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Attitude of students towards rural horticultural work experience programme in Karnataka

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Abstract

Rural Horticultural Work Experience Programme provides an opportunity for the students to try on experimental basis when they are on the verge of completing their degree programme. The main objective of this course is to apply the Principles of Extension Education which they have studied in the class room during their four years of degree in real life experience or field situation. In this context it is necessary to study the effects in terms of attitude towards knowledge gained and skills acquired by the students. The study mainly deals with the attitude of students towards village stay, night meetings, group discussion and their field exposure and experience. The results of the study reveals that 58.05 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and have favorable attitude towards night meetings/group discussion meetings, 59.16 percent of the respondents revealed village stay and attachment to Raitha Smparka Kendra during RHWE programme was favorable. It was also noticed that 63.27% of the respondents expressed positive attitude towards skill development during RHWE in terms of communication skill, leadership quality.

Keywords: RHWE, Ready, rawe

Introduction

Agriculture students primarily to understand the rural situations, status of Agricultural technologies adopted by farmers, prioritize the farmers problems and to develop skills & attitude of working with farm families for around development in rural area. The only safe way for inexperienced man to begin farming is by working for a good farmer. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research endeavouring to empower youth with appropriate technologies formulated a Review Committee on Agricultural Universities (1978), popularly known as Randhawa Committee Recommendations (1979). Considering the importance of agricultural knowledge on socio-economic behaviour of the farmers, Agricultural Graduates during internship have to work and study in rural areas as per university norms. In 12th plan, Rural Agriculture Work Experience (Rawe) Programme has been reconstructed and proposed as 'Rural Entrepreneurship and Awareness Development Yojana' (Ready). The students should get exposed to these existing realities of a typical rural setup through interconnected exercises of skill development so as to identify the practical possibilities of academic knowledge in the field. Rural Horticultural Work Experience is a compulsory course offered by UHS Bagalkot to B. Sc. (Hons.) during VII/VIII semester of the degree programme. Horticultural graduates acquire knowledge of the fundamental principles of various subjects of Horticulture. After the completion of four year degree programme students will be taking up the job in rural development departments or in any other non government organisations working for social welfare or in any research institutions or else they can become self employer or entrepreneur. Therefore it is necessary to study the impact in terms of attitude of the students towards Rural Horticultural Work Experience (RHWE).

Methodology

Purposive sample of 110 respondents from passed out batches of College of Horticulture Kolar were randomly selected. To assess the attitude of the respondents towards Rural Horticultural Work Experience Programme, structured interview schedule was used to collect the data. It was collected from the respondents through individual contact method. For assessment a scale ranging from 5-1 Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Dis-Agree, Strongly Dis-Agree (SA, A, UD, DA, SDA) was used. Statistical data analysis on different aspect of the study was done with the help of frequency, percentage, mean score and rank.

Results and Discussion

Attitude of respondents towards night meetings/ group discussion meetings during RHWE Programme

The data given in the Table 1 shows that almost 58.05 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and have favorable attitude towards night meetings/group discussion meetings. Only small percentage of respondents (2.21%) expressed least favourable attitude towards night meetings/ group discussion meetings.

The respondents expressed positive attitude towards the statement "RHWE has helped in preparation of Audio Visual aids and other written documents like posters, report writing" which secured highest mean score (4.71 MS) hence it was ranked first. The second place was occupied by the statement "RHWE has helped in gaining knowledge on preparation and use of aids like slides, videos etc for LCD and LED projectors" with a mean score of 4.63MS. This was followed by the statement "RHWE has helped to use of AV aids (charts, OHP, posters, flannel graphs etc.)" with (4.47 MS), "RHWE has helped to gain knowledge and skills in conducting group discussions, meetings, demonstrations, field visits" with (4.45 MS), "RHWE has helped me in developing interaction skills like talking, listening etc. with (4.38 MS), "RHWE has helped mein Information processing and analysis" with (4.18 MS) ranked third, fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. The last rank was given to the statement "Understanding and using local vernacular language, proverbs/dialects" with mean score (4.17 MS).

Attitude of respondents towards Village stay and attachment to RSK during RHWE Programme

The data presented in Table 2 clearly states that 59.16 percent of the respondents revealed village stay and attachment to Raitha Smparka Kendra during RHWE programme was favorable followed by 35.66%. Only small portion of (1.26%

& 1.40%) respondents expressed unfavorable attitude towards village stay and attachment to RSK.

The first rank was given to the statement "RHWE has helped me to develop favourable attitude towards farming community "with a highest mean score (4.70 MS). It was followed by mean score of (4.65 MS) for "RHWE has helped me to gain practical experiences and to understand farmers problems", (4.59 MS) for "RHWE has helped me for exposure with social system and institutions", (4.55 MS) for "RHWE has helped me to learn experiences of rural setting and exposed to rural livelihood security" secured second, third and fourth rank respectively. Respondents expressed unfavourable attitude towards the statement "RHWE has helped me for need assessment and programme planning", which was ranked last with a mean score (4.29 MS). This may be because respondents for the first time in village, lack of communication and rapport with the villagers.

