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Awareness among Post Graduate Students towards National Eligibility Test (NET)

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Abstract: *The major purpose of this research was to investigate the awareness among Post Graduate Students towards National Eligibility Test (NET). The data were collected on 200 (67 boys and 133 girls) students by employing incidental sampling technique. To collect the requisite data for present study the investigator used the self made tool namely awareness among Post Graduate Students towards National Eligibility Test (NET). In order to study the objectives of the present study, the investigator used the statistical technique of percentage wise analysis. The outcome of the research investigation was shows that there is a lack of awareness among post-graduate students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).*

Keywords: *National Eligibility Test (NET), Post Graduate Students, University Grants Commission (UGC)*

Introduction

The importance of teachers in the educational programme of the country is of great significance. The greatness of the country does not depend on huge buildings, gigantic projects and large armies but on the quality of its citizens. If nation has a youth of sterling character and unimpeachable patriotism, it is found to make rapid progress in all fields. Therefore, the sacred duty of the teacher is to impart the right type of knowledge and make them good citizens. It is the teacher who impresses his/her students with his/her personality. In any educational institutions, more than buildings, libraries and laboratories, it is the technical competence and the human qualities of the teacher that plays largest part in the ease with which the student acquires knowledge, builds up skills and develops the right attitude to work and enterprise. Therefore, keeping all this in mind and with the noble purpose of initiating quality in higher education, National Eligibility Test (NET) was set up by the University Grants Commission in 1988 on revision of the pay scale of the teachers in universities and colleges.

National Eligibility Test conducted by the University Grants Commission (UGC), National Eligibility Test (NET) is the national level entrance examination for post graduate candidates. NET is conducted for determining the eligibility of Indian nationals for the Award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and eligibility for Lectureship in various Indian Universities and Colleges. It is an essential qualification for entry to lecturers' cadre only. Also, the UGC has been giving substantial incentives to PhD holders through its career advancement programme which are being utilized by almost all teachers in the universities and colleges in the country. A lecturer has not only to teach bookish knowledge and motivate the student to achieve good percentage but also be familiar with a wide variety of subjects cutting across faculties, in addition to the core subject. The UGC's NET primarily tests the candidates' teaching ability, subject knowledge, general awareness and general intelligence in a systematic manner.

The NET i.e. the National Eligibility Test is conducted by UGC/CBSE twice in a year. Such test is conducted in the month of June and December. UGC-NET is needed to become a lecturer because the clearance of NET is necessary to be eligible for lectureship in degree colleges and university department. This is compulsory even for the PhD holders if they have obtained the Doctoral degree without course work as stipulated by the UGC in its regulations. It is significant to start a career as a lecturer/Assistant Professor in a College/ University/ Prestigious institute; one must need Master's Degree with National Eligibility Test (NET). Indian market is always in need of competent teachers, with the emergence of global institutes, the demand for lecturers and professors is on an all time high. Most of the Post Graduate, M.Phil. and Ph.D. seekers has tried their talent in N.E.T/S.E.T exams but could not get through. Thus, these failed people if allowed to enter into this pious and highly responsible profession; one would imagine the consequences of it. Failure people cannot make successful students and one can be sure that with exemption to them would further worsen the situation. Many researchers have studied the opinions and attitude of the different categories of people towards National Eligibility Test (NET) but the investigator fails to find any study related to the awareness among students towards National Eligibility Test (NET). In this context the present study is an attempt to study the awareness among Post Graduate Students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).

Objectives of the Study

The present study has been conducted keeping in mind the following objectives like:

1. To study the awareness among male post graduate students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).
2. To study the awareness among female post graduate students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).
3. To study the awareness among total sample of post graduate students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).

Delimitations of the Study

The present study was delimited in the following aspects:

1. The present study was delimited to the students studying in Sikkim University, Sikkim.
2. The study was delimited to the post graduate students of 2nd and 4th semester only.

3. The present study was delimited to a sample of 200 students. Out of 200 post graduate students 67 were male and 133 were female.

Research Method

In the present study, descriptive survey method was used.

