

Study of Factors Influenced the Students to Select Agricultural Course in Agricultural College

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ABSTRACT

The study brought out that situational factors like occupation, parental projection, influence of key individuals, job opportunity, trial and error method and the personal factors and sib-position were found to be responsible for influencing the students to select Agricultural Course in Agricultural Colleges.

INTRODUCTION

In Tamil Nadu there is heavy competition at the time of admission to the Agricultural Colleges. Boys from both rural as well as urban areas are coming to this vocational training. In order to understand, evaluate and to predict the vocational behaviour, it is necessary to examine number of possible determinants. These are personal and situational factors.

The situational factors like residential background of the student, income of the parent, occupation of the parent, parental projection, key individuals' initiation, job opportunity of this course and trial and error method of selection of this course and the personal factors like academic achievement of the student, sib position of the student in his family and aspiration for the course

have been considered for the study, with the objectives as to know the factors responsible for the selection of agricultural science as vocation by the students who have joined this course in the year 1970; to know the factors that have significant association and independent influence over the students in selecting this course and also to study the strength of association of the factors having an association and independence.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The unit of study was the first year B. Sc. (Ag) students of Agricultural Colleges at Coimbatore and Madurai. All the even number students in the attendance register were selected as respondents. The first sample was selected in consultation with the random table. To know the significant association of the different factors in influ-

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encing the students to select this course chi-square test of significance followed by the test of coefficient of association and Tscheprow's co-efficient T test were applied. The T value in between 0.001 to 1.000 showing the strength of association between the factors was compared. The strength of association has been classified as four categories such as below normal in strength—0.001 to 0.100, normal in strength—0.101 to 0.300, above normal in strength—0.301 to 0.500, strong in strength—0.501 to 0.700 and very strong in strength—0.701 to 1.000.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Income of the parent: This factor had a significant association with only three factors *viz.*, occupation of the parents sib-position of the students in their family and trial and error method adopted by the students to select this course (Table 1). With regard to the strength of association this factor had a normal below strength of association with the factor trial and error and below normal strength of association with occupation and sib-position. It may be therefore concluded that this factor was not responsible to influence the students to select agricultural course.

Occupation of the parents: This factor had a significant association with seven factors. It had a normal strength of association with residential background, sib-position and parental projection and below normal strength of association with occupation, influence of key individuals, job opportunity of this course and trial and error method

adopted by the students to select this course. Since this factor had an association with seven factors it could be stated that this factor was one among the factors which influenced the students to select this course.

Academic achievements of the students: This factor did not have significant association with any of the nine factors considered for the study. It had below normal strength of independents influence upon the students to select this course. Thus it is apparent that this factor was not the deciding factor to select this course by the students.

Residential background of the students: Residential background as rural and urban background had an association with only three factors *viz.*, occupation, parental projection and influence of individuals. It had a normal strength of association with occupation and below normal strength of association with parental projection and influence of key individual. Hence it may be concluded that this factor was not the deciding factor to select this course by the students.

Sib-position of the students: It had a normal strength of significant association with the factors—income occupation and influence of key individuals. And it was below normal strength of significant association with aspiration and trial and error method. On the whole it had a significant association with five factors. As such it could be stated that it was one among the deciding factors to select the agricultural course by students.

Table 1. Table showing the X^2 and T^2 value of different factors compared.

Factors	Income		Occupation		Academic achievement		Residential influence		Sib-position		Parental projection		Key individuals		Aspiration		Job opportunity	
	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2	X^2	T^2
Occupation	24.48*	0.088																
Academic achievement	11.80	0.042	9.82	0.027														
Residential influence	4.83	0.030	20.19*	0.103	4.43	0.010												
	@		+		+													
Sib-Position	7.12*	0.044	25.50*	0.130	2.16	0.10	1.98	0.001										
	@		+		+													
Parental projection	2.22	0.013	23.69*	0.120	4.07	0.022	6.56	0.058	0.51	0.001								
	@		+		+		f		f									
Key individuals	9.14	0.032	18.82*	0.055	13.51	0.039	15.10*	0.077	24.20*	0.124	11.06*	0.055						
	**		&		&		+		+		+							
Aspiration	4.20	0.015	8.21	0.022	10.79	0.043	2.57	0.013	27.27*	0.140	6.52	0.032	9.30	0.005				
	**		&		&		+		+		+		&					
Job opportunity	5.08	0.032	10.18*	0.050	4.43	0.007	5.52*	0.048	2.74	0.023	24.50*	0.210	26.32*	0.133	8.58*	0.042		
	@		+		+		f		f		f		+		+			
Trial and error	17.92*	0.110	10.35*	0.055	0.73	0.004	1.87	0.001	14.34*	0.012	5.17*	0.046	8.91*	0.045	5.48	0.027	4.66*	0.040
	@		+		+		f		f		f		+		+		f	

*p' at 0.05 Level.

f 1. 3.14;

@ 2. 5.99;

+ 3. 7.82;

* Significant

& 9. 16.92

** 6. 12.59

Parental projection: This factor had a significant association with five factors. It had a normal and above normal strength of association with occupation and job opportunity respectively where as its strength of association with the factors residential influence, influence of key individuals and trial and error method of selection was below normal. Since this factor had a significant association with five factors it could be stated that this was one among the deciding factors in influencing the students to select this course.

Influence of key individuals on students: This factor had a significant association with six factors had a normal strength of association with job opportunity and below normal strength of association with the factors as occupation, residential influence, parental projection and trial and error method of selection. As such this factor was also responsible to influence the students to choose this course.

Aspiration of the students: It had significant association with two

factors *viz.*, sib-position and job opportunity. Hence it may be inferred that this factor was not responsible for the selection of this course by the students.

Job opportunity of the course: It had a significant association with five factors. It had a normal strength of association with the factor influence of key individuals and above normal strength of association with parental projection. But it had only below normal strength of association with the factors, occupation aspiration and trial and error method of selection and it could be stated that this was one among the factors influencing the students to select this course.

Trial and error method of selection of the courses: This factor had a below normal strength of association with occupation, sib-position, parental projection, influence of key individuals and job opportunity. It had also a normal strength of association with the factor income. It was also found to have association with six factors. Hence this factor was one of the deciding factors, influencing the students to select this course.