

## Consequence of Profile of Woman Research Scholars on Their Computer Proximity

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### ABSTRACT

*Consequence of profile of woman research scholars of four SAUs of Gujarat state of India on their computer proximity was studied using Ex-post facto research design. The data were collected through the personal interview of the randomly selected 100 woman research scholars studying Masters and Ph.D in Agriculture, Dairy Technology, and veterinary science. The result indicated that majority (91.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars of SAUs had medium to high level of overall computer proximity. The computer proximity of the woman research scholars was observed positively significantly related with their academic performance, father's education, knowledge of different languages, and exposure in student's curricular activity, scientific orientation, achievement motivation, self confidence and innovation proneness while it was observed negatively significant with education. The computer proximity of the woman research scholars was failed to show any significant correlation with their age, mother's education, habit of information collection, native place, type of family, wish to migrate abroad, wish to get higher academic degree, library exposure, job preference, competition orientation and computer anxiety.*

**Keyword:** *Cousequences, computer proximity*

### Introduction

In present age of information and technology, computer has been considered as an important tool to carry out almost any possible tasks like business, teaching, and research and learning etc. in fast and efficient ways. To perform such works more efficiently as per the demand of present time, it is projected that students, scientists and educationists of SAUs need to be updated with latest research, communication and transfer of technology related technologies like computer and information technology. In the development of Indian agriculture, contribution of women is well accepted by policy makers, planners and academicians. Many experts have suggested that to develop agriculture as whole, there is need to encourage women to work as agricultural educationists, researchers and extension educationists to motivate, empower and accelerate effectiveness of farmwomen in agricultural development.

Understanding this, to know existing computer proximity of the woman students involved in agricultural higher education and research of SAUs of Gujarat for the development of their personality as well to develop the

agriculture, a study was conducted with following two objectives:

- 1 To study computer proximity of woman research scholars SAUs of Gujarat
- 2 Consequence of profile of woman research scholars on their computer proximity

### METHODOLOGY

For this study, 45 women research scholars from Anand Agricultural University, 18 from Junagadh Agricultural University, 20 from Navsari Agricultural University and 17 from Dantiwada Sardarkrushinagar Agricultural University were proportionately selected using simple random sampling method, thus a random sample of 100 woman research scholars as respondents was selected for the study. Ex-post facto research design was applied for this study. Kerlinger (1976) stated that ex-post facto research design is worthy to apply when the independent variable has already acted upon. The interview schedule was used as a tool for collection of requisite information. The statistical

tools like mean, standard deviation and Pearson’s coefficient of correlation technique were used to analyze data.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Overall computer proximity**

It is degree of knowledge, skill, attitude and total attachment and involvement of woman research scholars with computer and its applications.

**Table: 1 Distribution of the woman research scholars as per overall computer proximity n=100**

Sr. No.	Overall computer proximity	Number	per cent
1	Low ( below 58.34 score)	09	09.00
2	Medium (58.34 to 79.50 score)	74	74.00
3	High ( above 79.50 score)	17	17.00

It was measured considering ten different indicators in terms of, (1).Degree of knowledge of computer operation (2). Attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment (3). Total experience of computer use (4). Frequency of computer use (5). Purpose of computer use (6). Possession of computer (7). Training taken on computer applications (8). Basic knowledge of internet (9). Attitude towards internet and (10).Practical application of computer of the woman research scholars of the SAUs of Gujarat.

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that majority (74.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars of SAUs had medium level of overall computer proximity, followed by 17.00 per cent and 9.00 per cent of them had high and low level of overall computer proximity, respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that majority (91.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars of SAUs had medium to high level of overall computer proximity. The result indicated that the woman research scholars of SAUs had taken much interest to collect useful information and communicate messages through computer. As mentioned earlier that the woman research scholars of SAUs have to play triple roles in future like educationist, researcher and extension educationist, to play such roles effectively, they need to acquaint latest information and maintain live contacts with other officers, extension educationists, teachers and scientists of the country and world. In addition to this, they have to read, study, publish and present their research work in state, national and

international level journals. To do all such jobs timely, they might have realized the computer and facilities connected with it, this might be the reason to have medium to high level of overall computer proximity among the majority of the woman research scholars of SAUs. The result was in line with results reported by Backer (1999), Becky *et al.* (1999), Anonymous (2001) and Krishnatray and Kulshrestha (2002).

