Attitude of Students towards Elective Subject in M.A  
(Education)  

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Abstract: Researchers have decided to find out the students’ preference towards the selection of their Elective subject in M.A. in Education. This study is done by using descriptive survey method and researchers have analysed data in qualitative approach. 140 samples have taken from two Universities (University of Kalyani & West Bengal State University) of Education department. One questionnaire is framed by the researchers, which consists of 18 questions as the representative of eighteen reasons of subject preference. After data analysis, Researchers found that the majority of student prefers Educational Technology as their Elective subject.

Key Words: CBCS, Elective Subject, Core course.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the UGC recommendation, Choice Based Credit System has been introduced for all higher Education section in West Bengal. Now it is very popular and burning topic in educational aspect of West Bengal. In the CBCS policy of curriculum construction, elective subjects have offered for the students and students independently can choice any subject as per their own preference. Sometimes the term ‘Elective subject’ is used as ‘Optional Paper’. In CBCS, students have to learn some compulsory subject. But, they have also chance to select or choose their favourite subject with compulsory paper. In which Universities are going with CBCS, have to provide different Elective or Optional Subjects for the student. By searching different CBCS Curriculum in various Universities, Researchers found different Elective subject like- Educational Technology, Guidance & Counselling, Health Education, History of Education, Mental Hygiene, Measurement & Evaluation, Population & Environment Education, Teacher Education etc. Researchers want to know that in which Elective subject is more favourable to the students and in which reasons behind their subject preference. As the delimitation, researchers have considered only Education department in two Universities-University of Kalyani and West Bengal State University. And select the topic as-

‘Attitude of Students towards Elective Subject in M.A (Education)’.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Samara, F. (2015) studied on ‘Factors Influencing Students’ Choice of elective science courses: A case study from the American University of Sharjah’. The selected aim of this study was to find out the factors which influence students’ choice of elective science courses in higher education level. A survey was conducted for this work and finally revealed that students were highly influenced by the previous experience and choice their elective courses according their previous knowledge.

Huruma, M. (2015) studied on ‘Factor influencing the choice of science subject in secondary school in Tanzania: The case of Kibaha District’. His research objective was to identify the factors influencing students’ choice of science subjects. The present study was a descriptive survey. After data analysis, researchers found that male students prefer science subject more than female students.

Ndalichako, J.L. & Komba, A.A. (2014) studied on ‘Students’ subject choice in secondary schools in Tanzania: A Matter of students’ ability and interest or forced circumstances’. Research objectives were to find out the subject preference of students and identify the reasons behind the student interest. It was a multiple case study. Finally they found that majority of students prefer Arts subjects than other subjects.


Objectives

Researchers have selected the following objectives-
- To find out students’ preference towards the selection of elective course of M.A. in Education.
- To find out reasons behind the selection of elective course of M.A. in Education.

Research Questions

According to research objectives, the research questions are-
Which Elective course is mostly preferable to the students of M.A. in Education?
What are the reasons behind the preference of elective course of M.A. in Education?

III. METHODOLOGY

Researchers followed descriptive survey methodology for the study. The important constituents of the study were:

Variable:
Researchers considered only one variable i.e. Students’ attitude towards the elective course.

Sample:
Researchers selected 140 students from two Universities - University of Kalyani (85) and West Bengal State University (55) as sample of this study.

Tools:
Researchers have constructed one questionnaire consisting of 18 items for this study. And the option was yes/no type. Questionnaire was validated by the experts.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

Researchers have analysed data according to the research objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No</th>
<th>Elective Subject</th>
<th>Percentage (KU) according to subject Preference</th>
<th>Percentage (WBSU) according to subject Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Educational Technology</td>
<td>56.47%</td>
<td>29.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Guidance &amp; Counselling</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
<td>23.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Health Education</td>
<td>7.06%</td>
<td>3.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>History of Education</td>
<td>5.88%</td>
<td>3.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mental Hygiene</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Measurement &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>12.94%</td>
<td>9.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Population Education</td>
<td>2.35%</td>
<td>3.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Teacher Education</td>
<td>5.88%</td>
<td>25.45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Researchers found that the students of K.U & W.B.S.U. (both universities) mostly prefer ‘Educational Technology’ as their elective subject in M.A. in Education. ‘Educational Technology’ is the first choice of 56.47% students of University of Kalyani. In West Bengal State University, 29.09 % students mostly prefer ‘Educational Technology’ as their first elective paper. And total 45.71% students of both Universities prefer ‘Educational Technology’ as their first elective paper than other elective subject.
2nd Research Objectives, Reasons behind the selection of elective subject in M.A. in Education.

Researchers found 18 reasons behind the preference of selection the elective subject in M.A. in Education. They have analysed the data according to each reason or item of questionnaire in the respect of K.U., W.B.S.U. & Total Student.

