



Provision of scholarships in the promotion of higher education

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Abstract

Success in higher education is commonly defined by a student's persistence (i.e., continued enrollment in the institution), progression (i.e., successful accrual of credit hours), and timely graduation. The administration of financial aid to college students has been shown to facilitate such student success. Financial aid for higher education consists of both need- and merit-based aid, in such forms as grants, loans, tuition remission, and private or institutional scholarships. Yet, between the years of 1995 and 2005, colleges and universities increased the total dollar amount spent on student aid by 95%. Grant contributions rose 89%, and, due to the marked increase in scholarships funded directly by individual institutions, schools were fiscally responsible for 41% of these expenditures. Therefore, pecuniary variables, particularly institutionally funded scholarships, may play an increasingly large role in attempts to support student success in higher education.

Keywords: scholarship, higher education, students

Introduction

A scholarship is a form of financial aid awarded to meritorious students so that they can meet the cost and financial expenses of studying in some of the top educational institutions and universities of the world. Almost every country has various types of scholarships on offer for students and the eligibility criterion for each scholarship varies from institution to institution. Both the Government and Non-Government educational institutions provide financial assistance to students in form of scholarships in India. With the help of scholarships and schemes, students can continue their studies without putting too much monetary burden on their families.

Background

National Merit Scholarship Scheme was introduced by Department of Education in 1961- 62. It was available to brilliant but poor students from class XI to Post-Graduation level. In addition, a Scheme of Scholarship at the Secondary stage for talented children from rural areas was also introduced by Department of Education in 1971-72. It was available to talented but poor students from rural areas from class VI to class XII. These two Schemes were merged and a single Scheme, namely, the National Merit Scholarship Scheme was established by Department of Education for implementation from 2005-06. This was available to meritorious students from class IX to Post-Graduation level. However, since funds were not provided by the Planning Commission for the year 2007- 08, the Scheme has been discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.2007. School Education has come under a new Department, namely, Department of School Education & Literacy w.e.f. the year 2007-08. The Department of School Education and Literacy has introduced a new Scheme: National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme This Scheme will cover students from class IX to XII.

The Department of Higher Education has introduced a new scheme for meritorious students from low income families going to colleges/universities for implementation during the XI Five Year Plan period with an approved outlay of Rs. 1000 crore.

National scholarships

The National Council for Educational Research and Training- External website that opens in a new window (NCERT) promotes educational development both in quantitative and qualitative terms and makes special efforts to remove disparities and equalize educational opportunities for all students. NCERT acknowledges and appreciates educational brilliance in students through the National Talent Search Scheme- External website that opens in a new window. It also seeks to applaud artistic distinction through the Chacha Nehru Scholarships- External website that opens in a new window for artistic and innovative excellence. The National Bal Bhawan has instituted a system of honouring talented children in different age groups in the year 1995 through the Bal Shree scheme- External website that opens in a new window.

Schemes for higher education

Higher Education is the shared responsibility of both the Centre and the States. The coordination and determination of standards in institutions is the constitutional obligation of the Central Government. The Central Government provides grants to UGC and establishes Central Universities in the country. Meritorious students, from families with or without necessary means, need an incentive or encouragement to keep on working hard in their studies and go to the next level of education in their academic career. This is where the scholarships and education loans play a crucial role. Following are some significant fellowship schemes/

scholarships awarded by the various institutions:

- National Scholarships- External website that opens in a new window
- Post Doctoral Research Fellow (Scheme)-External website that opens in a new window
- Junior Research Fellowships for biomedical sciences- External website that opens in a new window
- All India Council for Technical Education Scholarships- External website that opens in a new window
- Department of Science and Technology grants and fellowships- External website that opens in a new window
- DST's Scholarship Scheme for Women Scientists and Technologists- External website that opens in a new window
- Biotechnology fellowships for doctoral and postdoctoral studies by DBT-External website that opens in a new window
- Scholarships/Awards at Undergraduate & Postgraduate level in various science courses at the University of Delhi- External website that opens in a new window
- Fellowships/Scholarships/Awards by the Jawaharlal Nehru University- External website that opens in a new window
- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students to pursue higher education such as M. Phil. and Ph.D.- External website that opens in a new window
- Ramanujan Fellowships for brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world-External website that opens in a new window
- JC Bose National Fellowships-External website that opens in a new window
- Sports Authority of India promotional schemes- External website that opens in a new window
- Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities- Schemes/ Programmes-External website that opens in a new window
- Scholarship Schemes for ST Students by Ministry of Tribal Affairs-External website that opens in a new window
- Post-matric Scholarships for SC/ST students-External website that opens in a new window
- Scholarships for Minority Students- External website that opens in a new window
- Online Minority Students Welfare Scholarships System

Scholarships for girls in India that can actually make a difference

There was a time when girls were deprived of education, and now it's a time that the no. of girls going to schools and colleges is remarkably increasing. One such step to keep the no. of girls getting educated on a constant hike is- Scholarships for Girls.

Why Scholarships for Girls/Women?

