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Utility of RAWE programme for undergraduate students of JNKVV Jabalpur

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Abstract

The study was undertaken at College of Agriculture, JNKVV Jabalpur to know the utility of Rural Agriculture Work Experience (RAWE) programme for undergraduate students. All the students who registered under RAWE programme during 2016-17 were selected as respondents for the study. The measurement was carried out with the help of well structured and pre-tested questionnaire. The results regarding utility of RAWE programme in terms of knowledge and skill showed that majority of the respondents had perceived moderate utility of RAWE in terms of communication skill, knowledge and skill gained on crop production and protection practices and socio economic aspects. Almost equal (48.31 and 51.69) per cent of respondents had perceived moderate to high utility of programme respectively, in terms of agricultural extension activity. The results regarding overall utility of programme depicts that majority (61.86%) of respondent perceived moderate utility of RAWE programme in terms of knowledge and skill gained by respondents in performing all activities during entire period of RAWE programme.

Keywords: Utility, RAWE programme, students

Introduction

One of the greatest educationists of India, Dr. Radhakrishnan noted that bookishness has greatly limited the value of agricultural education (Anonymous, 1948) ^[1]. So, agricultural education should be given a rural setting, so that it includes direct participation and experience with agricultural life and practice. Later, he emphasized that work experience to be provided to senior class students in real life situations, such as work on farms at the time of sowing or planting or harvesting or in a family production unit and the opportunities of this kind are to be utilized to the maximum extent possible. Such work experience should match with the local situations (Anonymous, 1966) ^[2].

Later, Dean's Committee formulated by the ICAR in 1980-81 suggested the linkage of agricultural education with actual farming situations. In this context, a new course, Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) Programme was introduced during final semester of under-graduate curriculum in Agricultural Universities in India viewed as the best opportunity, which can orient and equip the required potential among the students and facilitate them to completely understand the rural scenario. The linkage of agricultural education with the actual farming situations was brought up with the introduction of Rural Agricultural Work Experience programme at Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya Jabalpur in academic year 2003-04, for the under graduate students. Fourteen years have been passed since the inception of the programme. So far nearly 4000 students were gained rural work experience. At this juncture there is a need to study whether the objectives of the programme have been fulfilled or not? Also, it is necessary to know whether the programme have the utility for the students or not?

Materials and methods

College of Agriculture, Jabalpur was purposively selected because this campus had maximum number of students under RAWE programme 2016-17. All the students who registered under RAWE programme 2016-17 were selected as respondents for the study. There were 118 students including 52 girls and 66 boys' students. The measurement was carried out with the help of well structured and pre-tested questionnaire. The collected data were classified; tabulated, analyzed and accordingly described the results.

Results & Discussion

Utility of RAWE programme in terms of knowledge and skill

Table 1: Distribution of participants according to perceive Utility of RAWE programme in terms of knowledge and skill

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Utility in terms of ‘communication skill’			
1.	Low	00	00.00
2.	Moderate	104	88.14
3.	High	14	11.86
	Total	118	100.00
Utility in terms of ‘crop production and protection practices’			
1.	Low	00	00.00
2.	Moderate	79	66.95
3.	High	39	33.05
	Total	118	100.00
Utility in terms of ‘socio economic aspects’			
1.	Low	00	00.00
2.	Moderate	84	71.19
3.	High	34	28.81
	Total	118	100.00
Utility in terms of ‘Agricultural extension activity’.			
1.	Low	00	00.00
2.	Moderate	57	48.31
3.	High	61	51.69
	Total	118	100.00

a) Utility in terms of communication skills

The data of the table 1 revealed that the majority (88.14%) of the respondent perceived moderate utility of RAWE programme followed by 11.86 per cent participants had high utility and none of the participants perceived low utility of RAWE in terms of communication skill. It is indicating that the RAWE programme is useful in improving interaction skills, gaining knowledge and skills in conducting group discussions, meetings, in the preparation and use of AV aids during the RAWE programme.

The results are in agreement with Borthakur and Bortamuly (2013) [4].

b) Utility in terms of crop production and protection practices

The data of the table revealed that none of the participants had perceived low utility of RAWE programme in terms of crop production and protection practices, 66.95 per cent perceived moderate and 33.05 per cent participant perceived high utility. Results shows that RAWE programme is useful in gaining knowledge and skills on crop production and protection practices during entire period of RAWE programme.

The results are similar with the results of Bordoloi *et al.* (2013) [4], Sanjeev and Gowda (2013) [7], and Kotte (2014) [6].

c) Utility in terms of socio economic aspects

The data of the table showed that none of the participants perceived low utility, 71.19 per cent perceived moderate and 28.81 per cent of participants perceived high utility of RAWE programme. This finding depicted that RAWE programme is moderately useful in terms of gaining knowledge on socio economic aspects during entire period of RAWE programme.

The results are in conformity with Borthakur and Bortamuly (2013) [5], Bordoloi *et al.* (2013) [4].

d) Utility in terms of agricultural extension activity

The data revealed that none of the participants had perceived low utility, while 48.31 per cent had moderate and 51.69 per

cent participant perceived high utility of the programme. It can be concluded that RAWE programme is moderate to highly useful in terms of knowledge and skill gained by the participants in different extension activities conducted by KVK/research station during entire period of RAWE programme.

The results are in proximity with the results of Bandyopadhyay and Kar (2002) [3], Bordoloi *et al.* (2013) [4].

Overall utility of programme

Table 2: Distribution of participants according to perceived utility of RAWE programme

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	00	00.00
2.	Moderate	73	61.86
3.	High	45	38.14
	Total	118	100.00

The data of table 2 revealed that none of the participant perceived low utility, 61.86 per cent had moderate and 38.14 per cent of participants perceived high utility. Thus, it can be concluded that majority (61.86%) of the participant perceived moderate utility of RAWE programme in terms of knowledge and skill gained by them in performing all the activity during entire period of RAWE programme.

Conclusion

Majority (88.14%) of the respondents had perceived moderate utility of RAWE in terms of communication skill, knowledge and skill gained on crop production and protection practices, socio economic aspects and almost equal (48.31 and 51.69) per cent of respondents had perceived moderate to high utility of programme respectively, in terms of agricultural extension activity. As for as overall utility of programme is concerned majority (61.86%) of respondents perceived moderate utility of RAWE programme in terms of knowledge and skill gained by respondents in performing all activities during entire period of RAWE programme.

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