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6.9 Suggestions for the further study
6.0 INTRODUCTION

Distance Education (DE) is now a well recognized mode of education. In a short time, Distance Education methodology has attained a level where any type of knowledge or skill can be taught quite effectively through this mode. The distance mode of education has essentially grown out of mode communication technologies. Distance Education through correspondence course, more on the line of traditional graduate and postgraduate programmes, in arts, commerce and education started in the late 60s and early 70s. This was mainly in response to the needs of persons who were either employed or who could not attend regular day scholar programmes or could not get admission in universities and colleges.

There are two types of distance education institutions in this country, correspondence course and the open universities. The correspondences courses have been in vogue in this country for a little more than three decades. They are a part of the conventional system and by and large, they have tried only on the printed material. Very few correspondence institutions have made use of other media. With the establishment of open universities, there is going to be qualitative change in the situation because the
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media approach, and the multimedia approach, and the modern technologies have played an important role in them.

In this chapter a nutshell description of the present study in respect of summary, conclusions, implications and suggestions for future study have been given.

6.1 SUMMARY

Education of a person expected to play a significant role in modernizing traditional societies. As a result of modernization and rapid development in the country a large number of employment opportunities wage as well as self-employment is created. But there in dearth of suitably qualified persons with appropriate skills, knowledge and competencies to exploit these opportunities.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University student has a key position in the various sectors in development of India. They played a vital role in the economy by producing protein rich food products, generating vital income, reducing poverty in rural areas.

Dawn of new technology of education changed the technical expertise, scientific knowledge and skill and job profile of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University students. Induction of quality education keeps the Open University students constantly informed of new progress in the field of dairy and technological education and can bring about a change in the attitude of them. Hence, effective educational planning and administration with the
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primary aim of providing the opportunities to every distance students and for better placement and utilization of available man power, has been visualized as the need for a deeper understanding of relationship between socio-personal and family background variables of students and their attitude towards distance education. On different occasions the students' ability and personality was found to be inappropriate to the requirement of the occupation aspired for. At one time or another, all of us have to take this very important decision in our lives as to which profession or occupation is to adopt. Therefore, it was considered necessary to find out whether there is any relationship between students’ personal, family background and socio-psychological factors with their attitude towards Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education and occupational aspiration.

6.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

(1) To study the profile of the students.

(2) To study motives behind joining the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

(3) To study the attitude of the students toward education provided by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

(4) To study the occupational aspiration of students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

(5) To study the educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University as perceived by the students.
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(6) To ascertain the relationship, if any, between the profile of the students and level of educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University as presented by the students.

(7) To study the constraints faced by the students

(8) To seek suggestion offered by the students to overcome the students' constraints.

6.3 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

On the basis of review of literature having direct or indirect bearing on the problems, assumption, paradigm was laid down and on the basis of the null hypotheses were formulated various concepts to be used in study were operationalized.

6.4 METHODOLOGY

The methodological procedure to consists plans of study, procedure for selection of respondents, research design, selection and operationization as well as empirical measurement of independent and dependent variables, methods of data collection and statistical tools used.

The present study was concluded in studied district of Gujarat state having the highest numbers of students enrolled in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University for the academic year 2006-07. Out of 3230 students from the five selected districts, 160 respondents (i.e. 5.00% of the total population) were selected randomly.
Propionates randomly sampling technique was used to select 160 respondents @ of 5.00 per cent from enrolled 3250 students from the 5 purposely selected districts of Gujarat state.

The independent and dependent variables were measured with the help of response to appropriate questions. Suitable and appropriate scales used by other researcher were used with some modification for the measurement of such variables in light of the derived objectives.

The collected data were compiled, tabulated and analyzed to get proper answer for the specific objectives of the study with the help of various statistical tools to test the hypotheses under study.

The statistical tools such as percentage, mean, standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation, multiple regression and path co-efficient analysis were used. The important findings of the study are summarized as under.

6.5 MAJOR FINDINGS

Following conclusions emerged out from the present investigation.

6.5.1 Age

More than three fourth of the respondents (76.25%) had age in the range of 24 to 30 years, while proportion of respondents in less than 23 years age group and above 31 years were 17.50 per cent and 6.25 per cent, respectively.
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6.5.2 Birth order

More than half of the students (53.00%) were fourth born and above followed by more than one fourth (26.90%) were third born child, 13.80 per cent were second born child and rest 6.30 were first born child.

