



Relationship between Profile Characteristics and Career Preferences of Undergraduate Agricultural Students of S.V.Agricultural College, Tirupati

T Lakshmi, V Nrusimha Kalyan and S V Prasad

Dept of Extension Education, S V Agricultural College, Tirupati 517 502, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT

The primary aim of Agricultural universities is to prepare Agricultural Graduates for serving farming community. The present research was carried out to study the career preferences of Agricultural Graduates of S.V. Agricultural College, Tirupati. The total sample for the study constituted 60 boys and 60 girl students. It was observed that education of respondents, education of the parents, occupation of parents, rural urban background, parents income, achievement motivation, OGPA, participation in extra curricular activities and mass media exposure showed significant and positive relationship with their career preferences.

Key words : Agricultural students, Career preferences, Profile characteristics

Career preferences of agricultural students are to be studied due to increasing employment opportunities and economic motivation. Though they have a wide variety of careers to choose each one have their own liking and disliking regarding these careers. But due to the prevailing situations Agricultural graduates are forced to take up careers like those in the administrative services and commercial banks rather than teaching, research and extension careers. They also seem to differ in their attitude towards rural oriented careers though the expertise gained by them can be utilized for bringing about development of rural areas. In such circumstances it seems that it will be of great significance to study the present trend of career preferences of agricultural students.

The agricultural students now have many careers to choose and so their preferences in this regard need to be studied. Keeping this in view, the importance of agricultural education and its effect on rural masses, the present study was taken up with the following objective:

To study the relationship between profile characteristics and career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University and out of eight Agricultural Colleges of the university only S.V.Agricultural college, Tirupati was purposively selected. The investigation was conducted during July 2009. All the students belonging to final year B.Sc(Ag) were selected which comprises of 60 boys

and 60 girls thus making a total sample of 120 respondents. The data were collected through personal interview schedule.

One dependent variable i.e. career preferences and ten independent variables viz. education of the respondents, education of the parents, occupation of parents, rural urban background, type of family, parents income, achievement motivation, OGPA, extracurricular activities and mass media exposure were selected for the study. The data were analyzed for correlation and multiple linear regression.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The responses obtained were analyzed for measuring the career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students and shown in Table 1.

Education of respondents Vs Career preferences

It is clear from from the table 1 that the coefficient of correlation ($r=0.1964$) between education of respondents and career preferences was greater than the table value at 0.05 level of probability. It could therefore be inferred that there was positive and significant relationship between education of the respondents and the career preferences of the undergraduate agricultural students.

Education of parents Vs Career preferences

From the table 1, it is evident that coefficient of correlation($r=0.4052$) between the education of parents and career preferences of the students was greater than the table value at 0.01 level of

Table 1. Relationship between profile characteristics and career preferences of agricultural graduates.

(n= 120)		
S.No.	Profile characteristics	Correlation coefficient(r)
1.	Education of respondents(x_1)	0.1964*
2.	Education of parents (x_2)	0.4052**
3.	Occupation of parents(x_3)	0.3246**
4.	Rural urban background(x_4)	0.3210**
5.	Type of family(x_5)	0.0880 ^{NS}
6.	Parents income(x_6)	0.2331*
7.	Achievement motivation(x_7)	0.5892**
8.	OGPA(x_8)	0.2813**
9.	Participation in extra curricular activities(x_9)	0.2320*
10.	Mass Media exposure(x_{10})	0.5423**

* Significant at 5% level of probability

** Significant at 1% level of probability

N S Non significant

Table 2. Multiple linear regression analysis of profile characteristics on career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students

S.No.	Profile characteristics	Coregression coefficients(b)	Computed t values
1.	Education of respondents	0.0255	0.1171 ^{NS}
2.	Education of parents	0.2813	2.4030**
3.	Occupation of parents	-0.0076	-0.3497 ^{NS}
4.	Rural urban background	0.1860	0.8951 ^{NS}
5.	Type of family	-0.1749	-0.6195 ^{NS}
6.	Parents income	0.0330	0.5170 ^{NS}
7.	Achievement motivation	0.3941	4.7163**
8.	OGPA	-0.0106	1.0317 ^{NS}
9.	Participation in extra curricular activities	0.1909	2.5682*
10.	Mass Media exposure	0.3161	2.1814*

$R^2=0.7209$

F value = 32.416

*=Significant at 5% level of probability

**=Significant at 1% level of probability

probability. It could, therefore be inferred that there was positive and significant relationship between education of the parents and the career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Occupation of parents Vs Career preferences

It can be observed from Table 1 that the correlation coefficient ($r=0.3246$) between the occupation of parents and career preferences of agricultural students was greater than the table value at 0.01 level of probability. So it can be inferred that there was positive significant relationship between occupation of parents and career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Rural urban background Vs Career preferences

It can be observed from Table 1 that the correlation coefficient ($r=0.3210$) between the rural urban background and career preferences of agricultural students was greater than the table value at 0.01 level of probability. So it can be inferred that there was positive and significant relationship between rural urban background and career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Type of family Vs Career preferences

