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Job preference of post-graduate students in state agriculture students of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

The study was carried out on M.sc Agriculture students of State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) of Uttar Pradesh. The main aim of the study to find out the job preference of M.sc Agriculture students further it was to also measure whether their career preferences were influenced by their university, and parent's occupation. Out of four SAU two were selected randomly, a sampling frame is made and 60 students of M.Sc. (Ag.) were selected from each university and total 120 students were selected for study. This study has been conducted through personal interview method. It has been observed that 34.99% of respondents give first preference to banking jobs followed by state and central government jobs and it has been observed that their preference was not influenced by the University they were studying and their parent's occupation since majority of respondents chose banking as their job preference.

Keywords: Agriculture, job preference, agricultural education

Introduction

State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are mandated to provide agricultural education, conduct research, and disseminate the latest happenings in agriculture and allied field activities to rural farming communities and their children through education provided by various schools, diploma colleges, and agricultural colleges at various levels (under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral). To put it another way, education in SAUs is inextricably linked to research and extension and these three components cannot be separated logically.

In India, there are 71 universities that only teach agriculture and related fields (horticulture, forestry, fisheries, and animal husbandry). Some states have eight agricultural universities, while others have only one. The number of SAUs in a state is strongly related to its population ($r=0.76$) and geographical area ($r=0.66$). There are also states in the North-East that lack agricultural universities, with the exception of Manipur's Central Agricultural University (CAU). The problems that plague agricultural universities have been highlighted numerous times (Tamboli and Nene 2011) [7]. Some of the most pressing issues, as well as our thoughts on them, are presented here.

Universities that only provide agricultural education account for less than 10% of all universities in India. Similarly, colleges that only provide agricultural education account for less than 1% of all colleges. And enrollment in such colleges is close to 0.5 percent of total enrollment in higher education (All India Survey of Higher Education in India 2016).

Professionalization of agriculture and allied sciences is required. It is critical that agricultural graduates launch large-scale start-up ventures. This necessitates offering special packages to graduates who volunteer to practice agriculture using modern technology. Special concessions and subsidies are required to purchase farm machinery and equipment for the establishment of custom hiring centers, which will act as service providers, facilitators, or mediators between industry and farmers. According to Singh *et al.* (2014) [5], Agriculture graduates preferred administrative and civil services over agro-based private or public jobs. A large number of agriculture graduates continue to attend universities where they can study for competitive exams without the burden of coursework.

Research methodology

The study was conducted among students of Uttar Pradesh's State Agriculture University (SAU), of which two were chosen at random: Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur (CSAUA&T) and Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Ayodhya (ANDUA&T). To control the effect of education level on students, the study was conducted on agriculture postgraduate students.

A list of M.Sc. Agriculture students was compiled from the respective university; there were 428 students enrolled in the first and second years of the M.Sc. (Ag.) programme. These students were divided into three castes: SC/ST, OBC, and General. To minimize sampling error, a total of 120 students were chosen at random as respondents using the proportionate random sampling technique, 60 from each university. The jobs were divided into two categories: government jobs and non-government jobs. Government jobs include sub-categories such as Central, State, Banking, Teaching, Agricultural Scientist for government and Campus Placement, Private/General Jobs, Business and Farming for non-government jobs.

Uni./Category/ Class	A.N.D.U.A.&T. Ayodhya				C.S.A.U.A.&T. Kanpur				All Total
	UR	OBC	SC/ST	Total	UR	OBC	SC/ST	Total	
M.Sc. (Ag.)	96	102	36	234	84	98	31	213	447
1 st & 2 nd	25	26	9	60	24	28	8	60	120

P= Population, S=Sample

Result

Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents (34.99 percent) prefer banking as their job preference because IBPS recruits agriculture students for the agriculture field officer post every year. Solanke, G. K., and Kadam, K. R. (1986) [6] discovered similar results; followed by state government (17.49 percent), central government (16.66 percent), teaching (9.16 percent), and agricultural scientists (7.50 percent).

In terms of non-government jobs, students preferred general or private jobs (5.83 percent), campus placement (4.16 percent), and business (4.16 percent), with no students choosing farming as a job preference. Mridula, N., and Sakeer, H. A. (2020) [2] discovered similar results, with the least preferred job being that of a farmer.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their job preference.

