

Exploring Present Status of Home Science Graduates

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ABSTRACT

Home science is considered as a complete package which provides skills to manage home, develop entrepreneurship, startups and serving organizations related to subject. But nowadays the subject is losing its shine (matter of concern). To increase the interest and enrollment in it, a number of experiments were done (and still going on) including change in nomenclature and opening subject for boys. The present research was done with 424 students to explore the present professional status of Home Science graduate students through a self-constructed tool which was administered via google form. Results depicted that 60% students are pursuing further studies and 32% are either in job or self employed. Forty seven percent students admitted that they have faced challenges in getting job just because they were from home science and 43 % felt that their subject has no relationship with what they have studied in their college days.

Key words : Home Science, Community Science, Challenges, Job satisfaction, Working status

“There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved.

It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.”

Swami Vivekananda

To quote Swami Vivekananda, “Education is the process of bringing out and blossom the talent potential in human beings”. ‘Right to Education’ as one of the fundamental right of every citizen in our nation that emphasizes its meaning in our development and improvement. Education sensitizes one to improve the quality of life. Higher education tackles mainly with the youth after schooling. It inspires technological know-how, improves the usefulness of the skills and promotes careerism along with a sense of liability and wealth. The other side of higher education handles with developing ethical character and scholar level of youngsters. Both quality of higher education and quantity of accurate skill are essential in building national spirit through its educated mentally

healthy youngsters. Home science is an applied and integrated science which aims at improving the quality of life for the individual. The family and the community precisely, the word Home Science can be interpreted as scientific and systematic education for organized home living which shall include the ever changing technological improvement and behavioral modifications of the members living in the home and influencing the community. Building a home and family was an art in India from centuries which hold a major place in the sixty four arts (chausth kala) according to which an individual had to master in it for successful living. Home Science in early the 20th century was not presented as a discipline but was more a subject of study. It was presented in selected schools aiming at preparing future homemakers for noble families. Today Home Science is explained as a multipurpose curricular of study taken up by both boys and girls. Home science education has attained new magnitudes now. It takes care of individual's require and interests and develops abilities and capabilities for successful vocations, professions and careers in a global village. Therefore it has evolved as a vital tool for empowering women at household and community level as professionals in different capacities. The present study was conducted with an objective to explore the present professional status of Home Science Graduates.

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METHODOLOGY

The present research project was an ICAR funded extramural research project. The title of the project was to "Designing of Institute Industry Interface Program for Home Science Colleges of Rajasthan" granted for the financial Year 2018-19 and extended up 2019-2020. The project was grated to design the Institute Industry Interface mechanism for Home science subject and the present research paper is part of one of the objective ie to explore the present professional status of Home Science graduates. A tool was developed after an extensive review of researches, exploring a report of the previous project, and consultation with subject experts which was further evaluated by five teachers (teaching Home science subject) in the various universities. The tool was circulated through electronic mode (Google form) for convenient reach. The availed results were analyzed and presented in the results section.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Exploring present status was quite a challenging job due to three different type of degrees in which students get enrolled viz, B.A with Home science, B.Sc. in Home Science (three year form UGC recognized Institute and B.Sc. Home Science Vocational (Four Year from ICAR recognized Institute) which is having options for three type of post graduations. Highest students who are perusing a degree in home science are from B.A followed by B.Sc. three year and B.Sc. Four Year. So the acquired results are presented in the following sections-

I. Background information of the respondents

A total of 424 home science graduates was contacted. Background information includes, age, marital status, family type, years of attained graduation degree and the motivation source to opt homes science subject. It shows that most of the respondents belong to a very young category that is 20-25 of age followed by 26-30 year of age. Most of the respondents (59%) belongs to married category whereas 43% were unmarried, it gives a very strange picture as maximum respondents are from young age group (25 years) which is the age considered to be settled in career whereas according to data majority is married it indirectly shows that in India still the girls get married without completing their studies. Since maximum respondents were less than 25 years of age so most of the respondent category of

less than 5 years of completion of their graduation. When the respondents were asked about the source of inspiration to choose home science as a subject, the maximum respondent (38%) have chosen home science because of their preferences. Whereas the data further shows that they were suggested by parents (30%). In present research it was observed that teachers played a good role in subject selection as 14 % students have taken this subject as they were inspired by their teacher and 7% enrolled in it because their friends were going in this field. Teachers again played a perfect role in shaping the career of the student and having an impression over students to opt the subject which can be seen as 14 percent students choose home science because they are inspired by their teachers, the students who were inspired from friends were less than 7 percent. An interesting fact that as most of the students have completed their graduation in five or ten years range, so we can see very less impact of social media (02%) as a source of motivation.

II. Present Status of home science graduate-

This section presents the information about the present status a home maker, study, job or business and issues with present status etc. covered under the following points-

II.a Present working status

II.b Issues associate with job due to having graduation from home science

II.c- Factors responsible/ motivated for attained present status

II.d- Interrelationship of home science and present status of respondents

Home Science/Community Science graduates are working on quite respective positions and have their entrepreneurship units. The subject is versatile so provides various opportunities for self-employment as well as jobs.

