



International Journal of Home Science

ISSN: 2395-7476
IJHS 2022; 8(3): 295-298
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www.homesciencejournal.com
Received: 25-06-2022
Accepted: 30-07-2022

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Impact of extension activities on students

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Abstract

Extension Education is a continuous process designed to make people aware of their problems and indicating them the ways and means to solve those problems. It aims at affecting the behavioural patterns of people in a desirable direction, through conviction, communication and diffusion. Extension, in a way, is non-formal an out-of-school system of education in which adults and young people learn by action (National Commission on Agriculture 1976). The study utilized descriptive research method to determine the impact of Community Extension Activities on students. The Research was conducted at Govt. Post Graduate College for Women, Panchkula. The students of this study were the B.Sc. and M.Sc. students of Home Science Department. A simple percentage was used for the analysis of data. Due to participation in Extension activities the students established individual social responsibility to harness positive attitudes and values towards work, life, studies, community, and environment.

Keywords: Extension, education, activities, community and development

Introduction

The word Extension is derived from the Latin word Ex meaning out and tension meaning stretching. Extension is defined as an educational process to provide knowledge to the people about the improved practices in a convincing manner, and to help them take decisions within their specific local conditions (Dhama, O.P. 1993) ^[11]. It is concerned with the development of individual so that they become conscious of their problems and needs to make their life happier and satisfying, and to live as active individuals, active members of their families, community, society and the nation. Extension is a science which deals with various strategies of change in the behavioural patterns of human beings (Reddy 1993, Singh 1994) ^[12, 13] through technological and scientific innovations, for the improvement of their standard of living. It is a continuous process designed to make people aware of their problems and indicating them the ways and means to solve those problems. It aims at affecting the behavioural patterns of people in a desirable direction, through conviction, communication and diffusion. Extension, in a way, is non-formal an out-of-school system of education in which adults and young people learn by action (National Commission on Agriculture 1976).

Aims of Organising Extension Activities

The extension activities should be socially relevant and useful. Extension should not become a stereo typed programme and should be able to generate interest among the target groups. New extension programmes in collaboration with extension agencies should be identified and organized. With this end in view, extension activity should be organised in the light of certain principles, which will lead to development of both the individual and the communities.

Extension is essentially an educational process

It aims at educating all the people of our society and not forcing or compelling them into action. It is a continuous educational process in which both the extension worker and the people contribute and learn to make the programme successful.

Is based on conditions that exists locally

Extension activities should be closely related to the local condition and local resources, such as traditions and cultural aspects of the people, capacity of people, local leaders, etc. Each community should be regarded as having its own special problems.

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Stereotyped pattern of activity is not workable in all the areas for the simple reason that each area is different from the other. Hence the actual work in any area must be preceded by a careful study and understanding of the conditions and people of the community. These conditions refer to such aspects as the people, their social structure, traditions, habits and attitude. Taking time to learn about the environment of target groups is a very important part of the job.

Extension activity should help people recognize their problems and needs

It is of paramount importance that people themselves should recognize their problems and needs, and become dissatisfied with their conditions. It is only when this first step is accomplished that an extension worker can get the people interested in solving their problems.

Extension activity should be concerned with the people’s interests and needs

The extension activity can succeed only if it aims to fulfill the basic needs and aspirations of the people. It is only when they are sure that their needs are being considered, they can be involved in the process of working to fulfill these needs.

Extension activity need to be flexible

Extension is working with people. People have to be motivated for action and involved in all the stages of activity, planning, implementation and evaluation. All the people concerned cannot be involved at the same time to start with, nor all the facts of the situation and views considered once for all. It takes time for people to come in; and as they come in, to participate and grow in experience. It is a gradual process. With continuous participation their views may become more mature and ambitions more realistic. In such a situation, there should be scope for slightly modifying the activity based on the people’s experience. Hence extension activity need to be flexible to allow for such changes.

Extension should develop activity gradually

It is very important that no activity should be pushed through ahead of the people. Every activity must progress only at the pace the people can understand, can keep up with. It should be within their resources and their ability to understand, appreciate and actively participate. It is therefore of paramount importance that local problems be investigated in the order of their importance, and the solutions found within the capacity of the people to adopt the same.

Extension activities help people in different ways. It develops and strengthens people and institutions to achieve their objectives. It develops leadership and acquaints the policy makers with local conditions. It helps them develop plans and coordinate activities keeping in view the latest technologies suited to it. Extension activities can be undertaken in fields like Home Science, Agriculture, Health, Education, Hygiene, Law, Medicine, and the like. Social evils like female foeticide can be effectively tackled through extension activities. Awareness about health and hygiene to the down-trodden can be provided through extension activities. Likewise, in other fields of study, extension activities are very helpful. The social, scientific and legal research become relevant to the masses and in the process help them improve their standard of living, make them aware of their rights, etc. An effort should be made to make extension activities part of every field of study.

Material and Method

The study utilized descriptive research method to determine the impact of Community Extension Activities on students. The Research was conducted at Govt. Post Graduate College for Women, Panchkula. The students of this study were the B.Sc. and M.Sc. students of Home Science Department. The study utilized a self assembled study survey. The first part is the students profile and the second part is the activities students participated. The third part is the impact of Extension activities on the students. Analysis of data- A simple percentage was used for the analysis of data.

Result and Discussion

The data presented in Fig. 1 regarding demographic profile of the students indicated that about half of the students (42%) were belonging to the age between 19-20 years old followed by 20 years and above (32%) and 18-19 years 26%. The students at these levels started to mature, independent and very keen in enlarge the knowledge of societal issues and problems and to search solutions by getting involved with their lives.

