

Educational aspirations of the home science students of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka

JITUMONI NEOG and DA NITHYA SHREE*

Department of Extension and Communication Management

***All India Coordinated Research Project (Home Science Extension Education)**

College of Rural Home Science, University of Agricultural Sciences

Dharwad 580005 Karnataka, India

Email for correspondence: jitumanineog@gmail.com

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Received: 17.10.2017/Accepted: 12.1.2018

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted at College of Rural Home Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka on 407 students. The findings of the study revealed that most of the respondents wanted to do job after completion of their education. Majority of the undergraduate students (59.10%) wanted to do masters in home science (MHSc), 64.70 per cent doing MHSc wanted to do PhD and among PhD students 66.66 per cent wanted to do postgraduate diploma. In terms of preference for university for further studies most of the students wanted to do at any other university in India followed by University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and a very high percentage of the respondents wanted to appear for competitive examinations. It was also observed that with reference to preference of the undergraduate students for MHSc, majority of them (41.38%) gave their first preference for food science and nutrition, second preference for human development and family studies (33.34%) and third preference for extension and communication management (34.48%). They had medium level followed by high level of educational aspiration and there was a significant difference between the levels of educational aspiration among all three groups of students. Age of the students was positively correlated with their educational aspiration.

Keywords: Educational aspiration; home science; undergraduate; postgraduate

INTRODUCTION

Home science education today forms one of the major disciplines of education followed in a number of institutions in our country. In earlier days the major concern of home science education was largely for the development of skills for housekeeping and home making. Growing industrialization, urbanization and modernization have brought changes in the philosophy of home science education. Home science is an applied discipline and one of its major aims is to prepare the student to lead a more satisfying, personal and community life. It helps in the development of right values. It makes a contribution towards increasing health, happiness and fulfillment of the desires related to home, family and community. It also enables students to understand the functions of parenthood, responsibilities of family membership and management of one's resources. Besides providing education for

our overall development, home science prepares us to take up a job outside the home as well as set up a home enterprise.

Students have opinion that it may not always be possible to achieve one's goals due to several factors which may be both exogenous and endogenous (Lakshminarayana 1985). Everywhere they are suffering due to excessive competition and lack of opportunities. They have to survive with limited resources. In India citizens experience discrimination now and then. Unequal development in economy, culture and education leads to regional, racial and religious disparities. These disparities adversely affect our young citizens.

It is essential to understand the educational aspirations of the students because these decide their future career. In this study educational aspirations

included components viz aspirations related to course, discipline and preference of study after completion of graduation or postgraduation and preference for preparing for competitive examinations. Hence an attempt was made in this study with the objective to find out the educational aspirations of the students studying home science.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted at College of Rural Home Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka. The ex post facto research design was adopted in order to study educational aspirations of the students studying home science. The data were collected from 407 students. Data were collected by questionnaire method from the respondents with the help of structured questionnaire and were analyzed using frequency, percentage, correlation and one-way ANOVA test.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Educational aspirations of the students

Undergraduate students: Higher education is defined as the education of an age group between 18 and 24 and is largely funded by the government. The higher education system in India plays a significant role in improving living standards of people in the country. India viewed education as an effective tool for bringing social change through community development.

Data given in Table 1 reveal that majority of the undergraduate students (52.74%) wanted to do job whereas 47.26 per cent preferred to pursue higher education. It may be because majority of the students thought that it was a professional course so they would get jobs after completion of graduation. Another reason for aspiration towards job might be because they were not interested in pursuing higher studies or they wanted to do job due to their economic condition or financial constraints.

Among undergraduate students who wanted to continue their education most of them preferred to do master of home science (59.10%) followed by master degree in other courses like fashion designing, mass communication, counseling, public health, interior designing, animation etc (17.68%). The possible reason might be that they would not get suitable job with good

salary on the basis of graduation in home science. Besides they could have developed favourable attitude for the home science degree programme. Similar results were obtained by Khole and Kadam (2013) in case of agricultural students.

In terms of preference for university in order to do MHSc, 45.98 per cent of the students wanted to do it at any other university in India followed by 44.82 per cent who wanted to do at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka and very few (9.20%) wanted to pursue in universities abroad. It can be noted that most of them wanted to do MHSc at any other university in India may be because they wanted some change or exposure. 44.82 per cent students wanted to do MHSc at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka which might be because they were already adjusted with the academic environment and the hostel life in the university. Other reasons may be because their parents would not allow them to go outside the state to continue their education. Sometimes economic condition of the family also hindered the education of the students.

Most of the undergraduate students for discipline of study under MHSc gave first preference to food science and nutrition (41.38%) as they thought that they would get better jobs as compared to other disciplines. Second preference was for human development and family studies (33.34%) and third for extension and communication management (34.48%) (Table 2). Food and nutrition has a wider scope with increasing health consciousness among the modern population.

MHSc students: Among MHSc students 76.39 per cent wanted to do job and 23.61 per cent wanted to continue their education. The reason might be that the students wanted to be economically independent. Also they might have felt that they could get similar jobs what they get even after completion of PhD (Table 3). It was also found that majority of the MHSc students (64.70%) preferred to do PhD whereas 35.30 per cent wanted to do postgraduate diploma.

More than half (54.55%) of the students wanted to do PhD at any other university in India followed by 36.36 per cent who wanted to do it at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka and very few (9.09 %) wanted to pursue PhD in universities abroad.

