



Determinants of educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University as perceived by the students

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Abstract:

Facilitating and promoting distance education is the ultimate goal of the DEC. In India, 14 Open Universities are in operation for doing excellent work for education through their educational centers in various states of India. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University is a premium open university among all universities working in India. Different degree programmes are run by this university and its education perspectives is to be accessed by the students. Distance education provides accessibility to all equity and further quality. Keeping in view the above said facts and information, a study on "Educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University as perceived by the students" was carried out. The result revealed that slightly less than two third of the respondents had medium level of educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education. Further the independent variables viz., age, birth order, caste, family type, family size, educational status of family, overall modernity and reading habit of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University students had a positive and significant correlation with their educational perspectives towards Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education and rest six variables did not show any significant relationship.

Keywords: Educational Perspectives, Students, Age, Birth order, Caste, Family type, Family size, Educational status of family, Overall modernity and Reading habit

1. Introduction

Education of a person expected to play a significant role in modernizing traditional societies. As a result of modernization and rapid development in the country a large number of employment opportunities wage as well as self-employment is created. But there in dearth of suitably qualified persons with appropriate skills, knowledge and competencies to exploit these opportunities. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University student has a key position in the various sectors in development of India. They played a vital role in the economy by producing protein rich food products, generating vital income, reducing poverty in rural areas. Dawn of new technology of education changed the technical expertise, scientific knowledge and skill and job profile of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University students. Induction of quality education keeps the Open University students constantly informed of new progress in the field of dairy and technological education and can bring about a change in the attitude of them. Hence, effective educational planning and administration with the primary aim of providing the opportunities to every distance students and for better placement and utilization of available man power. Keeping in view the above said facts and information a study entitled "Determinants of Educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University as perceived by the students" was carried out with following objectives.

2. Objectives

(1) To study the different dimensions of educational perspectives and overall educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University as perceived by the students.

(2) To study the relationship between profile of the students and their educational perspectives towards Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

3. Materials and Methods

The present study was concluded in five tribal districts of Gujarat state having the highest numbers of students enrolled in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University for the academic year 2006-07. Propionates randomly sampling technique was used to select 160 respondents @ of 5.00 per cent from enrolled 3250 students.

Data were collected with the help of well-structured pretested Gujarati version interview schedule. The collected data were analyzed in light of the objectives with appropriate statistical tools viz., percent, coefficient correlation and standard deviation.

4. Results

Educational perspective is mental view as perceived by the students in terms of relative importance of education received through any academic organization. Webster's New World Dictionary (1962) described perspective as a proper evaluation with proportional importance given to the component parts. As a first step in developing the schedule to measure the educational perspective, four major indicators related to educational perspectives were identified. These indicators were opinion of the students regarding education system, attitude of students towards education through Open University and level of occupation aspiration. The data regarding measurement of each indicator is given bellow:

5. Dimensions of Educational Perspectives

1. Utility of education through Open University as perceived by the students

The respondents were asked to express their opinion about the utility of the education through Open University as perceived by them. Afterwards, frequency of all the opinions related with utility was measured with the help of three point rating scales. Opinion of most Important (MI), Important (I) and Less Important (LI) was given 3, 2 and 1 score, respectively. The utility wise score was divided by the number of respondents, leading to the mean score. The rank was given to higher mean score to lower mean score. The data in this regards are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their utility of the education through Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

n=160

Sr. No.	Utility items	Most IMP	IMP	Less IMP	Mean score	Rank
1.	It helps in catering the needs of education aspiration of the parents	98 (61.25)	25 (15.63)	37 (23.12)	2.38	I
2.	For career advancement	85 (53.13)	24 (15.00)	51 (31.87)	2.21	II
3.	It fulfil the education need in remote area	79 (49.38)	29 (18.12)	52 (32.50)	2.17	III
4.	For employment	66 (41.25)	34 (21.25)	60 (37.50)	2.04	IV
5.	It develop broad vision of mind	55 (34.38)	40 (25.00)	65 (40.62)	1.93	V
6.	It helps to minimize complexities in their day to day work	45 (28.13)	38 (23.75)	77 (48.12)	1.80	VI
7.	It helps for increasing managerial ability	24 (15.00)	34 (21.25)	102 (63.75)	1.51	VII

8.	To develop entrepreneurship	19 (11.88)	26 (16.25)	115 (71.87)	1.40	VIII
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Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

The data reported in Table 1 reveal the utility of the education through Open University as perceived by the students as follow:

"It helps in catering the needs of education aspiration of the parents" (2.38) ranked first followed by for "career advancement" (2.21), "it fulfil the educational need in remote area" (2.17), "for employment" (2.04), "it develops broad vision of mind" (1.93), "it helps to minimize complexities in their day to day work" (1.80), "it helps for increasing managerial ability" (1.51) and "to develop entrepreneurship" (1.40).

