role, equipping students not only with academic ability but also with the skills, experiences and values necessary for success in both their personal and professional lives. Educated individuals are more likely to secure higher-paying jobs and contribute positively to the economy.

Education provides students with the necessary tools to excel academically, enabling them to grasp complex concepts, acquire new knowledge and achieve academic success. Additionally, education fosters critical thinking skills, allowing students to analyse information, evaluate evidence and develop informed opinions. It's important to recognize that not all students have the same goals or motivations when it comes to higher education. While some may aspire to earn advanced degrees and pursue academic or research careers,

others may be more focused on acquiring practical skills that will directly translate into employment. Therefore, the study has been undertaken with following objectives:

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the profile of the students
- (2) To study the attitude of the students towards higher education
- (3) To ascertain the relationship between the profile of the students and their attitude towards higher education

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted with the objectives of studying profile of the students and their attitude towards higher education. Anand Agriculture University was selected purposively for the study and 60 UG students of final year from Anand Agriculture University were selected randomly for the study. A list of respondents was taken from registrar office, Anand Agricultural University, Anand.

An interview schedule was prepared to study the responses of students. It consisted of study of profile of the students and their attitude towards higher education. The data were collected through google form. Adequate precautions were taken to ensure unbiased response of the respondents. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, an “Ex-post-facto” research design was applied. For measure attitude of

students towards higher education structure schedule used developed by Kawale (2013) with due modifications.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that more than three fourth (76.67 per cent) of the respondents belonged to age of less than 22 years, followed by 20.00 per cent of them belonged to In between 22 to 24 years, respectively. Almost half (50.00 per cent) of the respondents belonged to General Category, followed by 20.00 per cent of them belonged to EWS Category, respectively. Almost half (50.00 per cent) of the respondents had in between 6.00 to 6.90 OGPA, followed by 25.00 per cent had in between 6.91 to

8.00 OGPA, respectively. Nearly one third (31.67 per cent) of the respondents had the habit to utilize library facilities Twice in a week, followed by 25.00 per cent of them had the habit to utilize library facilities Once in a week, respectively. More than half (51.67 per cent) of the respondents had low family income, followed by 25.00 per cent of them had medium family income, respectively. three fifth of the respondents (60.00 per cent) of the respondents had high self-confidence, followed by 21.67 per cent of them had medium self-confidence, respectively. More than one third (36.67 per cent) of the respondents had low Participation in extra-curricular activities, followed by 25.00 per cent of them had medium, respectively. The findings confirm with Kawale (2013).

Table 1: Distribution of post graduate students according to their personal, social, economic and psychological characteristics (n=60)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Less than 22 years	46	76.67
		In between 22 to 24 years	12	20.00
		Above 24 years	02	03.33
2	Caste	General	30	50.00
		EWS	12	20.00
		OBC	08	13.33
		SC	07	11.67
		ST	03	05.00
3	Academic performance	More than 8.0 OGPA	09	15.00
		In between 6.91 to 8.00 OGPA	15	25.00
		In between 6.00 to 6.90 OGPA	30	50.00
		Below 6.00 OGPA	06	10.00
4	Library exposure	Every-day	06	10.00
		Twice in a week	19	31.67
		Once in a week	15	25.00
		Once in fortnight	06	10.00
		Once in a month	12	20.00
		Once in a three month	00	00.00
		Once in a six month	01	01.66
		Once in a year	01	01.67
		Never	00	00.00
5	Family income	Low (up to Rs. 1,00,000/-)	31	51.67
		Medium (Rs. 1,00,001 to Rs. 2,00,000/-)	15	25.00
		High (above Rs. 2,00,000/-)	14	23.33
6	Self-confidence	Very Low (Up to 9.60 score)	00	00.00
		Low (9.61 to 13.20 score)	01	01.66
		Medium (13.21 to 16.80 score)	13	21.67
		High (16.81 to 20.4 score)	36	60.00
		Very High (20.41 to 24 score)	10	16.67
7	Participation in extra-curricular activities	Very low (Up to 4 score)	03	05.00
		Low (5 to 8 score)	22	36.67
		Medium (9 to 12 score)	15	25.00
		High (13 to 16 score)	14	23.33
		Very High (Above 16 score)	06	10.00

An attitude is often defined as a tendency to react favourable or unfavourable towards a designated class of stimuli such as a national or racial group a custom or an institution. Attitude of students were categorized into three groups viz. unfavourable, neutral and favourable.