**Consequence of profile of woman research scholars on their computer proximity**

**Table 2 : Consequence of profile of woman research scholars on their computer proximity n=100**

Sr. No.	Independent variable	“r” Value
<b>I Personal variable</b>		
1	Age	-0.054 NS
2	Education	-0.215 *
3	Academic performance	0.215 *
4	Father’s Education	0.241 *
5	Mother’s Education.	0.170 NS
6	Knowledge of different languages	0.247 *
7	Habit of information collection	0.191 NS
<b>II Social variable</b>		
8	Native place	-0.099 NS
9	Type of family	-0.072 NS
<b>III Situational variables</b>		
10	Wish to migrate abroad	0.138 NS
11	Wish to get higher academic degree	0.149 NS
12	Library exposure	0.034 NS
13	Exposure in student’s curricular activity	0.219 *
<b>IV Psychological variables</b>		
14	Job preference	0.124 NS
15	Scientific orientation	0.221 *
16	Competition orientation	-0.109 NS
17	Achievement motivation	0.211 *
18	Computer anxiety	0.117 NS
19	Self confidence	0.247 *
20	Innovation proneness	0.217 *

\* Significant at 0.05 level, NS = Non-significant

**Personal and social profile and computer proximity**

The data in Table 2 revealed that there was negative non significant relationship between age of the woman research scholars of SAUs and their level of overall computer

proximity reflecting level of overall computer proximity of the woman research scholars did not affect by their age. While, there was found negative and significant relationship between education of the woman research scholars and their computer proximity. The result reflecting that computer exposure was observed better among M.Sc. research scholars than woman research scholars of Ph.D. Starting stage of research study is Master degree course in agriculture and its allied fields is an important corridor so scholars need to take effective action to know the thrust area of research and present the results of their research work by understanding and reviewing research related literature to support their research findings. In addition to this, they also need information of job opportunities and carrier developments. This might be the reason to have significantly higher level of computer proximity among Master degree scholars as compared to research scholars of PhD degrees.

There was positive and significant relationship found between academic performance, level of fathers' education and knowledge of different languages of the woman research scholars and their computer proximity. The significantly positive value of coefficient of correlation specified that degree of computer proximity of the woman research scholars was better among those research scholars, who had higher level of academic performance. It is natural that woman research scholars with high level of academic performance means they are active in their study and research, such individuals have always eagerness to know novel ideas and apply them to prove better than others. Such eagerness and zeal so considering computer with internet as one of its kinds of mean to collect information might have motivated them to make more use of computer. The result shows that level of computer proximity of those scholars was better; whose fathers' education level was higher. Considering value of computer with internet for gathering constructive information for the learning, the learned fathers might have aggravated their girl children to make productive use of computer. The positive and significant relationship between knowledge of different languages and computer proximity designates that level of computer proximity of those woman research scholars was higher, who had knowledge of more number of languages. It is natural that person who knows more numbers of languages and using it with different people as communicator, interpreter means she is more capable to know information available in different languages. The result was in line with the results reported by Patel (2007).

The result of Table 2 indicates that level of mother' education of woman research scholars was positively but insignificantly associated with computer proximity of the woman research scholars. The result shows that level of computer proximity of scholars with higher or lower level of education was almost similar. It can also be said that in motivating their girl children to make positive use of computer, more role of father was observed then mothers. Understanding usefulness of computer for the personality development and collection of useful information for the study, the educated and less educated or non educated mothers might have allowed their husbands to motivate their girl children to make constructive use of computer.

The data presented in Table 2 indicated positive and non significant relationship between habit of information collection of the woman research scholars and their level of overall computer proximity. The result indicated that level of computer proximity was identical with irrespective degree habit of collecting information of woman research scholars. The result indicates that person with or without having habit to collect information had realised significance of computer in their daily life.

The relationship between computer proximity of the woman research scholars with their native place and family type was observed non significant. The result indicates that the level of computer proximity was almost identical between the research scholars coming from rural area or urban areas. It can be argued that understanding importance of computer woman research scholars coming from rural and urban areas have understood application computer in their daily life. Also it can be said that the woman research scholars from joint and nuclear family had indistinguishable level of computer proximity.

