

Home Science Students' Academic Characteristics and Attitude Towards Entrepreneurship

Lipika Dey and D Hazarika

1. Introduction

Many educational institutions have taken many steps to develop entrepreneurship among the students. Home Science institutions are also one of them. Unlike other institutions, Home Science was predominantly dominated by female students. Home Science is the field of study which emerged out of the felt need for including a comprehensive type of education for girls in the context of changes in the family system and functions.

The greatest change in philosophy of Home Science is the encouragement of Home Science graduates from vocational preparation to self-employment. The courses are made so practical oriented along with the specialization that students can make themselves engaged in the area of their own choice. Courses like textile finishes, interior enrichment, applied art, food preservation, dying and printing etc. of various interest motivate the students to be self-engaged and that is the unique feature of home science curriculum.

This study was designed to determine which academic characteristics of home science students influenced their attitude towards entrepreneurship with the following specific objectives:

- To find out the academic characteristics of the home science students.
- To find out the attitude of home science students towards entrepreneurship.
- To find out the relationship between attitude of home science students and academic characteristics.

2. Methodology

The Faculty of Home Science, Jorhat, under the State Agricultural University was the locale of the present study. The final year under graduate students and the students of both the post graduate classes were the sample population for the present study. A total of 83 students constituted the respondents group for the present study.

A questionnaire was constructed to collect the required data in which academic characteristics were asked in the first part such as level of study, area of specialization and OGPA. The second part included the attitude statements framed to evaluate the attitude of home science students towards entrepreneurship.

Number and percentage were computed to analyze the data. The relationship between the levels of attitude of respondents with level of study, area of specialization and OGPA were shown on the basis of their percentage distribution through bar graph.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Academic Characteristics

Most of the respondents (30.12 per cent) belonged to the department of Food and Nutrition followed by 22.89 per cent belonged to the department of Extension Education, whereas, 19.28 per cent and 15.66 per cent belonged to the department of Child Development and Clothing and Textiles. Only a few respondents (12.05 per cent) were from Family Resource Management. This findings reveal that the department of Food and Nutrition followed by Extension Education were the most demanding departments chosen by the home science students as their special branch.

Table 1 Distribution of Respondents According to Academic Characteristics

Characteristics	N=83	
	f.	%
• Level of study		
U.G.	52	62.65
P.G.	31	37.35
• Area of specialization		
Food and Nutrition	25	30.12
Clothing and Textiles	13	15.66
Child Development and Family Relations	16	19.28
Family Resource Management	10	12.05
Extension Education	19	22.89
• OGPA		
Average (60-70%)	27	32.53
Mediocre (71-80%)	41	49.39
Brilliant (81-90%)	15	18.08

Data on OGPA of the respondents show that most of the respondents (49.39 per cent) belonged to mediocre category whereas, 32.53 per cent belonged to average category. Only a small percentage (18.08 per cent) belonged to brilliant category.

3.2. Attitude of Home Science Students Towards Entrepreneurship

Table 2 Distribution of Home Science Students According to Their Levels of Attitude

Levels of attitude	N= 83	
	f.	%
Highly favourable attitude	12	14.46
Favourable attitude	59	71.08
Less favourable attitude	12	14.46

Table 2 indicates that percentage of home science students varied in having 'highly favourable' and 'less favourable' attitude towards entrepreneurship. It appears clearly that highest percentage of respondents (71.80%) had favourable attitude towards entrepreneurship. Equal percentage of respondents (14.46%) were

having highly favourable and less favourable attitude.

3.3. Distribution of Respondents' Levels of Attitude According to Their Academic Characteristics

It was found that home science students had favourable attitude towards entrepreneurship. An attempt was made to further analyze the data to find out the frequency distribution of respondents' levels of attitude according to their academic characteristics through bar graph.

3.4. Level of Attitude of Respondents According to Their Level of Study

Fig. 1 reveals that higher percentage (75 per cent) of U.G. students showed less favourable attitude followed by favourable and highly favourable attitude, whereas, (41.67 per cent) of P.G. students were having highly favourable attitude followed by favourable and less favourable attitude towards

entrepreneurship From this picture it is clear that P.G. students had highly favourable attitude

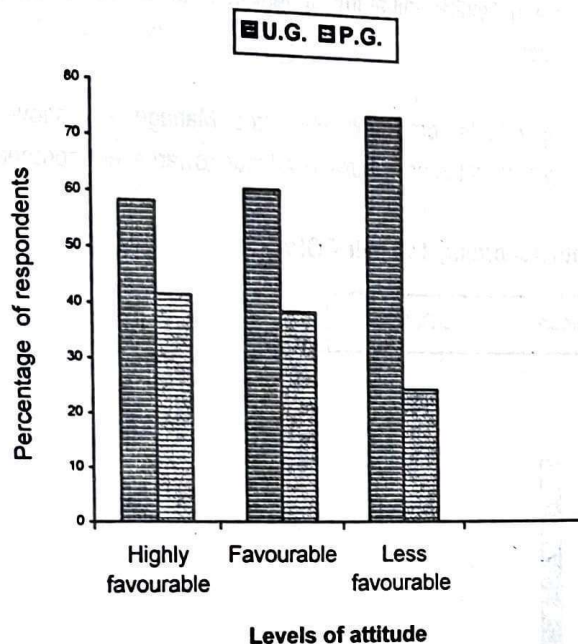


Fig. 1. Levels of attitude of respondents according to their level of study

3.5. Levels of Attitude of Respondents According to Their Area of Specialization

Fig.2 indicates that students from Extension Education and Family Resource Management showed

