

Academic Performance in A Sample of Undergraduates of an Educational Institution in The Vicinity of Rural Background

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Abstract: *Academic performance of students is affected by a number of factors. The aim of this paper is to search the reasons for the academic performances of undergraduate college students of an area i.e. of a village where nearby students come for their study to complete their degree. The study reveals the fact that there are a number of factors such as family background, examination system, and socio-economic status of the students that influence the performance of the students. Educational institutions especially colleges and universities can use the results for policy formation. Students can be aware of their results in advance for their future. Investigations have been done regarding parents' education and of students' background of the subject by personal interviewing with the students. Continuous poor performance of the students in their final university examinations has impelled the author to review in this regard.*

Keywords: *Undergraduate Students, Academic Performance, educational institutions, poor performance*

Introduction:

Academic freedom is indispensable as per our constitution. 'The larger context of education is to prepare futuristic citizen for meaningful productive lives in a globalized society.'⁹ Different student attend higher educational centers for different reasons. It is well known that education provides the learner with a wide a range of opportunities, better jobs, higher pay, higher standard of living and social mobility.² The increasing number of population come out of high school system, we do not have the capacity to absorb all these into the college system because of limited number of seats. Higher education in Haryana is at a good place in India. Here is 1 state University, 22 private universities, 88 self financing degree colleges, 97 Government aided private colleges and 475 self- financing BEd colleges¹⁴ At present there are 147 Govt. colleges in Haryana, the number of colleges has increased from 48 to 147 within about 10 years of span to bridge the gap between school and college education. As per 2015-16 All India Survey on Higher Education reports, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in India is 24.5 % which is calculated for 18-23years of age groups. The highest number of students 22.4 lakh has been graduated in Arts Course, 8.77 lakh in BSC courses and 8.59 lakh in BCOM courses. And out of total enrolment of 3.6 crore students.79.19 percent students are enrolled in undergraduates, 11.23 percentage enrolled in Post-Graduation courses. (As per AISHE reports, 2017-18) The reason behind this difference creates a lot of questions in mind where the enrolled undergraduates go?

The question arises how many graduates attain the degree? All this need to be looked at local level immediately.

Various tools are emerging to help colleges effortlessly by the Government of Haryana and Ministry of Human Resource Development, India. The 11th plan recognized the need to introduce the academic reforms in Universities and College education system through modification in assessment system; switch over from annual to semester system in the examinations. The reason is why a college does not understand what a student is trying to accomplish.

Undergraduate students are the people who are pursuing their graduate degree under any university. Here the author takes the case of Government College, Barwala Panchkula (Haryana) which is affiliated to Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra and is situated in the vicinity of rural areas. As per 2015-16 AISHE reports, 60 % colleges are located in rural areas. In Haryana continuous efforts have been made by the Government to bridge the gap that exist in the finishing of school education and college Education in rural as well as in urban areas. After attaining this point of academic career, students are supposed to enter their professional career. The results show that in the area taken under study none except one or two completed his or her degree. There may be certain reasons, due to which students are not able to complete their under graduate studies. The reasons may be their course/ syllabus load, financial problems, relationship with classmates, semester system, surrounding environment etc. The problem is that using various methods for undergraduates' to complete their degree is not fulfilled/offset by the publishing or presenting of the paper.

In a nutshell, completion of graduation degree demands an answer for question from the University administration, college faculty, Parents and students.

Area of study:

The study aims to search out the academic performance of undergraduate students from the Faculty of Arts, Government College, and Barwala. The institution is surrounding by various other villages from where students come for study. The working area, is situated 1.7 kilometers from Barwala Bus Stand. Barwala village is located in Panchkula Tehsil of Panchkula district in Haryana, India. It is situated on the Haryana-Punjab border and it is located 20 KM towards South from the District headquarters, Panchkula. Sultanpur, Bhareli, Sunderpur, Rehore etc. are the nearby Villages, up to 2 kilometers from Barwala, from where students come for study. The village is surrounded by Raipur Rani Tehsil towards East,

