



A STUDY ON AWARENESS ON SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOSTERING HIGHER EDUCATION: WITH REFERENCE TO COIMBATORE

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Abstract:

This study looks into how much knowledge Coimbatore students have about scholarship programmes designed to encourage further education. Scholarships are essential for lowering financial obstacles to higher education and increasing access to education for students. Still, there is a knowledge gap among students despite the existence of multiple scholarship programmes. The purpose of this study is to determine what factors influence students' awareness levels of available scholarship options and to evaluate the degree of knowledge among students regarding these opportunities. The study uses a mixed-methods approach, gathering data from a sample of students in Coimbatore's educational institutions through questionnaires and interviews. The results will help comprehend how people now feel about scholarship programmes.

Keywords: Scholarships, awareness, Higher education scholarships, College students, Coimbatore.

INTRODUCTION

In the vast and diverse landscape of India, where education is revered as a transformative force, the importance of higher education scholarship schemes cannot be overstated. Serving as bridges over financial chasms, these schemes bring the promise of higher learning within reach of aspiring minds across the nation. They stand as beacons of opportunity, illuminating paths for individuals from underprivileged backgrounds to realize their academic ambitions and contribute meaningfully to society. This introduction delves into the

profound significance of scholarship schemes in India, elucidating their role in nurturing talent, fostering inclusivity, and propelling the nation towards a brighter, more equitable future.

This study investigates the extent of awareness and identifies factors influencing it. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for enhancing access to higher education and addressing socioeconomic disparities in Coimbatore.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the reach of higher education scholarship among students
- To understand the level of awareness on Higher education scholarship schemes.
- To analyse how scholarship schemes impacted graduates and research scholars.
- To examine the problems faced by the scholarship applicants while applying for it.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

TYPE OF RESEARCH

The present type of research belongs to the category of 'Descriptive study'. Descriptive study are undertaken when the researcher is interested in knowing the characteristics of certain groups, assessing behaviour, making projections or for determining the relationship between z or more variables.

SOURCES OF DATA

Both Primary and Secondary data have been selected for the study. The Primary data have been obtained by administering a structured questionnaire to arts and science college students in Coimbatore city. The Secondary data have been collected from Journals, Articles, Books, Newspaper and Magazines and Webpages.

AREA OF THE STUDY:

I have choosed Coimbatore as my area of study because it is a delicate blend of quality education, cultural heritage and cross-cultural lifestyle. Education and multiculturalism have led the city to entrepreneurialism which is apparent from the fact that Coimbatore is a self-made city.

SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of the study is to 110 respondents.

FINDINGS AND RESULT**TABLE 1: GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS**

GENDER	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Male	43	39.1
Female	67	60.9
TOTAL	110	100

Source of data: Primary data

INTERPRETATION:

It is inferred that, 39.1% of the respondents are male and 60.9% of the respondents are female.

TABLE 2: PURSUING YEAR OF THE RESPONDENTS

PURSING YEAR	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
I UG	8	7.3
II UG	24	21.8
III UG	20	18.2
I PG	22	20.0
II PG	36	32.7
TOTAL	110	100.0

INTERPRETATION

It is inferred that, 7.3% of the respondents are I UG, 21.8% of the respondents are II UG, 18.2% of the respondents are III UG, 20.0% of the respondents are I PG and 32.7% of the respondents are II PG.

TABLE 3: ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

INCOME LEVEL	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Below Rs.75000	8	7.3
Rs.75001 to Rs.150000	29	26.4
Rs.150001 to Rs.225000	35	31.8
Rs.225001 to Rs.300000	38	34.5
TOTAL	110	100.0

Source of data: Primary data

INTERPRETATION:

It is inferred that 7.3% of the respondents are from the annual income level of below Rs.75000, 26.4% of the respondents are from the annual income level between Rs.75001 to Rs.150000, 31.8% of the respondents are from the annual income level between Rs.150001 to Rs.225000 and 31.8% of the respondents are from the annual income level between Rs.225001 to Rs.300000.

TABLE 4: MOST NEEDED CATEGORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES IN INDIA

PARTICULARS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Merit based scholarships	31	28.2
Need and field-based scholarships	52	47.3
Specialised field scholarships	20	18.2
Minority scholarships	7	6.4
TOTAL	110	100.0

Source of data: Primary data

INTERPRETATION:

It is inferred that 28.2% of the respondents needed Merit based higher education scholarships, 47.3% % of the respondents needed need and field based higher education scholarships, 18.2% of the respondents needed specialised field of higher education scholarships and 6.4% of the respondents needed minority based higher education scholarships.

