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A STUDY ON IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIP ON STUDENTS – WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MIZORAM STUDENTS.

Dr. A J Anuradha Lalthazuali Ralte

Assistant Professor Student II M.com (COBA)

Department of Commerce Department of Commerce

(SFS)

Madras Christian College Madras Christian College

Tambaram East Tambaram East

ABSTRACT:

Scholarships play a pivoting role in shaping the educational landscape of any country, especially in India where people are different in their financial and economic status. The scholarship among students results in facilitating educational opportunities for the economically disadvantage people from different regions in the country. The students having a reliable financial status are getting educational opportunities for their higher studies while the students who are not, are struggling to strive in their academic performance.

This research article delves into the financial aid provided by the scholarships and how it impacts the students and understanding their financial attitudes and financial challenges. The data collection method used a survey distributed to 101 respondents in Mizoram region and using the tools SPSS for analysing the required findings.

Keywords: students, scholarship, financial attitude, academic challenges.

I. INTRODUCTION:

The function of scholarships is to provide support for students to pay for the completion of their educational course. It enables students to obtain education they may not have access to otherwise, not only acting as financial support reward for deserving students with the ability to afford higher education.

India's commitment to education as a fundamental right in its Constitution, and government scholarships serve as tangible manifestations of this commitment. Over the years, the Indian government has launched various scholarship schemes targeting different levels of education, from primary schooling to postgraduate studies. These scholarships address diverse needs constraints and communities and incentivize academic merit. While significant in education and providing aid in every possible way. It is still a challenge for others with economically backward situations.

Scholarships shape students' perceptions and behaviours regarding education financing. By examining the awareness of scholarships among students, this study aims to shed light on the effectiveness of scholarship programs in reaching their target audience and providing adequate support. Furthermore, exploring the relationship between financial attitudes and gender can provide valuable insights into potential in financial literacy and decision-making among students.

Moreover, this research investigates the correlation between respondents' financial challenges and their education qualifications, recognizing the multifaceted nature of barriers in pursuing higher education. Understanding how financial challenges may vary across different levels of educational attainment can inform targeted interventions to support students at various stages of their academic journey. By delving into these aspects, this study contributes to the broader discourse on financial access to education

and informs strategies to enhance scholarship effectiveness and promote educational equity. By addressing financial barriers and fostering a supportive environment, we can empower students to pursue their education aspirations and contribute to societal progress.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- 1) Umm e Habiba and Madiha Liaqat (2022) conducted the study to point the impact of scholarships and financial aid on students in their academic achievements. The study evaluated that majority of the students belonged to rural areas and mostly the needy students are hesitant to apply for the need-based scholarships. It concluded that the scholarships provide strength to the students and making them more talented and also scholarships are best reward for students in bringing a competitive environment and encouraging the students in following the rules. The study also found that the students agreed on the aiding scholarships provided among them and increase the ability of empathy in the students.
- Santosh and Mayuri Bora (2020) conducted the study on the impact of scholarships on students of higher education and finds that scholarships gives students a self-dependency and decreased the financial burden on parents and also decreasing the amount of loan taken for the purpose of higher education. The scholarships interest is increase in college education, research and technical expertise. Concluding with the suggestions that the scholarships scheme should be continued and expanded for achieving higher education goals.
- 3) Abdul-Rahman Balogun Muhammed-Shittu (2019) conducted the study on the investigation on the impact of the scholarship types on academic procrastination among the university students and confirmed that recipients of full-tuition scholarship procrastinated slightly higher than students with a partial scholarship. Not just in one or two but all the three selected areas of academic procrastination are included in the study. The study also tested whether there is an impact of the scholarship on academic procrastination regarding gender. It was confirmed that female students procrastinate slightly higher than male students
- Annesha Saha and Manidip Roy (2020), explained in, "Government Policies and Financial Assistance For Development of Tribal Education in Tripura", that the active participation and self-enhancement of the tribal community are crucial in the socio-economic development of the economy. But they are still deprived of being equally treated on various grounds such as education and livelihood. The prosperity of an economy mostly depends on the inclusive strategy of a nation irrespective of community biases. But fortunately, the financial assistance is being provided by Tripura government by means of disbursing funds in pre-metric, post-metric and merit award.
- Riaz Ahmed, Adeel Ahmed, Waseem Barkat, and Rehmat Ullah (2022) conducted the study on the Impact of Scholarship on Student Success: A case study of the University of Turbat, Pakistan and found no evidence on the impact of merit-based scholarship on students' success outcomes and conclude that may be due to the fact that it provides incentives to those students who are already performing better academically. And their further analysis showed that need-based scholarships likely reduced the burden of university related costs for male students especially that were previously covered either by their parents or by themselves. As a result, the students had more time to focus and engage in academics. Also confirmed that the need-based scholarship programme appeared to be a better-targeted programme for male students in the underprivileged region.