Dera Bassi Tehsil towards west, Shahzadpur Tehsil towards South, Zirakpur Tehsil towards west. These remote areas are up to 30-45 kilometers. (Figure: 1)

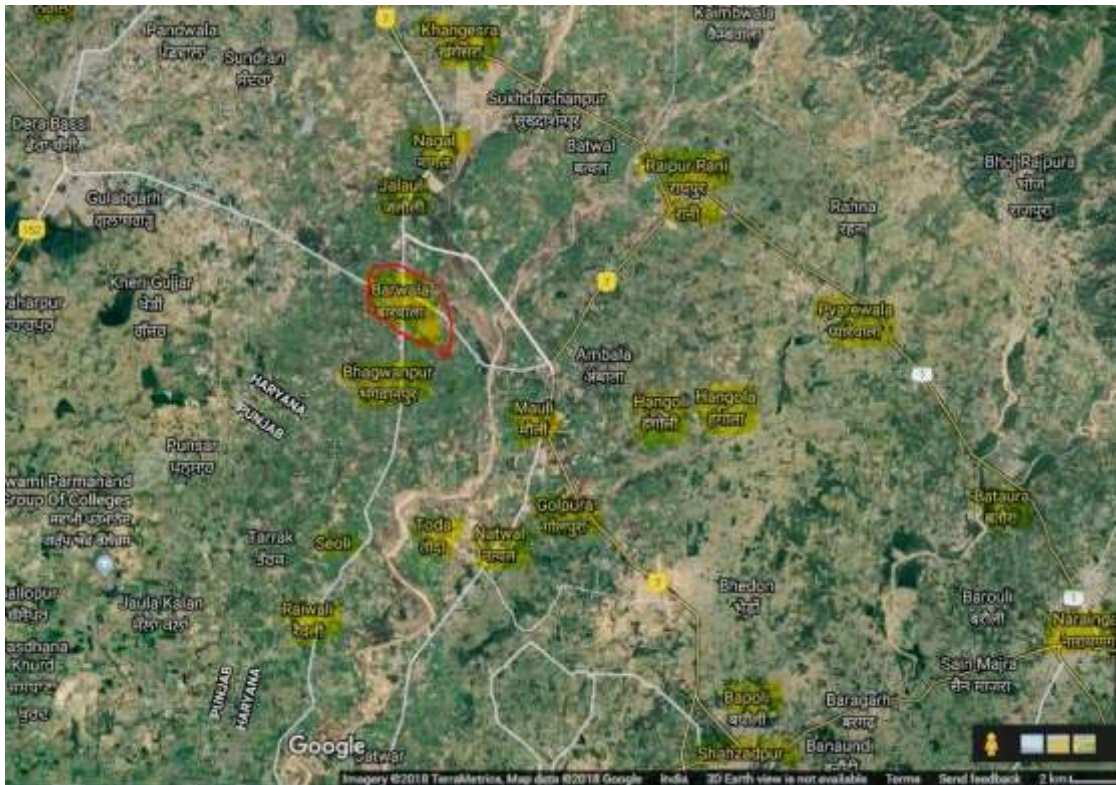


Figure: 1 Village Barwala- location on map and neighboring villages

Source: Google map

Objective of the study:

The purpose of the study is to determine the undergraduate students’ performance at a time, in the faculty of Arts in Government College, Barwala in the rural vicinity of Panchkula district of Haryana. The review also aims to find out the factors affecting the performance of the students.

Design of the study:

The study has not been studied according to any social group i.e. SC, STs, OBCs, General. Rather it is designed at gender level. The performance of the students is measured by the cumulative results up to V semester in the final year examination.

Data Base:

Statistical methods were not used to analyze or summarize the results of shortlisted students. Rather actual data of students were taken from the Kurukshetra university Kurukshetra site (kuk.ac.in) and the results were calculated by the percentage method for comparison.

The study includes samples of full time regular students of BAIII of session 2015-16.

Primary information in the form of questionnaire from 50 % samples of B.A.III students was collected to get the feedback from students towards concerned teachers.

