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Relationship between the selected independent variables and the awareness of e-resources among the agriculture post graduate students

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Abstract

E-resources have become a way of life for majority of higher education students all around the world. For most universities and college students, the e-resources is the functional tool that has greatly changed the way they interact with each other and with information as they go about their studies. The present study was conducted in S.K.N. College of Agriculture, Jobner. A questionnaire consisting of the measuring devices of different variables along with the face data of the agriculture post graduate students was used for collecting responses of the agriculture post graduate students. There was a positive and significant relationship between the awareness of e-resources of male agriculture post graduate students and their age, academic performance, family income, father's occupation, mother's occupation, father's education and possession of computer devices, whereas in case of female agriculture post graduate students there was a positive and significant relationship between the awareness of e-resources and their age, academic performance, family income, father's occupation, mother's occupation, mother's education and possession of computer devices.

Keywords: E-resources, awareness, agriculture post graduate students

Introduction

Electronic resources deliver the collection of information as full text (aggregated) databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia in the form of CD, tape, internet, web technology, etc. E-resources include e-journals, e-discussions, e-news, data archives, e-mail online chatting, just to mention but a few. Electronic information source are a wide range of products going from electronic periodicals to CD-ROMs, from mailing list to databases, all of them having a common feature of being used and sometime modified by a computer. Electronic information sources are becoming more and more important for the academic community. Therefore, awareness of these information resources is of paramount importance to library development in the 21st century. Awareness is knowledge about something that exists or it is the understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on information or experience. It can also be seen as knowledge or perception of a situation, fact, consciousness, recognition, realization, grasp and acknowledgement concern about and well-informed interest or familiarity in a particular situation or development. opined that students' level of access, usage and awareness of electronic information resources at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria is not high and that the major problem however identified in their study is lack of information retrieval skills for exploiting electronic resources, thus making the level of usage of resources by medical students very low. Awareness and use of electronic information resources is very important so as to keep postgraduate students alert of the available media through which they can access needed information. It is apparent that the use of these electronic information resources require special skills in information and communication technologies (ICTs) that will help students navigate the maze of resources at their disposal via telecommunications channels. It is also imperative to understand the purpose of using electronic information resources by postgraduate students of library and information science.

Methodology

The study was conducted in S. K. N. College of Agriculture, Jobner due to the reason that the S. K. N. College of Agriculture, Jobner is the oldest agriculture college in Rajasthan and has more facilities of access and utilization of e-resources in the college library as compared to other colleges of SKN Agriculture University, Jobner.

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From the SKN College of Agriculture, Jobner a list of all post graduate students (PG) and Ph. D students was prepared with the help of the record of student section of the college. There are 146 PG students (71 male and 75 female) and 56 Ph. D students (36 male and 20 female) i. e a total of 202 PG and Ph. D agriculture students were registered in the first semester during session 2017-18. Out of these a sample of 40 per cent agriculture students was selected by using simple random sampling for the study purpose.

The variables under study were selected on the basis of extensive review of literature related to the subject and by

consultation with experts and finally the variables that were found to be most relevant to the present study were selected. Independent variable-Age, Academic performance, Medium of instruction at school level, Family income, Family background, Father's occupation, Mother's occupation, Father's education, Mother's education and Possession of computer devices. Dependent variable-Awareness of e-resources among the agriculture post graduate students. Tool used to measure variable Questionnaire developed by the investigator.

