

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OGPA AND PARTICIPATION IN CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WITH CAREER PREFERENCES OF VETERINARY STUDENTS IN AP

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Abstract: The present study was conducted with an aim to explore the relationship between OGPA and participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities with career preferences of veterinary students in AP. Data was collected from randomly selected 150 undergraduate students from the existing three veterinary colleges (50 from each) under Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University. The results revealed that respondents were equally distributed among themselves, considering gender as the parameter. Care was taken to have equal distribution of all the years and there was a positive and significant relationship between OGPA and participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities with career preferences of veterinary students.

Keywords: Veterinary science- Students- Career preferences-OGPA-Extracurricular.

Introduction

The choice of career is a herculean task faced by many people and if this choice is not carefully made, it can either make or mar the future of individual because there are many career paths to choose from (Egunjobi *et al.* 2013). There are numerous career options in veterinary profession and the selection of right option would help the veterinarian to deliver maximum with true spirit. In order to achieve bright careers in the future, students should strive hard to have good academic performance. It is a known fact that students who are academically good aspire better careers. Thus overall grade point average (OGPA) of a student is consequential to careers in veterinary profession.

Extracurricular and co-curricular activities are part of students' everyday life; they play important roles in student's lives. The primary goals of these activities were to focus on the individual (student) level, institutional level, and broader community level. The development of an individual is the principal goal of extra and co-curricular activities on faculties and in university campuses. The numerous experiences in these activities positively impact the students' emotional, intellectual, social, and inter-personal development. Through working

with others, students can learn to negotiate, communicate, manage conflict and lead. Taking part in these out-of-the-classroom activities helps students to understand the importance of critical thinking skills, time management, and academic and intellectual competence. Involvement in activities helps students mature socially by providing a setting for student interaction, relationship formation and discussion (Bakoban and Aljarallah, 2015). Working outside of the classroom with diverse groups of individuals allows students to gain more self-confidence, autonomy, and appreciation for others' differences and similarities which is mainly essential in veterinary profession. Extra and Co-curricular activities can be identified as: free activities chosen by the students, which include several events that cover many aspects of sport, culture, social, and different academic activities. In one or the other way these activities in college life also play a significant role in student's career preferences. The main objective of this study is to examine whether OGPA and Extra and Co-curricular activities have any effects on the career preferences of veterinary students in AP.

Objectives of the study

1. To identify whether there is a significant relationship between OGPA and career preferences of veterinary students.
2. To examine whether there is a significant relationship between participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and career preferences of veterinary students.

Hypotheses

1. Ho-I: There is no significant difference between OGPA and career preferences of veterinary students.
2. Ho-II: There is no significant correlation between participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and career preferences of veterinary students.

Methodology

Ex-post-facto research design was adopted for the study. Three veterinary colleges, constituent institutes of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University in Andhra Pradesh were purposively selected for the study as the researcher hails from the state. The data was collected through structured questionnaire from the randomly selected veterinary students, 50 each from three colleges, thus to form a sample size of 150.

Results and discussions

Among the respondents 50.00 per cent were boys and remaining were girls and were studying their under graduation in three respective colleges of SVVU (Table 1).

From the Table 2 it could be observed that 'r' value 0.234 is greater than the table value at 0.01 level of significance. Therefore the first stated hypotheses is rejected and an alternative hypotheses has been formulated that "There is significant difference between OGPA and career preferences of veterinary students" is accepted. The positive and significant relationship between overall grade point average of students and career preferences supports the general view that students who are academically good have higher occupational aspirations. These results are in conformity with the findings reported by Balan (2003), Paul raj *et al.* (2013) and Rao (1993).

A perusal from the Table 3 reveals that 'r' value 0.388 is greater than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore the second stated hypotheses is rejected and an alternative hypotheses has been formulated that "There is significant difference between participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and career preferences of veterinary students" is accepted. Students who participate in the co-curricular and extracurricular activities are more dynamic, have more social contacts and are more confident of their own potentials, so they have higher occupational aspirations. These results are in line with the findings reported by Balan (2003).

Summary

In the present study it has been found that respondents were equally distributed among themselves, considering gender as the parameter. Care was taken to have equal distribution of all the years and there was a positive and significant relationship between OGPA and participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities with the career preferences.

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Table 1: Base line information of study participants (N=150)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	75	50.00
Female	75	50.00
Total	150	100.00
Study year		
I year	30	20.00
II year	30	20.00
III year	30	20.00
IV year	30	20.00
V year	30	20.00
Total	150	100.00

Table 2: Co-efficient of correlation and its significance of OGPA with the career preferences of veterinary students

Variable	N	Obtained 'r' value	Level of significance
OGPA	150	0.234	**

** : Significant at 0.01 level of probability

Table 3: Co-efficient of correlation and its significance of participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities with the career preferences of veterinary students

Variable	N	Obtained 'r' value	Level of significance
participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities	150	0.388	*

* : Significant at 0.05 level of probability