Methodology:

The students who were absent in the exams and whose results had not been declared due to some reasons have not been taken into consideration. To make the study more specific, purposive sampling had been done. All the students having geography as an optional subject had been taken into consideration, so the base data of 30 students for B.A. final year had been considered for the purpose.

Percentage of scores had been taken for comparison of various subjects as well as gender scores comparisons.

Findings:

The results of the study shows that only 3 female students (5%) were declared to have passed, and none among the male students (0%) of 41 passed (Table: 1)

Table: 1 Pass-Percentage of Undergraduates (2015-16) Vth semester

Sessions	No. of students			Boys			Girls		
	Total	Boys	girls	Pass	Fail	Pass% age	Pass	Fail	Pass% age
2015-16	104	41	63	00	41	00	03	60	5

Source of data; compiled from results of kuk.ac.in

To study the problem more specifically, the results of the students having compulsory subjects (table 2&3) and optional subject geography (Table 4) had been calculated.

Table: 2 Pass percentages in English subject (Vth semester 2015-16)

English	Total	Pass	Reappear	Pass percentage
Boys	16	0	16	0
Girls	14	2	12	14.2

Source: result.kuk.ac.in

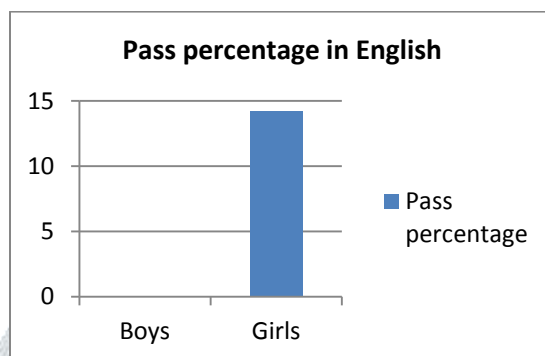


Figure:2

Table: 3 Pass percentage in Hindi subject (Vth semester 2015-16)

Hindi	Total	Pass	Reappear	Pass percentage
Boys	16	2	14	12.5
Girls	14	10	4	71.4

Source: result.kuk.ac.in

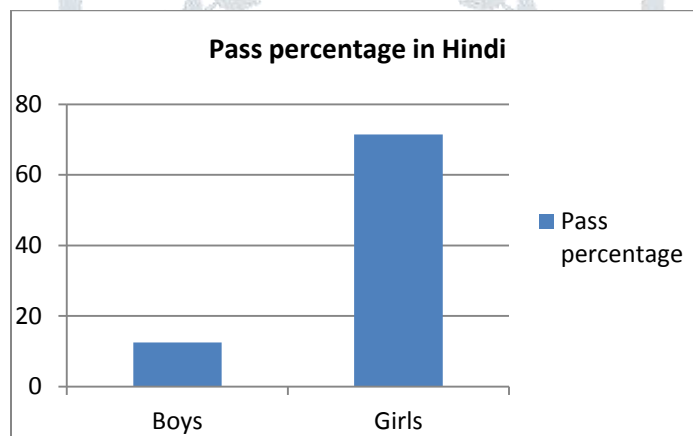


Figure:3

Table: 4 Pass percentage in geography subject (odd semester 2015-16)

Geography	Total	Pass	Fail	Pass percentage
Boys	16	1	15	6.25
Girls	14	14	0	100

Source: result.kuk.ac

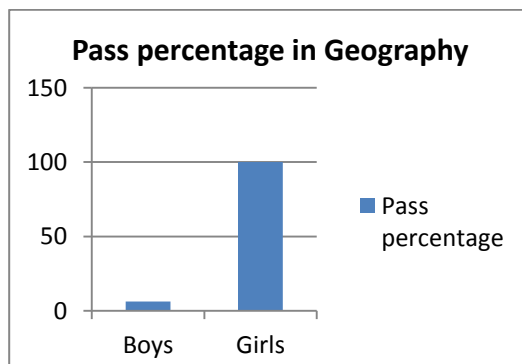


Figure: 4

From the table 2 and fig2, It is clear the performance of students in English is very poor only 19.2 percent of the girls passed and no boy. From table3 and fig3, it is evident that out of 16 boys only 2 passed (12%) and 10 out of 14 girls (71.4%) passed. From table 4 and fig4, only 1 boy passed (6.24%) while all 14 girls passed (100%)

Comparative study for various subjects shows that students in English have very poor performance. Their performance in subjects like Hindi and Geography are also not up to the required pass mark. It was observed that many students do not value college work. Their background in English is very poor. They did not study optional subjects like geography at their 10+2 level.

