

Study on Job Preference of Outgoing Agricultural Graduates

By

J. OLIVER¹, G. PARTHASARATHY² and K. RADHAKRISHNA MENON³

ABSTRACT

In the present study the job preference of the agricultural graduates has been assessed. It is found that only 2.26 per cent preferred to go back to their farms while the others preferred government service. A majority of the graduates preferred research sections than extension work.

INTRODUCTION

Youths undergo college education with a view to secure jobs. So also is the case with the agricultural graduates. Among the agricultural graduates some opt for research section and some to extension. In the present study, the aspirations of the outgoing agricultural graduates about their job preference were assessed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

One hundred and thirty five final year students of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore were taken up for the study during the year 1971–72. The students were first given open ended questions to note the job preference and the reasons for selecting a particular job. The job preference was centred around going back to farm or going to work in extension or research section of the department of agriculture.

Personal factors like native place, parental occupation and family income were studied to find out the influence of these factors over the selection of particular job.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Aspirations of agricultural graduates: It is observed that 97.74 per cent of the students were willing to

Table 1. Aspirations of agricultural graduates

Nature of profession	Respondents (n=135)
Farming	3
Research section	71
Extension section	61

join the department of agriculture and only 2.26 per cent desired to go back to their farms. Of them 51.53 per

1. Assistant Professor,
2. District Agricultural Officer (Information), Coimbatore, and
3. Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641003.

cent opted for research and 46.21 per cent for extension.

Reasons for preferring research section: The reasons selected by those who preferred research section are as detailed in Table 2.

Table 2. Reasons for selection of research section

Reasons	Respondents (n=71)
More opportunity for higher education for self	50
Less responsibility for stock	8
Less work in research section as compared to extension section	7
Ease, comfort and glamour of city life of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore	4
More opportunity for promotion	2

Thus, because of more opportunities for higher education, they had preferred research section.

The reasons for preferring extension section are furnished in the Table 3.

Table 3. Reasons for selecting extension section

Reasons	Respondents (n=61)
Willing to work for betterment of rural people	37
Can be in the native block or district and look after the family	17
Job opportunities available only for extension work	6
Not good at studies. So only extension work will be given	1

The study revealed the zeal of the outgoing students to work in rural areas. Though only 46.21 per cent had preferred extension section, majority were willing to work for the betterment of rural people.

Influence of native place over job preference It can be rated that 58.80 per cent of respondents with

Table 4. Native place versus job preference

Native place	Extension	Research	Total	X ² value
Village	44	47	91	0.52 NS
Town	17	24	41	
Total	61	71	132	

urban background preferred research section while 51.65 per cent with rural background preferred extension section (Table 4).

Influence of parental occupation over job preference: It is clear that 50.69 per cent of sons of agriculturists, 50.00 per cent of sons of

Table 5. Parental occupation Vs Job preference

Parental occupation	Number preferred			X ² value
	Extension	Research	Total	
Agriculturists	37	36	73	6.37*
Government servants	17	17	34	
Businessmen	3	14	17	
Agricultural labourers	4	4	8	
Total	61	71	132	

government servants and 17.65 per cent of sons of business people opted for extension section where as 82.35 per cent of sons of business people preferred research section.

The test of independence proved that the parental occupation had a definite influence over job preference of outgoing agricultural graduates (Table 5).

Influence of family income on preference: As the family income increased the option for research section also increased and vice versa (Table 6).

Table 6. Family income Vs Job preference

Annual income	Number preference			X ² value
	Exten- sion	Res- earch	Total	
Below Rs. 1000/-	18	19	37	8.362*
Between 1001 and 3000	37	31	68	
Between 3001 and 5000	2	9	11	
Above 5001	4	12	16	
Total	61	71	132	

The study concludes that there was a significant positive association between family income and job preference of agricultural graduates.