TO STUDY HOPEFULNESS AMONG SINDH AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY (SAU) STUDENTS FOR GETTING JOB

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ABSTRACT

Hope is the fuel that drives individuals to succeed, even in adverse circumstances. High-hope students have multiple pathways to attain desired educational goals and being able to achieve a good job. While hopeless students become psychologically depressed and unsuccessful in future. Considering it a research question, the researcher aimed to investigate the hope level of university students to fill out the research gap. For this purpose, a survey was staged in Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam considering multi-stage cluster sampling method, where 400 respondents were engaged to record their perceptions on a reliable and valid scale. Finally, the data was consulted with SPSS for analysis. The results revealed that a little lower than two-thirds (64.3%) majority of the respondents/students at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam had average hope level indicating somehow a good sign under the situation. Finally, it is concluded that most of the students studying in Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam have considerable hope level for getting job. It is recommended that entrepreneurial skills with practical approach must be transferred to the students and academic calendar must be strictly followed for maintaining the hope level of the graduates.

Keywords: Agriculture, Education, Hope, Job, SAU students

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is an important part of Pakistan's economy because it provides a roadmap for helping the poor and industrial raw materials. The agricultural sector plays an important role in the economy because it contributes to 18.9% of GDP and 42.3% of the labor force. Agriculture is supposed as a main source for the development of Pakistan in past and still can play a role in countries development (Ullah, et al., 2022). Similarly, education is vital for developmental process, and supposed to be a main source of getting job for individuals and to make their future bright and prosperous (Adams, 1998). In fact, education has broader social and economic benefits for individuals, families, and society, which functions to reduce illiteracy and generate employment for the people (Ahmad, et al., 1991). In this regard, several universities and other institutions are offering courses and degrees in different agriculture-based disciplines. Sindh agriculture university, Tandojam is one of them which offers bachelor, master's and PhD degrees related to agriculture and its related subjects/disciplines, in this institute many students are doing study in their specifically selected disciplines for higher knowledge to get better job future, also, says that being in the selected field increases the hope of student for the job in related field. Hopeful students become psychologically strong and dedicated to being successful in getting a job (Marques, et al., 2011) However, students having lower hope level perceive themselves as unestablished and may become jobless. Hope functions to succeed, even in adverse circumstances, therefore youth need to have sufficient hope level, despite prevailing contaminated environments. Rideout & Montemuro (1986), defined hope as the degree to which an individual normally supposes positive understandings about the future, which helps to live confidently even in tough situation or uncertain future. It contributes to optimal human development, psychologically healthier than their peers increase psychologically strength scoping cancer, life satisfaction, well-being, and recovery from depressive symptoms. Such positive emotions typically lead to constructive attitudes and behaviors, focusing on what is obtainable, having faith that good rather than bad effects occur and planful things (Fontaine, et al., 1993).

Being a part of agricultural social sciences, it was queried number of times at various levels that what is hope level of Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam students under the prevailing conditions. Hence, this study was designed to know the background and the hope level of the students which could be helpful for institution/s and policymakers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A quantitative (descriptive) research study was staged involving survey for data collection, and considered multi-stage cluster sampling method (Sheikh, et al., 2016). The study was conducted in Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, where 400 respondents at 95 percent confidence and ±4 percent margin of error from targeted population (1190 final year students) were selected. The cross-sectional information was collected on primary basis from the respondents through interviewing method and close ended questionnaire was encompassed using 10-point Likert scale (Dawes, 2008).
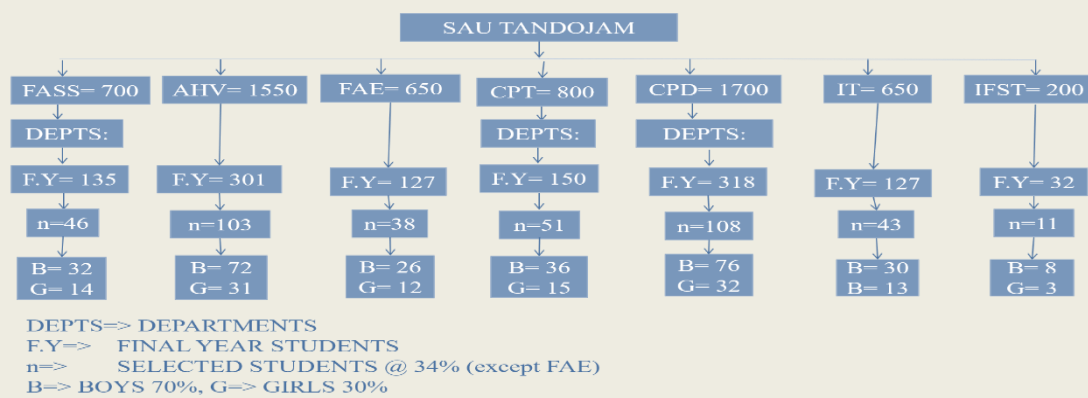

Figure-1. Sampling frame

Reliability

Reliability refers to the consistency of measure or extent to which the outcomes are consistent when the experiment is repeated more than once. A questionnaire on hope was adopted and modified according to local culture of study area, further Cronbach's alpha technique was performed to ensure reliability of the constructs (Jones-Wiley, et al., 2007).

