

Attitude Towards Application of Distance Education in Agriculture Field

Kaushik. G. Khadayta¹, P.M.Bhatt² and H. B. Patel³

1 P.G.Student, B.A.C.A.,Dept. of Ext.Edu., AAU, Anand

2 Institute of Distance Education Anand (IDEA), AAU,Anand

3 Asso. Ext. Edu., DOEE, AAU, Ananad

Emial : pradip55aau@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted for random sample of total 120 agriculture students studying in the final year of graduation in agriculture faculty of State Agricultural Universities of Gujarat during 2013. Agriculture students were interviewed with a structural pre-tested English version. More than one third (35.00 per cent) of the agriculture students had high level of attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field. Further, 34.16 per cent and 29.17 per cent agriculture students had very high and neutral level of attitude. The attitude of agriculture students was observed positive and non-significant with their knowledge of different languages while, variables like library exposure mass media exposure, self confidence and achievement motivation were observed highly significant with their attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field.

Keywords: Distance education, attitude, agriculture students, and correlation

INTRODUCTION

Education in India is seen as one of the ways to upward social mobility. Good education is seen as a stepping stone to a high flying career. Education System in India currently represents a great paradox. Indian professionals are considered among the best in the world are in great demand. This signifies the inherent strength of Indian education system.

The distance education mode was adopted by many universities to meet the ever-growing demand of those students who lacked means to pursue higher education through the regular stream. Distance Education is a system of education suitable for the persons who wanted to enhance their qualifications but were not in a position to attend classes on a regular basis. Such distance courses proved a boon for the service persons as well as others desirous of pursuing higher education. New concept of distance education include supplementary material being used through non-print media, also such as radio, television, computers, laptops, Cd's, through projectors, contact sessions, video lessons and video conferences through satellites. As a result, a large number of in-service persons, professionals, entrepreneurs, job-less youth, school teachers, housewives and old aged free persons made a beeline for admission to distance education study programmes. Although, the students are facing so many problems with regard to Limited subject offered for post

graduate programmes in agricultural studies, less practical exposure and distance educational institution and its facilities especially for application of distance education in agriculture field. So, the study was conducted during 2012-13 at AAU.,Anand with two objectives: (1) to measure attitude of agriculture students towards application of distance education and in agriculture field and (2) know the relationship between profile of the agriculture students and their attitude towards application of distance education and in agriculture field.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted for random sample of total 120 agriculture students studying in the final year of graduation in agriculture faculty of State Agricultural Universities of Gujarat during 2013. Agriculture students were interviewed with a structural pre-tested English version interview schedule. The dependent variable like attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field was measured with the help of scale developed by Patel (2009). Coefficient of correlation was calculated to find out the relationship between each of the independent variable and dependent variable. The results about attitude towards application of distance education and relationship between communicational as well as psychological factors of the agriculture college students and their attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field are presented here.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Attitude refers to the feelings of like, dislike, attraction, repulsion, interest or apathy of students towards application of distance education in agricultural field.

Table 1: Distribution of The Agriculture Students According to Their Attitude Towards Application of Distance Education in Agriculture Field. n = 120

| Sr. No. | Categories | Frequency | Per cent |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | Most unfavorable (8.0 to 14.4 score) | 00 | 00.00 |
| 2 | Unfavorable (14.5 to 20.8 score) | 02 | 01.67 |
| 3 | Neutral (20.9 to 27.2 score) | 35 | 29.17 |
| 4 | Favorable (27.3 to 33.6 score) | 42 | 35.00 |
| 5 | Highly favorable (33.7 to 40.0 score) | 41 | 34.16 |

As per findings, result indicate in table 1 and fig.1 that nearly three fourth (69.16 per cent) of the agriculture students had favorable to highly favorable attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field. Further, slightly more than one fourth (29.17 per cent) of the agriculture students had neutral attitude. Only a meager (01.67 per cent) of the agriculture students had unfavorable attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field.

Probable reason for above findings might be that earn higher degree while working, scope for getting a good job, and distance learning mode provide an opportunities for those students who are uncompleted their study due to some difficulties. High level of self confidence and very high level of achievement motivation they tend to more self confident might be influenced them would make conscious to achieve their ambition.