III.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The sample for this study consists of students across diverse demographics and geographic locations in Mizoram and the general awareness on Scholarships among the respondents. A total of 101 Questionnaires were distributed and were subjected to statistical analysis. Data had been systematically analysed through Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

Objectives for the Study:

- To determine the awareness of scholarships among students.
- To analyse the financial attitude of scholarship recipients.
- To determine the financial challenges faced by students
- To provide suggestions to improve the usage level of scholarships.

IV.HYPOTHESIS:

Hypothesis 1

H0: Null Hypothesis – There is no significant difference in the awareness of scholarships for students.

H1: Alternative Hypothesis – There is significant difference in the awareness of scholarships for students.

Hypothesis 2

H0: Null Hypothesis - There is no significant difference between the financial attitude of the respondents and the gender based. H1: Alternative Hypothesis - There is significant difference between the financial attitude of the respondents and the gender based.

Hypothesis 3

H0: Null Hypothesis - There is no significant difference in the education level of respondents in their financial challenges.

H1: Alternative Hypothesis – There is significant difference in the education level of respondents in their academic challenges.

V.SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The goal of this research is to check out how scholarships affect students' financial attitudes, awareness, and planning for their education. Additionally, the research aims to examine the relationship between the financial attitudes of the respondents, their gender, and educational qualifications to gain insights on improving the effectiveness of scholarships and promoting educational equality.

1. Significance of the Study:

- The study will help the services provided for aiding the students in a more effective way.
- The study will also highlight the problems and challenges faced by students.

2. Sample Size:

A sample of 101 respondents were chosen for the study and the study was carried out in Mizoram state.

3. Sample Design:

The sample design used is convenience sampling.

4. Source of data:

- Primary data has been used in this research paper through a sample of 101 respondents from Mizoram state across various age groups and different field of study.
- The researcher also makes use of the secondary data for the purpose of the study.

5.Method of Data Collection:

The method of data collection is through a primary data by circulating a questionnaire which was shared with the sample respondents.

6.Statistical Package Used:

MS Excel and SPSS

7. Statistical Tools Used:

Data analysis was done using percentage analysis, Correlation, One sample T-test and ANOVA.

8. Limitations:

- This Study is limited to Mizoram state alone.
- Accuracy of the data depends on the respondent's honesty.
- Respondents were reluctant to respond.
- Incomplete information from the respondents.

9. Research Gap:

This study has a potential research gap that needs to be explored, which is the long-term effects of scholarship interventions on students' financial behaviours and academic outcomes. Although this study concentrates on students' immediate financial attitudes and awareness, delving deeper into how scholarships influence long-term financial planning and academic success could offer useful insights for policymakers and scholarship providers who aim to maximize the impact of their programs.

VI.DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Table no.1 shows demographic Profile of respondents:

STATEMENT	PARTICULAR	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	CUMULATIVE PERCENT
GENDER	Male	49	48.5	48.5
	Female	52	51.5	100
	Total	101	100	
	Under 18	2	2	2
AGE	18-23	84	83.2	85.1
	Above 23	15	14.9	100
	Total	101	100	
EDUCATION QUALIFICATION	HSLC	11	10.9	10.9
	HSSLC	35	34.7	45.5
	Under -graduate	45	44.6	90.1
	Post - graduate	10	9.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	
	Arts	32	31.7	31.7
FIELD OF STUDY	Science	23	22.8	54.5
	Commerce	39	38.6	93.1
	Others	7	6.9	100
	Total	101	100	

Interpretation:

The demographic profile of respondents regarding scholarships can be concluded by the majority of respondents gender: Female (51.5%) and Male (48.5%), majority of age group: 18-23 years (83.2%), Education qualification: Under– graduate (44.6%), Field of Study: Commerce (38.6%).

1.ONE-SAMPLE TEST

Null Hypothesis (H0): There is no significant difference in the awareness of respondents with scholarships for student.