TABLE 5: RESPONDENT'S OPINION ON IMPROVING THE AWARENESS OF SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

PARTICULARS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Educational workshops	28	25.5
Social media campaigns	37	33.6
Increased online presence	29	26.4
Collaboration with schools or colleges	16	14.5
TOTAL	110	100.0

Source of data: Primary data

INTERPRETATION:

It is inferred that 25.5% of the respondents conveyed that awareness of scholarship schemes can be improved through educational workshops, 33.6% of the respondents conveyed that awareness of scholarship schemes can be improved through social media campaigns, 26.4% of the respondents conveyed that awareness of

scholarship schemes can be improved through increased online presence and 14.5% of the respondents conveyed that awareness of scholarship schemes can be improved through collaboration with schools or colleges.

TABLE 6: SATISFACTION LEVEL ON OVERALL IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS ON RESPONDENT'S ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY

PARTICULARS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Very satisfied	21	19.1
Satisfied	57	51.8
Neutral	29	26.4
Dissatisfied	3	2.7
TOTAL	110	100.0

Source of data: Primary data

INTERPRETATION:

It is inferred that 19.1% of the respondents are very satisfied on overall impact of scholarships on their academic and professional journey, 51.8% of the respondents are satisfied on overall impact of scholarships on their academic and professional journey, 26.4% of the respondents feels neutral on overall impact of scholarships on their academic and professional journey and 2.7% of the respondents are dissatisfied on overall impact of scholarships on their academic and professional journey.

TABLE 7: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCALITY AND IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED IN SCHOLARSHIP

HO: There is no significant association between Locality and Improvement required in scholarship

H1: There is significant association between Locality and Improvement required in scholarship

ANOVA						
PARTICULARS		SUM OF SQUARES	DF	MEAN SQUARE	F	SIG.
Should disburse the scholarship fund during the academic year	Between Groups	6.292	4	1.573	2.974	.023
	Within Groups	55.527	105	.529		
	Total	61.818	109			
Enhance transparency regarding the selection process and criteria	Between Groups	1.766	4	.441	3.333	.013
	Within Groups	13.907	105	.132		
	Total	15.673	109			
Incorporate mentorship programs to connect	Between Groups	3.435	4	.859	3.193	.016
	Within Groups	28.238	105	.269		

scholarship recipients with professional in this field	Total	31.673	109			
Broaden the eligibility criteria to include a more diverse range of students	Between Groups	4.344	4	1.086	1.855	.124
	Within Groups	61.474	105	.585		
	Total	65.818	109			

Source of data: Primary data

The above table gives a result of relationship between pursuing year and suggestions to improve scholarship schemes.

INTERPRETATION

Relationship between pursuing year and disbursement of scholarship fund during the academic year:

From the table the significant value of association between pursuing year and disbursement of scholarship fund during the academic year is <0.05 . So, we are rejecting null hypothesis and accepting alternative hypothesis. So, there is **significant association** between pursuing year and disbursement of scholarship fund during the academic year.

Relationship between pursuing year and Enhancing transparency regarding the selection process and criteria

From the table the significant value of association between pursuing year and enhancing transparency regarding the selection process is <0.05 . So, we are rejecting null hypothesis and accepting alternative hypothesis. So, there is **significant association** between pursuing year and enhancing transparency regarding the selection process.

Relationship between pursuing year and Incorporation of mentorship programs to connect scholarship recipients with professional in this field

From the table the significant value of association between pursuing year and Incorporation of mentorship programs to connect scholarship recipients with professional in this field is <0.05 . So, we are rejecting null hypothesis and accepting alternative hypothesis. So, there is **significant association** between pursuing year and Incorporation of mentorship programs to connect scholarship recipients with professional.

Relationship between pursuing year and broadening the eligibility criteria to include a more diverse range of students

From the table the significant value of association between pursuing year and broadening the eligibility criteria to include a more diverse range of students is >0.05 . So, we are accepting null hypothesis and rejecting alternative hypothesis. So, there is **no Significant association** between pursuing year and broadening the eligibility criteria to include a more diverse range of students.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that students in Coimbatore have low awareness about scholarship programmes that support higher education. The results show that although there are scholarship options, students are largely unaware of them. This lack of understanding is caused by a number of causes, including poor communication initiatives and insufficient information distribution. By putting tactics like outreach campaigns, better communication channels, and streamlined application processes into practice, we can raise awareness and guarantee that worthy students may apply for scholarships.

All things considered, this study emphasises how important it is to spread the word about scholarship programmes and shows how it may improve Coimbatore residents' access to higher education. Stakeholders can support regional socioeconomic growth and educational advancement by giving priority to efforts to close the awareness gap.

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