

# **A case study on demographic attributes of the agriculture postgraduate students of Uttar Pradesh**

## **ABSTRACT**

Students' behaviour is substantially impacted by their personality attributes. Demographic status of students has a significant influence in shaping up on their personality. So, to understand one's behaviour, one must first learn about their demographic characteristics. This study intends to investigate to study about the main factors of socioeconomic level and characteristic traits, such as social and academic engagement, life satisfaction, demographic features, socioeconomic level and characteristic traits of the agricultural postgraduate students of Uttar Pradesh. A total of responses of 283 students from 6 universities having a curriculum for agriculture degrees, were collected. A systematic questionnaire was designed and sent to collect information through a google form. Frequency distributions, mean, percentage, quantile and Cumulative Square Root techniques were used to analyse the data.

Key word: Agriculture, postgraduate students, Extension, Education

## **INTRODUCTION**

Today's world is vastly different from what existed previously. Values, morals, ethics, culture, and traditions change dramatically at each stage of development, from birth to maturity. The most essential predictor of livelihoods is demographic status, as it affects knowledge and skills, education, and economic well-being, all of which have an impact on the living standard of an individual.

Education is vital for the socioeconomic and cognitive growth of our human resources, and also for development of the nation. It is an instrument for creating change (Rothman, 2003). Education is responsible for converting human resources into productive capital, and higher education is the primary tool for this transformation. Apart from developing leaders for various areas of life: social, intellectual, political, cultural, scientific, and technical, it symbolises a set of higher ideals and a new function. A country's intellectual dynamism, resource utility, and economical assets are represented by its youth.

According to Rathod & Ningshen (2012), a demographic profile is a set of distinguishing traits of a population. To mention a few, demographics include age, gender, education, nationality, ethnicity, and religion.

The onset of the Covid-19 epidemic offered a significant challenge to the diverse aspects of life's functioning. The education sector had taken one of the hardest hit. This period demanded a rapid transformation of the educational system, which was met with the help of information and communication technologies. The study was conducted with the agricultural post graduate students of Uttar Pradesh with the goal of acquiring a better understanding of their personality and behaviour.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The present study was conducted in six universities of Uttar Pradesh i.e. Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda, Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and

Technology, Kanpur, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, B.H.U. Varanasi, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Naini, Prayagraj and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Modipuram, Meerut. Ten per cent of the whole population of the students pursuing their post-graduation degree were selected which comprises of total of 283 respondents. Frequency distributions, mean, percentage, quantile and Cumulative Square Root techniques were performed to analyse the data.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**Age:** Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents (38.16 per cent) were over the age of 25 years, followed by 31.10 per cent who were under the age of 24 years and 30.74 per cent who were between the age of 24 and 25 years.

**Gender:** Table 1 reveals that more than half of the respondents were Male (60.42%) followed by 39.58 per cent of female respondents. *It shows that female population is still low than male population when it comes to agriculture studies.*

**Caste:** The findings revealed that there is a slight marginal difference between respondents from Other Backward Caste (42.76%) and respondents belonging to General caste (42.05 %) followed by Scheduled Caste (14.13%) and Scheduled Tribe (1.06%).

**Marital Status:** The results suggested that majority (94.70%) of the respondents were Unmarried followed by only 5.30 per cent of married respondents.

**Education Level of the students:** The results revealed that out of 283 respondents, 72.08 percent of the respondents were pursuing their Master's degree followed by 27.92 per cent of the respondents pursuing their Doctorate degree.

**Family Type:** Table 1 reveals that more than half of the respondents belonging to Nuclear family (64.31%) followed by 35.68 per cent of respondents belonging to Joint Family setup.

**Family Size:** The family size results supports the family type findings as more than half of the respondents (57.24%) live with less than 6 members which is considerably nuclear followed by 28.27 percent live in a family size of 6- 12 members and 14.49 percent also have a family size of more than 12 members.

**Student Background:** It is observed from the table that majority (63.25%) of the respondents are from rural background followed by 36.75 percent of the respondents belonging to urban area. *It represents that students from urban background are also getting high interest in agricultural and allied studies.*

**Educational Background of Father:** From the Table 1 it is heartening to know that only 2.83 percent of the fathers are illiterate and majority of them are literate with post-graduation (26.15%) followed by middle school (13.78%), graduation (13.43%), intermediate (10.95%), high school (5.65%) and primary education (2.83%).

**Educational Background of Mother:** As compared to education of male parent in Table 1 the educational background of the mothers slightly deviate as 16.96 percent women are still illiterate and the rest literate mothers have done graduation (19.43%) followed by primary education (18.73%) and equal percentage (11.66%) of them have done intermediate and post-graduation, high school (11.31%) and middle school (10.25%). *It suggests that when it comes*

to formal study of female, we are still lagging behind in comparison to male. This academic and knowledge gap should be filled to achieve sustainable development of family.

**Occupation of Father:** It is observed from the Table 1 that the occupation of the fathers is mainly farming (40.28%) followed by working in govt sector (28.98%), private sector (16.25%), business (10.60%), labour (2.12%) and 1.77 percent working in administration. It indicates that the students belonging to family of farmers are more engaged in courses of agriculture field.

**Occupation of Mother:** It is evident from the Table 1 that majority (80.80%) of the mothers are house wives followed by 8.90 percent working in govt sector, 4.90 percent doing farming, 3.90 percent working in private sector, and around 2 percent of them working as labour and doing business.

