

Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology

40(9): 357-362, 2022; Article no.AJAEES.88698 ISSN: 2320-7027

A Case Study on Demographic Attributes of the Agriculture Postgraduate Students of Uttar Pradesh

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/AJAEES/2022/v40i931014

Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/88698

Original Research Article

Received 12 April 2022 Accepted 25 June 2022 Published 27 June 2022

ABSTRACT

Students' behaviour is substantially impacted by their personality attributes. Demographic status of students has a significant influence in shaping up on their personality. So, to understand one's behaviour, one must first learn about their demographic characteristics. This study intends to investigate to study about the main factors of socioeconomic level and characteristic traits, such as social and academic engagement, life satisfaction, demographic features, socioeconomic level and characteristic traits of the agricultural postgraduate students of Uttar Pradesh. A total of responses of 283 students from 6 universities having a curriculum for agriculture degrees, were collected. A systematic questionnaire was designed and sent to collect information through a google form. Frequency distributions, mean, percentage, quantile and Cumulative Square Root techniques were used to analyse the data.

Keywords: Agriculture; postgraduate students; extension; Education.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Today's world is vastly different from what existed previously. Values, morals, ethics, culture, and traditions change dramatically at each stage of development, from birth to maturity. The most essential predictor of livelihoods is demographic status, as it affects knowledge and skills, education, and economic well-being, all of which have an impact on the living standard of an individual.

Education is vital for the socioeconomic and cognitive growth of our human resources, and also for development of the nation. It is an instrument for creating change [1]. Education is responsible for converting human resources into productive capital, and higher education is the primary tool for this transformation. Apart from developing leaders for various areas of life: social, intellectual, political, cultural, scientific, and technical, it symbolises a set of higher ideals and a new function [2-5]. A country's intellectual dynamism, resource utility, and economical assets are represented by its youth.

According to Rathod & Ningshen [6], a demographic profile is a set of distinguishing traits of a population. To mention a few, demographics include age, gender, education, nationality, ethnicity, and religion.

The onset of the Covid-19 epidemic offered a significant challenge to the diverse aspects of life's functioning. The education sector had taken one of the hardest hit. This period demanded a rapid transformation of the educational system, which was met with the help of information and communication technologies [7-9]. The study was conducted with the agricultural post graduate students of Uttar Pradesh with the goal of acquiring a better understanding of their personality and behaviour.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in six universities of Uttar Pradesh i.e. Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda, Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, B.H.U. Varanasi, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Naini, Prayagraj and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Modipuram, Meerut. Ten per cent of the whole population of the students pursuing their post-graduation degree were selected which comprises of total of 283 respondents. Frequency distributions, mean, percentage, quantile and Cumulative Square Root techniques were performed to analyse the data.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age: Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents (38.16 per cent) were over the age of 25 years, followed by 31.10 per cent who were under the age of 24 years and 30.74 per cent who were between the age of 24 and 25 years.

Gender: Table 1 reveals that more than half of the respondents were Male (60.42%) followed by 39.58 per cent of female respondents. It shows that female population is still low than male population when it comes to agriculture studies.

Caste: The findings revealed that there is a slight marginal difference between respondents from Other Backward Caste (42.76%) and respondents belonging to General caste (42.05%) followed by Scheduled Caste (14.13%) and Scheduled Tribe (1.06%).

Marital Status: The results suggested that majority (94.70%) of the respondents were Unmarried followed by only 5.30 per cent of married respondents.

Education Level of the students: The results revealed that out of 283 respondents, 72.08 percent of the respondents were pursuing their Master's degree followed by 27.92 per cent of the respondents pursuing their Doctorate degree.

Family Type: Table 1 reveals that more than half of the respondents belonging to Nuclear family (64.31%) followed by 35.68 per cent of respondents belonging to Joint Family setup.

Family Size: The family size results supports the family type findings as more than half of the respondents (57.24%) live with less than 6 members which is considerably nuclear followed by 28.27 percent live in a family size of 6-12 members and 14.49 percent also have a family size of more than 12 members.

