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## Relationship between profile characteristics of post graduate students and their level of aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship

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**Abstract**

The present study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat. Ex-post facto research design was followed for the study. Total 120 respondents were randomly selected for the study representing 5 colleges of Junagadh Agricultural University. The findings revealed that 58.34 per cent of the post graduate students had medium level of aspiration, followed by high and low level of aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship. This paper throws light on the profile characteristics of post graduate students and level of aspiration. Findings revealed that the independent variables viz; father's education, family occupational status, self confidence and cosmopolitaness had positive and significant relationship at five per cent level of significance. Whereas, academic achievement, family income and risk orientation at one per cent level of significance. Age, participation in extracurricular activities, overall modernity, reading habit, agricultural business anxiety and knowledge about government projects about agri-business exhibited non significant relationship with aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship.

**Keywords:** Level of aspiration, post graduate students, Junagadh agricultural university

**Introduction**

India is predominantly an agro based country with about 58 per cent population living in more than five lakh villages. One in every two Indians relies on agriculture for livelihood. India has one of the world's largest agricultural education system with 64 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), 3 Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs), 4 Deemed Universities (DUs) and 4 general Central Universities with agriculture faculty (Anon., 2018) [1]. These institutions enroll on annual basis about 15,000 students at UG level in as many as 11 disciplines and over 7,000 students at PG and 1700 students at Ph.D. level.

India is a young nation, out of 121 crore population, there are 60 crore youth in the country at present. By 2020, the average age of the Indian population will be 20 years (Yadav, 2016) [2]. In India, the percentage of people employed in agriculture has been consistently declining, from around 60.00 per cent in 1999-2000 to 49.00 per cent in 2011-12. Many governments and policy makers around the world consider the entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial drives as primary for economic growth and development (Zeffane, 2012) [3].

**Materials and Methods**

The research study was conducted in Junagadh Agricultural University of Gujarat state during 2016-18. An *Ex-post-facto* research design was employed in the present investigation. Hundred and twenty students were selected through proportionate random sampling method. The five Colleges under Junagadh Agricultural University viz, College of Agriculture, College of Agricultural Engineering, College of Agri-Business Management, College of Veterinary and College of Horticulture were selected.

The level of aspiration is defined as standard of achievement set by the student with regard to job, self-employment, earnings and the society. In order to present the occupational preference inventory, respondents was scored from 0 to 5 on the basis of presentation of the occupational preference inventory which was divided into six items and the scoring allotted to each category was 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 0. A score of '5' indicates that a job from among the highest six prestige occupations was chosen, A 'zero' score indicated that one of the lowest six occupations was chosen. The total score was obtained by summing up all the items and respondents were classified in to 3 categories based on mean and standard deviation. The data was coded, classified, tabulated and subjected to frequencies and percentages to meaningfully interpret the findings.

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Profile characteristics of the post graduate students such as Age, Academic achievement, Participation in extracurricular activities, Father's education, Family occupation status, Family income, Overall modernity, Reading habit, Agricultural business anxiety, Self-confidence, Knowledge about government projects and agri-business, Risk Orientation, Cosmopolitaness were correlated with the level of aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship to know the significant and non-significant relationship between the variables.

### Results and Discussion

The findings regarding level of aspiration of post graduate students towards agricultural entrepreneurship. It was evident from Table 1 that more than half (58.34%) of the post graduate students had medium level of aspiration followed by high (26.66%) and low (15.00%) level of aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship. The above trend was due to the fact that most of the post graduate students were belonged to the families having good economic condition, good literacy and good occupational status. Because of all these they may have been exposed to the knowledge of the various occupations available to them as well as their parents are well educated and so they inspired of good job for their children that might have reflected in the students aspiration for high occupation.

Correlation analysis was employed to access the relationship between the level of aspiration of post graduate students towards agricultural entrepreneurship and their profile

characteristics. The correlation coefficients were worked out and the significance was tested by comparing with the table values. The results are represented in Table 2.