2. Opinion of the students regarding education system

Various components related to education system were prepared and included in the interview schedule. The respondents were asked about their opinion in terms of good, fair and not up to the mark; the scores of three, two and one were assigned to each component. To quantify this variable, scores of all the statements were added up. The opinion were collected for functioning of community centre, use of audio-visuals, counseling system, evaluation system, material provision and guidance in three continuums as explained above. Based on mean score, rank order was also given from higher to lower to the each statement related to opinion of the students regarding to education system. Several statements related to each of the main components were collected through relevant literature by discussion with academic staff at various level and by using various scale developed by other scientist with due modification.

Table 2: Opinion of student regarding education system

n=160

Sr. No.	Item	Good	Fair	Not up to the mark	Mean score	Rank
1.	Functioning of community centre	105 (65.63)	39 (24.37)	16 (10.00)	2.55	I
2.	Use of A.V. Aids	97 (60.63)	41 (25.62)	22 (13.75)	2.47	II
3.	Counseling system	87 (54.38)	37 (23.12)	36 (22.50)	2.31	III
4.	Evaluation system	63 (39.38)	74 (46.25)	23 (14.37)	2.25	IV
5.	Material provision	45 (28.13)	78 (48.75)	37 (23.12)	2.05	V
6.	Guiding	27 (16.87)	87 (54.38)	46 (28.75)	1.88	VI

Figures in parenthesis show percentage.

From this table it was found that majority of the students had good opinion about functioning of community center (65.63), use of A.V. Aids (60.63) and Counseling system and majority of the students had fair opinion about the guiding (54.38), material provision (48.75) and evaluation system (46.25).

3. Attitude of the students towards education provided by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

An attitude is often defined as a tendency to react favourable or unfavourable towards a designated class of stimuli such as a national or racial group, a custom or an institution. Attitude of the students under investigation is given in Table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education n=160

Sr. No.	Attitude	Number	Percent
1.	Favorable (above 67.08)	38	23.75
2.	Neutral (in between 20.28 to 67.08)	80	50.00
3.	Unfavorable (below 20.28)	42	26.25
	Mean : 43.68 SD : 23.40		
Total		160	100.00

It is evident from the Table 3 that exactly half (50%) of the respondents held neutral attitude toward Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education, whereas 26.25 per cent had unfavorable attitude and 23.75 per cent of the respondents had favorable attitude toward Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education.

(4) Occupational aspiration level of the students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

The aspiration is a strong desire for excellence, the ardent desire to accomplish what one sets out to do. In a given culture, the individual while attaining his adulthood identifies himself with various individuals or group, which helps in developing high-level occupation. The data for the occupational aspiration level of the respondents are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their occupational aspiration

n=160

Sr. No.	Occupational aspiration level	Number	Percent
1.	Low level (below 6.41)	40	25.00
2.	Medium level (in between 6.41 to 16.59)	97	60.70
3.	High level (above 16.59)	23	14.30
	Mean : 11.50 SD : 5.09		
Total		160	100.00

The data given in Table 4 reveal that majority of the respondents (60.70%) had medium level of occupational aspiration followed by 25.00 per cent of the respondents, who were had low level of occupational aspiration and 14.30 per cent of the respondents were with high level of occupational aspiration.

(5) Overall educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University as perceived by the students

Educational perspectives play an important role in guiding the students towards thinking. It is a cluster approach of action, intension and belief. The distribution of the respondents according to their level of educational perspectives is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their level of educational perspectives n=160

Sr. No.	Level of educational perspectives	Number	Percent
1.	Low level (below 52.60)	27	16.88
2.	Medium level (in between 52.61 to 102.02)	105	65.62
3.	High level (above 102.03)	28	17.50
	Mean : 77.31 SD : 24.71		
Total		160	100.00

It is evident from the Table 5 that slightly less than two third (65.62%) of the respondents had medium level of educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education, whereas 17.50 per cent and 16.88 per cent had high and low level of educational perspectives toward Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education.

(6) Relationship between profile of the students and their educational perspectives

In order to determine the relationship between the personal, social and economic characteristics of the students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University with their educational perspectives, a correlation co-efficient was computed. The data in this regard are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Relationship of educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University students and their profiles n=160

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Correlation co-efficient
1.	Age	0.471**
2.	Birth order	0.637**
3.	Caste	-0.533**
4.	Marital status	-0.114
5.	Family type	-0.194*
6.	Family size	0.288**
7.	Academic achievement	-0.102
8.	Participation in extracurricular activities	-0.045
9.	Family's occupation	-0.155
10.	Annual Income of family	-0.074
11.	Father's social participation	-0.002
12.	Educational status of family	0.364**
13.	Overall modernity	0.634**
14.	Reading habit	0.648**

*Significant at 5 per cent level of probability; **Significant at 1 per cent level of probability

It could be observed from the above table that out of the 14 variables, eight variables viz., age, birth order, caste, family type, family size, educational status of family, overall modernity and reading habit of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University students had a positive and significant correlation with their attitude towards Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education and rest six variables did not show any significant relationship.

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