It was evident from table 1 that the correlation coefficient ($r=0.0880$) between the type of family and career preferences of agricultural students was less than the table value at both 0.01 and 0.05 levels of probability. So it can be inferred that there was no significant relationship between type of family and career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Parents income Vs Career preferences

From the table 1 it is clear that correlation coefficient ($r=0.2331$) between monthly income of parents and their career preferences was higher than table value at 0.05 level of probability. Hence it could be inferred that there was a positive and significant relationship between the monthly income of parents and the career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Achievement motivation Vs Career preferences

From the table 1, it is clear that coefficient of correlation coefficient ($r=0.5892$) between achievement motivation and their career preferences was higher than table value at 0.01 level of probability. Hence it could be inferred that there was a positive and significant relationship between the achievement motivation and the career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

OGPA Vs Career preferences

Table 1 clearly shows that the correlation coefficient ($r=0.2813$) between the OGPA and career preferences of agricultural students was higher than the table value at 0.01 level of probability. So, it can be inferred that there was positive and significant relationship between OGPA and career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Participation in extra curricular activities Vs Career preferences

Table 1 clearly exhibits that the correlation coefficient ($r=0.2320$) between the participation in extra curricular activities and career preferences of agricultural students was greater than the table value at 0.05 level of probability. So, it can be inferred that there was positive and significant relationship between participation in extra curricular activities and career preference of undergraduate agricultural students.

Mass Media exposure Vs Career preferences

Table 1 shows that correlation coefficient ($r=0.5423$) between mass media exposure and their career preferences was higher than table value at 0.01 level of probability. Hence, it could be inferred that there was a positive and significant relationship between the mass media exposure and the career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Relationship between profile characteristics and career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students

A perusal of Table 1 reveals that education of the respondents, education of the parents, occupation of parents, rural urban background, parents income, achievement motivation, OGPA, extracurricular activities and mass media exposure had positive and significant relationship, where as type of family had non-significant relationship with career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

The positive and significant relationship between education of respondents and career preferences supports the fact that students who perform well in their tenth class and pre-degree have occupation aspirations.

The possible reason for existence of positive significant relationship between education of parents and career preferences of students may be due to the fact that the educated parents might have motivated their children to take up better careers in their future.

The reason for positive and significant relationship between occupation of the parents and career preferences of students might be that parent who are well settled in good occupations serve as a role model for their children and encourage them to have higher occupational aspirations.

Rural urban background had positive and significant relationship with the career preferences of students. Urban students have more access to the coaching classes for civil service, banks etc. and they also have better exposure to the new career avenues. So, they had higher occupational aspirations.

Children from families having higher income have better educational opportunities and have better facilities. So, they had higher occupational aspirations. Hence, there is a positive and significant relationship between parents income and career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Achievement motivation refers to the desire of individuals to excel. Students with higher achievement motivation and aspire for better careers in order to excel in life. This might be the reason behind the positive and significant relationship between achievement motivation and career preferences of students.

The positive and significant relationship between overall grade point average of the students and the career preferences of students supports the general view that students who are academically good have higher occupational aspirations.

Students who participate in the extra curricular activities are more dynamic, have more social contacts and are more confident of their own potentials. So they have higher occupational aspirations. Hence, there is a positive and significant relationship between participation in extra curricular activities and career preferences.

Mass media will expose the students to better prospects of life. So the students having high mass media exposure have higher occupational aspirations. Hence, there exists a positive and significant relationship between the above two.

The variable viz. type of family did not show any significant influence on the career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students.

Rao (1993) and Balan (2003) also reported similar findings.

Combined effect of all profile characteristics on career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students

In order to determine the combined effect of

all profile characteristics, in explaining variations in career preferences, multiple linear regression analysis was carried out. The computed coefficient of determination (R^2) value and the partial regression coefficient (b) value with their corresponding 't' values were presented in Table 2. The R^2 and b values were tested statistically for their significance.

The Table 2 indicated that R^2 value was significant at 0.01 probability and the computed F ratio was 32.416 at 10 and 109 degrees of freedom. The R^2 value of 0.7209 indicated that all the selected independent variables put together explained about 72 per cent variation in career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students leaving the rest for extraneous variables. It could be concluded that independent variables selected explained to a large extent the variation in career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students. In other words, variables included in the study are highly relevant to the problem selected.

The regression coefficient of the variables, education of parents, achievement motivation, participation in extracurricular activities and mass media exposure were found to be significant at 0.01 and 0.05 level of probability. The analysis revealed that an increase in one unit of education of parents would result in an increase of 0.2813 unit in career preferences and vice versa. A unit increase in achievement motivation would increase 0.3941 units in career preferences. A unit increase in participation in extra curricular activities would increase 0.1909 units and also a unit increase in mass media exposure would increase 0.3161 units in career preferences and vice versa.

Hence, to bring out desirable changes in the career preferences of undergraduate agricultural students, the variables viz. education of parents, achievement motivation, participation in extra curricular activities and mass media exposure were highly contributing. The remaining six variables had no influence on career preferences as they were non - significant.

LITERATURE CITED

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