**Family's Income:** The table 1 shows that the Family income pattern is uniformly distributed among the respondents as 27.56% have marginal income (less than 60000), 25.80 percent have low income (60001-200000), 24.38 percent have high income (more than 500000) and 22.26 percent have medium (200001-500000) income.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their demographic attributes**

Attributes	Category	f	%
<b>Age</b>	Less than 24 years	88	31.10
	24-25 years	87	30.74
	More than 25 years	108	38.16
<b>Gender</b>	Male	171	60.42
	Female	112	39.58
<b>Caste</b>	General	119	42.05
	Other Backward Caste	121	42.76
	Scheduled Caste	40	14.13
	Scheduled Tribe	3	1.06
<b>Marital Status</b>	Unmarried	268	94.70
	Married	15	5.30
<b>Education Level</b>	Masters	204	72.08
	Ph.D.	79	27.92
<b>Family Type</b>	Nuclear	182	64.31
	Joint	101	35.68
<b>Family Size</b>	Less than 6 members	162	57.24
	6-12 members	80	28.27
	More than 12 members	41	14.49
<b>Student Background</b>	Rural	179	63.25
	Urban	104	36.75
<b>Educational Background of Father</b>	Illiterate	8	2.83
	Literate		
	a) Primary	39	2.83
	b) Middle School	16	13.78
	c) High School	31	5.65
	d) Intermediate	38	10.95
	e) Graduation	74	13.43
	f) Post Graduation	77	26.15
<b>Educational</b>	Illiterate	48	16.96

<b>Background of Mother</b>	Literate		
	a) Primary	53	18.73
	b) Middle School	29	10.25
	c) High School	32	11.31
	d) Intermediate	33	11.66
	e) Graduation	55	19.43
	f) Post Graduation	33	11.66
<b>Occupation of Father</b>	Labour	6	2.12
	Farmer	114	40.28
	Business	30	10.60
	Private Sector	46	16.25
	Govt Sector	82	28.98
	Administrative	5	1.77
<b>Occupation of Mother</b>	Labour	4	1.90
	Farmer	13	4.90
	Business	3	1.50
	Private Sector	11	3.90
	Govt Sector	24	8.90
	Administrative	0	0.00
	House Wife	228	80.80
<b>Family's Income</b>	Marginal (less than 60000)	78	27.56
	Low (60001-200000)	73	25.80
	Medium (200001-500000)	63	22.26
	High (more than 500000)	69	24.38

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their Academic Achievement (Over All Grade Point)**

**n= 283**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>M.Sc. (Ag)</b>		<b>Ph.D.</b>		<b>Total</b>	
		<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>(%)</b>
1	Up to 7.7 OGPA	50	24.51	8	10.13	58	20.49
2	7.8-8.3 OGPA	77	37.75	44	55.70	121	42.76
3	8.4 OGPA and above	77	37.75	27	34.18	104	36.75
<b>Total</b>		<b>204</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>100</b>

Data presented in the Table 2 revealed that equal percentage (37.75%) of students who are pursuing their Master's degree having between 7.8 to 8.3 OGPA and 37.75 per cent students having 8.4 OGPA and above, followed by 24.51 per cent students having up to 7.7 OGPA. In case of students pursuing their doctorate degree, majority of the students (55.70%) were having 7.8-8.3 OGPA, followed by 34.18 per cent having 8.4 OGPA and above and 10.13 per cent students having up to 7.7 OGPA.

A wealth of literature exists that demonstrates the influence of demographic position on academic achievement, such as Saifi (2011) explored the effects of socioeconomic status on student performance. The findings demonstrated that parental education, profession, and household facilities influence student success. Khaliq et al. (2016) performed research on "Socioeconomic Status and Students' Achievement Score at Secondary Level: A Correlational Study," and the findings revealed a moderately positive relationship between parental income and students' achievement score, parental educational level and students' achievement score, and parental occupation and students' achievement score.

## CONCLUSION

The demographic status of parents not only influences academic performance, but also allows children from low socioeconomic background to compete well with their contemporaries from high socioeconomic background in the same academic environment (Rothstein, 2004).

As per the findings of the study, it can be concluded that maximum no. of respondents belonged to more than 26 years of age group and were male. Maximum respondents were from Other Backward Caste. Most of the respondents were unmarried. Majority of the respondents were pursuing Master's degree. Equal percentage (37.75%) of students who are pursuing their Master's degree having between 7.8 to 8.3 OGPA and 37.75 per cent students having 8.4 OGPA and above and majority of the students (55.70%) pursuing their doctorate degree were having 7.8-8.3 OGPA. Maximum respondents were from nuclear family type and belonged to rural background. More than half of the respondents had up to 5 members in their family. In case of educational background of parents, father of majority of respondents were educated up to post graduation and in case of educational background of mothers of the respondents, majority of mothers were educated till graduation. In terms of occupation of family, fathers of maximum number of respondents belonged to farmers category while mothers of majority of respondents belonged to house wife category. Maximum number of respondents had a family income less than Rs. 60000 per annum. When it comes to agricultural education, female population remains lower than male population. It implies that in terms of formal education of females, we are still trailing behind from males. This gap should be filled in order to ensure long-term family and nation development.

## Consent

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

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