The data depicted in Table 2 make it clear that the major constraints faced by the agriculture students had, Possibility to give less practical exposure (20.00 per cent), Unavailability of scientific instruments and internet facilities for students at their home

Table 2 : Relationship between profile of agriculture students and their level of attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field n = 120

| Sr. No. | Independent variables | Correlation coefficients ('r' value) |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| I Communicational characteristics | | |
| 1 | Knowledge of Different languages | 0.1403 NS |
| 2 | Mass media exposure | 0.2351** |
| 3 | Library exposure | 0.2072* |
| II Psychological characteristics | | |
| 4 | Self confidence | 0.2413** |
| 5 | Achievement motivation | 0.2422** |

NS = Non-significant * = Significant at 0.05 level
** = Significant at 0.01 level

The data from the fig.1 and table 2 shows that the knowledge of different languages of agriculture students had positive and non- significant (r = 0.1403 NS) relationship whereas, mass media exposure had positive and significant (r = 0.2351**) as well as library exposure had positive and significant correlation (r=0.2072*) with their attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture. With regard to psychological characteristics, the in table 2 revealed that, self confidence of the agriculture students had positive and highly significant relationship (r=0.3234**) and achievement motivation had positive and highly significant correlation (r = 0.2422**) with their attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field.

It might be due to better exposure, favorable situation created by organization, possessing of high level of confidence, involvement in different student's developmental activities and they ready to face new challenges with a strong favorable attitude. The findings also stated that high degree of attitude might have due to high degree of self confidence as well as achievement motivation possessed by agriculture students. Highly achievement motivated people are psychologically prepared to be an important part of any activity by which they can achieve something in life. Hence, better level of achievement motivation makes them more knowledgeable and prompt to plan in achieving of their future goals. This might be the probable reason for above findings.

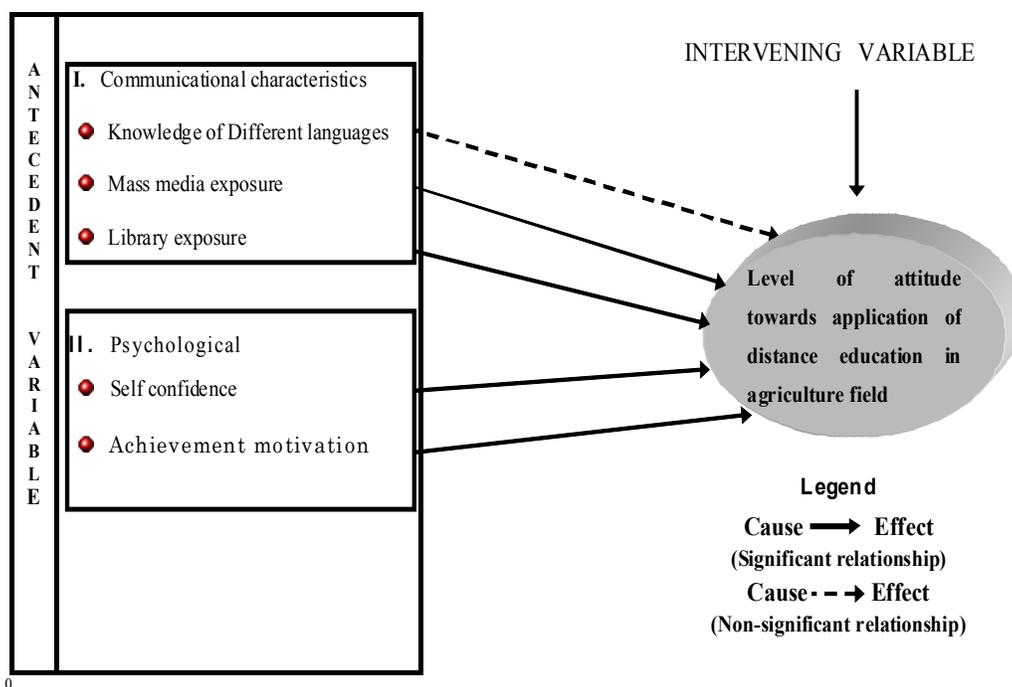


Fig. 1 : Relationship between profile of agriculture students and their level of attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field.

CONCLUSION

As per findings, result indicate that nearly three fourth (69.16 per cent) of the agriculture students had favorable to highly favorable attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field. Communicational as well as psychological factors of the agriculture college students played a greater role with their attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field. Further, The attitude of agriculture students was observed positive and non-significant with their knowledge of different languages while variables like library exposure mass media exposure, self confidence and achievement motivation were observed highly significant with their attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture field.

REFERENCES

Belfield, O.R. and Levin, H.M. (2003). Economics of Higher Education, U.K. EE Publishers.

Kerlinger, F.N. (1976). Foundation of behavioural research, surjeet publication, Delhi-7, pp.129.

Patel, M.C. and Chauhan, N, B (2012). Attitude towards application of distance education in agriculture and allied field- scale development. *Indian research Journal of ext. Edu.*, 12(1): 71-72.

Pattar, Sanjeevkumar (2010). Development of scale to measure the attitude of agricultural graduates towards agro-tourism as an enterprise. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis, AAU, Anand.

Sasane, V. R. (2009). Information technology used by the post graduate students of Agriculture. M.Sc. Theses. M.A.U., Parbhani (Maharashtra).

Received : June 2013 ; Accepted : November 2013