Sr. No.	Career preferences	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percent
A. Government jobs			
1.	Central government jobs	20	16.66
2.	State government jobs	21	17.49
3.	Banking	42	34.99
4.	Teaching	11	9.16
5.	Agricultural scientist	9	7.50
B. Non- government jobs			
1.	General/private jobs	7	5.83
2.	Campus placement	5	4.16
3.	Business	5	4.16
4.	Farming	0	0.00
Total		120	100.00

F= Frequency P= Percentage

To compare the postgraduate students of A.N.D.U.A.&T, Ayodhya and C.S.A.U.A.&T, Kanpur in terms of their preferred career path. Students at both universities priorities banking jobs over farming jobs, but there is a significant difference between students at A.N.D.U.A.&T, Ayodhya and C.S.A.U.A.&T, Kanpur in terms of job preference in other sectors. Banking was the most popular choice among A.N.D.U.A.&T students, followed by state government jobs, central government jobs, teaching, campus placement, agricultural scientists, general and private jobs, and business.

Banking was the top choice for C.S.A.U.A.&T students, followed by central government jobs, state government jobs, teaching, agricultural scientists, general/private jobs, business, and campus placement. Similar results were founded by Singh, S. N., Doharey, R. K., & Srivastava, S. (2014) [3].

Table 2: Career preference of students with relation to their universities.

Sr. No.	Career preferences	A.N.D.U.A.&T. Ayodhya		C.S.A.U.A.&T. Kanpur		Total
		F	P	F	P	
A. Government jobs						
1	Central government jobs	7	35.00	13	65.00	20
2	State government jobs	13	61.90	8	38.10	21
3	Banking	26	61.90	16	38.10	42
4	Teaching	4	36.36	7	63.64	11
5	Agricultural scientist	2	22.22	7	77.78	9
B. Non- government jobs						
1	General/private jobs	2	28.57	5	71.43	7
2	Campus placement	4	80.00	1	20.00	5
3	Business	2	40.00	3	60.00	5
4	Farming	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Total		60	50.00	60	50.00	120

F= Frequency P= Percentage

To see the difference in the job preference of post graduate students with respect to their parents' occupation all the 120 students were divided in three group i.e., Service, business and Agriculture. Detailed information about student's career preference with relation to their parents' occupation have been shown in table no. 3

Table 3: Students career preference with relation to their parents' occupation.

Sr. No.	Career preferences	Business		Service		Agriculture		Total
		F	P	F	P	F	P	
A. Government jobs								
1	Central government jobs	3	15.00	5	25.00	12	60.00	20
2	State government jobs	4	19.05	7	33.33	10	47.62	21
3	Banking	5	11.90	16	38.10	21	50.00	42
4	Teaching	2	18.18	4	36.36	5	45.45	11
5	Agricultural scientist	2	22.22	3	33.33	4	44.44	9
B. Non- government jobs								
1	General/private jobs	0	0.00	3	42.86	4	57.14	7
2	Campus placement	1	20.00	1	20.00	3	60.00	5
3	Business	3	60.00	0	0.00	2	40.00	5
4	Farming	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Total		20	16.67	39	32.50	61	50.83	120

F= Frequency P= Percentage

From the table 3 it is evident that among 120 students, 39 (32.48%) students belong to service class parents, 20 (16.66%) students belong to business class parents and 61 (50.83%) students belong to those parents whose occupation is agriculture. But all the students belonging to these three categories give first preference to banking. It can also be concluded that almost all students of secondary level prefer the same career option and their parent's occupation does not affect the career preference of their children. Similar results were founded by Singh, A. & Singh, J. (2015) [4].

Conclusion

This study was conducted in order to discover or investigate the job preferences of agricultural postgraduate students, as it

is critical to choose a suitable and appropriate career because their life's success is dependent on their decision. According to the findings of the study, the majority of students, regardless of their university or parent occupation, prefer banking jobs, which are released and conducted by IBPS every year. and none of them prefer farming as a mode of transportation. It can also be concluded that the occupation of the respondents' families and the institution where they study has no effect on their carrier preferences.

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