Table 2: Distribution of post graduate students according to their attitude (n=60)

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percent
1.	Unfavourable (up to 14 score)	02	03.33
2.	Neutral (14 to 22 score)	37	61.67
3.	Favourable (above 22 score)	21	35.00

Table 2 indicates that more than three fifth (61.67 per cent) of the respondents had neutral attitude, followed by 35.00 per cent and 03.33 per cent of them had favourable and unfavourable attitude, respectively. Most of the students comes from low family income, High Academic performance and high Self-confidence. All of these would have created high condition for higher education. After having been admitted to under graduate, they might come to know the importance of under graduation and their role in development of the country and on other hand, they also aware about the vast area of agriculture to develop a career in higher education. The findings confirm with Kawale (2013), Jagadeeswari et al. (2019), and Chaudhary et al. (2023).

Table 3 reveals that out of seven independent variables, one variable viz. academic performance was found to be positive and highly significantly correlated with attitude towards higher education. Out of seven independent variables, two variables viz. self-confidence and library exposure were found to be positive and significantly correlated with attitude towards higher education. The result indicates that age, caste, participation in extra-curricular activities and family income were found non-significant with attitude of the students towards higher education.

The result demonstrated in Table 3 also indicates that academic performance of the students was found positive and highly significant with their attitude of the students towards higher education. The probable reason for this result is obvious that higher academic performance increasing the chances of the students to select in further educational field for getting higher job profile and improving their status in front of society and also improving their life style. The findings confirm with Kawale (2013).

Table 3: Relationship between selected characteristics of the students and their attitude towards higher education (n=60)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient (r value)
X ₁	Age	-0.0605
X ₂	Caste	-0.0949
X ₃	Academic performance	0.2621**
X ₄	Library exposure	0.2205*
X ₅	Family income	-0.1467
X ₆	Self-confidence	0.2474*
X ₇	Participation in extra-curricular activities	0.0828

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

** Highly Significant at 0.01 level of probability

The data presented in the Table 3 indicates that there was positive significant relationship between self-confidence and library exposure of the students and their attitude towards higher education. The probable reason for this result is obvious that self-confidence empowers students to seek out opportunities for academic and personal development such as research projects, internships or leadership roles in student organizations. Higher education often offers specialized knowledge and advanced skills in specific fields, allowing individuals to deepen their expertise and enhance their career prospects.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that out of seven independent variables, only one variable viz. academic performance was found to be positively and highly significantly correlated with attitude towards higher education. The two variables viz. self-confidence and library exposure were found to be positively and significantly correlated with attitude towards higher education. The result indicates that age, caste, participation in extra-curricular activities and family income were found non-significant with attitude towards higher education.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This is to declare that there is “No conflict of interest” among researcher.

REFERENCES

Bhosale, R. S. (2011). Occupational aspiration of post-graduate students of Anand Agricultural University. (Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis, AAU, Anand.)

Chaudhary, S. S., Patel, J. K. and Raval, K. N. (2023) Attitude

and aspiration of undergraduate agricultural students. *Guj. J. Ext. Edu.* 35(2):31-35. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoee.2023.35.2.0007>.

Dhanwal, S. (2023). Purpose And Extent of Use of Social Media by Students. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 35 (2), 115-121.

Jagadeeswari, B., Vinaya Kumar H. M., and Patel, J. B. (2019). Attitude of postgraduate students towards research, *Gujarat Journal Extension Education*, 30(1), 87-89.

Kawale, M. R. (2013). *Attitude Of Girl Students Studying*

in Agriculture Faculty of Anand Agricultural University Towards Higher Agriculture Education, (M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis. ANANDAGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND, Gujarat.)

Patter, S. (2011). Development of scale to measure the attitude of agricultural graduates towards agrotourism as an enterprise. (Unpublished M.Sc. thesis, AAU, Anand.)

Saba, S. & Saini, H. (2023). A Tool to Measure Attitude of Agriculture Students towards Student-Ready Programme in Employability Generation. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 36 (1), 113-118.

Received : April 2024 : Accepted : June 2024