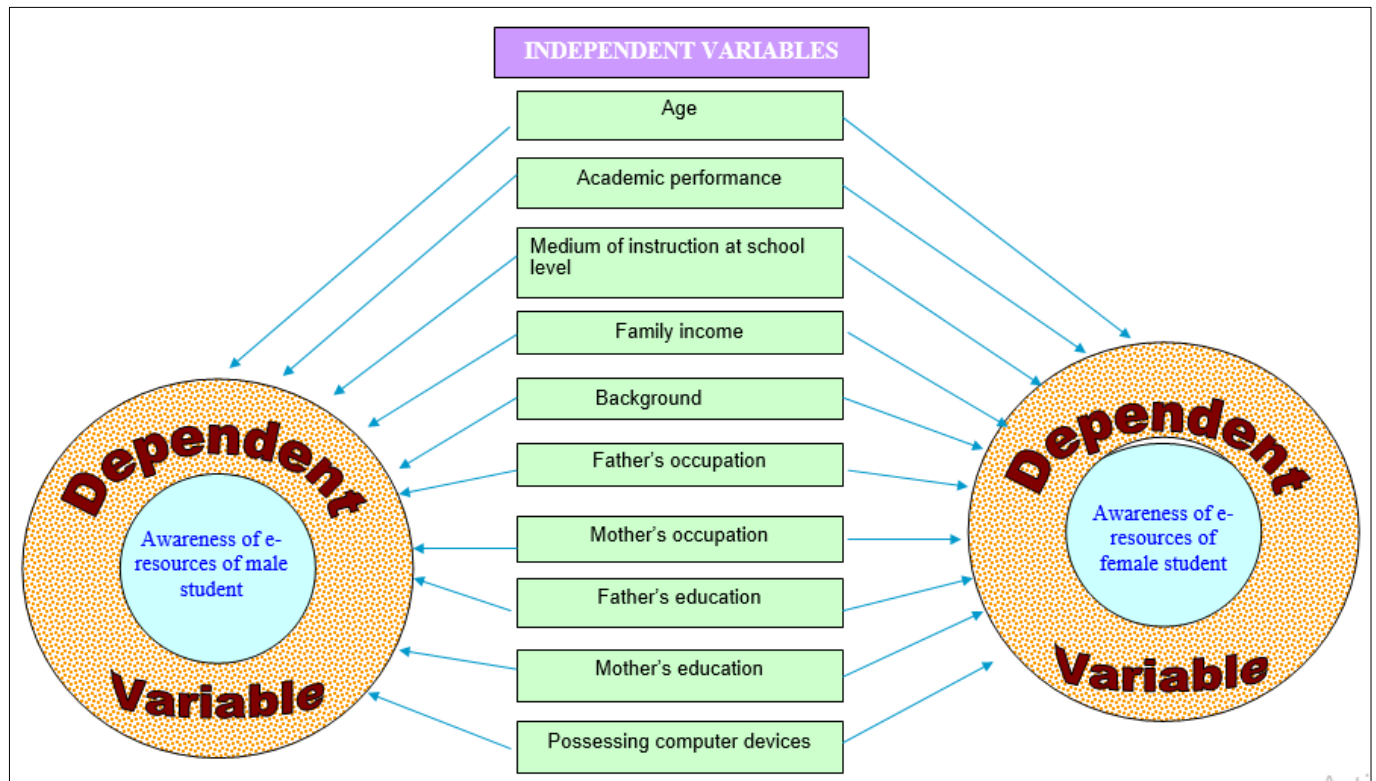


Fig 1: Tentative paradigm showing the relationship between dependent and independent variables

Correlation Coefficient

The correlation coefficient ('r' value) was used to measure the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The correlation coefficient between two groups was calculated by using the following formula.

$$r = \frac{\sum (XY) - \frac{\sum X \sum Y}{n}}{\sqrt{\left[\sum X^2 - \frac{(\sum X)^2}{n} \right] \left[\sum Y^2 - \frac{(\sum Y)^2}{n} \right]}}$$

Where

r = Correlation Coefficient
 X = Independent variable

Y = Dependent variable

n = Total number of respondents

Results and Discussion

The relationship between the selected independent variables and the awareness of e-resources among the agriculture post graduate students of SKNCOA, Jobner

The relationship between the awareness of e-resources of agriculture post graduate students and their independent variables viz. their age, academic performance, medium of instruction at school level, annual family income, background, occupation of father, occupation of mother, father's education, mother's education and possessing computer devices.