Alternate Hypothesis (H1): There is significant difference in the Awareness of respondents with scholarships for student.

Table no.2 One - Sample Test Awareness of respondents for scholarship

Awareness	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
I am aware of the various scholarship available	41.722	100	.000	3.584
I understand the eligibility criteria for different scholarships offered	37.310	100	.000	3.465
I am familiar with the procedures for applying scholarships	39.222	100	.000	3.554
I am aware of the deadlines for submitting scholarships applications.	34.805	100	.000	3.396
I actively seek out information regarding scholarships through websites, notice, friends, etc	34.529	100	.000	3.347

Interpretation:

Since the significant (2-tailed) value is 0.000, which is below 0.05, H0 is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This shows that there is significant difference in Awareness of scholarships for student.

2.ANOVA TEST: Financial Attitude of the Respondents compared with the gender of respondents:

Null Hypothesis (**H0**): There is no significant difference in the financial attitude of respondents and gender. **Alternative Hypothesis** (**H1**): There is significant difference in the financial attitude of respondents and gender.

Table no.3: ANOVA Financial Attitude of the Respondents compared with the gender of respondents:

		Sum of				
		Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
I prioritize spending on	Between Groups	8.340	3	2.780	3.068	.032
essential items over non-	Within Groups	87.898	97	.906		
essential ones.	Total	96.238	100			
I feel stressed about my	Between Groups	6.923	3	2.308	3.209	.026
current financial situation.	Within Groups	69.750	97	.719		
	Total	76.673	100			

Interpretation:

From the above table, it is observed that, the respondents who "Prioritize spending on essential items over non-essential ones" significant level is 0.032, which is lesser than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is significant difference between the financial attitude of respondents and gender.

It is again observed that, the significant level of respondents who are "Feeling stressed about financial situation" is 0.026, which is lesser than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is also rejected. Therefore, there is significant difference between the financial attitude of respondents and gender.

It can be concluded that the respondents are cautious about their spending habits and feeling stressed about their financial situations.

3.CORRELATION TEST: Financial Challenges of the Respondents compared with the education qualification of respondents:

Null Hypothesis (H0): There is no significant difference in the education qualification of respondents in their academic challenges.

Alternate Hypothesis (H1): There is significant difference in the education qualification of respondents in their academic challenges.

Table no.4: CORRELATION TEST - Financial Challenges of the Respondents compared with the education qualification of respondents:

		Scholarship influenced financial planning for education	
Scholarship influenced financial planning for education	Pearson Correlation	1	.390**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	101	101
	Pearson Correlation	.390**	1
Education qualification	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	101	101

^{**.} Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Interpretation:

From the above table, it is observed that, the significance value is 0.000, which is lesser than 0.05. Hence, null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is significant difference between the financial challenges of respondents with their education qualification. It can be concluded that the financial challenges of the respondents are influenced by scholarship in planning for their future education.

VII.FINDINGS:

From the study conducted on a sample of 101 respondents across different age groups, gender, educational qualification and field of study, it can be concluded that the alternative hypothesis in this study can be accepted.

- The majority of the respondents according to gender shows Female as 51.5%.
- The researcher observed that the majority of the respondents lies in the age category of 18-23 (83.2%).
- There majority of the respondents are from Commerce field (38.6%).
- There is significant difference in Awareness of scholarships for student.
- There is significant difference between the financial attitude of respondents and gender.
- There is significant difference between the financial challenges of respondents with their education qualification.

VIII.SUGGESTIONS:

- Awareness must be circulated thoroughly to reach needy students.
- The application process of scholarships must exclude complexities.
- Implementing financial literacy programs for students must be held for uplifting financial attitudes and behaviour.

Various policies must be implemented for additional support of students who having struggles impacting academic environment.

IX.CONCLUSIONS:

Based on the research and discussion, it can be concluded that the scholarships indeed have a significant impact on students' financial attitudes and awareness. The rejection of the null hypothesis suggesting no difference between the awareness of scholarships for students, states that there is a variation in the awareness among students. This indicates the importance of promoting scholarship opportunities to ensure equal access to students for financial support. Also, it is evident that the rejection of the hypothesis regarding the financial challenges of respondents compared to their education qualification highlights the need for support mechanisms to address financial barriers faced by students. All these findings emphasize the critical role of scholarships in shaping students' educational aspirations and underscore the importance of addressing financial challenges to ensure access to higher education for all.

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