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Assessing the knowledge of students regarding post matric scholarship scheme

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Abstract

This study aimed to Assessing the knowledge of students regarding post matric scholarship scheme. A random sampling approach was utilized to select 240 undergraduate students from two universities: Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar. To gather data, an interview schedule was designed and implemented. The findings revealed that all respondents from both Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU) and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUS&T) were aware that both male and female students were eligible to apply for the post-matric scholarship, and that the application process followed a hybrid model. However, awareness of the scholarship's governing body was notably low, with only a small fraction of respondents recognizing that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment administered the program, 5.83 per cent from CCS HAU and 2.50 per cent from GJUS&T, respectively. It was found that all respondents from both institutions were aware of the eligibility criteria for post-matric scholarships. These criteria included securing at least 50% marks in the previous examination, holding Indian citizenship, belonging to the SC, BC, or EWS categories, and having a family income below ₹2.5 lakh per annum. Additionally, students knew that applications could be submitted through the Common Service Centre (CSC).

Keywords: Assessing, Knowledge, scheme, Scholarship, Student

Introduction

Scholarships serve as government financial aid for students facing economic challenges that hinder their ability to afford education or continue attending school, college, or university. They play a vital role in supporting financially struggling students (Mae *et al.*, 2016) ^[1]. Consequently, scholarship programs are established to assist students in pursuing education and achieving future success. One prominent and well-recognized scholarship initiative for undergraduate students in India is the National Merit Scholarships. The cost of education, including college fees, books, and other academic necessities, can be substantial for students. A full-time college student often incurs significant expenses, making scholarships an essential source of financial relief. Students and their parents need to stay informed about current scholarship programs, as these financial aids can significantly ease the burden on families struggling to cover educational costs. Different types of scholarships are available instituted by different agencies/institutes for helping the students. Though a considerable number of scholarships are available instituted by either government or other institutes, level of awareness regarding scholarship among students are not known. In addition, it is also not known how far the scholarships are

being availed by the students. Review of literature reflects that deprivation of study is a major reason of unawareness and knowledge regarding educational schemes. According to report of Ministry of minority affairs (2013) ^[4] more than 80.00 per cent rural students both - beneficiary and non-beneficiaries - felt that there was lack of awareness about the pre-matric scholarship scheme and language of application form was a problem and it was lengthy too. Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India (2018) reported that total 82000 number of scholarships per year awarded in India for students of higher education in colleges and universities and also for professional courses. There are several scholarships for which students of agricultural universities are eligible including However, for availing such scholarships it depends largely on the level of awareness among the students about the scholarships Results of several studies from India and abroad reflect that students face different problems in obtaining scholarships. Studying the knowledge of the students about scholarship may help to realize the status in terms of availing scholarship and also may help planners and policy makers in making the procedures user friendly. This will in turn help the students in receiving scholarships smoothly. Studies on

knowledge on scholarship were mostly found for school level and pre-metric level, not many studies have been found on awareness regarding scholarships among higher education students. Further study on keeping all these points in mind, the present study has been designed on the topic "Assessing the knowledge of students regarding post matric scholarship scheme"

Objective

Assessing the knowledge of students regarding post matric scholarship scheme

Material and Methods

- 1. Study Location:** The research was conducted in Haryana.
- 2. Institution Selection:** The study was carried out in two higher educational institutions-Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU), Hisar, affiliated with ICAR, and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJU), Hisar, associated with the UGC.
- 3. Respondent Selection:** Scheduled Caste and Backward Class students, who were beneficiaries of the Post-Matric Scholarship, were chosen from eight colleges. A total of 30 students were randomly selected from each college, making the total number of respondents 240.

Result and Discussion

The data in Table-1 illustrates the diverse levels of knowledge among respondents from Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU) regarding post-matric scholarships. All respondents (100%) were aware that both male and female students could apply for the scholarship and that the process followed a hybrid model. Additionally, 97.50 per cent understood that the scholarship provided reimbursement for the full duration of the degree, while 94.16 per cent were familiar with the

refund provision for tuition and late fees. However, only 15.83 per cent had knowledge of the Centre and State government's 60:40 funding contribution, and a mere 5.83 per cent recognized the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the provider of the scholarship.

Similarly, respondents from Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUS&T) demonstrated high awareness levels. The results in Table-1 show that all respondents (100%) knew that both genders were eligible and that the scholarship process was hybrid. Additionally, 85.00 per cent understood that reimbursement covered the full degree duration, while 80.83% were aware of the refund provision for tuition and late fees. However, only 4.16 per cent of respondents were familiar with the Centre and State government's 60:40 funding structure, and just 2.50 per cent knew that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment administered the scholarship.

