

SOCIO-PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF POSTGRADUATES OF SRI VENKATESWARA VETERINARY UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI AND CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED TO GAIN EMPLOYABILITY

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ABSTRACT

The veterinary graduates and postgraduates should be enabled with professional abilities and employability skills to be successful in the competitive technology driven world. In order to know the background and socio-profile characteristics of the respondents, it is important to analyse these characteristics in depth. The socio-profile characteristics of people vary with the location to location, time to time and society to society. Therefore, the study was undertaken to study the socio-profile characteristics of postgraduates of SVVU and constraints faced by them to gain employability. The results of the research revealed that majority (53.34 %) of the post graduates belonged to first class category of academic performance and majority (66.7 %) of post graduates belonged to 24-27 years of age group. Nearly half (56.70 %) of them belonged to open category and half of the postgraduates hailed from the rural background. Majority (77.50%) of respondents were with medium annual family income and half (50 %) of their fathers were farmers. Majority (80.00 %) of the postgraduates had medium level of exposure to college library. While 61 per cent of them were aware of the job Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS) and preferred VAS job after completion of B.V. Sc & AH. Majority (65.00 %) of the respondents had medium achievement motivation and 61.7 per cent of them were with medium level of hard work. The foremost constraints faced by the postgraduates were poor involvement of the students in learning process and lack of interest among the scholars to develop the employability skills.

Key words: Socio- profile characteristics, Constraints, Employability, Postgraduates.

Received : 24.03.2022

Revised : 23.05.2022

Accepted : 20.09.2022

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INTRODUCTION

Animal husbandry and dairying are integral parts of agriculture and play an important role in the socio-economic development of the farming community.

The total livestock population is 535.78 million (20th Livestock Census, 2019) in the country showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock census 2012. India ranks first in milk production, accounting for 40.41 per cent of global production. Milk production in our country increased by 5.7 per cent, i.e., from 146.3 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 198.4 million tonnes in 2019-20 (Economic survey, GoI 2020 -2021). Milk production in Andhra Pradesh has increased by 15.79% from 29.4 million in 2012 to 34.0 million in 2019. It stands fourth in the milk production in India with the production of 15.04 million metric tonnes in financial year 2019. Livestock plays an important role in Indian economy. About 20.5 million people depend upon livestock for their survival. Livestock provides livelihood to two-thirds of rural community. It provides employment to about 8.8 % of the population in India. Employability must be crucial to the graduates and postgraduates who are just at the brink of their career. Economic and societal changes have created a mismatch between the skill set of veterinarians and those required for career and economic success. The traditional approaches to veterinary education leave graduates inadequately prepared for successful transition to practice. These imperatives have yielded calls to broaden the scope and potential of the profession by expanding the set of skills, knowledge, attitudes and attributes required for the success of future veterinarians. The veterinary graduates and postgraduates should be enabled with suitable professional abilities and also employability skills to be successful in the competitive technology driven world. Hence, the study was undertaken to know the socio-profile characteristics of postgraduates

of SVVU and constraints faced by them to gain employability.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in three Veterinary Colleges under Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Andhra Pradesh, viz., College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati; College of Veterinary Science, Gannavaram and College of Veterinary Science, Proddatur, which were selected purposively. A list of all the postgraduate students (both completed and pursuing) in the last five academic years was collected from the three colleges. Out of the total 479 postgraduate students available, a sample of 120 respondents were selected through proportionate random sampling, i.e., from 2016 academic year – 21 students; from 2017 academic year – 22; from 2018 academic year – 23; from 2019 academic year – 24 and from 2020 academic year – 30 students constituted the sample.

The collected data was classified, tabulated and analysed. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage and mean were used for analysis and drawing meaningful conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From Table 1 it could be inferred that majority (53.34 %) of the respondents secured an OGPA of 7.00-7.99 followed by 6.00-6.99 (35.83 %), 8.00 and above (8.33 %) and 5.00-5.99 (2.5 %). The high quality of education imparted and the self-motivation among the postgraduates to excel might have resulted in better academic performance among the postgraduates.

Table 1: Socio-profile characteristics of postgraduates of SVVU

S. No	Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Academic performance	First class with distinction First class Second class Pass class	10 64 43 3	8.33 53.34 35.83 2.50
2.	Age	≤ 23 years 24-27 years of age ≥ 28 years of age	25 80 15	20.80 66.70 12.50
3.	Gender	Female Male	79 41	65.80 34.20
4.	Social status	OC BC SC ST	68 44 8 0	56.70 36.70 6.60 0.00
5.	Residential area	Urban Rural	59 61	49.16 50.84
6.	Annual family income	Low income (< 2 lakhs) Medium income (2-4 lakhs) High income (> 4-6 lakhs and above)	0 93 27	0.00 77.50 22.50
7.	Father's occupation	Government job Business Private job Farmer	30 20 10 60	25.00 16.60 8.40 50.00
8.	Involvement in extracurricular activities	Low Medium High	16 88 16	13.33 73.33 13.33
9.	Library exposure	Low Medium High	11 96 13	9.16 80.00 10.84
10.	Internet exposure	Low Medium High	27 54 39	22.5 45.00 32.50
11.	Awareness and interest in career opportunities in veterinary and animal husbandry	Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Academics Private clinics Entrepreneur Pharma companies Remount veterinary corps	73 9 12 10 8 8	61.00 7.50 10.00 8.30 6.60 6.60
12.	Achievement motivation	Low Medium High	16 78 26	13.33 65.00 21.67
13.	Hard work	Low Medium High	44 74 2	36.70 61.70 1.60

It is inferred from Table 1 that majority (66.70 %) of the postgraduates belong to 24 to 27 years of age group followed by 20.8 per cent to ≤ 23 years of age and 12.5 per cent to ≥ 28 years of age. This might be due to respondents interest in studying higher education after completing undergraduate degree for better employment opportunities. It is inferred from Table 1 that majority (65.80 %) of the selected postgraduates were females and 34.2 per cent of them were male. The reason for majority of the postgraduates being female might be attributed to the reason that, veterinary graduates after completing B.V.Sc, opted for various private jobs instead of higher education in veterinary compared to the female graduates (Bharadwaja Krishna *et al.*, 2017).

