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Research Paper | Agriculture

Aspirations of Post Graduate Students

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ABSTRACT

Aspiration is defined as the desired future state of being with respect to standards of living, social status, marriage and family, education and career. The participation of post graduate students in agricultural education had been constantly increasing since 2001 which reflects the raising interest of students on research in different disciplines of agriculture offered by Central and State Agricultural Universities. The main objective of the research is to study the aspirations of post graduate students. The total sample selected for the study constituted 120 post graduate students belonging to various divisions. The research findings are 58.33 per cent of the post graduate students had aspired 'to complete Post Graduation only'; 58.33 per cent of the post graduate students aspired 'to do State Public Service; 62.50 per cent of post graduate students have aspired only 'to raise standard of living of family'; 41.67 per cent of the post graduate students have aspirations 'to prefer as a service provider instead of service man.

KEYWORDS : Agricultural Post Graduates and Aspirations

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted during 2011-2012 in Post Graduate Institute, Rahuri and College of Agriculture, Pune of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth. The respondents of the study were 93 post graduate students of Post Graduate Institute, Rahuri and 27 post graduate students of College of Agriculture, Pune of 2010-2012 batch constituting to a sample of 120 students. Selection of respondents was done by following Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling.

Data were collected by formulating an interview schedule which was designed to obtain information with respect to both independent and dependent variables. The independent variables were academic performance of respondent students at Higher Secondary School and Under Graduation, type of family, family education status, size of land holding, parents occupation and family annual income. The dependent variables were aspirations of respondent students which include the educational, professional, economical, social and entrepreneurial aspirations and the

collected data were analysed using statistical methods like frequency, percentage.

Results and Discussions

Aspirations of the post graduate students

Educational aspirations

Table 1: Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Educational aspirations

Sl. No.	Educational aspirations	Respondents(N=120)	
		Number	Percentage
1.	To complete MBA	17	14.16
2.	To complete doctoral studies	20	16.67
3.	To complete post-doctoral studies	15	12.50
4.	To complete any entrepreneur oriented short term courses	60	50.00
5.	Aspire to fly abroad for higher studies	7	5.83
6.	To acquire soft skills and management competencies	21	17.50
7.	To study any diploma courses	4	3.33
8.	To complete Post Graduation only	70	58.33

It is observed from the table 1 that 58.33 per cent of the post graduate students had aspired 'to complete Post Graduation only', followed by 'to complete any entrepreneur oriented short term courses' (50.00 per cent). It indicated that most of them have high aspirations regarding their education. Looking into these educational aspirations, it is necessary to help and guide them in fulfilling these aspirations. The findings of the present study slightly differs with the findings of Anonymous(1997) and Iswalkar(2001).

Professional aspirations

The information regarding professional aspirations of the post graduate students is presented in table 2

Table 2: Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Professional aspirations

Sl. No.	Professional Aspirations	Respondents (N=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	To do Farming	36	30.00
2.	To do State Public Service	70	58.33
3.	To aspire any reputed position in Agricultural universities	15	12.50
4.	To achieve Agricultural Research Services	20	16.67
5.	To become an Agricultural entrepreneur	24	20.00
6.	To acquire any Profession in leading Corporate sector	19	15.83
7.	To acquire any Profession in Co-operative Organizations	8	6.67
8.	To acquire any Profession in Private Organizations	12	10.00

It is seen from the table 2 that 58.33 per cent of the post graduate students aspired 'to do State Public Service', where as 30.00 per cent and 20.00 per cent of them aspired 'to do Farming' and 'to become an Agricultural entrepreneur' respectively. Nearly equal per cent of them aspired 'to achieve Agricultural Research Service (16.67 per cent) and 'to acquire any Profession in leading Corporate sector' (15.83per cent), while 12.5 per cent, 10.00 per cent and 6.67per cent of them aspired 'to acquire any reputed position in Agricultural universities', 'to acquire any Profession in Private Organizations' and 'to acquire any Profession in Co-operative Organizations' respectively.

Economical Aspirations

The observations regarding economical aspirations of the post graduate students are presented in table 3

Table 3: Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Economical aspirations

Sl. No.	Economical aspirations	Respondents(N=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	To raise standard of living of family	75	62.50
2.	To establish financial independence	36	30.00
3.	To create an effective financial record keeping	15	12.50
4.	To accumulate an appropriate emergency fund	23	19.17
5.	To purchase appropriate type and amounts of insurance coverage	27	22.50
6.	To create and implement a flexible budget	26	21.67
7.	To evaluate and select appropriate investment	22	18.33
8.	To make a will and develop an estate goal	31	25.83

The data presented in the table 3 indicated that 62.50 per cent of post

graduate students have aspired only 'to raise standard of living of family' and others also mentioned different percentages of different economical aspirations. From the above observations it is clear that majority of the post graduate students feel responsibility not only regarding their economic status but also to indicate their individuality in their economic career.