The overall awareness of post-matric scholarships among respondents from both universities remained consistent in several key areas. All participants (100%) were aware that both male and female students were eligible to apply, and they understood that the scholarship process followed a hybrid model. A significant majority 91.25 per cent knew about the reimbursement covering the full duration of the degree, while 87.50 per cent were familiar with the refund provision for tuition and late fees. However, fewer respondents had knowledge of specific funding details, with only 10 per cent aware of the Centre and State government's 60:40 financial contribution, and just 4.16 per cent recognizing that the scholarship was provided by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The findings of this study align with Lama (2019) ^[2], who observed that the majority of surveyed beneficiaries had awareness of the post-matric scholarship scheme, while only a negligible portion of students lacked familiarity with it. This consistency underscores the widespread knowledge of the scholarship among eligible students.

Table 1: Basic knowledge of respondents regarding Post Matric Scholarships n=240

S. No.	Basic knowledge	CCS HAU n ₁ =120	GJUS&T n ₂ =120	Total n ₃ =240
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
1.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment providing the particular scholarship	7 (5.83)	3 (2.50)	10 (4.16)
2.	Both girls and boys can apply for this scholarship	120 (100.00)	120 (100.00)	240 (100.00)
3.	Share of Centre and State government in scholarship is 60:40 respectively	19 (15.83)	5 (4.16)	24 (10.00)
4.	Scholarship has provision of refunds all tuition fees/ late fees for beneficiary	113 (94.16)	97 (80.83)	210 (87.50)
5.	Reimbursement of scholarship is for full degree period	117 (97.50)	102 (85.00)	219 (91.25)
6.	Procedure for scholarship is in hybrid (manual + online) mode	120 (100.00)	120 (100.00)	240 (100.00)

Knowledge regarding eligibility criteria for Post Matric Scholarship

The data presented in Table-2 highlights respondents' strong awareness of the eligibility criteria for the post-matric scholarship at both Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU) and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUS&T).

At CCS HAU, all respondents (100%) knew that beneficiaries must have secured at least 50% marks in their previous examination, be Indian citizens, belong to the SC, BC, or EWS categories, have a family income below ₹2.5 lakh per annum, and apply through the Common Service Centre (CSC). Additionally, 42.50 per cent were aware that

applications could be submitted via the official website harchhatravatti.higheruhry.ac.in, while 24.16 per cent knew that students from class 11th, 12th, UG, PG, M.Phil., Ph.D., or Diploma programs were also eligible.

Similarly, at GJUS&T, all respondents (100%) demonstrated knowledge of the core eligibility criteria, including academic performance, citizenship, caste category, family income, and the CSC application process. However, only 25.00 per cent were aware of the online application option through harchhatravatti.higheruhry.ac.in, and 10.83 per cent knew about the broader student eligibility extending to class 11th, 12th, UG, PG, M.Phil., Ph.D., or Diploma levels.

Across both universities, respondents showed consistent awareness of fundamental eligibility criteria. However, knowledge varied regarding online application procedures, with 33.75 per cent familiar with the official website, and only 17.50 per cent aware that students from diverse academic levels could apply. The study by Pandey *et al.* (2023) ^[4] found that 75.50 per cent of respondents recognized the government's efforts in promoting equitable

opportunities for all students. However, the eligibility criteria for scholarships revealed disparities in income limits set for different categories. These variations in financial thresholds highlight the government's tailored approach to addressing the unique needs of diverse student groups while striving to ensure fairness and inclusivity in scholarship distribution.

Table 2: Knowledge regarding eligibility criteria of Post Matric Scholarship n=240

S. No.	Eligibility Criteria	CCS HAU n ₁ =120	GJUS&T n ₂ =120	Total n ₃ =240
		f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
i.	Beneficiary must have secured at least 50 Percent marks in previous examination	120 (100.00)	120 (100.00)	240 (100.00)
ii.	Beneficiary must be citizen of India	120 (100.00)	120 (100.00)	240 (100.00)
iii.	Beneficiary must be belonging SC, BC and EWS	120 (100.00)	120 (100.00)	240 (100.00)
iv.	Class 11 th , 12 th , UG, PG, M.Phil., Ph.D. or Diploma Students are eligible	29 (24.16)	13 (10.83)	42 (17.50)
v.	Family income should be less than 2.5 lakh per annum	120 (100.00)	120 (100.00)	240 (100.00)
vi.	Apply through the CSC (Common Service Center)	120 (100.00)	120 (100.00)	240 (100.00)
vii.	Apply through the official website harchhatravatti.higheruhry.ac.in .	51 (42.50)	30 (25.00)	81 (33.75)

*Multiple response

Conclusion

The findings of this study highlight the strong awareness of post-matric scholarships among students from both Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU) and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUS&T). Most respondents demonstrated a thorough understanding of basic eligibility criteria, application processes, and reimbursement provisions. However, gaps in knowledge were evident regarding government funding structures, with only a small percentage aware of the Centre and State's financial contribution and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's role in scholarship distribution. While students largely understood the financial benefits of the scholarship, disparities in awareness about online application procedures and extended eligibility across academic levels suggest the need for improved informational outreach.

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