

## FACTORS AFFECTING THE ATTITUDE OF THE WOMAN RESEARCH SCHOLARS TOWARDS THE USE OF COMPUTER FOR THEIR EMPOWERMENT

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### ABSTRACT

*The result indicates that majority (83.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars of SAUs of Gujarat had neutral to favorable attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment. There was positive and significant impact of academic performance, father's and mother's education, knowledge of different languages, job preference, scientific orientation, achievement motivation, self confidence and innovation proneness of the research scholars in forming their positive attitude towards the use of computer. While, feelings towards computer application for their empowerment was observed identical among those woman research scholars who had low to high level of information collection behaviour, willingness or unwillingness to get higher academic degree, wish to migrate abroad or settle in India, low to high level of orientation of competition and, low to high level of anxiety to make use of computer in their daily life.*

### INTRODUCTION

For agricultural development of India, role and contribution of women is well accepted by strategy makers, planners and academicians. Many experts have suggested that to develop agriculture as whole, there is need to encourage women educationists, researchers and extension educationists to motivate and contribute significantly to the half of woman force involved in the agriculture. From last two decades, considerable women students have shown their interest to be a part of agricultural education, research and extension activities. It is high time to give confidence and build up capabilities of women agricultural students through the use of computer and information technology. It is noticed that as compared to male, women's participation in agricultural education, research and extension activities is quite less.

In recent era of information and technology, innumerable types of software are accessible to carry out almost any possible task using built-in rules and procedures. These programmes offer fast and efficient ways to conduct any kinds of

work, business, teaching, research, learning and education. It is observed that due to many reasons as explained earlier, many agricultural woman students do not take real advantages of computer application for the development. It is therefore, there is a need to examine the major problems and issues associated with it.

Accepting this, to know existing feeling of the woman students involved in agricultural higher education and research of SAUs of Gujarat towards computer in using this classic equipment for the development of their personality, a study was conducted on their feelings towards computer

### 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, finally a random sample of 100 woman research scholars were randomly and proportionately selected for the study. Ex-post facto research design was applied for this study. The interview schedule

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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.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1 Level of attitude of the woman research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment

The attitude of the woman research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment is one of the important factors to expect their high quality proximity with computer.

Attitude is encouraging or depressing sensitivity of human being connected with any thing, person or technology. In the current investigation, attitude has been conceptualized as positive or negative feelings of woman research scholars towards computer and worth of its functions for their empowerment. To measure this, researchers had developed and standardized attitude scale adopting appropriate statistical procedure. The attitude towards the use of computer of woman research scholars for their empowerment was measured and result is presented in the Table 1.

**Table 1 : The women research scholars as per their attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment** n=100

Sr. No.	Attitude towards the use of computer	Number	Per cent
1	Unfavorable (below 38 score)	17	17.00
2	Neutral (38 to 47 score)	65	65.00
3	Favorable (above 47 score)	18	18.00

Table 1 indicates that majority (65.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars possessed neutral attitude towards computer application, while slightly less than one-fifth (18.00 per cent) of them were found with favourable attitude towards the use of computer and almost similar per cent (17.00 per cent) of woman research scholars were with unfavourable attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment. It can be said that majority (83.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars were having neutral to favorable attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment. It means majority of the woman research scholars were very positive to recognize application of computer in their everyday life for their personal development. This might be due to the recognition and understanding amongst the woman research scholars about tremendous usefulness of computer and its application to make them empower for future work in the field of agricultural extension, research and academic work more smooth and successful. This result was in line with the results of Patel (2007), Joshi (2009) and partially in the line with the result reported by Shah (2006).

### 2 Factors affecting the attitude of the woman research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment

Table 2 indicates that there was positive and significant impact of academic performance, father's education, and mother's education, knowledge of different languages, job preference, scientific orientation, achievement motivation, self confidence and innovation proneness of the research scholars in forming their positive attitude towards the use of computer. The result says that intelligent woman research scholars with high level of academic performance were more atheistic and positive towards computer considering it as an important tool to know valuable information available on internet for their future progress. The result was in line with the result reported by Bhatnagar (1994).