From this measure, the graphical representation is-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>University of Kalyani</th>
<th>West Bengal State University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (%)</td>
<td>No (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 1</td>
<td>Selected Elective paper is very easy</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 2</td>
<td>This subject increases job opportunity</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 3</td>
<td>Books are available in Market</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 4</td>
<td>This subject is included in the syllabus of NET/SET</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 5</td>
<td>This subject is helpful for achieving good marks</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 6</td>
<td>Books are available in Library</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 7</td>
<td>This subject helps to understand other related subject</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graphical representations are below-

According to the eighteen reasons or items of questionnaire, Researchers found the percentages in respect of Yes and No for both university (K.U & WBSU). They found that, total 18 reason behind choosing the elective subject. All the reasons
are not same for both university. But, some reasons are similar in both place. In case of item 1, ‘selected elective paper is very easy’, where 49% student states positive and 51% student states negative attitude in K.U & 71% student states positive and 29% student states negative attitude in WBSU. Item 2 is ‘this subject increases job opportunity’, where students of KU, states 74% positive and 26% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 76% positive and 34% negative attitude. Item 3 is ‘books are available in Market’, where students of KU, states 86% positive and 14% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 62% positive and 38% negative attitude. Item 4 is ‘this subject is included in the syllabus of NET/SET’, where students of KU, states 94% positive and 06% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 85% positive and 15% negative attitude. Item 5 is ‘this subject is helpful for achieving good marks’, where students of KU, states 72% positive and 28% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 69% positive and 31% negative attitude. Item 6 is ‘books are available in Library’, where students of KU, states 53% positive and 47% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 45% positive and 55% negative attitude. Item 7 is ‘this subject helps to understand other related subject’, where students of KU, states 82% positive and 18% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 87% positive and 13% negative attitude. Item 8 is ‘this subject is most popular than other elective subject’, where students of KU, states 89% positive and 11% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 84% positive and 16% negative attitude. Item 9 is ‘in this subject, the teachers are more efficient, so that students can understand the subject well’, where students of KU, states 93% positive and 07% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 87% positive and 13% negative attitude. Item 10 is ‘this subject is helpful to fill the knowledge gap of previous level of Education’, where students of KU, states 78% positive and 22% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 93% positive and 07% negative attitude. Item 11 is ‘I had keen interest in this subject’, where students of KU, states 94% positive and 06% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 91% positive and 09% negative attitude. Item 12 is ‘this subject is helpful for further higher Education’, where students of KU, states 96% positive and 04% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 96% positive and 04% negative attitude. Item 13 is ‘this subject helps not only teaching profession, but also in another profession’, where students of KU, states 81% positive and 19% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 84% positive and 16% negative attitude. Item 14 is ‘this subject increases social interaction, where students of KU, states 79% positive and 21% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 84% positive and 16% negative attitude. Item 15 is ‘this subject helps to social adjustment’, where students of KU, states 87% positive and 13% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 87% positive and 13% negative attitude. Item 16 is ‘this subject is not expensive, where students of KU, states 49% positive and 51% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 71% positive and 29% negative attitude. Item 17 is ‘this subject is easy to get information from Internet’, where students of KU, states 100% positive and 00% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 100% positive and 00% negative attitude. The last item 18 is ‘there are more questions from this subject in NET/SET or other related exam, where researchers found, students of KU, states 60% positive and 40% negative attitude & students of WBSU, states 60% positive and 40% negative attitude.

V. INTERPRETATION

According to research objectives, Researchers found the following interpretation.

1st Objectives, Researchers found that, Educational Technology is the first choice of students. They found the same measures in the perspectives of University of Kalyani, West Bengal State University and total students. But, student’s preference towards Educational Technology is more in University of Kalyani than West Bengal State University.

2nd Objective, Researchers tried to found out the eighteen reasons behind the students’ preference of their Elective subject. In seventeenth items, student shows the positive results. Out of reach 11 reasons got more than 80% choice. The reasons are- Books are available in Market, helps to understand other related subject, This subject is most popular than other elective subject, the teachers are more efficient, so that students can understand the subject well, helps to fill the knowledge gap of previous level of Education, student interest, helpful for further higher Education, helps for achievements of different job, increasing of social interaction, helps to social adjustment & easy to get information from Internet. Researchers found negative results only from sixteenth reason i.e. ‘This subject is not expensive’.

VI. DISCUSSION

Researchers found the students preference towards the Elective paper by analysing the attitude of students of two universities (K.U. & W.B.S.U). Findings revealed that ‘Educational Technology’ is the most preferable subject than other Elective subject. Researchers found also eighteen reasons behind the student preference. Within eighteen reasons, eleven reasons carried more than 80% score. These research findings is comparably similar with the study of Samara, F. (2015) who studied on ‘Factors Influencing Students’ Choice of Elective Science Courses: A case study from the American University of Sharjah’. So, this paper is relevant in the present context.

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