ABSTRACT

Educationists and national leaders have been feeling that higher education in India has not been able to serve the purpose for which it had been instituted. In support of their statement they cite the relatively high rate of dropout amongst students registered for M.Phil/Ph.D programmes, and the researches conducted by students as part of their programme as being not innovative or original. The causes for the above failure in Higher Education could be attributed to various factors, of which, one appears to be the attitude of M.Phil/Ph.D. students towards Higher Education.

The present study thus aims to ascertain the attitude towards Higher Education of students who are presently enrolled in M.Phil/Ph.D. Programmes in J.N.U. For this purpose an attitude measurement scale was constructed using the Thurstone method of scaling. Also a questionnaire was devised covering various aspects regarding the socio-economic background of students and other related factors in regard to higher education. These two instruments were administered on a sample of
163 students doing M.Phil/Ph.D in J.N.U., who were chosen through a stratified random sampling method.

Results of the analysis of data showed that by and large students of J.N.U. at the M.Phil/Ph.D level had a neutral attitude towards Higher Education and this varied to an extent as a function of schools, centres, sex factor, family’s economic background and educational background of the family. It was also found in the study that the attitude towards Higher Education was not governed by factors such as rural/urban aspects, SC/ST factors, father’s occupation etc.

The above findings have been discussed in the light of earlier studies in this field.