Attitude of respondents towards skill training during RHWE Programme:

From Table 3, it is observed that 63.27% of the respondents expressed positive attitude towards skill development during RHWE in terms of communication skill, leadership quality etc. Only six percent of the respondents were unhappy towards skill development during RHWE, this may be due to language problem, lack of confidence etc. The respondents expressed positive attitude towards "RHWE has helped me to improve my skills in the related area" which secured highest mean score (4.68 MS) which was ranked first followed by second rank for "RHWE has helped me to develop ability of cooperation and team work" with a mean score (4.64 MS) and third rank for "RHWE has helped me to improve the marketing skill" with a mean score of (4.63 MS). The least mean score was secured by the statement "RHWE has helped me to develop leadership quality", this may be due to individual difference.

Table 1: Attitude of respondents towards night meetings/ group discussion meetings during RHWE N=110

RHWE has helped me in	SA	A	UD	DA	SDA	Mean score	Rank
Information processing and analysis	55	38	03	10	4	4.18	VI
Interaction skills (talking, listening etc.)	58	42	5	4	1	4.38	V
Knowledge and skills in conducting group discussions, meetings, demonstrations, field visits	68	33	03	03	03	4.45	IV
Preparation of AV aids and other written documents like posters, report writing	78	32	-	-	-	4.71	I
Understanding and using local vernacular language, proverbs/dialects	58	30	11	05	06	4.17	VII
Use of AV aids (charts, OHP, posters, flannel graphs etc.)	65	38	03	02	02	4.47	III
Preparation and use of aids like slides, videos etc for LCD and LED projectors	75	32	01	01	01	4.63	II
Total	457 (58.05)	245 (31.56)	26 (3.38)	25 (3.25)	17 (2.21)	-	-

Table 2: Attitude of respondents towards Village stay during RHWE N=110

RHWE has helped me	SA	A	UD	DA	SDA	Mean score	Rank
To get familiar with rural life	53	53	02	1	1	4.42	XI
Develop favourable attitude towards farming enterprise and the farmers	60	42	05	02	1	4.44	X
For exposure with social system and institutions	73	32	03	01	01	4.59	III
To learn experiences of rural setting and exposed to rural livelihood security	68	38	01	02	01	4.55	IV
To learn need assessment and programme Planning	56	41	06	03	04	4.29	XIII
To increase in knowledge on crops / enterprises	62	43	03	01	01	4.49	VII
To gain practical experiences and to understand farmers problems	78	29	01	01	01	4.65	II
To gain knowledge on time utilization pattern of rural people	63	36	04	02	05	4.36	XII
To getting Knowledge on rural cultural background	57	49	03	01	00	4.47	VIII
To provide opportunity to meet role models in agriculture	58	48	02	01	01	4.46	IX
To understand farming systems prevailing in the village	65	42	01	01	01	4.54	V
To know about the economic status of farmers	70	33	04	01	02	4.53	VI
To develop favourable attitude towards farming community	83	24	01	01	01	4.70	I
Total	856 (59.16)	510 (35.66)	36 (2.25)	18 (1.26)	20 (1.40)	--	--

Table 3: Attitude of respondents towards skill development during RHWE N = 110

RHWE has helped me	SA	A	UD	DA	SDA	Mean score	Rank
To improve my skills in the related area	84	20	04	01	01	4.68	I
To improve my communication skills	64	40	02	02	02	4.47	IV
To develop leadership quality	59	28	02	06	15	4.00	X
Developed capacity to start an enterprise	84	08	05	02	11	4.38	V
To improve managerial skills	65	30	01	07	07	4.26	VII
To develop favourable attitude about the related enterprise	78	16	05	01	10	4.37	VI
To develop ability of cooperation and team work	83	20	03	02	02	4.64	II
To develop confidence and professional competence	51	45	04	05	05	4.20	VIII
To improve the technical skill in performing various agricultural operations	50	40	05	05	10	4.05	IX
To improve the marketing skill	78	29	00	00	03	4.63	III
Total	696 (63.27)	276 (25.09)	31 (2.82)	31 (2.82)	66 (6.00)	--	--

Conclusion

From the study, it can be concluded that, students were benefited because of exposure to real field situation in the process of planning, production and marketing of produce. They were socially attached to the farming community of the locality. Developed skills in identification of local problems and solving the problem in consultation with scientist/experts from College/ departments. Therefore RHWE programme has helped the students to bridge the gap between farmers and scientists, lab and land. Farmers expressed students were more helpful in solving their field related problems, cooperative and friendly.

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