

Study of Professional Aspirations of Female Students in Agriculture College – A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT: Women's education in India has been one of the major issues of concern of the Government of India as well as the society at large. Girl students form a sizeable folk in different agricultural universities in the country as well as in state. There is a need to focus on professional aspiration of girl students also, to know their motive in seeking admission to agricultural university. A total of 120 respondents were selected from Constituent and Private agricultural colleges in Maharashtra. The study unveiled that majority of the students aspired to be employed in the government zone in particular through Public Service commission flowed by banking sector. Very few were interested in academic and research field followed by private sector and non-government organisations.

Keywords: Professional, aspirations, agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Girls' education is one of the pillars for the development of our nation. The status of women in any society is supposed to be the true index of its social and economic development. Activities related to women-in-development are an integral part of the Research, Extension and Training Divisions, Educational programs and activities. Gender issues continue to be important in development of educational policies and planning of new initiatives. The formation of educational and occupational aspirations is integral to education enabling students who they are and how they can function effectively for their own well being and the betterment of society. Women's education in India has been one of the major issues of concern of the Government of India as well as the society at large.

Less attention has been given to the views of students enrolled in agricultural education who have actively pursued transition through education. A positive future orientation and a sense of agency are crucial for development and planning for future. Although inner in nature, aspirations, future orientation and the sense of agency are socially and culturally influenced (e.g. Malmberg 1998 [9]; Pollard

and Filer 2007[10]). The formation of one's future orientation is a contextual process (Malmberg 1998[9]) and therefore the concept of future orientation supports the idea that youth development should be understood in a particular context. Finally, the developmental value of the concept of future orientation is in prompting and facilitating the exploration and pursuit of prospective trajectories. Young peoples' greater investments in education bring about heightened aspirations and raise expectations about what education can deliver in terms of one's future career (Biggart, 2009[1]). Increased opportunities for education bring about heightened aspirations regarding one's future profession and living standards.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted during 2012 in Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth; constituent college, College of Agriculture, Pune and two affiliated colleges namely College of Agriculture, Baramati located in Pune district and Ratnai College of Agriculture, Akluj which comes under Solapur district were selected purposively. The total sample size of the respondents was 120, where the 60 girl students were selected from College of Agriculture,

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Pune and the rest each 30 girl students were selected from two affiliated colleges representing proportionately the intake of the students. Personal interviews were conducted by using pre tested structured interview schedule. The structured interview schedule serves as a tool for collecting the data. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, a pretested interview schedule was prepared to obtain information with respect to both independent and dependent variables. The collected data was tabulated, analysed using relevant statistical tools like frequency, percentage and correlation coefficient; accordingly the results were interpreted.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Table 1
College wise distribution of the respondents according to their professional aspirations

SI	Professional Aspirations	Respondents (n=120)		
		AC, Pune (n=60)	AC, Baramati (n=30)	AC, Akluj (n=30)
		Number (Percentage)	Number (Percentage)	Number (Percentage)
A) Government sector				
1.	Administrative officers through			
	a) MPSC	27 (45.00)	12 (40.00)	23 (76.66)
	b) UPSC	07 (11.66)	07 (23.33)	01 (3.33)
2.	Banking	10 (16.66)	03 (10.00)	02 (6.66)
3.	Academic	02 (3.33)	01 (3.33)	01 (3.33)
4.	Research field	04 (6.66)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
B) Private sector				
1.	Banking	02 (3.33)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
2.	Multinational companies	0 (0.00)	01 (3.33)	0 (0.00)
3.	Agro-based Industry	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	01 (3.33)
C) Non Government Organisation				
		03 (5.00)	04 (13.33)	01 (3.33)
D) Self-employment				
		5 (8.33)	02 (6.66)	01 (3.33)

It is revealed from the above Table 1, that more than three-fourth (76.66 per cent) of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Akluj aspired to be state administrative officers through MPSC i.e. Maharashtra State Public Service Commission followed by the respondents (45.00 per cent) of College of Agriculture, Pune and 40.00 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Baramati.