Age Less than 24 years 88 31.10 24-25 years 87 30.74 More than 25 years 108 38.16 Gender Male 171 60.42 Female 112 39.58 Caste General 119 42.05 Other Backward Caste 121 42.76 Scheduled Tribe 3 1.06 Marital Status Unmarried 268 94.70 Education Level Masters 204 72.08 Ph.D. 79 27.92 Family Type Nuclear 182 64.31 Joint 101 35.68 Family Size Less than 6 members 162 57.24 Gender More than 12 members 80 28.27 Student Rural 179 63.25 Background Urban 104 36.75 Educational Illiterate 8 2.83 Father a) Primary 39 2.83 <	Attributes	Category	f	%
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High (more than 500000) 69 24.38		High (more than 500000)	69	24.38

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their demographic attributes

S.No.	Particulars	M.	Sc. (Ag)	Ph.D.		Total	
		f	(%)	f	(%)	f	(%)
1	Up to 7.7 OGPA	50	24.51	8	10.13	58	20.49
2	7.8-8.3 OGPA	77	37.75	44	55.70	121	42.76
3	8.4 OGPA and above	77	37.75	27	34.18	104	36.75
Total		204	100	79	100	283	100

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their Academic Achievement (Over All Grade Point)

Student Background: It is observed from the table that majority (63.25%) of the respondents are from rural background followed by 36.75 percent of the respondents belonging to urban area. It represents that students from urban background are also getting high interest in agricultural and allied studies.

Educational Background of Father: From the Table 1 it is heartening to know that only 2.83 percent of the fathers are illiterate and majority of them are literate with post-graduation (26.15%) followed by middle school (13.78%), graduation (13.43%), intermediate (10.95%), high school (5.65%) and primary education (2.83%).

Educational Background of Mother: As compared to education of male parent in Table 1 the educational background of the mothers slightly deviate as 16.96 percent women are still illiterate and the rest literate mothers have done graduation (19.43%) followed by primary education (18.73%) and equal percentage (11.66%) of them have done intermediate and post-graduation, high school (11.31%) and middle school (10.25%). It suggests that when it comes to formal study of female, we are still lagging behind in comparison to male. This academic and knowledge gap should be filled to achieve sustainable development of family.

Occupation of Father: It is observed from the Table 1 that the occupation of the fathers is mainly farming (40.28%) followed by working in govt sector (28.98%), private sector (16.25%), business (10.60%), labour (2.12%) and 1.77 percent working in administration. It indicates that the students belonging to family of farmers are more engaged in courses of agriculture field.

Occupation of Mother: It is evident from the Table 1 that majority (80.80%) of the mothers are house wives followed by 8.90 percent working in govt sector, 4.90 percent doing farming, 3.90 percent working in private sector, and around 2

percent of them working as labour and doing business.

n= 283

Family's Income: The table 1 shows that the Family income pattern is uniformly distributed among the respondents as 27.56% have marginal income (less than 60000), 25.80 percent have low income (60001-200000), 24.38 percent have high income (more than 500000) and 22.26 percent have medium (200001-500000) income.

Data presented in the Table 2 revealed that equal percentage (37.75%) of students who are pursuing their Master's degree having between 7.8 to 8.3 OGPA and 37.75 per cent students having 8.4 OGPA and above, followed by 24.51 per cent students having up to 7.7 OGPA. In case of students pursuing their doctorate degree, majority of the students (55.70%) were having 7.8-8.3 OGPA, followed by 34.18 per cent having 8.4 OGPA and above and 10.13 per cent students having up to 7.7 OGPA.

A wealth of literature exists that demonstrates the influence of demographic position on academic achievement, such as Saifi [10] explored the effects of socioeconomic status on student performance. The findings demonstrated that parental education, profession, and household facilities influence student success. Khaliq et al. [11] performed research on Status "Socioeconomic and Students' Achievement Score at Secondary Level: A Correlational Study," and the findings revealed a moderately positive relationship between parental income and students' achievement score, parental educational level and students' achievement score, and parental occupation and students' achievement score.

4. CONCLUSION

The demographic status of parents not only influences academic performance, but also

children low socioeconomic allows from background to compete well with their contemporaries from high socioeconomic background in the same academic environment [12].

As per the findings of the study, it can be concluded that maximum no. of respondents belonged to more than 26 years of age group and were male. Maximum respondents were from Other Backward Caste. Most of the respondents were unmarried. Majority of the respondents were pursuing Master's degree. Equal percentage (37.75%) of students who are pursuing their Master's degree having between 7.8 to 8.3 OGPA and 37.75 per cent students having 8.4 OGPA and above and majority of the students (55.70%) pursuing their doctorate degree were having 7.8-8.3 OGPA. Maximum respondents were from nuclear family type and belonged to rural background. More than half of the respondents had up to 5 members in their family. In case of educational background of parents, father of majority of respondents were educated up to post graduation and in case of educational background of mothers of the respondents, majority of mothers were educated till graduation. In terms of occupation of family, fathers of maximum number of respondents belonged to farmers category while mothers of majority of respondents belonged to house wife category. Maximum number of respondents had a family income less than Rs. 60000 per annum. When it comes to agricultural education, female population remains lower than male population. It implies that in terms of formal education of females, we are still trailing behind from males. This gap should be filled in order to ensure long-term family and nation development.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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> Peer-review history: The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here: https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/88698