

DETERMINANTS OF ATTITUDE OF THE POST GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS TOWARDS THE USE OF COMPUTER FOR THEIR EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

The challenge in adopting computerization in day-to-day work is a prominent need of the hour for the practical, speedy and efficient work. Development in any field is possible through application of information and communication technology. The use of information and communication technology is also realized in the overall development of agriculture. The efficient use of Information Technology can help the research scholars for their independent learning and research activities. Keeping in view in mind, the present study was undertaken. Total 120 Post Graduate students were selected randomly from the Post Graduate students of B. A. College of Agriculture at Anand Agricultural University. The result revealed that academic performance (0.335), fathers' education(0.255), mothers' education(0.347), wish to get higher academic degree(0.211), job preference(0.292), total experience of computer use (0.263), frequency of computer use (0.218), possession of computer(0.219) and basic knowledge of internet(0.257) were significant and positive correlation with their attitude of post-graduate research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment, whereas, age (0.157), education (0.047), knowledge of different languages (0.080), habit of information collection (0.148), type of family (0.023), wish to migrate abroad (0.102), library exposure (0.090), participation in extra-curricular activities (0.043) and training taken (0.186) were failed to show significant correlation of attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment.

Keywords: academic performance, empowerment, attitude

INTRODUCTION

Computers, which were primarily used for mathematical concerns at its birth, have had their unique place in every part of our lives. The computer is an important resource not only because of its unique control capabilities, but because these attributes are also isomorphic with the representations and processes involved in human learning. Now, in the modern era of rapid advancement, computer based IT presents unique opportunities for everybody. It promises better economic prospect, fuller political participation, the opportunity of communication with the outside world, easy access to information and an enhanced ability to acquire education and skill and to transcend social restriction to their stride. ICT related skills for enhancing the presentation of classroom work, teaching/learning repetitive tasks, teaching/learning intellectual, thinking and problem solving skills, stimulating creativity and imagination; for research by teachers and students, and as communication tool. Computer has been considered as an important tool to carry out almost any

possible tasks. It offers fast and efficient ways to accomplish learning tasks. Starting from very small work to amazing task, the computer has become part and parcel of life. In the field of education, research and development also it has significant potential to strengthen effectiveness of academicians, research scholars and officeholder. The agriculture education, research and extension are associated with computer are highly expected. B. A. College of Agriculture, contributing to developing and training personnel for agricultural research, education and extension education. To perform such works more efficiently as per the demand of present time, it is projected that students, scientists and educationists of woman scholar researcher of B.A. College of Agriculture need to be updated with latest research, communication and transfer of technology. Many experts have suggested that to develop agriculture as whole, there is need to encourage research scholars to work as agricultural educationist, researchers and extension educationists to motivate, empower and accelerated effectiveness of farmwoman in agricultural development.

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To study the level of attitude of the post-graduate research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment.
- (b) To identify the factors influencing the level of attitude of the post-graduate research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted on post-graduate students of B. A. College of Agriculture at Anand Agricultural University. The 120 respondents were selected randomly and interviewed personally at their hostel or classroom. The ex-post facto research design was employed for the study. In the present study the level of attitude of the post-graduate research scholars was operationalized as the degree to which the post-graduate research scholars agree or disagree with different aspect of computer use for their empowerment. This variable was measured by using the scale developed by Christian (2010) by slight modification. The scale consisted of ten statements. The collected data were classified, tabulated and analysed with appropriate statistical tools like mean, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As the Table-1 indicates, the majority of the respondents (56.66 per cent) have a highly positive attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment followed by 43.33 per cent have a positive attitude. The result shows that no one of the respondents has negative attitude towards the use of a computer for their empowerment.

Table-1: Distribution of the research scholars according to their level of attitude towards the use of a computer for their empowerment n=120

Sr. No.	Attitude	Frequency	Percent
1	Highly Negative	00	00
2	Negative	00	00
3	Neutral	00	00
4	Positive	52	43.33
5	Highly Positive	68	56.66

Table-2 showed the correlation coefficient between the selected independent variable and level of attitude of the research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment. It is evident from the Table-2 that academic

performance, fathers' education, mothers' education, wish to get higher academic degree, job preference, total experience of computer use, frequency of computer use, possession of computer and basic knowledge of internet were significant and positive correlation with their attitude of post-graduate research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment, whereas, age, education, knowledge of different languages, habit of information collection, type of family, wish to migrate abroad, library exposure, participation in extra-curricular activities and training taken were failed to show any correlation of attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment.

Table 2: Relationship between attitudes of post-graduate research scholars towards the use of computer for their empowerment n=120

Sr. No.	Independent variable	"r" value
A	Personal variables	
X ₁	Age	0.157
X ₂	Education	0.047
X ₃	Academic Performance	0.335 **
X ₄	Education of Father	0.255 *
X ₅	Education of Mother	0.347 **
X ₆	Knowledge of different language	0.080
X ₇	Habit of Information Collection	0.148
B	Social variable	
X ₈	Type of Family	0.023
C	Situational variables	
X ₉	Wish to migrate abroad	0.102
X ₁₀	Wish to get higher academic degree	0.211 *
X ₁₁	Library exposure	0.090
X ₁₂	Extra-curricular activities	0.043
D	Psychological variables	
X ₁₃	Job preference	0.292 *
X ₁₄	Total experience of computer use	0.263 *
X ₁₅	Frequency of computer use	0.218 *
X ₁₆	Possession of computer	0.219 *
X ₁₇	Training taken	0.186
X ₁₈	Basic knowledge of internet	0.257 *

* = significance at 0.05 level **= significance at 0.01 level

(1) Age

The result shows that there is positive and non-significant relationship between age and attitude towards use of computer for their empowerment. And the age doesn't show any significant association with their attitude. At present, everyone uses the computer either for their study or entertainment. So the result shows a non-significant relationship with the age.