However, 23.33 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Baramati aspired to be the Administrative officers thro' UPSC i.e. Union Public Service Commission followed by the respondents (11.66 per cent) from College of Agriculture, Pune and only 3.33 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Akluj aspired the same. To work in the Public sector banks was the aspiration of 16.66 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Pune, followed by 10.00 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Baramati and 6.66 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Akluj. It is also observed that 3.33 per cent of the respondents from each of College of Agriculture, Pune, Baramati and Akluj aspired to be in academic sector. Only four respondents (6.66 per cent) aspired to work in research field and 3.33 per cent of the respondents aspired to work in Private bank sector from College of Agriculture, Pune. However, none of the respondents aspired to be in these fields from College of Agriculture Baramati and Akluj. The study revealed that none of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Pune and Akluj aspired to work in Multinational companies other than 3.33 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Baramati whereas 3.33 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Akluj aspired to work in agro-based industry. To work in NGO i.e. Non-Government Organization was the aspiration of 13.33 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Baramati followed by respondents (5.00 per cent) from College of Agriculture, Pune and 3.33 per cent of the respondents from College of Agriculture, Akluj. The respondents (8.33 per cent) from College of Agriculture, Pune aspired to be the entrepreneur thro' self-employment followed by respondents (6.66 per cent) from College of Agriculture, Baramati and the respondents (3.33 per cent) from College of Agriculture, Akluj.

From the Table 2, it can be observed that 60.00 per cent of the respondents from affiliated colleges and 58.33 per cent of the respondents from constituent college aspired to be state administrative officers thro' Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC). The picture become vis-à-vis when it is Union Public Service Commission; 15.00 per cent of the respondents from affiliated colleges aspired the same as against 13.33 per cent of the respondents from constituent college. To work in public sector banks was the aspiration of 16.66 per cent of the respondents from constituent college and 8.33 per cent of the respondents from affiliated colleges. However,

Table 2
Distribution of the Professional Aspirations of the respondents according to constituent and affiliated Colleges

Sl.No Professional Aspirations	Respondents (n=120)	
	Constituent college (n=60) Number (Percentage)	Affiliated colleges (n=60) Number (Percentage)
A) Government sector		
1. Administrative officers through		
a) MPSC	27 (45.00)	35 (58.33)
b) UPSC	07 (11.66)	8 (13.33)
2. Banking	10 (16.66)	5 (8.33)
3. Academic	02 (3.33)	2 (3.33)
4. Research field	4 (6.66)	0 (0.00)
B) Private sector		
1. Banking	02 (3.33)	0 (0.00)
2. Multinational companies	0 (0.00)	1 (1.66)
3. Agro-based Industry	0 (0.00)	1 (1.66)
C) Non Government Organisation	3 (5.00)	5 (8.33)
D) Self-employment	5 (8.33)	3 (5.00)

academic field is the only field where each 3.33 per cent of the respondents from constituent as well as affiliated colleges aspired to work in while in the research field only 6.66 per cent respondents of constituent college aspired to work. Working in the private sector bank had the aspiration of 3.33 per cent of the respondents from constituent college only while each 1.66 per cent of the respondents from only affiliated colleges aspired to work in multinational companies and agro based industry. Five per cent of the respondents from constituent college and 8.33 per cent of the respondents from affiliated colleges aspired to work in Non Government Organizations vis-à-vis it was observed in self-employment aspiration.