6.5.3 Caste

More than two fifth (40.60%) of the respondents belonged to Other Backward Class followed by 27.50 per cent were from Schedule Caste, 21.30 per cent from non reserved caste and 10.60 per cent were from Schedule Tribe.

6.5.4 Marital status

More than three fourth (76.90%) of the students of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University were unmarried and rest 23.10 per cent were found married.

6.5.5 Family type

Majority (75.60%) of the students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University belonged to joint type of family and rest 24.40 per cent of them had nuclear type of family.

6.5.6 Family size

Slightly less than half (49.70%) of the respondents had large size of family having more than 8 members followed by medium and small with 32.20 and 18.10 per cent, respectively.
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6.5.7 Academic achievement

Slightly less than one third of the students (32.50%) were in second class category, whereas 27.50 per cent of students were in pass class category, 26.25 per cent of the respondents belonged to first class and rest 13.75 per cent comes under the distinction.

6.5.8 Participation in extracurricular activities

Participation in extracurricular activities of less than three fifth of the students (57.50%) was medium followed by 25.60 per cent of the students who were having high participation and 16.90 per cent students had low participation.

6.5.9 Family's occupation

Majority (57.50%) of the respondents were belonged to the family having low occupational status. While the respondents having high and low family occupational status were 21.88 per cent and 20.62 per cent, respectively.

6.5.10 Annual income of family

Exactly two third of the respondents (60.00%) family had income up to Rs. 50,000; 38.12 per cent of the respondents having income in between Rs. 50,000 to 1.00 lakh and rest only 1.88 per cent having income above Rs.1.00 lakh.
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6.5.11 Father's social participation

Majority of the respondents father (57.50%) had medium level of social participation followed by 25.62 per cent with low level and 16.88 per cent of them had high level of participation in social organizations.

6.5.12 Educational status of family

Grate majority of the respondents (80.60%) were from the family of medium educational status followed by 16.90 per cent of the respondents were belonged to the families with high educational status and rest 2.50 per cent of the respondents were from families of low educational status.

6.5.13 Overall modernity

Majority (64.37%) of the students have medium level of overall modernity followed by low and high with 18.75 per cent and 16.88 per cent, respectively.

6.5.14 Reading habit

Over whelming majority (91.25%) of the respondents were in the category of medium level of reading habit followed by high with 8.75 per cent.

6.5.15 Motives behind joining Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

The motives behind joining Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, to get a white color job in state or central government was rank first followed by to get observed for carrier advancement.
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6.5.16 Attitude of the students towards education imparted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

Exactly half (50.00%) of the respondents held neutral attitude toward Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education, whereas 26.25 per cent had unfavorable attitude and 23.75 per cent of the respondents had favorable attitude toward Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education.

6.5.17 Occupational aspiration level of the students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

Majority of the respondents (60.70%) had medium level of occupational aspiration followed by 25 per cent of the respondents, who were having low level of occupational aspiration and 14.30 per cent of the respondents were having high level of occupational aspiration.

6.5.18 Utility of the education through Open University as perceived by the student

Majority (61.25%) of the students considered the education through Open University as a most important tool for catering the needs of educational aspiration of the parents and for career advancement.

6.5.19 Opinion of the student regarding education system

Majority (65.63%) of the students had good opinion about functioning of community center.
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6.5.20 Educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

Slightly less than two third (65.62%) of the respondents had medium level of educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education, whereas 17.50 per cent and 16.87 had high and low level of educational perspectives.

6.5.21 Relationship between profiles of the students and their educational perspectives of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

Age, birth order, family size, educational status of family, overall modernity, reading habit of the students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University were found to be positively and significantly correlated with their educational perspectives, whereas caste and family type found to be negatively correlated. Marital status, academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, family's occupation, annual income and father's social participation had no any correlation with their educational perspectives.

6.5.22 Relative importance of independent variables in predicting educational perspectives of students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

The independent variables such as in reading habit, caste, overall modernity and birth order contributed 75.50 per cent variation in extent
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of educational perspectives of students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University.