The result shows that attitude towards the use of computer of those scholars was better; whose fathers' and mother's education level was advanced. Understanding usefulness of internet for the personality development and collection

**Table 2 : Factors affecting the attitude of the woman research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment**

n=100

Sr. No.	Independent variable	"r" Value	
1	Age	-0.121	NS
2	Education	-0.064	NS
3	Academic performance	0.209	*
4	Father's Education	0.257	*
5	Mother's Education.	0.222	*
6	Knowledge of different languages	0.251	*
7	Habit of information collection	0.135	NS
8	Native place	-0.030	NS
9	Type of family	0.015	NS
10	Wish to migrate abroad	-0.008	NS
11	Wish to get higher academic degree	0.071	NS
12	Library exposure	-0.057	NS
15	Exposure in student's curricular activity	-0.049	NS
11	Job preference	0.220	*
14	Scientific orientation	0.212	*
16	Competition orientation	0.069	NS
17	Achievement motivation	0.236	*
18	Computer anxiety	-0.058	NS
19	Self confidence	0.294	*
20	Innovation proneness	0.243	*

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

of useful information for the study, the educated fathers and mothers might have motivated their children to think positively towards the use of computer. The result indicates that attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment of those research scholars was favorable, who had knowledge of more number of languages and increased level of their job preference. In this study it was observed logical that research scholars with better scientific orientation had more progressive and favorable sensitivity towards innovative approaches. As a result of this, more positive attitude towards the use of computer was observed who had elevated scientific orientation.

It was found interesting that there was more positive attitude towards computer application that had higher realistic estimate to reach and acquire pre-decided goal in the life. As a result

of this, more positive attitude towards the use of computer was observed among those woman research scholars, who had high level of achievement motivation. The result indicates that self confidence of the woman research scholars played role up to significant extent to improve their attitude towards the use of computer. The woman research scholars with positive or negative state of interest and desire to seek changes in their research, study and learning were equally positive towards the applications of computer. The result reported was in line with the finding reported by Lee and Liu (2009), Chauhan (2004) and Patel (2007).

The additional part of the results indicate the attitude towards application of computer of the woman research scholars was not affected by their other characteristics viz. age, Education, habit of information collection, native place, type of

family, wish to migrate abroad, wish to get higher academic degree, library exposure, exposure in student's curricular activity, competition orientation and computer anxiety. It means that positivism towards computer of woman research scholars was seen identical amongst there irrespective level of their age, Education, habit of information collection, native place, type of family, wish to migrate abroad, wish to get higher academic degree, library exposure, exposure in student's curricular activity, competition orientation and computer anxiety

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The outcome indicates that majority (83.00 per cent) of the woman research scholars of SAUs of Gujarat had neutral to favorable attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment. There was positive and significant role of academic performance, father's and mother's education, knowledge of different languages, job preference, scientific orientation, achievement motivation, self confidence and innovation proneness of the research scholars in forming their positive attitude towards the use of computer. It was also observed that the attitude towards application of computer of the woman research scholars or their empowerment was not affected by their other characteristics viz. age, education, habit of information collection, native place, type of family, wish to migrate abroad, wish to get higher academic degree, library exposure, exposure in student's curricular activity, competition orientation and computer anxiety.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

This result gives us ample support to suggest creating computer facility in all research, academic and extension related institutions of India to satisfy information, research related and academic needs and interests of research scholars with irrespective

level of their . age, education, habit of information collection, native place, type of family, wish to migrate abroad, wish to get higher academic degree, library exposure, exposure in student's curricular activity, competition orientation and computer anxiety as well as women research scholars with knowledge of many languages and high levels of scientific orientation, achievement motivation, self confidence and innovation proneness.

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