Female undergraduate students outperformed their male counterparts in college. The author opines that female students excel more probably because of their punctuality to class. Boys are not regular in their classes due to their domestic and economic problems. Their attendance is very poor in their college records. They have to do work at farms during college and after college hours. Actually they do not pay attention to studying at home. Overall, no one student is able to achieve his or her degree after spending 3 years in college campuses, automatically the question arises? Who will be the graduate? For the above problems, the author has tried to search for some factors for causing low academic performance of the institute.

Factors affecting the poor performance of the students:

Following factors may be cause for the low performance of the students.

Student- related factors: Students may not enjoy learning .they simply do not care enough about education. They do not know the importance of education and unclear about their career. In classroom teaching, students are not regular at their studies. The geographical location of the college is also a major hindrance to the regularity of the students.

Teaching related factors: Teacher-related factors play an important role in student performance. If a teacher is not interested or not having any passion about teaching, not having advanced knowledge about the subject .The students may not be able to get full knowledge of their subject or clarity of their subject. All the teaching staff members well qualified and regular but sometimes vacant post of any subject due to mid-time transfer of any subject affect the overall result of the students. Moreover, teacher should get time to prepare lesson plans, search various internet sites to update knowledge. But in the present times, Teacher needs to be transformed into a teal teacher.⁶

College /university/administrative related factors: College/university related factors can be major contributing factors to low performance of students in academics. For example in present times the prevailing pattern of examination in Haryana Govt. College is semester system in which if a student's gets reappear even in more than one subject he gets promoted to next semester as well as in next class. There is no standard barrier for the students to promotion for the next class. As a result even weaker students' reaches the final year of the examination during the 3 years, but never gets his or her degree completed due to heavy burden of previous reappears of various subjects .. Furthermore, except academic activities, there are cultural activities, youth activities, and important day-celebration etc. Teacher remains busy and students are also involved in these types of activities. During a short span of semester system most of the days are gone with the celebration of these activities. This may hinder the completion of syllabus in time. If anyhow the teacher covers the entire syllabus, still a gap exists relating to revision of syllabus. So the knowledge of the students' works only at superficial level till examination finishes.

Family- related factors: Socio-economic status of the family in rural areas play a vital role in the academic performance of the students. Economically backward students have to work in evening after college hours. This distracts the students from academics because survival is much more important priority than doing study. Although Govt. of Haryana is providing various types of scholarships to the Scheduled Caste, Backward and meritorious students. Mostly rural parents send their children to the college only for scholarship and not for higher education. So, the academic career remains unfulfilled.

Other factors: Geographical location of the college has been the disadvantageous factor for the students to reach in time or to be punctual in studies. The students have to cover minimum 30 minutes walking distance. Sometimes the wastage of time makes the behavior of students indifferent towards studies. If the college is opened at far or in the interior of the region, there must be provision of local transport facility like E-rickshaw to reach the destination of their study area.

Besides this, the following questions must be searched out to remove the problem at root –level.

- Is there any flaw in the University of Kurukshetra examination system?
- Does administration pay full attention to students?
- Are there any demerits from academic side means all academic staff is full on duty or any long-leave.
- Are the students aimless?

Limitations of the study:

Only limited area i.e.one college has been taken into consideration, but relatively a glance at the results of other colleges affiliated to the same university displays the same poor results at the same time, which will be discussed in next study.

Originality/Value: The paper will be useful to the academic community, the public and other interested persons who are interested in improving students' performance during their period of study in institutions.

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