

## DIFFERENTIAL PREFERENCE OF PROFESSIONAL JOB AREAS AND SUBJECT MATTER OF UNDERGRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE

G. T, NAIR and A. G. G. MENON

*College of Agriculture Vellayani, Kerala*

Students in Agriculture after the completion of the degree programme can opt to join the different professional jobs or to continue their studies in specialized subject areas. Which professional job area they select to join or which subject they select for advanced study depend upon the preference values of the several alternatives. Knowledge about such differential preferences of agricultural graduates are meagre. No such study has been undertaken in Kerala. Therefore this investigation was carried out to quantify the preference values for the different professional job areas and subject matter areas of undergraduate students in agriculture.

### Materials and Methods

Data for this study were obtained from the final year students in agriculture during the two academic years of 1972 and 1973. The responses were obtained in a pre-tested questionnaire with appropriate measuring techniques. Nine subject matter areas were included in the study. Method of paired comparison as described by Edwards (1951) was adopted to measure the differential preference values of subject matter areas. The nine subject selected were presented in all the possible combination of pairs. The total number of pairs thus presented were 36. The choice frequencies were first arranged in an F matrix and from thus the P matrix was calculated. The normal deviate values corresponding to the p values were then obtained. From these normal deviate values the preference values were calculated. The preference values for the different professional job alternatives were calculated by the method of weighted preference ranking.

### Results and Discussion

The differential preference values for subject areas obtained are presented in Table 1.

The above table reveals that Agronomy had the high preference value followed by Horticulture and Agrl. Chemistry. Agrl. Statistics had the least preference value. Preference values for plant pathology and Agrl. Entomology were also low. The relative positions of these subjects as decided by the preference values were the same for both the years. Agrl. Botany, Agricultural Extension and Agricultural Economics had medium preference values though their relative positions in the preference continuum changed slightly from year to year.

Preference values for different job areas are presented in Table 2.

It can be seen from the above table that top preference was given to job connected with research followed by jobs related with extension and teaching. Actual cultivation in farm and business had low preference values. It can be

**Table i**

**Preference values for subject areas**

S. No.	Subject area	1972 sample No. 35	Rank	1973 sample No. 50	Rank	Composite sample No. 85	Rank
1.	Agronomy	1.110	1	1.226	1	1.523	1
2.	Horticulture	0.904	2	0.815	2	1.060	2
3.	Agrl. Chemistry	0.600	3	0.660	3	0.797	3
4.	Agrl. Botany	0.581	4	0.503	5	0.625	6
5.	Agrl. Extension	0.567	5	0.532	4	0.720	5
6.	Agrl. Economics	0.538	6	0.511	6	0.743	4
7.	Plant Pathology	0.263	7	0.283	7	0.325	7
8.	Entomology	0.116	8	0.232	8	0.285	8
9.	Agrl. Statistics	0.000	9	0.000	9	0.000	9

assumed from the above result that the undergraduates prefer "White Collar" jobs. Though they are professionally competent they gave only less preference for actual cultivation. The reason for giving high preference to research might be due to the higher prestige given for research works in our society. The same trend was found by Singh *et al* (1973) in a study at Bihar. They reported that working in the farm had only low preference. Sandhu (1970) reported that the top preference

**Table 2****Preference values for professional job areas**

S. No.	Job area	Weighted Score 1972.	Rank	Weighted Score 1973.	Rank	Weighted Score composite	Rank
1.	Research jobs	150	1	214	1	361	\
2.	Extension jobs	140	1	208	2	348	2
3.	Teaching jobs	125	3	188	3	313	3
4.	Cultivation in own farm	112	4	148	5	260	4
5.	Business	103	5	156	4	259	5

was for research jobs followed by extension and teaching in the order of preference. Thus it can be seen that there is not much variation in the preference for jobs from State to State.

The degree of agreement in the preference among the respondents was measured by the statistics of coefficient of agreements as suggested by Kendall. The Kendall's co-efficient of agreement calculated was 0.572. The calculated value of Chi-square for the above coefficient was 194.80 which was significant at one per cent level of probability. Thus it can be concluded that there was significant agreement among the students in their preference for the different professional job areas.

**Summary**

The differential preference values for the different subject matter areas and job area were studied for two years. The data were provided by the final year students of agriculture in 1972 and 1973. The analysis of the data revealed that Agronomy had the high preference value followed by Horticulture, Agrl. Chemistry, Agrl. Botany, Agrl. Extension, Agrl. Economics, Plant Pathology, Entomology and Agrl. Statistics in the order of preference. Among the different professional job areas research had the highest preference value followed by extension, teaching, cultivation and business in the order of preference.

സംഗ്രഹം

കാർഷിക കലാലയത്തിലെ അവസാന വർഷ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങളോടു വിവിധ ജോലികളോടുള്ള ഭിന്ന അഭിരുചി നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി നടത്തിയ പഠനത്തിൽനിന്നും അവർ ബിരുദാനന്തര പഠനത്തിനുവേണ്ടി മുൻഗണന നൽകുന്ന വിഷയങ്ങൾ യഥാക്രമം അഗ്രോണമി, ഹോർട്ടികൾച്ചർ, കാർഷികരസതന്ത്രം, സസ്യശാസ്ത്രം, വിജ്ഞാനവ്യാപനം, രോഗവിജ്ഞാനം, ഷഡ്പദവിജ്ഞാനം, കാർഷിക സാംഖ്യകം എന്നിവയാണെന്നു് തെളിഞ്ഞു. ഒരു കാർഷിക ബിരുദധാരിയ്ക്കു് ലഭിക്കാവുന്ന വിവിധ ജോലികളിൽ അവർ ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ മുൻഗണന നൽകുന്നതു് ഗവേഷണജോലികളോടാണു്. കാർഷിക വിജ്ഞാന വ്യാപനം, അദ്ധ്യാപനം, കൃഷി, വ്യവസായം എന്നീ തുറകൾക്കു് യഥാക്രമം 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 മുൻഗണന നൽകുന്നതു് കണ്ടുവന്നു.

REFERENCES

Edwards, A. L. 1957. Technique of attitude scale Construction. Appleton Century Crofts—U. S. A. PP 19.

Sandhu, N. S. and Sinha, P. R. R. 1970. Job preference between teaching, research and extension by Agricultural undergraduate students. Ind. J. Extn. Edn. 6, 56-61

Singh, M. P., Singh, A. K. and Sharma, S. N. 1973. Job preference by undergraduate agricultural students of Bihar Ind. J. Extn. Edn. 9, 139-141.

(M. S. received: 18-7-1974)