

Knowledge of post graduate students of agriculture about information technology

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted at College of Agriculture, Parbhani and College of Agriculture, Latur, under jurisdiction of Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. Total 80 respondents of M.Sc. Part-II students were selected randomly for the purpose of study (40 boys and 40 girls). The students were interviewed with the help of well structured pre-tested interview schedule. The findings revealed that majority of the students respondents had medium level of knowledge about IT i.e. 76.25 per cent followed by 17.50 per cent students who had low level knowledge about IT and only 6.25 per cent respondents had high level of knowledge about IT.

INTRODUCTION

Information technology tools play an effective role in educational media. Advances in information technology provides opportunities for agriculture graduates to establish computer aided and internet connected rural knowledge centre. A virtual college linking such as village knowledge centre to Agricultural Universities and Research Institutions can be established so that men and women are able to get upto date authentic technical advice. Nearly, a million agriculture graduates can be involved in operating such rural information centres based on modern information and communication technology. At present, status of information technology is a crucial requirement. This is an important aspect of preparing students for their future in a complex knowledge based world.

Under the changing dynamics of economical and industrial growth, agriculture has to undergo changes with new approaches. Computer and internet can play important role in various sectors of agriculture in order to prepare the agricultural graduates for exposure to international agriculture, world trade organization, trade related intellectual property rights, global convention on climate, biodiversity etc. and here the IT instrument can play important role. IT instruments are also important in harnessing front line sciences and information about new inventions in various fields such as agriculture economics,

management and agribusiness management etc. IT fields can now provide job opportunities to agriculture graduates. With this specific idea, the present investigation was undertaken to study the knowledge of post graduate students of agriculture about various information technologies.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted at College of Agriculture, Parbhani and College of Agriculture, Latur, under jurisdiction of Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. Total 80 respondents of M.Sc. Part-II students were selected randomly by lottery method for the purpose of study (40 boys and 40 girls). The data were collected through personal interview using a well structured pre-tested interview schedule. For measurement of knowledge, 20 questions were asked to the respondents students about information technology, each correct answer was given one score. The total number of correct answers formed total score. The extent of knowledge was measured with the help of knowledge index:

$$\text{Knowledge index} = \frac{\text{Actual obtained IT knowledge score}}{\text{Maximum obtainable IT knowledge score}} \times 100$$

It was depicted from Table 1 that 100 per

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