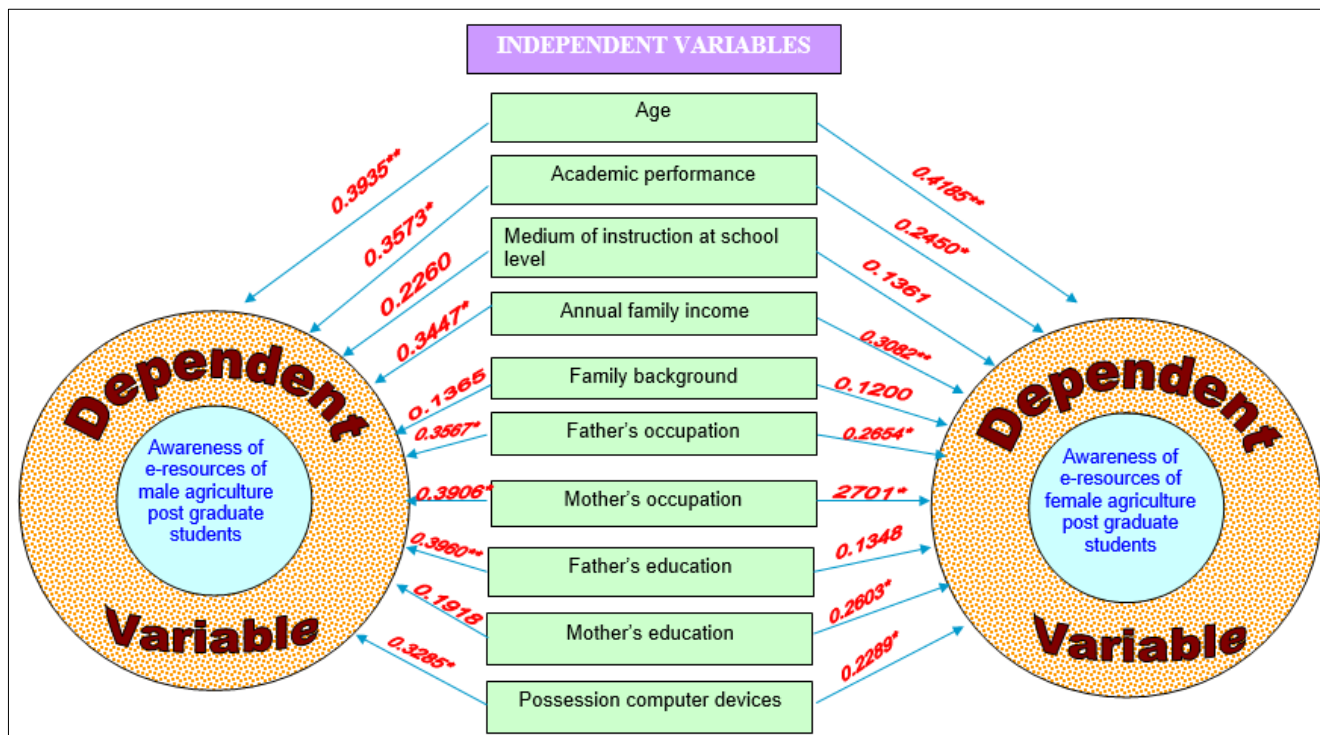


Fig 2: Tentative paradigm showing the relationship between dependent and independent variables

Table 1: Relationship between the selected independent variables and the awareness of e-resources among the agriculture post graduate students of SKNCOA, Jobner n=80

S No.	Variables	'r' Value	
		Male students (n1=42)	Female students (n2=38)
1.	Age	0.3935**	0.4185**
2.	Academic performance	0.3573*	0.2450*
3.	Medium of instruction at school level	0.2260 NS	0.1361 NS
4.	Annual family income	0.3447*	0.3082**
5.	Family background	0.1365 NS	0.1200 NS
6.	Father's occupation	0.3567*	0.2654*
7.	Mother's occupation	0.3906*	0.2701*
8.	Father's education	0.3960**	0.1348 NS
9.	Mother's education	0.1918 NS	0.2603*
10.	Possession of computer devices	0.3285*	0.2289*

Degree of freedom = 2

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS=Non-significant

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

The critical examination of the data presented in table- 1 revealed that in case of the male agriculture post graduate students, their age and father's education were positively and high significantly correlated with their awareness of e-resources at 1 per cent level of significant whereas their academic performance, family income, father's occupation, mother's occupation and possession of computer devices were positively and significantly correlated with their awareness of e-resources at 5 per cent level of significance, In case of female agriculture post graduate students their age and family income were positively and high significance, whereas their correlated with their awareness of e-resources at 1 per cent level of significant and academic performance, father's occupation, mother's occupation, mother's education and possession of computer devices were positively and significantly correlated with their awareness of e-resources at 5 per cent level.

In case of male agriculture post graduate students, their medium of instruction at school level, family background and mother's education were positively and non-significantly

correlated with their awareness of e-resources, whereas in case of female agriculture post graduate students their medium of instruction at school level, family background and father's education were positively and non-significantly correlated with their awareness of e-resources.

This leads to the conclusion that the male agriculture post graduate students' age academic performance, family income, father' occupation, mother's occupation, father's education and possession of computer devices had a significant effect on their awareness of e-resources, whereas in case of female agriculture post graduate student's their age academic performance, family income, father's occupation, mother's occupation, mother's education and possession of computer devices had a significant effect on their awareness of e-resources.

Conclusion

There was a positive and significant relationship between the awareness of e-resources of male agriculture post graduate students and their age, academic performance, family income,

father's occupation, mother's occupation, father's education and possession of computer devices, whereas in case of female agriculture post graduate students there was a positive and significant relationship between the awareness of e-resources and their age, academic performance, family income, father's occupation, mother's occupation, mother's education and possession of computer devices.

There was a positive and non- significant relationship between the awareness of e-resources of male agriculture post graduate students and their medium of instruction at school level, family background and mother's education, whereas in case of female agriculture post graduate students there was a positive and non- significant relationship between the awareness of e-resources and their medium of instruction at school level, family background and father's education.

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