Social Aspirations

The observations regarding social aspirations of the post graduate students are presented in table 4

Table 4: Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Social aspirations

Sl. No.	Social Aspirations	Respondents(N=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
A.	Church activity		
1.	Community outreach	15	12.50
2.	Helping the elderly	32	26.67
3.	Church-sponsored music	5	4.17
4.	Athletic programs	2	1.67
5.	Missionary work	1	0.83
B.	Club organization		
1.	Chess club	30	25.00
2.	Role playing club	10	8.33
3.	Youth club	20	16.67
4.	Laughing club	5	4.17
5.	Yoga Club	48	40.00
C.	Governance		
1.	Student Government	8	6.67
2.	Student council	21	17.50
3.	Krishi samiti	5	4.17
4.	Community youth board	8	6.67
5.	Shetkari sangh	14	11.67
D.	Volunteer Work		
1.	Volunteer in orphan homes	12	10.00
2.	Habitat for Humanity	8	6.67
3.	Tutoring and mentoring,	19	15.83
4.	Community fund-raising	13	10.83
5.	Rotary club association	20	16.67
6.	Hospital work	30	25.00
7.	Self Help Group	14	11.67
8.	Animal rescue	18	15.00
9.	Nursing home work	10	8.30
10.	Volunteer fire department,	9	7.50
11.	Camps to enlighten human relations	11	9.67
12.	Serve for rural development works	50	41.67

It can be concluded from these findings that the post graduate students are eager to work for betterment of rural areas which indirectly helps to develop agriculture.

Entrepreneurial Aspirations

The information regarding entrepreneurial aspirations of the post graduate students are presented in table 5

Table 5: Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their entrepreneurial aspirations

Sl. No.	Entrepreneurial Aspirations	Respondents (N=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	I will choose career as an entrepreneur.	19	15.83
2.	I prefer to be an entrepreneur rather than be an employee in a company.	18	15.00
3.	I am prepared to do anything to be an entrepreneur.	11	9.17
4.	I'll make every effort to start and run my own business.	21	17.50
5.	I have thought seriously to start my own business after completing my study.	13	10.83
6.	I have a strong intention to start a business someday.	16	13.33
7.	I'm determined to create a firm in the future.	14	11.67
8.	I will put effort to make more money by following industrial ideas	5	4.17
9.	I want to be my own boss.	36	30.00
10.	I will start my business in the next 5 years.	31	25.83
11.	I will prefer as a service provider instead of service man	50	41.67

The data presented in the table 5 revealed that 41.67 per cent of the post graduate students have aspirations 'to prefer as a service provider instead of service man', whereas 30.00 per cent and 25.83 per cent of them indicated that 'I want to be my own boss' and 'I will start my business in the next 5 years' respectively, while nearly equal per cent of them mentioned that I'll make every effort to start and run my own business'(17.50 per cent), 'I will choose career as an entrepreneur'(15.83 per cent), 'I prefer to be an entrepreneur rather than be an employee in a company'(15.00 per cent), 'I have a strong intention to start a business someday'(13.33 per cent). Only few per cent of them said that 'I'm determined to create a firm in the future' (11.67 per cent) and 'I have thought seriously to start my own business after completing my study' (10.83 per cent). Only few of them said that 'I am prepared to do anything to be an entrepreneur' (9.67 per cent) and 'I will put effort to make more money by following industrial ideas' (4.67 per cent).

Graphical Representation of Aspirations of Respondent students

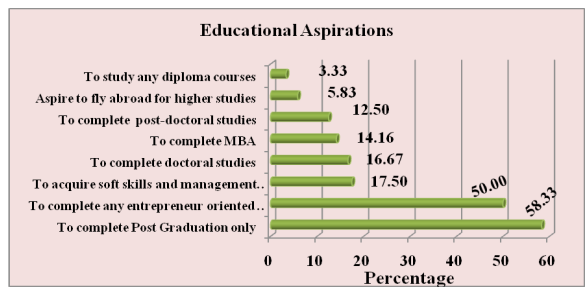


Fig. 1. Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Educational aspirations

