

Factors Influencing Performance Of Degree College Students In Examination: A Basic Approach

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Abstract

Subjective knowledge of students of degree colleges is adjudged on the basis of mid term and end term examinations. For undergraduate and postgraduate courses, degree colleges in India are either affiliated to private universities, state universities or central universities. Accordingly examinations are taken semester wise or annually as per the affiliated university rules. Overall performance of student is the outcome of marks obtained in sessional and final examinations. A planned and systematic preparation is required by the students to face the examinations for achieving best result. Question arises in the minds of every academician and psychologists, how to prepare for examinations and what are the factors influencing exam preparation! Present paper is an attempt to provide guidelines to follow for degree college students for optimum results in examinations. Factors which may influence examination preparation are also discussed. A simpler approach, which is easy to understand is discussed. A survey conducted on 160 undergraduate students of Chinmaya Degree College, Haridwar revealed: 21% of girl students underperformed as they chosen the science stream because of their friends, 5% students underperformed due to financial crisis.

Keywords: Subjective knowledge, Examination, Performance

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I. INTRODUCTION

India has glorious history of higher education since the days of Takshashila and Nalanda Vishwavidyalayas. Gurukul and Rishikul Shiksha Paddatti's are well known. Since ancient times, students were examined by Maukhik (oral), Likhit (written) and Prayogik (Practical) pattern. Over a period of time, method of examining the students has remained almost same. Only subject streams and contents have changed with time. Nowadays large number of courses are available for students studying in degree colleges as compared to ancient times.

In India, degree colleges are affiliated to state or central universities as per UGC rules. In states, universities may be Private run or State run. All the universities/ higher education institutes/degree colleges are accredited and rated by NAAC; an autonomous body constituted under proviso of UGC Act 1956. Every university/degree college has an IQAC cell to monitor, regulate and update the academic activities. Further, every university constitutes a dedicated examination cell to plan, schedule and conduct interim, final and back paper examinations under the administrative control of COE (Controller Of Examinations); as per proviso laid down in First Statutes Of University (FSU) framed as per Indian Universities Act 1904.

Indian universities facilitate dual system of examination; semester system and annual system. Semester system is completed in six months wherein students are examined biannually whereas students are examined once by affiliating

universities in annual system. Whichever may be the system adapted by degree college, the question before students remain same i.e how to prepare for examinations and what are the factors which influence examination results.

A survey was conducted on 160 undergraduate students, 80 each from bio and maths group, in order to find out reasons for their gradually decreasing performance in the semester examinations. Survey revealed 21% of girl students chosen the science stream because of their friend (A.2). Their performance in the semester examinations was marred (A.2) continuously. Further, 5% students underperformed due to financial crisis (A.4). Relatively poor performance was observed of 3% students as university used to set tough question papers Performance of 3.75 students of maths group fell gradually because of their excessive indulgence in politics (C.4). According to survey, 1.25% students left the college in 3rd semester because college was far away from their residence (D.1).

Factors influencing performance of degree colleges have been studied earlier also. Previous studies were not easily accepted by all students because of complexities. Here, very simple approach which is simple to understand is discussed. Text includes, several factors which must be addressed by students appearing in their term or final examinations in order to seek degree of the stream in which student has enrolled. Involved factors may be broadly divided into Self, University, College and External (SUCE).

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Self Factor depends upon

- Self Confidence: Believing on owns capabilities.
- Course selection: Preference giving to personal choice
- Personal Ability: Emphasizes on physical and mental abilities
- Financial Status: Power to expend is vital
- Family Responsibility: Family is a priority social liability

University Factor depends upon

- Government Ownership: Central university is preferred over state owned university
- NAAC Rating: Generally, higher the NAAC rating, stricter will be the examinations rules
- Examination System: Students prefer semester system

College Factors depend upon

- College Management: Professional and adept management is known for inducing the best
- College Infrastructure: Facilities are additional tool which help degree college students
- Faculty Qualification: Induction of qualified faculties according to UGC norms is a bonus
- College Grading: Colleges are given accreditation grade by NAAC
- Student Unions: Positive minded students union work for college betterment

External Factors depend upon

- Location: Degree college distance can significantly save students precious time
- Conveyance: Availability of affordable conveyance can effectively reduce journey time
- Alumni Association: Placement of seniors is an inspirational source for coming generations
- Political Intervention: Support from local politician can be a resource for students and management

Effects of SUCE on the students preparing for examination is discussed in the forthcoming paragraphs.

II. EXAM PREPARATION AND INFLUENCING FACTORS

A. Self Factors:

Self factors depend solely on degree college students. In other words self factors are individually borne. These factors are specific or personalized and may vary from student to student. Any of the discussed factor in this category may be strongly present in one student but may be totally missing in other student having similar academic credentials.

A.1 Self Confidence: Psychologists all over the world agree that a self confident person can relatively perform better than unconfident person. If you are confident than it is expected that you will perform better than a shaken student. However, self confidence is not a god gifted trait. One can uplift his self confidence by consulting Psychologist and adhering to his advices. There are well defined scientific strategies to

develop owns self confidence. Senior members of family, sincere friends, caring faculty, responsible seniors and achievers from society can be consulted for boosting self confidence in order to produce brilliant results in the forthcoming examinations. While studying emphasis should be on grasping the subject instead of cramming. Reasoning should be developed rather than accepting.