(2) Education

The result shows positive and non-significant relationship between education and their attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment. As the higher education demands, students needs more information but they didn't get it from only lectures and text books so the search it from the internet, so they use more computer so the result shows positive relationship.

(3) Academic performance

The result says that intelligent 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 the internet for their future progress. Thus, result shows highly positive and significant result.

(4) Education of Father

The result shows that level of father's education of research scholars was significantly and positively correlated with attitude of the research scholars towards the use of computer. It can be understood that highly educated and knowledgeable fathers positively inspired them to think positively to use recent communication technology for the general enhancement of their awareness and education.

(5) Education of Mother

The result shows that level of mother's education of research scholars was highly significant and positively correlated with the attitude towards the use of computer of research scholars. Accepting usefulness of Internet for the personality development and collection of useful information for the study, the educated mothers might have motivated their children to think positively toward the use of computer.

(6) Knowledge of different languages

The result shows positive and non-significant relationship with the level of attitude of the research scholars towards the use of computer. It is obvious that person who is knowing more numbers of languages and using it with different people as communicator, interpreter, means he/she is mentally more open to know information available in different languages.

(7) Habit of information collection

The result indicates that there is a non-significant relationship between pattern of information collection and

attitude of research scholars towards computer application. The result shows that positivism towards the use of computer for the self-empowerment was seen almost indistinguishable among the research scholars having good or poor habit of information collection.

(8) Type of family

The result shows positive and non-significant relationship between type of household and their attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment. Thus, the null hypothesis accepted that no any significant association between them.

(9) Wish to migrate abroad

The result shows positive and non-significant relationship between their wish to migrate abroad and their attitude towards the use of computer. It is natural that if one wants to migrate abroad they refer more sites and more use internet to get updated with abroad polices, so they show positive correlation with their attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment.

(10) Wish to get a higher academic degree

The result shows positive and significant relationship between their wish to get higher academic degree and their attitude towards the use of computer. It means the research scholars use more computer for getting more information which would help them for achieving higher knowledge for the higher academic degree.

(11) Library exposure

The result discloses positive and non-significant relationship between library exposure of the research scholars and their attitude towards the use of computer indicating that library exposure did not play any role in forming a feeling of the research scholars towards application of computer for their self-empowerment.

(12) Involvement in extra-curricular activities

The data in the Table reveal that there was positive and non-significant relationship between extra-curricular activities of the research scholars and their attitude towards the use of computer. The research scholars with high association in extra-curricular activities like to use more computers to satisfy their curiosity.

(13) Job preference

The relationship between attitude towards the use

of computer of the research scholars and their level of empowerment preference was observed positively significant. It is natural that the person with high degree of preference are more positive to the subject or with her future job so they will always try to involve more and more in their job, this makes them more positive in collecting useful information about the future development and for different kinds of their future professions.

(14) Total experience of computer use

There is positive and significant relationship between total experience of computer use and their attitude towards the use of computer. As the experience of the computer use increases it is obvious that their attitude towards the use of computer is increases.

(15) Frequency of computer use

The result reveals that there is a positively significant relationship between frequency of computer use and their level of computer use. Thus, the null hypothesis rejected, it means the frequency of computer shows significant impact upon the attitude of the research scholars towards the use of computer.

(16) Possession of computer

There is positive and significant relationship between the possession of computer and their level of attitude towards the use of computer. It indicates that if the research scholars have the computer, he/she can use computer as and when they needed and their use of computer increases than those who do not have computer.

(17) Training taken

The result shows positive and non-significant relationship between training taken and their level of attitude towards the use of a computer. It is natural that any training taken by the research scholars, the knowledge of computer applications increases the use computer more efficiently so it increases their level of attitude towards the use of computer.

(18) Basic knowledge of computer:

There is significantly positive relationship between the core knowledge of research scholars and their level of attitude towards the use of computer. It is obvious that as the research scholars have more basic knowledge of computer they use computer more efficiently so it increases their level of attitude towards the use of computer.

CONCLUSION

The inclusion of computer technology and its products in all walks of life has become an inevitable event in the present era. Naturally, the effect of computers has attracted the attention of educationalists and many new insights have emerged as a result of this attraction. Computers are profit tools for individual and student-centered learning, so, it is important to determine student attitudes on the use of computers, because student attitudes have contributed to our understanding of why computers have enhanced achievement and performance and motivation. The result reveals that most of the post-graduate research scholars having age up to 23 years (83.33%) and have First class in their academic performance (61.66%). Most of students have the father (61.66%) and mother (45%) with graduate level education. Most of research scholars came from the rural area (51.66%) and had nuclear family (58.33%). More than 60% of the research scholars do not wish to migrate abroad and about 60% research scholars wish to get higher academic degree. About 90% of the research scholars use computer daily.

The result shows that 43.33% research scholars have positive attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment and 56.66% research scholars have highly positive attitude. The correlation study shows that there is non-significant relationship between age, Education, Knowledge of different languages, Habit of information collection, Native place, Type of family, Wish to migrate abroad, Library exposure, Involvement in extra-curricular activities and Training was taken and their level of attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment. And there is significant relationship between Academic performance, Education of father and mother, Wish to get higher academic degree, Job preference, Total experience of computer use, Frequency of computer use, Possession of computer, and Basic knowledge of Internet and their level of attitude towards the use of computer for their empowerment.

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