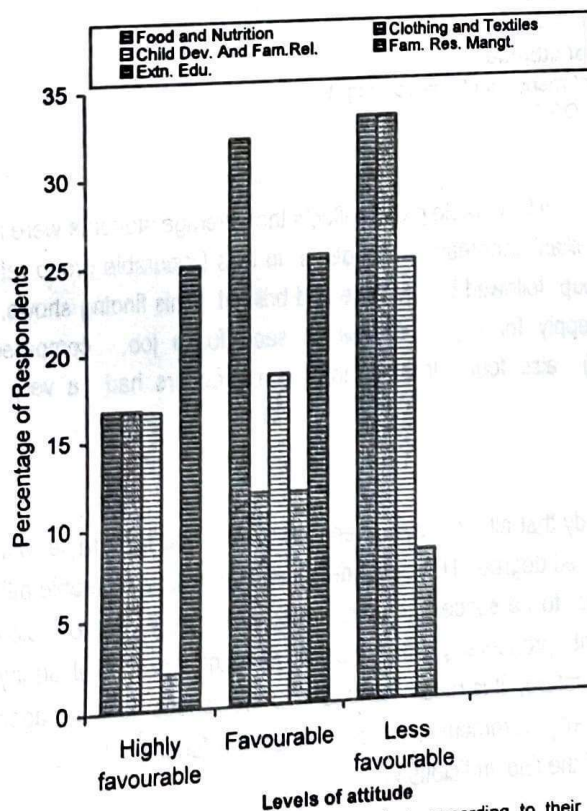


Fig. 2. Levels of attitude of respondents according to their area of specialisation

towards entrepreneurship. It may be because of the fact that P.G. students after completing their course usually seek job either a salaried one or starting any entrepreneurial activities, whereas, U.G. students had just completed their graduation and they got two more years to complete their studies of higher education, so their attitude towards entrepreneurship was less favourable as the need for earning was less for them.

highly favourable attitude, whereas, students from Food and Nutrition and Clothing and Textiles were found to have less favourable attitude. It can be interpreted that students in Extension Education frequently visit villages and encourage the rural women in starting their enterprises by linking them with various funding agencies and thus, experienced themselves with various funding agencies who sponsor for entrepreneurial work.

In Family Resource Management, entrepreneurial scope is seen to be wide. With a meager investment one can start an enterprise in this discipline. For

example, selling of gift and decorative items such as wall hanging, dolls, flowers etc. whereas, to start a product in food and Nutrition and Clothing and Textiles initial investment cost as far as the equipment and other machinery concerned are very high.

It is interesting to see that not a single respondents from Family Resource Management showed less favourable attitude. They had either highly favourable or favourable attitude towards entrepreneurship.

3.6. Levels of Attitude of Respondents According to Their OGPA

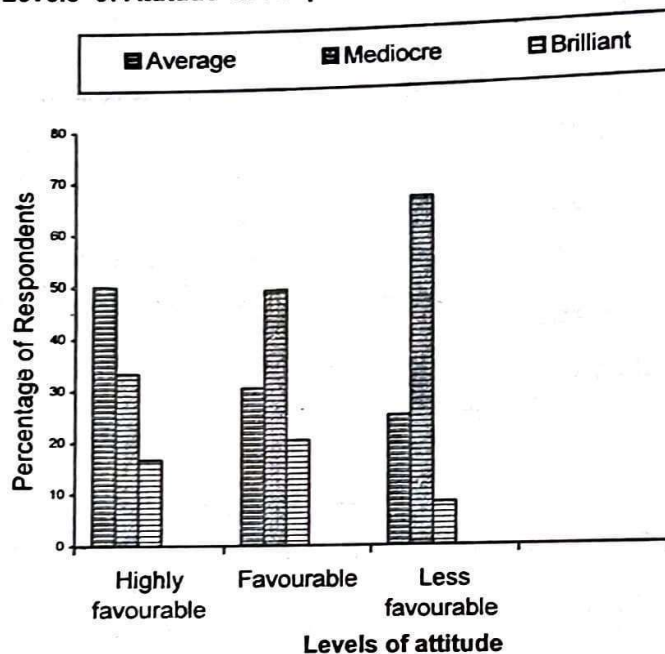


Fig. 3. Levels of attitude of respondents according to their OGPA

Fig. 3 reveals that respondents under highly favourable group reflects that average students were more in number followed by mediocre and brilliant, whereas, respondents in less favourable group reflects that more percentage of mediocre group followed by average and brilliant. This finding shows, that the mediocre students will either apply for higher studies or seek for a job, compared to entrepreneurship. Smith *et al* (1992) also found that women entrepreneurs had a very high educational level.

4. Conclusion

It is found from the present research study that all the home science students had favourable attitude towards entrepreneurship although in varied degree. Hence, students who showed favourable attitude towards entrepreneurship were expected to be successful entrepreneurs in future. Home scientists having favourable attitude towards entrepreneurship and thereby reducing the mental agony of disappointment of not getting a job. Therefore, it is recommended that the various funding agencies of Universities, State government and non government to release handsome funds for home science graduates so that they can make use of the fund judiciously.

5. References

Smith *et al* (1982). In : Nigam, S. (1995). Women entrepreneurship : profile Problems and Prospects in India. A review Analysis, SEDME, Vol. 4.1 & and 4.2 : 29 -41.