6.5.23 Direct and indirect effect between antecedents attribute of the students and their educational perspectives

Reading habit had maximum positive direct effect (0.3067) on educational perspectives followed by overall modernity (0.2718), birth order (0.2542), family size (0.0655), age (0.0488) and educational status of family (0.0131), whereas caste had the highest negative direct effect (-0.3272) followed by family type (-0.0922). Further, it can be observed that age had maximum total indirect effect (0.4225) followed by birth order (0.38274), overall modernity (0.36259), educational status of family (0.35093), reading habit (0.34179) and family size (0.22207) whereas caste had maximum negative indirect effect (-0.2055845) followed by family type (-0.1022465). Out of 16 substantial indirect effects, six routed through birth order and five each routed through overall modernity and reading habit.

6.5.24 Constraints faced by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University students

The major constraints faced by the students were no campus interview (66.87%), heavy workload of assignment writing (55.00%), less number of visits/tours (45.62%), limited extracurricular activities (41.25%) less practical knowledge (31.88%), shortage of instruments (27.50%), lack of library facilities (22.50%) and lengthy course curriculum (13.12%).
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6.5.25 Suggestions offered by the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University students to overcome such constraints

The important suggestion suggested by respondents was campus interview should be arranging (71.87%). Other suggestions were portion of self assessment study should be reduced (46.87%), there should be efforts made for the students to participate extracurricular activities (40.00%), there should be arrangement made to visit other institution to make course more practical oriented (31.87%), Teaching staff in counseling centers should be increase (22.50%) and library facilities in counseling centers should be availed (16.25%).

6.6 CONCLUSIONS

Following conclusions emerged out from the present investigation.

(1) More than three fourth of the respondents had age in the range of 24 to 30 years.

(2) More than half of the students were fourth born children.

(3) More than two fifth of the respondents belonged to Other Backward Class.

(4) More than three fourth of the students of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University were unmarried.

(5) Majority of the students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University belonged to joint type of family and rest of them had nuclear type of family.
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(6) Slightly less than half of the respondents had large size of family having more than 8 members.

(7) Slightly less than one third of the students were in second class category.

(8) Less than three fifth of the students was medium participation in extracurricular activities.

(9) Majority of the respondents were belonged to the family having low occupational status.

(10) Exactly two third of the respondents family had income up to Rs. 50,000.

(11) Majority of the respondent's father had medium level of social participation in social organization.

(12) Grate majority of the respondents were from the family of medium educational status from families.

(13) Majority of the students have medium level of overall modernity.

(14) Overwhelmimg majority of the respondents was in the category of medium level of reading habit.

(15) The motives behind joining Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, to get a white color job in state or central government.
Summary Conclusions and Suggestions

(16) Exactly half of the respondents held neutral attitude toward Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education, whereas 26.25 per cent had unfavorable attitude and 23.75 per cent of the respondents had favorable attitude toward Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education.

(17) Majority of the respondents had medium level of occupational aspiration.

6.7 IMPLICATIONS

The following are the implications suggested on the basis of the findings of the study.

(1) The study facilitate in knowing the characteristics of the respondents and it would help to serve as a guideline for the policy makers and planners of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education about planning and implementing of open university education.

(2) The findings of this study revealed that majority of the respondents had unfavourable to neutral attitude towards Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education. The efforts should be made to change the attitude of the students from unfavourable to neutral to favorable by
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wide publicity of the course and providing job opportunity in recognized organization.

(3) Majority of respondents had medium level of occupational aspiration. It means medium scope of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education to provide job. This level can be increased to a high level by providing more job opportunities.

(4) Background factor of the students showing relationship with their educational perspectives must be reckon while any programme planning of their course.

6.8 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE RESEARCH

An attempt has been made to suggest some topics for the future studies, which are considered important by the investigator and were given below:

(1) Other educational areas besides Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University education should be covered in the future study.

(2) Similar research problem with some more open universities, covering more number of respondents should be conducted.

(3) A comparative study of the students of different educational area should be undertaken.
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(4) Some more psychological variables should be included in the study.

6.9 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FURTHER STUDY

An attempt has been made to suggest some topics for the future studies, which are considered important by the investigator and are given below.

(1) This study can be replicated to other open university as well as other area of same university.

(2) Other educational areas not included in this study may be covered in the future study.

(3) Similar research problem with some more universities, covering more number of respondents may be conducted.

(4) A comparative study of the students of different educational area may be conducted.

(5) Some more psychological variables may be included in future study.