II.a Present working status – This section collects information on their present status which is categorized into four section viz homemaker, doing the study, working with some organization and holding own business and the results depicted in table-4

As depicted in table-1 overall 60 % of the respondents are studying (PG or Ph. D) at the time of data collection. Whereas a very good number of respondents (30%) are in job and a very few number (2%) are having their own business (run by themselves or their family business) whereas only

Table 1. Distribution of respondents by their Source working status

N=424

Particular	Number	Percentage
Homemaker	34	8%
Study	252	60%
Job	129	30%
Business	09	2%

8% are homemakers. The data can be concluded that maximum respondents were married, pursuing study, it gives a strong message that nowadays families even in laws families are more oriented towards women education.

II.b Issues associate with job due to having graduation from home science-Only one third of respondents were in job and rest were in another phases of their life like study entrepreneurship and taking care of home. They were further asked about their struggle and issues they face in their journey to get a job (even if they are not in job) because of their degree in Home Science and the data presented in figure -1and table-2

The respondents were asked to respond in yes or no, if they have face any problem in getting a job because of the reason that they are being graduated from Home Science. More than fifty percent of them said that they didn't have any problem (as previous data clearly depicts that most of the respondents are in to their study phase, so they might haven't tried for job) whereas 47% accepted that they faced problems while exploring job. They were further asked to specify the kind of challenges which shows that most of them have face problems due to fewer job opportunities provided for home science students (45%), which is directly associated with low enrollment in the home science at graduation level.

Table-2 Distribution of respondents by their Issues associate with job due to having graduation from Home Science

N=424

Particular	Number	Percentage
Challenges faced while getting job as being home science graduate	200	47%
Type of challenges		
1. less experience	140	33
2. less practical exposure in graduation	82	19
3. Poor communication skill	65	15
4. Feeling inferior about yourself	48	11
5. Not familiar with own potential needed to perform job	89	21
6. No expertise in preparing resumes	58	14
7. Society's negative mindset for Home Science	175	41
8. Low job availability for Home Science students in other fields	192	45
9. Others	57	13

Whereas,41% respondents admitted that society is having a negative mind set for the subject due to the prejudices by its name but it is affecting the confidence of home scientist followed by the issue less experiences(33%) before entering into the job market. Less experience might be a common reason faced by all graduates as they are fresh for professional tasks, so they face challenges while getting the job. Twenty one percent of respondents say that being dubious about the potentials regarding the kind of job/work a home sciencegraduate can do is the cause behind hesitation about self-performanceand less practical exposure (19%) were the major hurdles for them to get a job. Other challenges are poor communication skills (15%), no expertise in preparing resume (14%)

and feeling inferior about themselves. Very few said that the subject is gender biased (8%), complexity in understanding the difference (5%) between B.A (Home Science) and B.sc(Home Science) and Less initiatives taken by the government to increase enrollment and employment (3%).

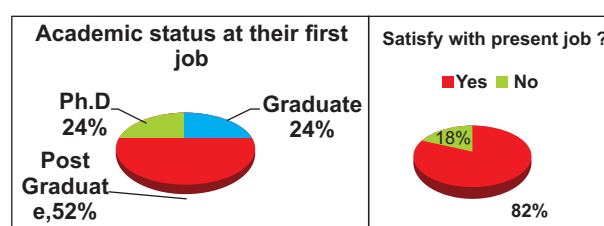
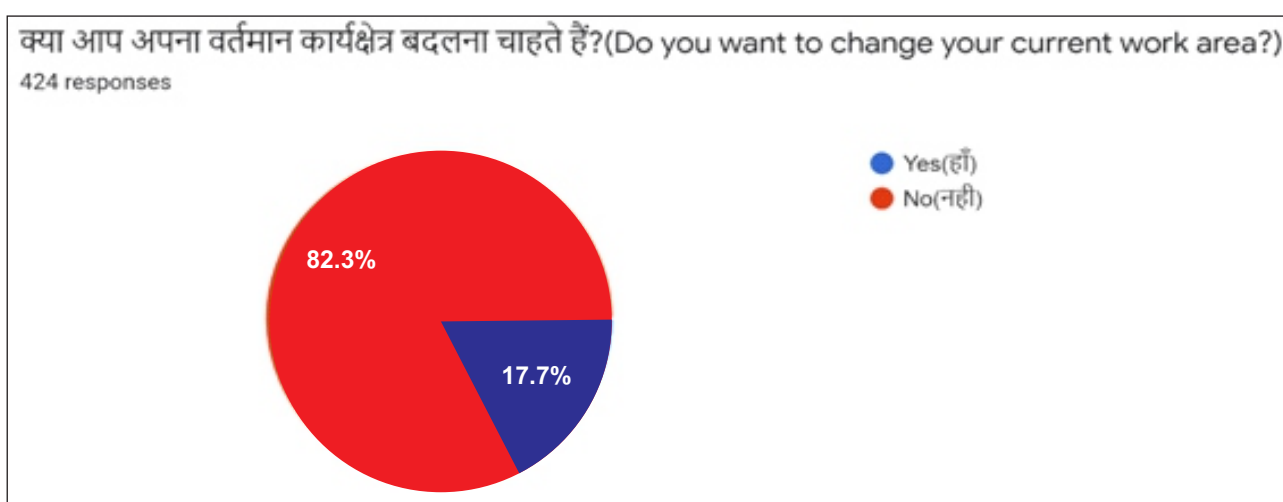


