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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 Maratwada 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.

Key words : Knowledge, Information Technology

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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

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge level (N=80)

Sr. No.	Knowledge level	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Electronic media	78	97.50
2.	ICT stands for	77	96.25
3.	Mostly used input device	80	100.00
4.	Instrument controls	79	98.75
5.	RAM is kind of memory	49	61.25
6.	CPU stands for	80	100.00
7.	Long form of CD	47	58.75
8.	Electronic aids for learning and presentation	76	95.00
9.	Long form of www	74	92.50
10.	Agril. related website	77	96.25
11.	External storage device	73	91.25
12.	In e-learning 'e' stands for	71	88.75
13.	Most popular search engine	71	88.75
14.	Moving from one website to another	47	58.75
15.	Internet	57	71.25
16.	Mostly used internet service	74	92.50
17.	LANS stands for	75	93.75
18.	Wireless common channel	62	77.50
19.	Device enable for computer to transmit data over telephone line	69	86.25
20.	Server	60	75.00

cent student respondents possessed the knowledge about mostly used input device and CPU, 98.75 per cent students respondent had knowledge about instrument controls pointer on monitor, 97.50 per cent students were aware of electronic media, 96.25 per cent students had information about agricultural related website and ICT, 95.00 per cent respondents had knowledge about electronic aids for learning and presentation, 93.75 per cent respondents had information about local area networks, 92.50 per cent students were aware about www and mostly used internet service followed by 91.25 per cent respondents had knowledge about external storage device.

It was observed from Table 2 that most of the respondent students (76.25 per cent) had medium level

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge about IT (N=80)

Sr. No.	Knowledge level	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	14	17.50
2.	Medium	61	76.25
3.	High	5	6.25

of knowledge about IT followed by 17.50 per cent students, had low level knowledge about IT and only 6.25 per cent respondent students had high knowledge about IT. These findings are similar to the observations made by Babar (2003) and Walke *et al*. (2005).

Conclusion:

It was observed from the relevant findings that 100 per cent student respondents possessed the knowledge about mostly used input device and CPU, 98.75 per cent students were aware of instrument controls pointer on monitor, 97.50 per cent students were knowing electric media, 96.25 per cent students had information about agricultural related website and ICT.

It was also noticed from data that most the respondent students (76.25 per cent) had medium level of knowledge about IT followed by 17.50 per cent respondent students, who had low level knowledge about IT.

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