



Problems and Suggestions Encountered in Effective Time Management by Agricultural Graduates

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ABSTRACT

Time cannot be stored or accumulated like material. The present research was carried out to study the Time Management by the Agricultural Graduates. The total sample for the study constituted 45 boys and 45 girl students from the three colleges. The major problems identified by most of the Agricultural Graduates were lack of guidance on time schedule, higher credit hours load per semester, continuous internal and external examination leads to low OGPA etc. Major suggestions emerged were guidance on scheduling activities, alternate days examination, reduction in credit hours per semester, increased concentration etc.

Key words : Agricultural Graduates, Time Management

Many praise the value of time but only a few realize its value. It is vital to inculcate in the minds of the students the Time Management Attitude that will stand them in good stead in blossoming, into worldly wise men with a rich time sense. They are to be motivated to "feel" the intrinsic worth of time so that they may put it to right use. Only, proper planning, setting goals, analyzing the situations and working the plans keeping the deadline in mind will help the students "invest" time for better returns. Keeping this in view the present study was taken up to explore problems and suggestions encountered in effective management of time.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

First year Post graduate Students of Acharya N.G.Ranga Agricultural University from the Faculty of Agriculture of the three colleges *viz.*, Rajendranagar, Bapatla and Tirupati constituted the population of the study. Thus, 15 boys and 15 girl students were randomly selected to be included as a sample for the study from each college. Thus, the total sample for the study constituted 45 boys and 45 girl students from the three colleges. Time management is operationally defined as utilization of time at one's disposal in the best possible way to achieve the maximum advantage towards one's harmonious development in terms of physical, social, emotional and intellectual levels (Kumar et al. 1998).

A comprehensive interview schedule covering all facets of the problem was developed and pre-tested. This was administered to the respondents by the researcher by direct personal investigation method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problems and suggestions encountered in effective management of time

A) Problems in effective Time Management

The problems as perceived by the respondents in effective time management are presented in Table 1. It is revealed from the table that 'lack of guidance on time schedule' was the major problem as perceived by the girl students followed by 'visiting home and family members' 'more credit hours load per semester'. 'more chitchatting with friends' 'continuous internal and external examinations leads to the low OGPA' 'lack of concentration', 'least interest on sports and games', 'frequent ill health', 'feeling of uncertainty about future' and 'no coverage of syllabus who have attended to inter- and intra-university games, NSS and NCC'.

In case of boy students also 'lack of guidance on time schedule' was the major problem. Other problems include 'continuous internal and external examinations leads to low OGPA', 'feeling of uncertainty about future', 'higher credit hours per semester', 'least interest on sports and games', 'lack of concentration', 'no coverage of syllabus who attended to inter- and intra- university games and NSS, NCC', 'more chitchatting with friends', 'visiting home and family members' and 'frequent ill health'.

The data in Table 1 revealed that in case of pooled sample, the major problems identified were 'lack of guidance on time schedule', 'higher credit hours load per semester', 'continuous internal and external examination leads to low OGPA', 'more chitchatting with friends', 'least interest on sports and games', 'lack of concentration', 'feeling of

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their problems in effective time management

S.No. Problem	Girls (n=45)			Boys (n=45)			Pooled sample (n= 90)		
	F	%	Rank	F	%	Rank	F	%	Rank
1. Lack of guidance on time schedule	37	82.22	I	40	88.89	I	77	85.55	I
2. Higher credit hours load per semester	33	73.33	III	36	80.00	IV	69	76.66	II
3. Continuous internal and external examinations	30	66.66	V	38	84.44	II	68	75.55	III
4. More chitchatting with friends	32	71.11	IV	29	64.44	VIII	61	67.77	IV
5. Least interest on sports and games	25	55.55	VII	35	77.77	V	60	66.66	V
6. Lack of concentration about future	26	57.77	VI	33	73.33	VI	59	65.55	VI
7. Feeling of uncertainty about future	21	46.66	IX	37	82.22	III	58	64.44	VII
8. Visiting home and family members	35	77.77	II	20	44.44	IX	55	61.11	VIII
9. No coverage of syllabus who have attended to inter-, intra- university games, NSS and NCC	20	44.44	x	30	66.66	VII	50	55.55	IX
10. Frequent ill health	23	51.11	VIII	19	42.22	X	42	46.66	X

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their suggestions in effective time management