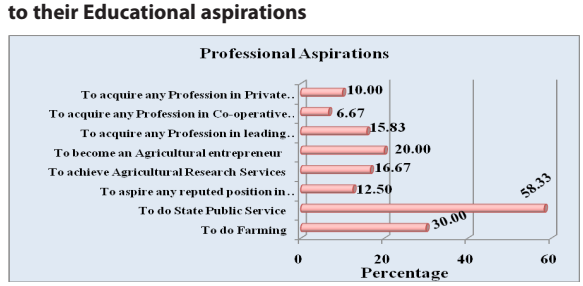


Fig. 2. Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Professional aspirations

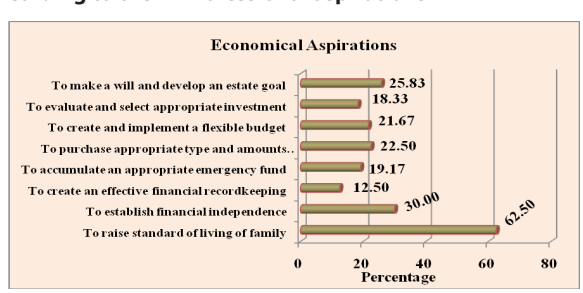


Fig. 3. Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Economical aspirations

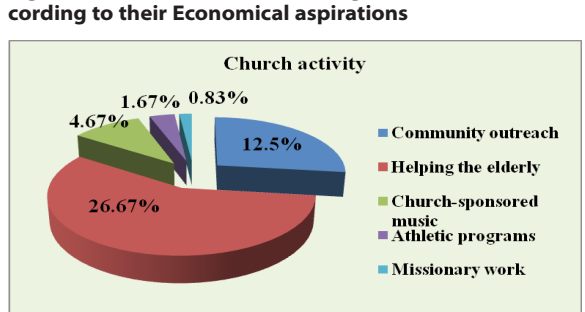


Fig. 4(a). Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Church Activity

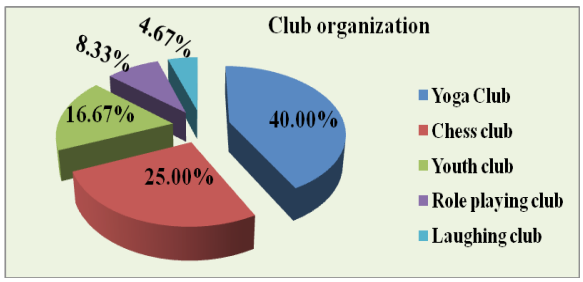


Fig. 4(b). Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Club Organization

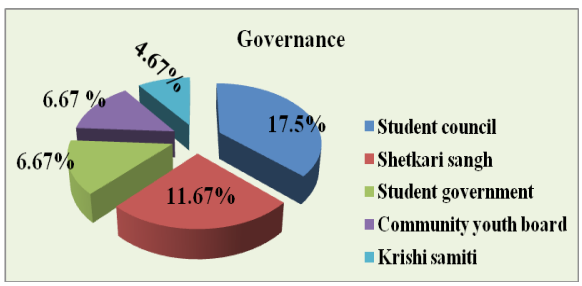


Fig. 4(c). Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Governance

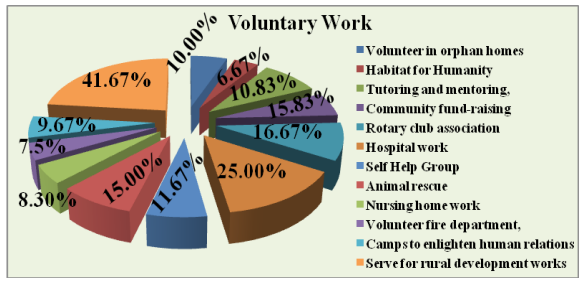


Fig. 4(d). Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their Voluntary Work

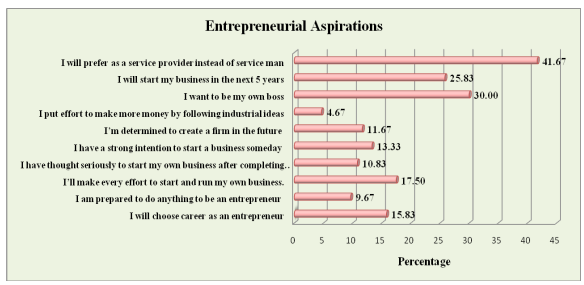


Fig. 5. Distribution of the Post graduate students according to their entrepreneurial aspirations

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