It is observed from Table 1 that, majority (56.70%) of the postgraduates belong to open category followed by BC (36.70%) and SC (6.60%) categories. This may be attributed to the reason that there was non-recruitment of veterinary posts in general category for the past five years, giving an option for higher studies by the OC and BC postgraduates while SC and ST graduates are filled through backlog recruitment regularly resulting in a very few candidates to pursue postgraduation in SC category and none from SC category (Gadhvi, 2012). It is evident from that 50.84 per cent of the respondents hailed from rural and remaining 49.16 per cent hailed from urban background. Majority of the respondents parents being farmers with agriculture and animal husbandry as main occupation had inclination to make their children serve the rural sector and hence preferred veterinary science as their career (Basarangil, 2020).

From Table 1 it could be drawn that majority of the respondents parents had a medium (77.50 %) annual income followed by high (22.50 %) level. It is inferred from table 1 that, half (50.00 %) of the respondent's fathers were farmers by occupation, followed by government job (25.00 %), business (16.60 %) and private job (8.40 %). As majority of the respondents belonged to rural background, it is quite phenomenal that their parents would be farmers (Yunandar *et al.*, 2019).

It was evident from Table 1 that nearly three fourth (73.33 %) of the respondents had medium participation, followed by high (13.33 %) and low (13.33 %) participation levels in extracurricular activities. Considering the study load and research work, postgraduates might not have been able to spare more time for extracurricular activities. This might be the reason for medium and low level of involvement in extracurricular activities amongst great majority of the postgraduates (Jayasudha and Shantha Sheela 2021). It was depicted from Table 1 that, majority (80.00%) had medium level of library exposure, followed by high (10.84%) and low (9.16%) levels of library exposure. The library of SVVU, Tirupati is well equipped with newspapers in different languages, hundreds of current journals, books, internet facility and useful information in different forms which might have played an important role in arousing interest to take regular and frequent visit to library among the postgraduate students (Chattu *et al.*, 2020).

It was inferred from Table 1 that, careers that were known and having interest by the respondents include Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (61.00 %) followed by

Table: 2 Constraints faced by postgraduates in developing employability

S.No	Constraints	Score	Percentage	Rank
1	Higher veterinary education more theoretical and less practical oriented.	87	72.50	III
2	Poor involvement of the students in learning process.	106	88.30	I
3	Lack of interest among the postgraduates to develop the employability skills.	88	73.30	II
4	Improper orientation from academic institutions about the job opportunities.	62	51.60	IX
5	Low level of realization to have self-motivation among the scholars to develop their employability skills.	78	65.00	V
6	Deterioration in quality of the veterinary education.	83	69.16	IV
7	Lack of academic moral values among students.	70	58.30	VIII
8	Lack of desirable employability generating aptitude among teachers involved in veterinary education.	75	62.50	VI
9	Inadequate language competency in English among the postgraduates.	73	60.83	VII
10	Lack of expected level of realisation by the teachers to develop employability among the postgraduates.	55	45.80	X

Academics (7.50 %), Private clinics (10.00 %), Entrepreneur (8.30 %) Pharma companies and Remount veterinary corps (6.60 %) (Devi, 2019). This might be due to the availability of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon jobs in the state and security of the government job, which might have influenced them to choose VAS as top priority among others. Findings from the Table 1, it was reported that majority (65.00 %) of the respondents had medium level of achievement motivation followed by high (21.67 %) and low (13.33 %) levels of achievement motivation. This might be due to

rising competition in the job sector and proper guidance by the educationists and parents to mould and inspire the students to achieve their best in their careers (Sasidharan, 2013).

It was evident from the Table 1 that majority (61.70 %) of respondents were with medium level of hard work followed by 36.7 per cent with low level of hard work and only few 1.6 per cent were with high level of hard work. The reason may be for the majority (98.40 %) of the respondents having medium to low levels of hard work, due to the fact that

veterinary science degree consumes time and requires hard work and dedication to achieve the goals.

There is an increasing competition in the job market today including the animal husbandry and allied sectors. Unemployed as well as unemployable graduates and postgraduates seem to worsen this situation. There is an increasing gap between the number of job seekers and the job opportunities. Among the job seekers, competent and capable ones are few in number. As a part of this study, the need was realised to identify the constraints faced by the postgraduate scholars in gaining employability.

The constraints expressed/faced by the postgraduates are indicated in Table 2 are ranked as **I to X** as follows.

The foremost constraints faced by the postgraduates were poor involvement of the students in learning process, lack of interest among the scholars to develop the employability skills, higher veterinary education more theoretical and less practical oriented, deterioration in quality of veterinary education, low level of realisation to have self-motivation among the scholars to develop their employability skills, lack of desirable employability generating aptitude among teachers involved in Veterinary education, inadequate language competency in English among the scholars, lack of academic moral values among students and improper orientation from academic institutions about the job opportunities.

CONCLUSION

Taking the above mentioned constraints, poor involvement of the students in learning process, lack of interest among the postgraduates to develop the employability skills and lack of self-motivation among the scholars to develop their employability skills it is suggested to involve the students into learning process through interaction, skill training, presentations and assignments and also by providing field exposure to their job chart regularly through health camps, surveys and farmer interaction meetings so that they get self realisation and motivation to attain employability.

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