



Sway to Selected Factors in Determining Educational Perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

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Abstract:

A study was conducted in five tribal districts of Gujarat state with 160 respondent students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University. The result revealed that reading habit had maximum positive direct effect on educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University followed by overall modernity, birth order, family size, age and family education, whereas caste had the highest negative direct effect followed by family type, age had maximum total indirect effect followed by birth order, overall modernity, family education, reading habit and family size whereas caste had maximum negative indirect effect followed by family type. With regards to substantial indirect effect the first substantial positive indirect effect on educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University was put forth by family education followed by overall modernity through reading habit. However, substantial negative indirect effect on educational perspectives Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University was put forth by caste through birth order and family type through overall modernity.

Keywords: Overall modernity, Birth order, Family size, Age and Family education, Reading habit

1. Introduction

The development and acceptance of "Distance Education" both in the developed and developing countries is growing fast. The reason behind such an acceptance is its flexible approach and user friendly technique of education that can provide a viable alternative for everyone who needs to pursue education further to expand his horizons of knowledge, to sharpen his existing knowledge, to upgrade his knowledge, skill and training and thereby, making learning a fulfilling experience.

Gujarat has realized importance of Distance and Open learning in higher education. Out of the 7 statutory Universities, 3 Universities have been running external degree courses for years. Of late, DTE (Directorate of Technical Education) has been offering distance learning diploma courses in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. Some NGOs are also operating in this field at one level or other. Thus, the culture of open distance learning exists in the state which augurs well for the BAOU. The BAOU therefore, has a fertile soil to plough and disseminate open learning through regional language at larger scale.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University was established as per the ordinance No. 5/1994 of Gujarat Government published in extraordinary gazette on 13th April, 1994. Afterwards this ordinance was given the form of an Act which is known as Act No. 14 of 1994 passed by Gujarat State legislature. No study was conducted since its inception on educational perspectives and sway to select the factors for educational perspectives of BAOU. Keeping in mind the present study entitled "Sway to Selected Factors in Determining Educational Perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University" was conducted.

2. 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 path analysis.

3. Results

Direct and indirect effect between antecedents attribute of the students on their educational perspectives

The correlation co-efficient values(r) were found to be significant in case of 14 variables as mentioned earlier. The data thus, indicate that observed relationship between the variables was only partially absolute and partially relative and a partial relationship was a contribution made by other variables exercising their influence jointly.

It is therefore, necessary to study the influence of one variable on other variable both directly as well as through other variables presented in the situation. Hence, the significant variables were subjected to path analysis. The result of path analysis is presented in Table 1 and diagrammatically illustrated in Fig.1.

Table 1: Direct and indirect effect of attribute of the students on their Educational perspectives

Sr. No .	Variables	Direct effect	Total indirect effect	Substantial indirect effect through	
				1	2
1.	Age (X ₁)	0.0488	0.4225522	0.1248 (X ₁₅)	0.1216 (X ₂)
2.	Birth order (X ₂)	0.2542	0.38274	0.1372 (X ₁₅)	0.1009 (X ₁₄)
3.	Caste (X ₃)	-0.3272	-0.2055845	-0.0731 (X ₂)	-0.0696 (X ₁₄)
4.	Family type (X ₄)	-0.0922	-0.1022465	-0.0462 (X ₁₄)	-0.0379 (X ₂)
5.	Family size (X ₅)	0.0655	0.22207	0.1138 (X ₁₅)	0.0682 (X ₂)
6.	Family education (X ₁₃)	0.0131	0.35093	0.1530 (X ₁₅)	0.0867 (X ₁₄)
7.	Overall modernity (X ₁₄)	0.2718	0.36259	0.1436 (X ₁₅)	0.0943 (X ₂)
8.	Reading habit (X ₁₅)	0.3067	0.34179	0.1272 (X ₁₄)	0.1137 (X ₂)

4. Direct effect

The data in Table 1 reveal that the variables, age, birth order, family size, family education, overall modernity and reading habit exhibited positive direct effect whereas caste and family type exerted negative direct effect on educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

Reading habit had maximum positive direct effect (0.3067) on educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University followed by overall modernity (0.2718), birth order (0.2542), family size (0.0655), age (0.0488) and family education (0.0131), whereas caste had the highest negative direct effect (-0.3272) followed by family type (-0.0922).

It can be inferred that major variables contributing the maximum direct and positive effect on educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University were reading habit and overall modernity.

5. Total indirect effect

So far, total indirect effect is concerned six variables and two variables had positive and negative total indirect effect on educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, respectively.

Further, it can be observed that age had maximum total indirect effect (0.4225522) followed by birth order (0.38274), overall modernity (0.36259), family education (0.35093), reading habit (0.34179) and family size (0.22207) where as caste had maximum negative indirect effect (-0.2055845) followed by family type (-0.1022465).

6. Substantial indirect effect

It was further revealed that out of 16 substantial indirect effects, six routed through birth order and five each routed through overall modernity and reading habit.

With regards to substantial indirect effect the first substantial positive indirect effect on educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University was put forth by family education (0.1530) followed by overall modernity (0.1436) through reading habit. However, substantial negative indirect effect on educational perspectives Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University was put forth by caste (-0.0731) through birth order and family type (-0.0462) through overall modernity.

It could be concluded that reading habit and birth order of the students were the key variables in exerting considerable direct and substantial effect and age had exerted maximum total indirect effect on educational perspectives Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

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