A.2 Course Selection: It is an old proverb that "Eat and wear your own way" for self satisfaction. Occasionally one may deviate from it. Gist is that student should select the course in which they want to pursue degree according to their interest in the subject. Every individual student has a specific domain of his own where one can exhibit astonishing results. Students should not let themselves into the shoes of others. For example a student may be a distinguished cricketer rather than a failed footballer, one can be an eminent engineer rather than a defamed doctor, one can be a scintillating dancer rather than a donkey voiced singer etc. Student should carryout introspection to explore areas of self interests. Art, science, law, medical, engineering or any relevant field be selected keeping owns interest in mind. Never select a stream just for the sake of friendship, to appease your friend. It may be a suicidal decision on part of a degree college student. In the survey, performance of 21% girl students fallen gradually as they didn't pick the stream of their choice.

A.3 Personal Ability: Physical and mental abilities together indicates personal ability of an individual. Physical ability is the measure of strength whereas mental ability may include power to memorize, power to grasp subjects, power to recall and power to bear external stresses. Student with high degree of personal ability is supposed to handle the examination phobia in a much rationale manner. Regular practice is the most natural way of escalating personal abilities.

A.4 Financial Status: In the present materialistic world power to spend defines the financial status of degree college students. The students with strong financial background can easily borne high fee structure. They may easily pay internet charges or join coaching classes to enhance their knowledge, which puts them in driving seats for exams. Moreover such students need not to go for work to meet out educational expenses. Time thus saved can be utilized in other skill development programs. In general, preparation for examination becomes slightly easier for sincere students of this category. 2.5% students left the college due to financial crisis.

A.5 Family Responsibility: Degree college students with family responsibilities spare lesser time for studies. However, strong will power, determination and hard work can alleviate such factor. Slow but steadiness in progress can ultimately give smoothing results in examinations.

B University Factor:

B.1 Government Ownership: In India, central university is preferred over state owned university because of sufficient availability of funds for developmental and research works. Hence, degree colleges affiliated with central university are preferred over state university affiliated degree colleges. Prominent private universities known for their excellence is another available choice for aspiring students. Some pioneer private universities/colleges are exceptions.

B.2 NAAC Rating: Quality of education imparted in any university is measured in terms of NAAC accreditation rating. Higher the rating higher is the quality of education imparted to students. Role of COE of such universities towards affiliated degree colleges can be assumed as systematic. Timely conduct of exams, preparation of marks sheets and organization of convocations is the prime characteristics of such universities. Degree college students affiliated to such universities get an overall advantages. Preparation for examinations should match the university rating. Surveyed college is affiliated to 'A' grade university which sets tough question papers in semester exams. This resulted in relatively downside performance of 3% students.

B.3 Examination System: Two types of examination system are followed by Indian Universities. Semester system and annual system. Semester system provides a platform to affiliated degree college students to appear biannually in examinations. Syllabus of the previous semester is not asked in the forthcoming semester exams.

C. College Factor:

C.1 College Management: A professional and adept management is known for efficient running of degree colleges. An efficient management is always devoted to touch new academic heights. Accordingly, students should also exhibit all possible efforts for their best performance in examinations.

C.2 College Infrastructure: At the time of admission in the degree college, infrastructure is the most frequently asked factor in the minds of students. Existence of well equipped library, study rooms, computer center, lecture theatres and laboratories definitely have a positive impact on examinations.

C.3 Faculty Qualification: UGC has framed and issued necessary guidelines for the minimum qualification for recruitment to the post of Assistant Professors in higher education institutes. Naturally qualified faculties are the better teaching options. They can prepare students for their examination in an influential and cohesive manner. Minimum qualifications for various posts in teaching are covered in UGC regulations 2018. Obviously, qualified faculties will produce qualified students.

C.4 College Grading: Each college is accredited by NAAC, by allotting Grades as per SOP. Degree college students should take admissions in a college with at least same or higher graded college as compared to university grade.

C.5 Student Unions: College examinations are vulnerable to attitude of student unions. Positive minded student unions always work for the betterment of college students whereas negative minded student unions cause hindrances in examinations by imposing lockdowns and processions thereby killing precious time of studious students. Performance of 3 students fell gradually because of their excessive indulgence in politics.

D. External Factors:

D.1 Location: A degree college located in vicinity will reduce journey time thereby sparing more time for studies. Spared time can be utilized for the preparation of examinations. 1.25% students left the college in 3rd semester because college was far away from their residence.

D.2 Conveyance: Availability of affordable conveyance can reduce journey time which can be utilized for the preparation of examinations.

D.3 Alumni Association: Seniors are like teachers. Well placed college alumni can be an inspirational source for the upcoming student generations. Advice can be sought from college alumni to guide for examinations.

D.4 Political Intervention: Influential politician can become helping tool for college management and students. They can intervene in tough or unforeseen hazard times and bring some relief for student examinees.

III. CONCLUSION

Preparation for examinations by degree college students need a scientific approach to be adhered. During preparation SUCE should be carefully addressed in order to achieve maximum results from minimum efforts. Improper redressal of SUCE may produce devastating examination results of degree college students. SUCE factors are simple to understand, hence easily acceptable to college students. Undoubtedly, will power, determination and hard work remains the key factors for success in all examination of life.

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