

Students Perception on Enrolment Factors in Retention in Higher Agricultural Education

Dr. Chandan Kumar Panda*

Assistant Professor-cum-Junior Scientist,

Dept. of Extension Education

Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur – 813 210

** E-mail: dr.ckpanda@gmail.com*

Abstract—*There are seventy one public agricultural universities in India. Private universities and colleges are also imparting higher agricultural education in India. Government spends on an average Rupees 10 – 12 lakhs per students for their degree completion, and it was noted eighty per cent students retained and complete their academic programme. The matter of retention is a relentless problem in higher education as half of all freshman entering higher education fail to realize their dreams and consequently leads to exodus of students from higher education. However, retaining students is a key factor in maintenance of institution stability and reputation. This study was conducted to assess the enrolment factors associated with retention of students in Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate(PG) Programme in the agricultural universities of India. Through the random sampling methods two hundred forty respondents were selected (UG 120 & PG 120).Major Enrolment Factors(out of twenty) contributes in students(both UG & PG) retention is agricultural education promote agriculture within the country(Rank I). Although UG students another major consideration in retention was agricultural education helped in preparation for career in agriculture in future (Rank II), however, PG students major perception was this education helped them to learn about agriculture better way (Rank II).Other major retention factors were building self-confidence(Rank III), involvement of variety of local activities(Rank IV), resolve the farmer’s problems(Rank V). Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was conducted on twenty Enrolment Factors, based on that factors were broadly categories into Parental influence and future scope, Agricultural growth and career choice and leadership development. It was also noted that enrolment factors were positively and significantly correlated with Marks obtained in Higher Secondary (0.345**), Family Income (0.214*) and Aspiration of higher study/research (0.278*). Based on the study it can be concluded that for more retention of the students in higher agricultural education aforesaid factors should be inculcated among the institutional ecosystem.*

Keywords: *Enrolment Factors, Retention, Students, Agricultural Education.*