S.No. Suggestion	Girls (n=45)			Boys (n=45)			Pooled sample (n= 90)		
	F	%	Rank	F	%	Rank	F	%	Rank
1. Guidance on scheduling Activities	40	88.89	I	42	93.33	II	82	91.11	I
2. Alternate days examination	36	80.00	IV	43	95.55	I	79	87.78	II
3. Reduction in credit hours per semester	34	75.55	V	41	91.11	III	75	83.33	III
4. Increase concentration	39	86.67	II	27	60.00	V	66	73.33	IV
5. Extra classes for those who attended to inter, intra university games, NSS and NCC	25	55.55	VII	35	77.78	IV	60	66.67	V
6. Increased participation in sports and games	38	84.44	III	17	37.78	VII	55	61.11	VI
7. Providing employment	26	57.78	VI	28	62.22	VI	54	60.00	VII

uncertainty about future', 'visiting home and family members', 'no coverage of syllabus who attended to inter, intra university games, NSS and NCC' and 'frequent ill health'.

The major problem perceived by students was 'lack of guidance on time schedule'. It might be due to the fact that the students were not in a position to understand the critical contents of time maintenance, as very few persons know the worthiness of time and majority were lacking guidance to manage their time. The finding was in conformity with those of Karandikar (1975).

'Higher credit hours load per semester' was also one of the concerned problems to the student to maintain time effectively. It was due to the fact that higher credit hours load per semester makes the students mentally refitted and cannot concentrate on the activities other than academic activities. The present problem is in conformity with Nagasri (1997).

'Continuous internal and external examinations' is also another problem. In semester system students have to attend the classes regularly and needs to attend record writing and other class works timely, So, students are forced to attend academic activities neglecting "Personal" and "Social" activities which are also equally important for overall development.

Next problem includes 'more chitchatting with friends'. It might be due to the fact that up to certain extent it can help in relieving from stressed environment. If it exceeds 'the limits, it leads to wastage of time and reduce the time management efficiency. Lack of concentration was another problem expressed by the students. It might be due to fact that student are unable to concentrate on one particular activity because of multiple roles such as continuous classes, record work and library works, preparing for examinations. 'Visiting home and family members' is another problem. It might be due to the fact that most of the students are studying in campus hostels, which are far away from their native places, they are habituated to visit their home town and family members quite often.

B) Suggestions for effective Time Management

The suggestions made by the respondents in effective time management are presented in Table 2.

It could be seen from the Table 2 that the major suggestion given by the girl students were 'guidance on scheduling activities' followed by

'increase concentration', 'increased participation in sports and games', 'alternate days examinations', 'reduction in credit hours per semester', 'providing employment' and 'extra classes for those who attended to inter- and intra- university games, NSS and NCC'.

Whereas boy students suggested 'alternate days examination' followed by 'guidance on scheduling activities', 'reduction in credit hours per semester', 'extra classes for those who attended to inter- and intra- university games, NSS and NCC', 'increase concentration', 'providing employment' and 'increased participation in sports and games'.

The data in respect of pooled sample revealed that 'guidance on scheduling activities' was emerged the major suggestion followed by 'alternate days examination', 'reduction in credit hours per semester', 'increase concentration', 'extra classes for those who attended to inter- and intra- university games, NSS and NCC', 'increased participation in sports and games' and 'providing employment'.

It could be revealed from the Table 2 that the major suggestion expressed by students was 'guidance on scheduling activities'. It might be due to the fact that scheduling of activities in a day, week and month will definitely increase the time management by completing the particular activity at particular scheduled time. Guidance on scheduling activities is required in terms of paper and pencil habit, using priority folders, proper planning, setting deadlines and time log. Scheduling of activities allow students to conquer time or at least control it, so that it serves in a more productive manner working smarter not necessarily harder. After the students received guidance on scheduling activities it will become habit, and habit reduces start up time and procrastination. A scheduled activity is much more likely to occur than an unscheduled one. Effective scheduling should allow the students to gradually increase their performance. Use of time schedules for coming day, week and month should be specific and plan in tentative and should be flexible.

Another suggestion expressed by the students was 'alternate days examinations'. As the students are unable to allocate their time to all activities which are necessary for smooth functioning of body by spending more time on preparing for examinations, they might have suggested this. If alternate days examinations will be implemented students will relax and maintain their time to all activities properly.

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