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Learning experience of agricultural undergraduates of A. S. College, Lakhaoti, Bulandshahr towards Rawe programme

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Abstract

RAWE programme includes four month stay of seventh semester undergraduates of agriculture in different villages to realise rural situation and gain agricultural work experience by practising different techniques and methods of agricultural extension. The Learning experience of agriculture graduates of A. S. College, Lakhaoti, Bulandshahr towards RAWE programme was found positive and profitable for agricultural students even for their career. The proper evaluation, time of programme and proper facilities of lodging, boarding and transportation also were found equally important for the success of programme. 93.33 per cent students developed their ability of cooperation and team work, 91.66 per cent were known to establish good rapport with society and 90.83 per cent gained practical experience by conducting RWAE programme.

Keywords: Agriculture graduates, Experience, RAWE Programme and Rural work

Introduction

The practical knowledge and experience is being realised as the backbone for agricultural development process. It has also been realised that formal system of education oriented to learning in classroom and laboratory situation cannot lead to realization of this goal of agriculture discipline. Learning through experience in real life situation is recent concept introduced in the curriculum at undergraduate level of agricultural students. In India, Randhawa Committee (1992) ^[1] recommended the Rural Agriculture Work Experience (RAWE) Programme for imparting quality, practical and productive oriented education for the agriculture degree programme. The World Bank (1995) ^[2] stated that there was little emphasis in the curricula on preparing the agricultural graduates for better career in agriculture or agribusiness outside government jobs. The process of learning in the field situation is superimposed on knowledge acquired in the classroom situation. Keeping the objective of agricultural universities, third dean committee of ICAR and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan committees of dean's of SAUs included the RAWE in Agricultural Under Graduate programmes. The RAWE programme in Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut was introduced from academic year 2014-2015. RAWE programme includes four months stay of B.Sc. (Ag.) VII semester students in their respective allocated village to realize rural situation and gain agricultural work experience by practising different techniques and methods of agricultural extension. Keeping above view in mind the present study was undertaken to know the learning experiences of Agricultural graduates of Amar Singh College, Lakhaoti, Bulandshahr (U.P.) towards RAWE programme and constraints faced by the student during RAWE programmes.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted at the Amar Singh College, Lakhaoti, Dist. Bulandshahr Uttar Pradesh. Students who had undergone RAWE programme during seventh semester in the academic year 2014-15 were selected. 120 out of 234 students who completed their RAWE programme were taken for the study. A questionnaire was developed and given personally to the students after explaining the purpose of the study to collect relevant information just after completion of the RAWE programme. The most effective responses were recorded on the basis of frequency, percentage and rank.

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Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of learning experiences during RAWE programme

S. No.	Learning Experiences	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Known to establish good rapport with society	110	91.66	II
2.	Communication skill developed	57	47.50	XIV
3.	Understood the pattern of rural life	101	84.16	V
4.	Development of ability in cooperation and team work	112	93.33	I
5.	Learnt experiences of rural setting	96	79.16	VII
6.	Boosted confidence of working with people	89	74.16	VIII
7.	Gained knowledge and ability of resources management in doing field work	88	73.33	IX
8.	Experienced to adjust in rural environment	104	86.66	IV
9.	Gained practical experiences	109	90.83	III
10.	Learnt need assessment and programme planning	86	71.66	X
11.	Developed leadership quality	67	55.83	XII
12.	Satisfied with programme	99	82.50	VI
13.	Learnt local dialect	51	42.50	XV
14.	Exposed to social system and institutions	63	52.50	XIII
15.	Exposed to rural livelihood security and survivability	77	64.16	XI

It is evident from data presented in the Table 1.that the majority (93.33 per cent) of the students developed their ability of cooperation and team work. Four months stay in village situation helped them to establish good rapport with society (91.66 per cent) and 90.83 per cent gained practical experiences of working with farmers, simultaneously. The

students also developed their personal attributes like confidence, village resource management, leadership quality, rural livelihood security and survivability, communication skill. These findings were supported by G. A. Maheshwari and Snehlata (2008) ^[3] and R. L. Soni, G. L. Kothari and Rashmi Dave (2011) ^[4].

Table 2: Distribution of students according to constraints faced during RAWE programme

S. No.	Constraints category	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Language	17	14.16	VI
2.	Financial	42	35.00	IV
3.	Transportation	23	19.16	V
4.	Accommodation Problems	9	07.50	VII
5.	Practical Knowledge and Experience	83	69.16	I
6.	Selected host farmer did not have the desired Components.	69	57.50	III
7.	Heavy load of report writing.	72	60.00	II

The basis constraints faced by the students during RAWE programme in the rural environment are presented in the table 2. The data reveal that students faced major constraints of practical knowledge and experience (69.16 per cent) and 60.00 per cent of the students expressed the heavy load of report writing, followed by the constraints namely, 57.50 per cent host farmers did not have the desired components, 35.00 per cent experienced financial, 19.16 per cent transportation, 14.16 per cent language and 07.50 per cent accommodation inconvenience. Sarvesh Kumar and R.C. Sharma (2013) ^[6] also reported similar findings from the RAWE programme at JNKVV Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (M.P.).

Conclusion

On the basis of the results of the study it can be concluded that B.Sc. (Ag) graduates perceived that RAWE programme was helpful to a great extent in developing essential qualities required for good extension work. This programme has fulfilled its objectives. Mostly students are getting exposure for rural situations. As far as constraints faced by students were Practical Knowledge and Experience, heavy load of report writing, selected host farmers didn't have the desired components and financial.

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