

ATTITUDE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think nobody else has thought. Attitude is defined as a complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings, is driving factor in any work and is of prime factor in any research. The investigation was conducted at Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat. Fifty students were selected randomly for study by employing ex post facto research design. Slightly more than half (58 per cent) of the post graduate students held favorable attitude towards research. Whereas, 42 per cent had most favorable attitude towards research. Achievement motivation ($r = 0.425$) and Innovativeness ($r = 0.328$) of post graduate students had a positive and significant correlation with their attitude towards research. The analysis of the findings indicate that high achievement motivation and innovativeness drives the students towards the objectives and help the students to develop favourable attitude towards research. Findings suggest that efforts should be made to change the attitude of the students towards practical oriented education and problem-oriented research activities.

Keywords: attitude, research, postgraduates

INTRODUCTION

“All progress is born of inquiry. Doubt is often better than over confidence, for it leads to inquiry, and inquiry leads to innovation” is a famous Hudson Maxim.

India’s literacy rate is 74.04%. There are many students pursuing higher education in various fields like Agriculture, Engineering, Medicine, Commerce, General science etc., Research is very much needed to add to the existing body of knowledge and also to apply the research findings in practical way for the benefit of mankind.

Attitude is feeling of an individual towards or against something. It is the driving factor in any work and is of prime factor in any research. According to Papanastasiou (2005), it is important to identify the attitudes towards research so that a positive attitude can be developed among students and hence their learning can be facilitated in turn.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the level of attitude of postgraduate students towards research
- (2) To find out the relationship between attitude of postgraduate students and their personal characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted Anand Agricultural University, Anand district of Gujarat. Fifty post graduates

students from B.A. College of Agriculture were selected randomly for study. Ex-post facto design was used for conducting research. All the responses were recorded and transferred to master sheet. They were compiled, scored, tabulated and analyzed to give statistical treatment in such a way that they might give proper answer to the specific objective of the study. Frequency, percentage and Karl Pearson’s coefficient of correlation were used for interpreting the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Attitude of postgraduate students towards research

Table 1: Distribution of the post graduate students according to their attitude towards research

(n=50)

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Per cent
1	Less Favorable (14-32.66 score)	0	00.00
2	Favorable (32.67-51.33 score)	29	58.00
3	Most Favorable (51.34-70.00 score)	21	42.00

It was evident from the Table 1 that more than half (58.00 per cent) of the post graduate students held favorable attitude towards research. Whereas, 42.00 per cent had most favorable attitude. The findings are in line with the findings of Uttamrao, (2012), Yugender Reddy, (2018)

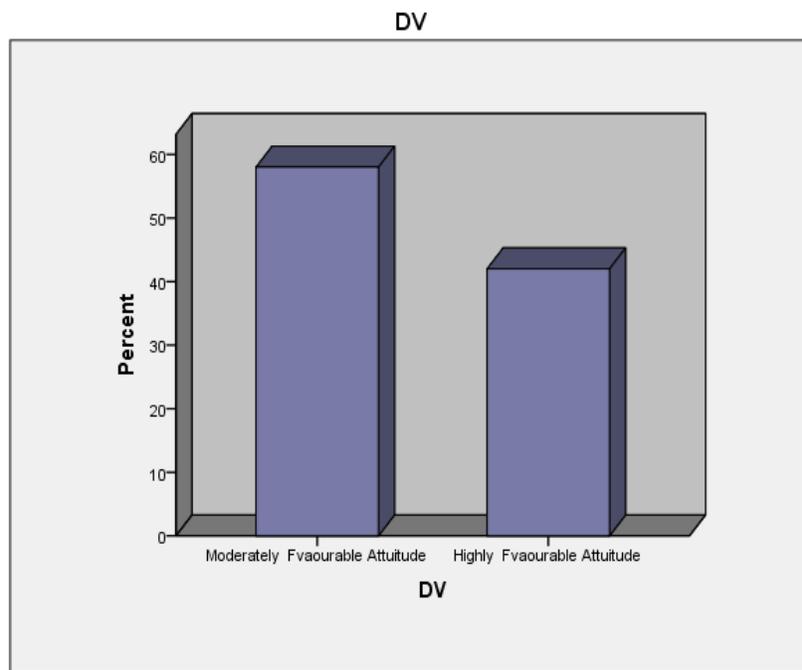


Fig. 1 : Distribution of the post graduate students according to their attitude towards research

It was inferred from the Table 2 that majority (58.00 per cent) of the post graduate students had favorable attitude towards agricultural research. Most of the post graduate students were from the families having moderate literacy level, medium economic condition. All these would have created a favorable condition for higher education.

Relationship between attitude of the postgraduate students towards research and their selected personal characteristics

The relationship between the attitude of post graduate students towards research and the selected independent variables viz. their age, academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, father’s education, family occupation, family income, caste, number of family members, native of the student, achievement motivation, innovativeness about were measured by computing “Coefficient of correlation (r)”. The data have been presented in Table 2.

It could be observed from the above Table 3 that out of the 11 variables, two variables namely achievement motivation and innovativeness of post graduate students had a positive and significant correlation with their attitude towards research and rest nine variables did not show any relationship.

Table 2: Relationship between attitude of post graduate students towards research with independent variables (n=50)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient
X ₁	Age	0.027 NS
X ₂	Academic achievement	0.37 NS
X ₃	Fathers education	- 0.156 NS
X ₄	No. of members in family	0.010 NS
X ₅	Caste	-0.147 NS
X ₆	Family income	0.147 NS
X ₇	Family occupation status	-0.021 NS
X ₈	Native of the student	-0.036 NS
X ₉	Participation in extra-curricular activities	0.103 NS
X ₁₀	Achievement Motivation	0.425**
X ₁₁	Innovativeness	0.328*

* = Significant at 0.05 level

NS = Non-significant

** = Significant at 0.01 level

Achievement Motivation and Attitude

A look in to the Table 2 makes it clear that achievement motivation of the postgraduate students had positive and highly significant correlation ($r = 0.425^{**}$) with their attitude towards research.

It means achievement motivation affect the attitude of postgraduate students towards research. This may be due to the reason that high achievement motivation drives the students towards the objectives and help the students to develop favourable attitude towards research.

Innovativeness and Attitude

As it is apparent from the data presented in the Table 3, innovativeness had positive significant correlation ($r = 0.328^{**}$) with the attitude.

This indicates that innovativeness had positive influence on shaping attitude of postgraduate students towards research. This may be due to the reason that research is innovating the things or re-discovering the facts. High degree of innovativeness in students encourages them to do research and this creates a positive disposition towards research.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that among all the students, 58.00 per cent of the students have favorable attitude towards research and rest (42.00 per cent) falls under most favorable attitude. Achievement motivation and innovativeness of post graduate students had a positive and significant correlation with their attitude towards research and rest nine variables did not show any relationship. This may be due to the fact that high achievement motivation and innovativeness drives the students towards the objectives and help the students to develop favourable attitude towards research.

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