

Study on Employment Opportunities in Extension Education

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Abstract- This paper is based on a research study at Banaras Hindu University in India. The title of the research was Career Dynamics in Extension Education. Method of survey research was applied to conduct the study. It was conducted by taking the responses from hundred respondents of Agricultural scientists, academicians and research scholars from different agricultural institutions selected through random sampling method. The objective of the study was to know the employment Opportunities in Extension Education. The data was analysed through SPSS version 16.0. The statistical tools like mean, frequency, percentage, rank order, and Chi square test were used for data analysis. This focuses the different sectors where the students of Extension Education can find their job.

Index Terms- Jobs, Job opportunities.

I. INTRODUCTION

Extension Education is an applied behavioural science. The knowledge of this discipline is applicable for Agriculture and rural development. It is an education driven organization seeking to significantly enhance human capital and promote lifelong learning in the state. Extension is a pragmatic disseminator of the latest in research and technologies to enhance productivity and expand the economic base. This forms a state-wide network- with a presence in every county-serving to link communities and the general population to intensive research and development resources. Extension addresses both urban and rural social and economic issues (Seevers and Graham, 2012). The characteristics developed by Sanders (1966) and Prawl (1984) cited in Education through cooperative extension, provide a profile of extension organization and its work. It reveals that extension is an agency of government created by law. It provides services to all people without discrimination to cooperative with federal, state and local governments all having parts in its administration. Being an educational institution with a mission it differs greatly from the common mission of an educational institution. The differences are that it has no fixed curriculum or course of study, confers no degrees and gives no diplomas, operates informally off campus and uses farms, homes and places

of business as classrooms, uses instructors with a wide range of subject matter expertise, has a large and heterogeneous audience. The persons who are engaged in this developmental process belong to the discipline of Extension Education. In this context the discussions on career in Extension Education is an important aspect for the growth and the promotion of the discipline. With this view a study career dynamics of Extension Education was conceived with the objectives to know about the employment opportunities in Extension Education. It was also tried to find out the career availability in Extension Education as perceived by the respondents who were the sample of the study.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out through survey method of research. The survey method is a device for collecting data or factual information of certain decided characteristics or items of a universe or population. Fowler (1988) defines that "survey as data collection and measurement processes". For this survey, the sample was drawn from Banaras Hindu University, NDRI, IARI, IVRI, ICAR, ANAND Agricultural University and VBSP University of India. The respondents were comprised of extension professionals, non-extension professionals and research scholars of extension and non-extension disciplines.

Suitable interview schedule and questionnaire as per objective of the study were prepared for the necessary data collection. Prior to the final administration of the schedule for obtaining information required for the study, a sample of 20 respondents was taken from different agricultural institutes for testing the instrument. The schedule prepared, was finally tested to know how far it would be helpful in collection of accurate, unbiased and adequate relevant information. About 180 questionnaires distributed among the respondents. Out of which 100 responses were received for the research. The measurements of the selected variables were carried out through developed schedule. The statistical measures which have been used in this study are frequency, percentage, mean score, rank order and Chi-square test.

III. RESULT & DISCUSSION

Table No. 1- Table showing the employment opportunities in Extension Education on the basis of cited reviews and suggestions:

S. No.	Sectors	Responses			
		High	Medium	Low	Don't Know
1	ICAR	50	45	05	00
2	Cooperatives	60	36	04	00
3	NGOs	45	40	15	00
4	Banks	65	30	05	00
5	DRDO	00	20	65	15
6	KVKs	66	30	04	00
7	SAUs	55	38	07	00
8	NDDB	48	38	14	00
9	Education Officer, (Mini. of Labour & Employment, GOI)	30	60	10	00
10	Directorate of Extension Education, (Govt. of India)	30	60	10	00
11	Planning Commission	28	42	28	02
12	State Govt. Departments	35	45	20	00
13	IGNOU	55	36	09	00
14	Research Scientist, (Reliance Life Sciences/ Reliance Industries)	35	60	05	00
15	Research Associate- FAO	40	55	05	00
16	Program Officer-ICRISAT	30	58	12	00
18	Scientist- ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute)	10	15	60	15
19	Asst. Prof. in Social Science departments of general college/universities under UGC	15	20	60	05
20	NIRD, Hyderabad	30	50	20	00
21	IIMs (Rural Development, Humanities, etc.)	40	55	05	00
22	MANAGE, Hyderabad	40	57	03	00
23	All state line depts like Agril, Animal Sc., Fisheries etc.	28	62	10	00
24	HRD/ Marketing head of Agro-processing industrie Insecticides/Pesticides/Fertilizer Industries	25	66	08	00
25	KRIBHCO/IFFCO	40	57	03	00
26	Commodity boards (Coffee board, Tea board, etc.)	38	60	02	00
27	Private Agri-business firms (Fertilizer/ seeds/ processing industries, etc.)	65	30	05	00
28	IIFM (Indian Institute of Forest Management)	35	55	05	05
29	IIPM (Indian Institute of Plantation Management)	35	60	03	02
30	Central government department officer	55	40	05	00

	(food corporation of India, central warehouse Corporation, plant protection boards etc.)				
31	Consulting agencies (event manager, program planner)	60	20	15	05
32	Multinational software companies (research associate, agriculture package developer, analyst)	25	65	10	00
33	Media agencies (news editor, media manager, radio jockey, agriculture journalist)	65	30	05	00

Table 1 shows the employment opportunities in extension education. It is clear from the table that the KVKs, Banks, Media Agencies, Private Agri. Business Firms, Co-operative, Consulting Agencies, SAUs, Central Government Department Officers, IGNOU, ICAR and NDDDB were considered by the respondents as place of highly employment opportunities sectors for extension educationists, whereas, HRD/Marketing, Agro-Processing Industries, Multinational Software Companies, all state level departments, education officers, directorate of extension education, commodity boards, research scientist in reliance group, IIPM, Program officer – ICRISAT, MANAGE, Hyderabad, KRIBHCO/IFFCO, research associate – FAO, IIMs, IIFM, NIRD – Hyderabad, state government departments, planning commission are the sectors which were rated by most of respondents as medium level opportunities sectors for employment. The sectors – DRDO, scientists – ILRI and assistant professor in social science departments of general colleges or universities under UGC were rated as the low level of employment opportunities sectors for extension educationist. Some of respondents under survey replied that they were not conversant with the sectors – scientist – ILRI, assistant professor in Social Science Departments of general colleges or universities under UGC, IIFM, Private Agri. Business Firms, consulting agencies, IIPM, Planning Commission, even if where there are possibilities of employment opportunities.

IV. CONCLUSION

As Extension Education is one of the important disciplines of Agricultural Science. After conducting a research on career dynamics in Extension Education, we got many positive responses from the respondents in terms of employment opportunities in Extension Education. It is found that there are many sectors where the students of Extension Education can find the job. There are the sectors like KVKs, Banks, Media Agencies, Private Agri. Business Firms, Co-operative, Consulting Agencies, SAUs, Central Government Department Officers, IGNOU, ICAR and NDDDB were considered by the respondents as place of highly employment opportunities sectors for extension educationists. Whereas HRD/Marketing,

Multinational Software Companies, research associates – FAO, IIMs, IIFM, NIRD – Hyderabad, state government departments, DRDO, etc. are the fields where there are also possibilities of employment. Therefore, by the study it is concluded that the discipline Extension Education has a better job opportunities for students of Extension Education.

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