Sample

In the present study the sample was drawn from the post graduate students studying in 2nd and 4th semester in Sikkim University, Sikkim. From 2nd and 4th semester 83 and 117 students were selected respectively. Out of 83 students in 2nd semester 27 were boys and 56 were girls; and in 4th semester out of 117 post graduate students 40 were boys and 77 were girls. The sampled students from each semester were selected by employing incidental sampling technique. Finally, the total sample consisted of 200 (67 boys and 133 girls) students.

Tools Used

In the present study the investigator used the self made tool to study the awareness among Post Graduate Students towards National Eligibility Test (NET). The awareness scale prepared by the investigators contains thirty eight items as a whole. Out of thirty eight items nineteen were positive and nineteen were negative items. It is a three point scale and the respondents are required to respond to three varieties of responses such as 'Agree', 'Undecided' or 'Disagree'.

Statistical Techniques Used

In order to study the objectives of the present study, the investigator used the technique of percentage wise analysis.

Findings of the Study

On the basis of the item analysis the investigator of the present study arrived at the following findings which have been presented below;

1. 97.02%, 97.74% and 97.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *National Eligibility Test (NET) consist three papers.*
2. 55.22%, 51.13% and 51.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *out of three papers two consist of objective type questions and one consist of subjective type questions.*
3. 68.66%, 68.42% and 68.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *paper II consists of 50 objective compulsory questions.*
4. 43.28%, 44.36% and 45.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *each questions of paper III carries 3 marks.*
5. 44.78%, 45.86% and 45.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *paper III consists of 100 compulsory subjective questions.*
6. 94.02%, 92.48% and 93.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *this test (NET) is conducted twice in a year.*

7. 77.61%, 81.20% and 80.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *there are no negative marking for incorrect answers.*
8. 92.54%, 87.97% and 90.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *this National Eligibility Test is conducted both in English and Hind languages.*
9. 68.66%, 74.44% and 72.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *each questions of paper I carries 2 marks.*
10. 92.54%, 90.23% and 91.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *syllabus for all NET subjects can be downloaded from the UGC/CBSE website.*
11. 91.04%, 72.93% and 79.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *the candidates have to mark the response for questions of all the three papers on the OMR (Optical Mark Reader) sheet only.*
12. 79.10%, 83.46% and 82.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *that detailed instructions for filling up the OMR sheet are available on UGC/CBSE website.*
13. 76.12%, 67.67% and 70.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *the candidates are required to obtain marks in NET separately in all three papers.*
14. 67.16%, 62.41% and 64.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *there is 5% relaxation of marks for OBC/PWD/SC/ST candidates.*
15. 52.24%, 55.64% and 54.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *only top 15% candidates for each subject and category are eligible for Assistant Professor from the merit list.*
16. 49.25%, 38.35% and 42.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *there is a time relaxation for SC/OBC/ST candidates.*
17. 97.02%, 95.49% and 96.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *admission card is compulsory while entering into the Examination Hall.*
18. 76.12%, 68.42% and 71.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *the forms of NET cannot be filled online.*
19. 49.25%, 40.60% and 43.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *there are no specific criteria for this test.*
20. 97.02%, 96.99% and 97.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *the NET results are available on UGC/CBSE website.*
21. 85.07%, 90.23% and 88.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *candidates who have secured at least 55%*

marks (without rounding off) in Master's Degree or equivalent examinations from universities/institutions recognised by UGC are eligible for this test.