Figure- 1 Satisfaction with Jon and academic status at the time of the first job

The respondents were again asked to answer whether they are satisfied with their job or not? (figure-1), it is pleasing to know that 82% among the working population were satisfied with their job. In continuity, when they were requested to put some light on their wish to change their present work area (figure-2), the responses are absolutely same as only 18 % of respondents want to change their present work area, which was similar to the number of unsatisfied (from present job) respondents. According to the Figure-1 while describing their academic status (degree hold) at the time of their first job, it was found that maximum respondents (52%)

get their first job after completing Post Graduation, as now days the trends are changing students feels that only after PG their study will be completed. The respondents who get their first job after Graduation and Ph.D were same (24% each category) in numbers, as the students who take a break in between UG and PG usually opt for B.Ed and this turned up as job provider in schools (after B.Ed.) Almost the same as of graduation (24%) were PhD and these are those people who are in research organizations and teaching. Most of them are working at various respective professions.



II.c- Factors responsible/ motivated for attained present status—In the previous section, the responses on the satisfaction (Yes/No) were discussed which were further explored to know the reason behind (motivation) satisfaction with present

status and responsible factors behind not being satisfies with the present status. This section was open ended so the collected responses were categorized by the researcher based on of similarity and presented in the table-3

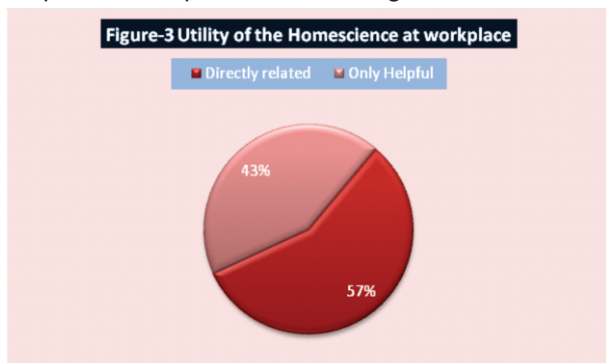
Table-3 Distribution of respondents based on of their response to factors responsible/ motivated for attained present status due to being Home Scientist

N=424

S.no.	Factors motivated	Percentage	Factors responsible for dissatisfaction	Percentage
1.	Home Science is a broad subject	87%	Lack of job opportunities related to Home Science	75%
2.	Home Science is a career oriented subject	85%	Negative mindset related to the subject	79%
3.	Home Science is a subject that deals with almost every field.	92%	Lack of institutions related to Home Science nearby Home	75%
4.	Home science is a subject that informs us about technology as well.	82%	Lack of Skill education	54%
5.	Home Science is a subject that imparts skills, knowledge and attitude.	93%	Subject is not included in civil and UPSC	61%

Nowadays employees satisfaction and motivation is a big challenge but in the present research it was found interesting that 82% of the respondents who were in job were satisfied with their present work status. It may be due to that home science is a subject which practicing life skills as a part of curriculum to the students that helps them to be happy and satisfied in the various phases of life. Motivated respondents pointed out that it's a broad subject with career oriented approach, deals with almost every field and well versed with technological updates which overall imparts skills, knowledge and attitude. On the other hand lot of criticism was also observed which state that the subject lacks job opportunities, the negative mindset of society towards the subject, lack of institutions and skill education, Poor Economic Condition, no government initiative towards an update of the syllabus in government jobs.

II.d- Interrelationship of Home Science and present status of respondents - The subject a student read at their graduation level prepare them for their future. It can also be said it helps students to perform better in their work place. The respondents were asked to respond that "is there any relationship with their college education and present job?", received responses are presented in the figure -3



The results regarding the interrelationship of the Home Science and the present status of the respondents show that maximum respondent's work is directly (57%) related to Home Science and most of the respondent says that Home Science is only helpful in their day to day life.

CONCLUSION

The study was conducted to know the present professional status of Home science graduates and the findings revealed that majority of the students now a days go for Post-graduation or Ph.D which specifically indicates the shortage of job avenues available for youth. The findings were from all the respondents of Home Science from various colleges' cities, districts and states which can be used in developing a policy which is under process. It is recommended on the basis of findings that there is a need to have a strong Industry Institute Interface in Home science at school or college level so that maximum number of student can identify the skill and plan accordingly after data collection. Information on ground realities has come in picture and performance has taken in the form of policy making through which assistance, guidance and counseling may be provided to the Home Science graduates.

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