

RELATIONSHIP OF PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF UNDERGRADUATE VETERINARY STUDENTS WITH THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS RURAL ORIENTED CAREERS

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Abstract: The primary purpose of this study was to determine the relationship of profile characteristics of undergraduate veterinary students with their attitude towards rural oriented careers. The population of the study was 150 students selected randomly from the three veterinary colleges (50 each) under Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University in AP. Students studying B.V.Sc and A.H from three different colleges were equally distributed among themselves, considering gender as the parameter. For measuring the attitude, a self structured questionnaire was employed. Data was entered and analysed using SPSS version 20. Majority of the student's had favourable (positive) towards rural oriented careers. Correlation analysis revealed that gender, year of study, education & occupation of parents, rural urban background and parent's income had shown positive and significant relationship where as family type, family size and OGPA had shown positive and non significant relationship with veterinary student's attitude towards rural oriented careers.

Keywords: Undergraduate Veterinary Students-Attitude-Rural-Careers.

Introduction

Research on socialization showed that, attitudes towards things develop very early in life. Parents are known to pass their values onto their children. But, education had a positive impact on the attitude of individuals (Shenaifi, 2015). Attitude is a term of favour or disfavour toward a person, event, place or thing. Attitude can be formed from a person's past and present (Allport, 1935). It can be defined as positive or negative evaluation of people, objects, events, activities, ideas or just about anything in your environment. In Andhra Pradesh state, majority of the students after completion of their graduation are posted to work as Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in rural areas to serve the livestock farmers and enhance their living standards. While some graduates enter various careers depending upon their choice, interest and place of work. It is a known fact that Veterinary graduates after completion of their graduation are expected to render a great service to the livestock farming

community both in the rural areas and urban areas. The problem addressed by this research was to ascertain whether students are accomplished with a positive attitude towards working in rural areas in order to serve the farmers or not and to identify whether there is a significant association between profile characteristics of undergraduate veterinary students with their attitude towards rural oriented careers.

Objectives of the study

1. To ascertain veterinary students attitude towards rural oriented careers.
2. To examine whether there is a significant relationship between profile characteristics of undergraduate veterinary students with their attitude towards rural oriented careers.

Methodology

Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. The sample were randomly selected undergraduate veterinary students from the three veterinary colleges under the purview of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University in Andhra Pradesh, who were selected purposively for the study as the researcher hails from the same state. The data was collected using well structured questionnaire from the students pursuing B.V.Sc and A.H of the three colleges through random sampling leading to the total sample size of 150. Attitude towards rural oriented careers Inventory prepared by the Investigator. (Details are given in Appendix).

Results and discussions

Veterinary students Attitude towards rural oriented careers

From the Table 1 it is evident that majority of the students (64.00 per cent) had shown more favourable (positive) attitude, while 20.00 per cent students were neutral and remaining 16.00 per cent expressed less favourable attitude towards rural oriented careers. This clearly illustrates that most of the students wanted to serve the rural house hold livestock farmers and enhance their living standards. These results are in accordance with the investigative findings reported by Balan (2003) and Rao (1993).

Association of profile characteristics of undergraduate Veterinary students with their Attitude towards rural oriented careers

It could be observed clearly from the Table 2 that amongst all the profile characteristics selected for the study; almost all the characteristics had highly significant and positive association with their Attitude towards rural oriented careers whereas family type, family size and OGPA had positive and non significant association.

The existence of positive and significant association between gender and Veterinary students Attitude towards rural oriented careers indicates that both male and female respondents had

developed positive attitude. The awareness through various means might have helped them to develop favourable attitude which clearly illustrates that they are utmost ready to serve the livestock farmers.

The educated parents serve as a source of motivation for their children. They encourage their children to take up rural oriented careers in order to serve the livestock farmers. So they might have developed a positive attitude and existence of significant association is seen.

The probable reason for positive and significant relationship between occupation of parents and students Attitude towards rural oriented careers might be due to the reason that children of well settled parents try to emulate their parents. Obviously if mother is working it will inculcate professionalism among the children as the influence of mother is more compared to father and would have developed a positive and favourable attitude.

As there was a positive and significant relationship between rural urban background and attitude of students towards rural oriented careers might be due to the fact that majority of respondents hailing from urban areas has realized the contribution of veterinary profession to mankind and society because of their social awareness and exposure to outside world.

It could be understood that there was a positive and non significant relationship between family size and attitude of students towards rural oriented careers. This indicates that lesser the family size there can be more savings, better education, exposure and guidance available to choose better opportunities and therefore develop a favourable attitude. But however relationship being non significant indicates that various other factors also might influence the attitude. These results are in line with the accordance of findings reported by Balan (2003), Rao (1993), Sailaja (1991) and Usharani (1987).

Summary

In line with the above results, Majority of the student's had favourable (positive) towards rural oriented careers. Correlation analysis revealed that gender, year of study, education & occupation of parents, rural urban background and parent's income had shown positive and significant relationship where as family type, family size and OGPA had shown positive and non significant relationship with veterinary student's attitude towards rural oriented careers.

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Table 1: Distribution of students based on their attitude towards rural oriented careers

S.No.	Attitude	Frequency (N=150)	Percentage
1.	Less favourable	24	16.00
2.	Neutral	30	20.00
3.	More favourable	96	64.00
Total		150	100.00

Mean =26.9

SD=6.74

Table 2: Association of profile characteristics of undergraduate veterinary student's with their attitude towards rural oriented careers

S.No.	Profile characteristics	Correlation coefficient(r)
1.	Gender	0.189 *
2.	Education of father	0.212 *
3.	Education of mother	0.231 *
4.	Occupation of father	0.226 *
5.	Occupation of mother	0.314 **
6.	Family type	0.148 NS
7.	Family size	0.049 NS
8.	Rural urban background	0.287 **
9.	Overall Grade Point Average (OGPA)	0.045 NS
10.	Parents income	0.375 **

*: Significant at 0.05 level of probability **: Significant at 0.01 level of probability
NS: Non-significant.

Appendix

Responsive categories and scores assigned to each item used to evaluate the attitude of undergraduate veterinary students towards rural oriented careers

S.No.	STATEMENT	SA	A	DA	SDA
1.	Whether rich or poor all young students like myself should work together to develop villages				
2.	Young veterinary students should enter rural based trades and industries.				
3.	Village development is government job. I would not bother about it.				
4.	Paid or unpaid I would like to take up rural oriented careers.				
5.	Village development work would be a waste of my time.				
6.	Rural oriented careers are not meant for us.				
7.	Rural oriented career would be a rewarding experience for a student like me.				
8.	Without attractive incentives, I would not like to involve myself in rural oriented careers.				
9.	We should develop democratic leadership for organizing village development activities.				
10.	We should migrate to urban areas and settle there as more facilities are available.				
11.	We should accept challenge of improving our villages.				
12.	We young graduates should combine our occupational careers with village development task.				

4-Strongly agree (SA), 3-Agree (A), 2-Disagree (DA) and 1-Strongly disagree (SDA).