Table-1. Reliability test (Cronbach's alpha)

Pre-test (n=30)	Final test (n=400)	No. of Items	Remarks
0.702	0.710	10	Acceptable

The analysis (Cronbach's alpha) was applied to ensure the consistency of scale and shared in Table-1, containing satisfactory/acceptable reliability score, mentioning ≥0.7 Cronbach's alpha value of selected items.

Validity

Validity is the practice to ensure the accuracy of constructs used in questionnaire for data collection. A valid hope scale developed by Snyder, et al., (1991) (Hansen, et al., 2020) was adopted and modified. Additionally, to ensure convergent validity of constructs, researchers performed Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) of those questions by using AMOS software (Yusoff, 2011). However, from total 10 items used in scale, items that meets the cut-off point of 0.4 or more (Kenny, 2012) as moderate values for correlation are shown in Figure-2.
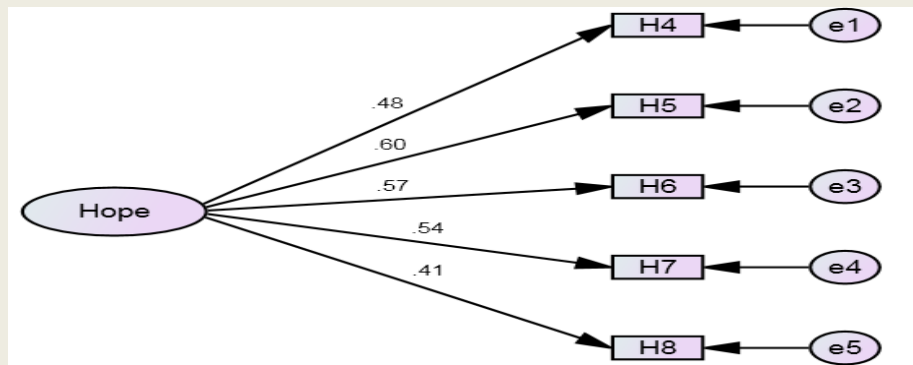
Figure-2. Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the selected items/constructs

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive analysis was carried out by using SPSS software to describe the background of the respondents, age, gender, and socio-economic condition of the respondents as shown in following Table-2.

Table-2. Background of the respondents

No.	Background of the respondents	Respondents
1.	Age	Ranges from 20 to 26
2.	Gender	Male= 280 => 70% Female= 120=> 30%
3.	Socio-economic condition	Poor=82 => 20.5% Average= 228 => 57% Satisfactory= 90 => 22.5%
4.	Residence	Own house= 367=> 91.75% Rent= 33 => 8.25%
5.	Accommodation	Hostlers= 205 => 51.25% non-hostlers= 195=> 48.75%
6.	Remoteness	Rural= 301 => 75.25% Urban= 99 => 24.75
7.	Father occupation	First majority Govt. jobs= 165 =>41.25%
8.	Mother tongue	Most of them were Sindhi= 308 => 77%

Table-2 shows the background of the respondents selected in survey for data collection. It reveals that respondents studying in final year of bachelor's degree were having the age of 20 to 26. Both genders were interviewed with 70% of male respondents and 30% female; majority belongs to average socio-economic condition according to their own perception. However, students from rural areas (75.25%) and Sindhi native speakers (77%) were in most numbers.

Hope level of the respondents

Hope plays an important role for achieving a higher goal/aims of life. It indicates about the satisfaction and happiness level, ensures successful life including for getting a good job. For the purpose, the researcher wanted to find the hope level of the SAU undergraduates besides included one of the objectives. In this regard, the data was categorized into three (High, Medium, and Low) sets to make it comprehensible and presented in following Table-3.

Table-3. Hope levels of the respondents

Hope Level	Frequency	Percentage
High	51	12.8
Average	257	64.3
Low	92	23.0
Total	400	100.0

Hope is supposed to be a chief indicator that may influence one's thoughts and perception, and functions to ensure prospects at upper level. In this regard, the hope was categorized into three levels to make the results more comprehensive and logical. The findings of the study as shown in Table-3 that slight lower than two third (64.3%) majority of the respondents/students at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam had average hope level indicating somehow a good sign under the situation and majority of the students/respondents are gaining knowledge with the hope for getting a suitable related job. Tailed by, the second popular, slight less than one fourth majority (23%) of the students were experiencing less to get a job in related field therefore totally discouraged about their future that can lead to depression and mental illness as found by. Hopelessness is the barrier to self. However, almost every eighth (12.8%) respondent was happy and hopeful at the higher level for getting a suitable job that may fulfill his/her basic needs and a well settled life in future (Alizadeh, 2013).Being a high hope student for better future is the result of successful in academic carrier (Moltafet, 2020). Similarly, (Hupp, 1995) reported that high hope level students can perform better than lower level.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study finally concludes that most of the students studying agriculture in Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam have considerable hope level for getting job. It is also recommended that an increase in practical approach for gaining and getting knowledge can improve the ratio of hopefulness of the students for getting job in their specific disciplines.

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