#### **Situational profile and computer proximity**

The figure presented in Table 2 indicated that there was positive non-significant relationship between willingness of the woman research scholars to go abroad and wish to get higher academic degree with their level of computer proximity. It is interesting to note that accepting computer as a smart mean to develop them; the woman research scholars with desire to settle either in India or abroad tried to engage similarly with Internet. Nowadays, in developing country like India also, in daily life computer and internet have become important parts of the young people, thus woman research scholars with desire to settle in India had also similar interest and exposure of computer and internet. The woman

research scholars with desire to go for further academic degree had equivalent degree of computer proximity with those woman research scholars, who had no desire to go for next academic degree. It means that research scholars who wanted to earn higher degrees realized the usefulness of computer for their academic carrier. The research scholars who did not want to earn higher degrees might have also understood that the computer is best mean to get information on various professional institutions and different companies and organizations for their professional carriers.

### **Psychological profile and computer proximity**

The positive and non significant values in table 2 divulge that the level of computer proximity was found identical between high jobs preferred woman research scholars and low job preferred woman research scholars. The calculated 'r' value was found positively significant between the scientific orientation of the research scholars and their level of computer proximity.

It is true that scientifically oriented research scholars are likely to have more proximity to use latest and modern scientific approaches in their researches and studies. It was logical to imagine that research scholars with better scientific orientation means they have more progressive and favorable sensitivity towards innovative approaches.

The data in Table 2 revealed that there was negative and non significant relationship between competition orientation and computer anxiety of the woman research scholars with their level of computer proximity. The results indicate that level of computer proximity was observed comparable among those research scholars, who had higher ability, activeness and involvement for projecting their excellence in any professions and the research scholars who were less competent person with mentality to collect information for their better life just to be aware the things going on around to her. It is natural that person with positivism to develop his professional carrier will be hungrier of information and innovative ideas and the person who is not much competent but is creative and having curiosity may have also high level of computer proximity. This might be the reason to have comparable level of computer proximity with various levels of competition orientation woman research scholars. The result indicated that computer nervousness did not play any role on the computer proximity of woman research scholars. This might be due to low to medium level of computer anxiety among majority of woman research scholars.

The Table 2 indicated that achievement motivation of the woman research scholars was found positively and significantly related with their level of computer proximity. It means that level of computer proximity of woman research scholars increased with increase in their level of achievement motivation. Achievement motivation is motivating factor to make person active with firm desired to make use of modern technology in her daily life to attain their pre formatting ambition. Such highly achievement motivated people are psychologically prepared to be an important part of any activity by which they can achieve something in life.

Table 2 brings to light that relationship between self confidence and innovation proneness of woman research scholars and their level of computer proximity observed positively significant. It is natural that the person with high degree of self-confidence will always try to do everything without any fear; this makes him more positive in using any modern technology also. This might be the reason to have higher level of Internet exposure among those research scholars, who had high level of self confidence. The study specifies that research scholars with positive state of interest and desire to seek changes in their researches had elevated level of computer proximity. This kind of awareness and interest always makes woman research scholars more enthusiastic in collecting useful information be able to do more innovative work in their studies.

### **CONCLUSION**

The result shows that majority (74.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars of SAUs had medium level of overall computer proximity, followed by 17.00 per cent and 9.00 per cent of them had high and low level of overall computer proximity, respectively. The computer proximity of the woman research scholars was observed positively significantly related with their academic performance, father's education, knowledge of different languages, and exposure in student's curricular activity, scientific orientation, achievement motivation, self confidence and innovation proneness while it was observed negatively significant with education.

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## **IMPLICATION**

This study will be obliging to the information technology planners, administrators for straightening computer facility in other educational centers of the state and country. The conclusion of this study says that, for increasing the level of computer proximity of SAUs of the woman research scholars, knowledge of different languages, involvement in extra curricular activities, scientific orientation, achievement motivation, self confidence and innovation proneness significantly affect to the level of computer proximity. Thus, it can be suggested that to give best results of computer proximity, with the help of proper guidance such characteristics should be developed. The conclusion of this study exposed that majority of the woman research scholars of SAUs had medium to high level proximity of computer. The modern science, expertise, information, talent and knowledge are foremost tools for the development of any research, teaching and extension institutions. They have been measured as pointers of human resource development, which illustrate the scholarly property of human being including educationists, researchers and extensionists concerned in developmental efforts. As a result of this, agricultural woman research scholars of SAUs have profitably penetrated into the computer learning system and practiced high scope of this facility for the general improvement of farming community of the Gujarat.

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