22. 34.33%, 31.58% and 32.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *candidates are also allowed to appear in the subject other than of their post – graduation.*
23. 28.36%, 33.08% and 31.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *candidates who have studied in foreign university cannot apply for this test.*
24. 74.63%, 49.62% and 58.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *candidates who qualify the JRF are not eligible for the post of Lectureship/Assistant Professor.*
25. 74.63%, 63.91% and 67.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *candidates who have appeared OR will be appearing Master's Degree examination cannot apply for this test.*
26. 70.15%, 66.17% and 67.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *candidates belonging to OBC/SC/ST/PWD category are not required to submit their category certificate.*
27. 71.64%, 53.38% and 59.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *the use of calculators is permitted during this test.*
28. 77.61%, 69.92% and 72.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *candidates are not allowed to write question from Booklet on the admission card or any other paper.*
29. 64.18%, 57.89% and 60.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *candidates who have cleared the State Eligibility Test (SET) need not clear the NET.*
30. 50.75%, 50.38% and 50.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *the validity of NET is only 10 years.*
31. 53.73%, 30.83% and 38.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *the candidates who clears the JRF is eligible to get Fellowship throughout his life.*
32. 35.82%, 30.08% and 32.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *there is no age limit to appear for JRF.*
33. 43.28%, 33.83% and 37.00% of the male, female and total sample of Post graduate students disagree with the statement that *there is an age limit of 28 years to apply for Assistant Professor.*
34. 34.33%, 27.07% and 29.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *a relaxation of 10 years is provided to the candidates belonging to OBC/SC/ST/ PWD category.*
35. 19.40%, 18.05% and 18.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *candidates possessing L.L.M degree are permissible for special relaxation of three years in age.*

36. 31.34%, 35.34% and 34.00% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *relaxation is also provided to the candidates having research experience*.
37. 56.72%, 60.50% and 59.00% of the male female and total sample of post graduate students agree with the statement that *person with Disability have to fill the relevant column on the Online Applications Form*.
38. 40.29%, 49.62% and 46.50% of the male, female and total sample of post graduate students disagree with the statement that *there is no need for candidates to keep a copy of the submitted documents for their own record*.

Overall view of the findings

The results in respect of the awareness among Post Graduate Students towards National Eligibility Test (NET) are summarized as under:

Table-1: Percentage of Students AGREE with positive items

Percentage of Students	Agree with the items out of 19 positive items		
	Male	Female	Total
0% - 20%	1	1	1
21%-40%	1	1	1
41%-60%	2	2	2
61%-80%	7	6	7
81%-100%	8	9	8
TOTAL	19	19	19

It is revealed from Table-1 that the percentage of students from 81% to 100% agree with only 8, 9 and 8 items out of 19 positive items for male, female and total sample respectively. It means that for rest of the items i.e. 11, 10 and 11 for male, female and total sample out of 19 positive items the percentage of students is below than 81%. Hence, it may be concluded that there is a lack of awareness among post-graduate students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).

Table-2: Percentage of Students DISAGREE with negative items

Percentage of Students	Disagree with the items out of 19 negative items		
	Male	Female	Total
0% - 20%	0	0	0
21%-40%	5	8	6
41%-60%	8	8	10
61%-80%	6	3	3
81%-100%	0	0	0
TOTAL	19	19	19

It is revealed from Table-2 that the percentage of students from 61% to 80% disagree with only 6, 3 and 3 items out of 19 negative items for male, female and total sample respectively. It means that for rest of the items i.e. 13, 16 and 16 for male, female and total sample out of 19 negative items the percentage of students is below than 61%. Hence, it may be concluded

that there is a lack of awareness among post-graduate students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).

Conclusion

Education, particularly higher education is of greater importance to any country. History witnesses that no country could emerge powerful unless its inhabitants are intellectually powerful. Quality education is an effective way to produce quality individuals thus, it is imperative to explore and maintain quality in education. The initiation of NET was one of such move to ensure talent and merit, proved by the competitive exams in prestigious profession like lectureship.

India's higher education is managed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and various other Councils. UGC is responsible for conducting National Eligibility Test (NET) which attracts a large number of students from rural and urban areas. Teaching is a very rewarding experience. The findings of the study have the following major educational implications which are thought to be essential for the awareness among post graduate students towards National Eligibility Test (NET).

1. There should be an awareness or orientation programme for all post graduate students regarding National Eligibility Test (NET).
2. The teachers and parents should motivate the students to get up to date knowledge about the test.
3. Time to time workshops or orientation programmes should be organized by the University for making students familiar with the procedure, and other information related to the test.

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