It is shown from the table 3, that more than half (50.00 per cent) of the respondent girl students were aspired to be the administrative officers thro' Maharashtra Public Service Commission while the equal number (12.50) of students aspired to be in the field of Union Public Service Commission and banking. However it was observed that each 3.33 per cent of the respondents were aspired to be in the fields of academics and research. The findings clear the

Table 3
Distribution of Professional Aspirations of the Pooled respondents

Sl. Professional Aspirations No.	Respondents (n=120)	
	Pooled Number	Pooled Percentage
A) Government sector		
1. Administrative officers through		
a. MPSC	62	51.66
b. UPSC	15	12.50
2. Banking	15	12.50
3. Academic	04	3.33
4. Research field	04	3.33
B) Private sector		
1. Banking	02	1.66
2. Multinational Companies	01	0.83
3. Agro-based Industry	01	0.83
C) Non Government Organisation	08	6.66
D) Self-employment	08	6.66

picture of private sector where only 1.66 per cent of the respondents were aspired to become bank officer while only one each respondent aspired to work in multinational companies as well as agro-based industries, while each eight respondents (6.66 per cent) aspired to work in Non Government Organization and to be a businessperson thro' self-employment. Similar findings were found with Waman et al. (2000), Iswalkar (2001), Shigwan (2002) and Deshmukh (2005).

Table 4
Distribution of the respondents according to major professional stream of aspirations

Sl Professional Aspirations	Respondents (n=120)	
	Number	Percentage
1. To work in government sector	100	83.33
2. To acquire any Profession in Private Sector	04	3.35
3. To work in NGO	08	6.66
4. To be self - employed	08	6.66
Total	120	100

From table 4, it can be revealed that majority (83.33 per cent) of the girl respondents aspired to work in government sector followed by 6.66 per cent of the respondents aspired to be self-employed and work in Non Government Organisation while 3.35 per cent of the respondents aspired to work in private sector. The findings reflect that now women understand the importance of financial independency. The results are similar with the findings of Ingle et al. (1999) and Sarita (2000).

Table 5
Correlation between Personal and Socio-economic characteristics of the Undergraduate Agricultural Girl Students and their professional aspirations

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Correlation Coefficient
1.	Family Size	- 0.07833 NS
2.	Type of Family	- 0.00678 NS
3.	Family Education Status	- 0.10627 NS
4.	Occupation of Parents	- 0.03287 NS
5.	Size of Land Holdings	0.08648 NS
6.	Annual Income of Family	- 0.00806 NS

NS - Non Significant

From the Table 5 it can be revealed that correlation between independent variables (family size, type of family, family education status, occupation of parents, size of land holdings and annual income) and professional aspirations was found to be negatively non significant except size of land holdings which was positively non significant. The findings indicated that there was negligible influence of the independent variables on the professional aspirations of the students.

CONCLUSION

The findings of above result clearly reflects that majority of the students are aspired towards government sector, especially through public service commission of state and union where more of them are enticed towards Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) in particular the affiliated colleges (Ratnai College of Agriculture, Akluj and College of Agriculture, Baramati) followed by constituent college (College of Agriculture, Pune). In banking sector, the constituent college students were more inclined towards banking as the College of Agriculture, Pune was located in main heart of the city which aided them to join coaching classes in evening or on weekends. The most imperative point which has to be pointed out that after being agricultural graduates hardly a very few students aspired to be in academic and research field of agriculture sector i.e., 3.33 per cent in each accounting for only eight students by both. The reason behind this may also be that still, it is widely recognised that the universal value of education is not matched by universal opportunities for post-compulsory education and professional employment in developing countries (Crivello 2011; Camfield 2011; Lloyd 2005; Jeffrey and McDowell 2004). The students being unaware making mismatch between aspirations and opportunities are ignored by policy-makers and researchers where young people

significantly make investments in terms of time and money to acquire further education. Government and ICAR institutes have to make special attention towards students and deem their value in bringing about a better future in agricultural sector. It was normally seen that the students are not aware of the agricultural education as a professional course. They themselves should remove the feeling of inferiority regarding agriculture education that they might be undergoing. The girl students should be made aware and help to develop a favourable attitude towards agriculture education by proper counselling and conducting seminars. They should be made aware of the various recruitment opportunities available for agriculture graduates like academic, research and extension, etc and the benefits like reservations in various government and related departments in both state and central.

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