Table 1. Educational aspirations of undergraduate students (n= 311)

Category	Item	f	%
Aspiration after graduation	Education	147	47.26
	Job	164	52.74
Preference for further study (n= 147)	Master of home science (MHSc)	87	59.10
	Agri-business management	6	4.10
	Master's degree in other courses like fashion designing, mass communication, counseling, public health, interior designing, animation etc	26	17.68
	Master of business administration (MBA)	4	2.72
	PG diploma	14	9.52
	Other short term courses	10	6.82
Preference for university (n= 87)	UAS, Dharwad	39	44.82
	Any other university in India	40	45.98
	Any other university abroad	08	9.20
Preference for preparing for competitive exams	Yes	284	91.31
	No	27	8.69

Table 2. Preference of undergraduate students for discipline of study under master of home science (MHSc) (n= 87)

Discipline	Preference I		Preference II		Preference III		Weighted mean score (X)
	f	%	f	%	f	%	
Extension and communication management	24	27.58	23	26.44	30	34.48	1.92
Textile and apparel designing	4	4.60	9	10.34	18	20.68	1.54
Food science and nutrition	36	41.38	22	25.28	7	8.05	2.44
Human development and family studies	16	18.41	29	33.34	17	19.54	1.98
Family resource management	7	8.04	4	4.60	15	17.25	1.76

Preferences I, II and III are coded as 3, 2 and 1

Table 3. Educational aspirations of master of home science (MHSc) students (n= 72)

Category	Item	f	%
Aspiration after MHSc	Job	55	76.39
	Education	17	23.61
Preference for further study (n= 17)	Postgraduate diploma	6	35.30
	PhD	11	64.70
Preference for university (n= 11)	UAS, Dharwad	4	36.36
	Any other university in India	6	54.55
	Any other university abroad	1	9.09
Preference for preparing for competitive exams	Yes	61	84.73

PhD students: Majority of the PhD students (87.50%) preferred to do job after the degree whereas only 12.50 per cent wanted to pursue higher education after PhD (Table 4).

It can be concluded that most of the undergraduate, MHSc and PhD students aspired for job. Only some PhD students (12.50%) preferred to do further studies as compared to undergraduate

(47.26%) and MHSc students (23.61%). Most of the PhD students (66.66%) preferred to do postgraduate diploma and only 33.33 per cent wanted to do post-doctorate (Table 4).

A very high percentage of the undergraduate (91.31%), MHSc (84.73%) and PhD (91.66%) (Tables 1, 3, 4) respondents preferred to prepare for competitive examinations because of the fact that after getting through these examinations they would get good administrative and other types of jobs which would provide them good salary and status.

Comparison between level of educational aspiration among undergraduate, MHSC and PhD students

Majority of the students among all the three groups of students had medium followed by high level

of educational aspiration (Table 5). There was a significant difference among the undergraduate, MHSc and PhD students for educational aspiration. Most of the undergraduate students wanted to do masters whereas very few MHSc students wanted to do PhD and the percentage of PhD students aspiring for higher education was the least.

Correlation between educational aspiration and selected personal and socio-economic characteristics of the students

It was observed that age had positive and significant relationship with educational aspiration (Table 6). As the age increases students move to higher classes; they are exposed to more specialized subjects and urge of knowledge increases thus increasing their aspirations for education. In case of other variables like caste, education and occupation of fathers and

Table 4. Educational aspirations of PhD students (n= 24)

Category	Item	f	%
Aspiration after postgraduation	Job	21	87.50
	Education	03	12.50
Preference for further study (n = 3)	Postgraduate diploma	02	66.66
	Post-doctorate	01	33.33
Preference for preparing for competitive exams	Yes	22	91.66

Table 5. Comparison between educational aspiration of the undergraduate, MHSc and PhD students

Category	Level of aspiration			Mean	F-value	SE	CD
	Low	Medium	High				
Undergraduate (n= 147)	8 (5.44)	130 (88.43)	9 (6.12)	6.13	4.35*	0.09	0.26
MHSc (n= 17)	1 (5.88)	15 (88.23)	1 (5.88)	5.47			
PhD (n= 3)	0 (0.00)	2 (66.66)	1 (3.33)	3.33			

*Significant at 0.05 level, SE= Standard error, CD= Critical difference

Table 6. Correlation between aspirations and selected personal and socio-economic characteristics of the students (n= 407)

Characteristic	Educational aspiration	Characteristic	Educational aspiration
Age	0.208**	Type of family	-0.010
Caste	-0.021	Size of family	-0.015
Father's education	0.000	Monthly income	-0.028
Mother's education	-0.006	Ordinal position	0.033
Father's occupation	0.088	Academic performance	0.072
Mother's occupation	-0.013	Mass media exposure	0.051

**Significant at 0.01 level

mothers, type and size of the family, monthly income, ordinal position, academic performance and mass media exposure had no significant relationship.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the study that most of the respondents wanted to do job after completion of their education. Majority of the undergraduate students wanted to do master of home science (MHSc); MHSc students wanted to do PhD and PhD students wanted to do postgraduate diploma. Most of the students wanted to pursue further studies at any other university in India followed by University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka and a very high percentage of the respondents wanted to appear for

competitive examinations. Majority of the undergraduate students (41.38%) gave their first preference to food science and nutrition in MHSc. They had medium followed by high level of educational aspiration and there was a significant difference between the levels of educational aspiration among all the three groups of students. Age was positively correlated with educational aspiration.

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