It was revealed from the Table 2 that the calculated 'r' values of academic achievement, family income and risk orientation was greater than table 'r' value at 0.01 level of probability. Whereas, the calculated 'r' values of variables father's education, family occupational status, self-confidence and cosmopolitaness were greater than table 'r' value at 0.05 level of probability. Hence, null hypothesis was rejected and empirical hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, it could be concluded that there was a positive and significant relationship between the level of aspiration of post graduate students towards agricultural entrepreneurship and the variables Academic achievement (0.272\*\*), Family income (0.385\*\*), Risk orientation (0.291\*\*), Father's education (0.181\*), Family occupational status (0.228\*), Self-confidence (0.203\*) and Cosmopolitaness (0.181\*).

**Table 1:** Distribution of the post graduate students according to their level of aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship (N=120)

Sr. No	Category	Number	Percent
1	Low level (Below 20.93 score)	18	15.00
2	Medium level (20.93 to 31.67)	70	58.34
3	High level (Above 31.67)	32	26.66
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

Mean = 26.30

S.D. = 5.37

**Table 2:** Relationship between Profile Characteristics of post graduate students and their level of aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship (N=120)

Sr. No	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient
1	Age	0.053 NS
2	Academic achievement	0.272**
3	Participation in extracurricular activities	0.105 NS
4	Fathers education	0.181 *
5	Family occupation status	0.228 *
6	Family income	0.385 **
7	Overall modernity	0.113NS
8	Reading habit	0.168 NS
9	Agricultural business anxiety	0.083NS
10	Self confidence	0.203*
11	Knowledge about government projects and agri-business	0.123 NS
12	Risk orientation	0.291**
13	Cosmopolitaness	0.181 *

\*Correlation is significant at 0.05 level of probability

\*\* Correlation is significant at 0.01 level of probability NS – Non significant

On the other hand calculated 'r' values between Age (0.053NS), Participation in extracurricular activities (0.105NS), Overall modernity (0.113NS), Reading habit (0.168NS), Agricultural business anxiety (0.083NS) and Knowledge about government projects about agri-business (0.123NS) were less than table 'r' value. Hence, null hypothesis was accepted and empirical hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, it could be concluded that there was no significant relationship between level of Aspiration of post graduate students towards agricultural entrepreneurship and the variables Age, participation in extracurricular activities, overall modernity, reading habit, agricultural business anxiety and knowledge about government projects about agri-business.

It can be observed that most of the post graduate students Academic achievement might have increased because respondents whose academic achievement at different level of

education is high have self-confidence to get a good job in any government organization as compared to students whose level of academic performance is poor, higher family income might have provided a strong support to the respondents for increasing their aspiration level, higher level of occupation of the family members affects the occupational choice of the student in such a way that the students would prefer an occupation prestigious than that of the other family members, higher educational qualification of the father creates general awareness about the job opportunity to the children which makes them more concerned to achieve good position in the society, the person with high degree of self-confidence will always try to do everything without any fear this makes him more positive in using any enterprising technology, risk orientation is an important variable for influencing the aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship. The students who are more risk taking they have will to achieve something

in their life and cosmopolitaness increases there aspiration to achieve something in their life also increases were the reasons that resulted in positive and significant relationship between these profile characteristics and aspiration of post graduate students.

Generally, most of the students were young, more courageous and risk prone as compared to old students, Participation had less influence on level of aspiration which open mental horizon of mind and make them more enthusiastic, empowered to assess the things easily, overall modernity had less influence which might be due to medium family income and family occupation status which make them over think to take a decision, reading habit had no influence on level of aspiration. But most of post graduate students are less conscious and decisive to have positivism towards agri-business and who have higher knowledge might be able to compete and pass different competition examinations and may not have high level of aspiration towards agricultural entrepreneurship.

### **Conclusion**

The findings of this investigation showed that academic achievement, father's education, family occupational status, self-confidence, cosmopolitaness, family income and risk orientation were found to be positively and significantly related with level of aspiration. Whereas other variables showed non-significant relationship. Hence efforts could be directed in ways which can improve the level of aspiration of post graduate students towards agricultural entrepreneurship by more practical oriented and skill based entrepreneurial activities, Training and demonstrations related to modern technology should be conducted, Visits to various enterprises should be undertaken from time to time, Procedures for obtaining loan should be shortened, Knowledge about policy of government about agri-business should be given and Extracurricular activities related to entrepreneurship should be conducted.

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