Table 1: Demographic profile of students in terms of Age (N=100)

Sr. No.	Age Group	Total (%)
1.	18 years -19 years	26
2.	19 years -20 years	42
3.	20 years and above	32
	Total	100

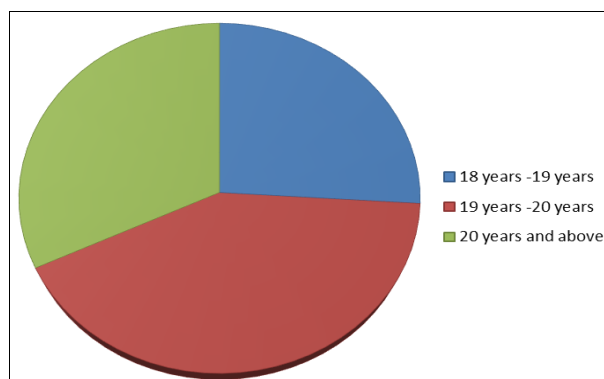


Fig 1: Demographic profile of students in terms of Age (N=100)

Table 2: Demographic profile of students in terms of year level (N=100)

Sr. No.	Year Level (Academic)	Total (%)
1.	First year	21
2.	Second year	34
3.	Third year	30
4.	Masters (I, II)	15
	Total	100

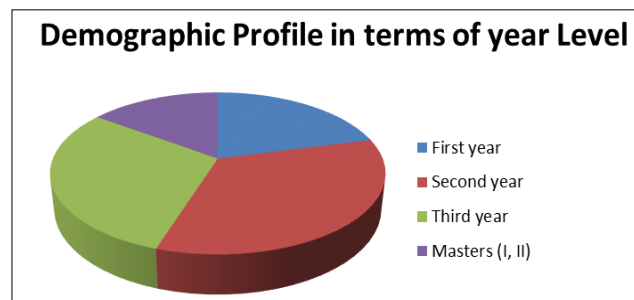


Fig 2: Demographic profile of students in terms of year level (N=100)

The data shown in Fig.-2 regarding profile of the students in terms of year level most of the Second year 34% of the students followed by Third year 30%, First year 21% and few percent from the Masters 15%. Community Extension Activities contribute to their professional development. The result indicates that strong involvement and part of motivation of students were from the Second year to Third year level. It implies encouragement, support and motivation for Community. Looking at the participation of the student it is a good indication that the students during the academic year are also dedicated towards the Community Extension Activities and have developed a passion and build up relation of brotherhood towards the Community.

Table 3: Extension Activities by Students

Extension Activities	Percentage
Distribution of Winter clothing to the needy.	70
Distribution of gifts to under privileged people.	72
Visit Old-Age Home for different Extension Activities.	35
Visit schools for teaching and other Extension Activities.	70

The data in Table-3 revealed that huge majority of the students have given their full support on the Extension Activities - distribution gifts (72%) Winter clothing (70%) and Visit Schools (70%) to the Community. College is where the students become more conscious of the Community concern and become more interested in Extension Activities (Williamson *et al.*, 2020; Massengale *et al.*, 2020) [14, 15]. The participation of students in Extension Activities signifies dedication and commitment towards Community needs. The participation in Extension Service Activities sensitize the students in over all development.

Table 4: Impact of Extension Activities

Extension Activities	
Enhanced self confidence and self esteem.	4
Enhances leadership qualities.	4
Enhances inter personal skill.	4
Enhances awareness and knowledge skill.	4
Develops a passion and brotherhood towards community.	4
Increases positive human relation and awareness on the importance of Community development.	4
Ability to think critically and problem solving.	4
The skill developed include social, communication, management, leadership, analytic skills etc.	4

Legend: Strongly agree- 5, Moderately Agree-4, Agree- 3, Disagree-2, Strongly Disagree-1

Based on the data it reveals that majority of the students asserted that due to the involvement in Extension Activities have enhanced self confidence and self esteem, leadership qualities, inter personal skill, awareness and knowledge skill, passion and brotherhood towards community, positive human relation, think critically and problem solving and skill developed include social, communication, management, leadership, analytic skills etc. with a modal rating 4 interpreted as moderately agree.

- All the Extension activities have positive impact on the students and it developed student Community relationship, leadership skill and self-confidence among students. It also helped in cultivating hidden personality and over all skill development which can't be acquired inside the class room.
- The spirit of Extension activities work through sustained Community interaction and link between campus and

community enthralled amongst students, which reflect on the personality development of students through Community Extension Activity.

- The Extension Activity add to overall development of the students and nurture value education through these, imbibe various qualities to become a good citizen.
- The involvement of students in various Community Extension Activities has a great impact on their attitude and values. It is a good indication that students were not wasting time but giving them their best output to create their image. Students that participate in Community Extension Services have better outcomes (Schmidt *et al.* 2012). An increased sense of civic responsibility and volunteerism can be linked to the student's active and imaginative community outreach programs (Hamilton *et al.*, 2020; Peter *et al.*, 2020) [16, 17].

Conclusion

The involvement of the student in various community extension activities has a great impact on their knowledge and skills. Involvement of the student in the limited community extension activities has given them a chance to strengthen values and positive attitude towards life, studies, family, community, and environment. Student have fully understood the importance of participating in community extension activities to enhance knowledge and skill. Students to established individual social responsibility to harness positive attitudes and values towards work, life, studies, community, and environment.

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