1. Parents will be encouraged to send the girl child to schools and colleges if they see that their education can be sponsored by a no. of exclusive scholarships for girls.
2. Education is one of the critical areas of women empowerment, scholarships for girls will smoothen the way.
3. Gender inequality has been the basic hurdle on the road of education, finance being the other.
4. Most of the scholarships for girls are not only intended to

encourage them to go to school/colleges but also succeed in life thereafter.

Types of Scholarships for Girls-

Usually, there are a lot of scholarships for students, both boys and girls. But there some type of exclusive scholarships for girls, these can be of the following types-

1. **Government Scholarships for Girls-** which are usually provided by the government to do its bit to promote girl education.
2. **Non-government Scholarships for Girls-** these are usually provided by the private firms as an initiative to contribute in girl education.

Government has launched "pragati scholarship" for girls.

Previous Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani has said that a "Pragati Scholarship" has been launched by the government from the year 2014-15 to provide encouragement and support to the girl child to pursue technical education.

Irani, who gave this information in a written reply to the Lok Sabha question, said the salient features of the "Pragati Scholarship" are as under:

- (i) Number of scholarship per annum: 4000
- (ii) One Girl per family whose family income is less than Rs. 6 Lakhs per annum
- (iii) The candidates will be selected on merit at the qualifying examination
- (iv) The candidates should have been admitted to 1st year of the Degree or diploma programme in any of the AICTE approved institute during the academic year 2014-15 through centralized admission process of the State /Central Government.
- (v) Amount of scholarship: Tuition Fee of Rs. 30000/- or at actual, whichever is less and Rs. 2000/- per month for 10 months as incidentals each year.

Objectives of the study

The following objectives shall be realized through the study:

1. To study the awareness about Scholarship in higher education.
2. To study the problems faced while applying for scholarship.
3. To obtain the suggestions from Jammu University students towards better criteria and amount of scholarship.

Method used

Selection of research method is of almost importance in the research process. It refers to the general strategy followed in collecting and analyzing the necessary data for solving the problems. The research method are generally classified



Fig 1

Descriptive research

In the present study, the researcher will use the descriptive method of research. Descriptive research studies are designed to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of a phenomenon and wherever possible to draw valid general conclusion from the facts discovered. They are restricted not only to fact findings but may often result in formulation of important principles of knowledge and solution of signification problems concerning local, state, national and international studies.

Descriptive research is a general term used to describe a research project that does not try to establish cause effect relationship between events rather events are simply described. It provides data population or universe being studied.

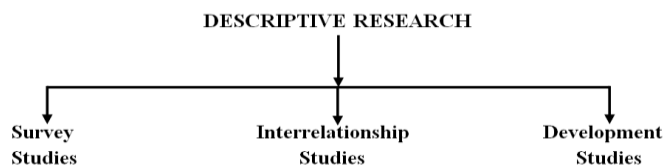


Fig 2

Survey studies

Survey studies are conducted to collect detailed description of existing phenomenon with the intent of employing data to justify the current conditions and practices or to make more intelligent plans for improving them. Some surveys are confined together with three types of information.

- Data concerning existing status.
- Comparing of existing status with established studies and standards.
- Means of improving the existing status while others are limited to one or two of these types.

Tools and techniques

For the present study, self-developed questionnaire will be used.

Administration of the tool

Data collection is an important part of the research process. The researcher will identified some young students pursuing their PG course in university of Jammu.

Then for collecting the data the investigator will visit the various departments of University of Jammu. After entering the Department, the investigator sought the permission of head of the departments of various Departments of University of Jammu, then the investigator will met the students for collection of data and promised them to keep the data confidential and will used only for the purpose of the present study.

Statistical techniques employed

In the present study, the investigator will use a very simple statistical technique for analyzing the data which is called as "Calculation frequencies". Here in firstly were ticked while working out of frequencies and after "Calculation of frequencies" the investigator calculated the percentage of their

frequencies of each items by "Calculation of percentage".

The investigation will find out with the help of this formulae:

$$\frac{\text{Frequency of the group}}{\text{Total no. of sample}} \times 100$$

On the basis of these "frequencies" and "percentage" the investigator will further investigation.

Educational implications

Scholarship plays an important role in higher education. It helps for students to get education and it helps them to attain the educational and life goals by removing financial burden.

Scholarship in higher education reduces the financial burden of students, and it helps them to reduce the amount of loans taken by students to complete education.

Scholarship motivates students for learning and it removes the risk of dropout in higher education.

Scholarship in higher education helps to attain the attention of students and it leads to competition. Scholarship in higher education is helpful in the selection of university and course of student's choice. Scholarship improves the academic achievements of students, because scholarship on the basis of merit urges them to get good marks. Scholarship encourages students to do their best in their studies, in this way it improves the quality of higher education. Scholarship saves the energy and time of students in which they have do part time jobs to continue their studies. Scholarship provides a bright chance to the students belonging to poor families to get higher education without scholarship higher education for girl students improves the rate of higher education among girls, as many parents give preference for the education of boys due to poverty, but scholarship helps girls to get higher education. Thus scholarship is necessary in higher education.

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