

A STUDY OF ANTICIPATION FROM UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW – STUDENTS’ AND PARENTS’ PERSPECTIVE

***Dr. Amita Dhaaka**

**** Mrs. Neelima Sharma**

Abstract:

The proposed study is an investigation into the students’ and parents’ anticipations from an important university of North India viz. University of Lucknow which was established in 1920 and is located at the capital headquarters of the erstwhile United Provinces, now known as Uttar Pradesh. There are a variety of issues which need to be addressed in the University. One of the most important issues of all is the aims and functions of the University in the light of the expectations of the stakeholders particularly students and parents of the University. This study proposes to conduct an empirical inquiry in this area.

Education plays a very important role in making our life in the future as complete and fulfilling as possible. In future we have to consider many occurrences that will be required to face, there are goals that need to be attained. University Education holds a very important place in the future of every student as it leads to living a full life with all dreams at fingertips. University with endless opportunity will enable the student to learn new ideas, face different obstacles, plans for future. And thus able to contribute to society rather than taken from it by transmitting knowledge to the future generations.

Today there is a general apprehension that the education being imparted through our academia is not relevant to the needs of society. There appears to be a mismatch between what is taught in our universities and what is required by industry, business, politics, administration, the professions and society at large. We need such educational services which create new pathways for students to reach their academic and career goals, and how students can be best supported to take advantage of the full range of resources provided by colleges. However, the universities are yet to react to such competition with the required speed. They are still moving with their original ideals which are unable to fulfill the demands of the present world.

The proposed study is an investigation into the students’ and parents’ expectations from an important university of North India viz. University of Lucknow which was established in 1920 and is located at the capital headquarters of the erstwhile United Provinces, now known as Uttar Pradesh. There are a variety of issues which need to be addressed in the University. One of the most important issue is the aims and functions of the University in the light of the expectations of the stakeholders particularly students and parents of the University. This study proposes to conduct an empirical inquiry in this area.

Related Studies

Cook, Lora A. (2004) investigated the relationship between expectation – experience growth discrepancies and satisfaction among students and found out that more a participant’s expectations were met, the more satisfied the participant was with the experience.

*Principal, RGCE Gr. NOIDA

**Research Scholar, MB University

A study conducted by Spencer, Stanley, (2005) was done to find out the perceptions of college students, parents and employers in south-west Ohio concerning associate degrees. This qualitative study combined in-depth interviewing techniques similar to those of ethnographic research with word coding and grouping techniques of content analysis and concluded that all the groups agreed that associate degree has become the minimum educational requirement for getting jobs.

Evidences supplied by the studies conducted abroad have direct and indirect bearing on the aims, objectives and functions of higher education in modern perspective and hence provide support to hand and for upward climbing by the researcher however, no study seems to have been done specifically in the area of higher education and university so far. Hence, the present study titled “A Study of Anticipation from the University of Lucknow - Students’ and Parents Perspective” is expected to be more useful and relevant in the area of research and development in higher education.

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

Each objective of this study was achieved through a different method/ procedure.

Objective 1

To explore the expectations of students from University of Lucknow

Procedure

The student from different faculty of the University of Lucknow was engaged in open conversational interview, on the individual basis, to find out their expectations. The recorded conversation of each individual was converted into written transcript which was subjected to content analysis in order to mark the statements indicative of the individual’s expectations from University.

Objective 2

To explore the expectations of parents from University of Lucknow

Procedure

The parents whose wards are presently studying in University of Lucknow were engaged in open conversational interview, on the individual basis, to find out their expectations. The recorded conversation of each individual was converted into written transcript which was subjected to content analysis in order to mark the statements indicative of the individual’s expectations from university.

Objective 3

To categorize the expectations of students and parents from University of Lucknow

Procedure

The marked expectation statements were enlisted and divided into various categories. This was done by studying the statements individually and assigning them to a category (for example, categories of discipline, student politics, admission, examination reforms, extension etc.). Thus, a categorized picture of the expectations of an individual was formed. The same procedure was repeated for all the respondent stakeholders of the group (i.e. students and parents). This lead to several categorized lists of expectations.

Objective 4

To suggest changes and modification in University of Lucknow on the basis of explored expectations of students and parents.

Procedure

On the basis of the analysis of explored expectations of students and parents suitable suggestions regarding the changes and modification in University of Lucknow will be given. On the basis of obtained expectations of students and parents an attempt was made to develop a students' portrait of University of Lucknow and a parents' portrait of University of Lucknow. These portraits show the lines on which the University of Lucknow needs to be reformed in future if it has to come up to the expectations of its most important stakeholders as well as beneficiaries.

Delimitations

1. This study was limited to only those students presently studying in University of Lucknow.
2. This study was limited to only parents whose sons or daughters are presently studying in University of Lucknow.
3. The outcome of the analysis of primary data was within the limitations of the responses to various questions in the schedule.

Findings

Many findings were obtained in terms of students' and parents' expectations from University of Lucknow which were synthesized into three broad classes:

1. Common expectations
2. Unique expectations
3. Conflicting expectations

1. The students' expectations from University belong to 46 categories with enough variety; whereas the expectations of parents could be classified into only 32 categories. The 17 categories where the parents showed no expectations were: Teaching Method, Attendance, Courses, Curriculum, Academic Atmosphere, Ban on cheating, Semester System, Evaluation, Hostel, Library, Parking, Building/Classrooms, Labs, Research Facilities, Entry of Vehicles, Common Rooms, and Campus Life. These are the categories mainly related with the teaching learning process, campus life and University culture with which the parents appeared to be least concerned. This is indicative of parents' decreased interest in day to day affair of the University life of their sons and daughters. They are mainly concerned with the end product of higher education. Another reason behind less expectations and less interest might be that either parent are less concerned for higher education as they are not in the field of higher education or they may have kept themselves aloof with the higher education of their son or daughter as they might be busy in the vicious circle of earning bread and butter.

2. The students' expectations (996) tremendously outnumbered those of parents' (542) expectations from LU. This showed that the students are highly ambitious about the higher education and they expect too much from the University as far as their future, career and life is concerned.

3. As a general observation the students are more concerned with facilities and the parents with character and discipline. Same was reflected in the findings of this research. The expectation of infrastructure (183) outnumbered the other frequency of the students' expectations was

concerned. On the other hand the class of expectations namely, 'discipline' (132) outnumbered all other classes of parents' expectations.

4. The total number of expectations was 216 in case of students and 164 in case of parents.

5. Some of the uncommon or unique expectations in terms of administration, information and guidance services, infrastructure etc. had come up during open conversational interviews of students and parents. If attention is paid on these unique expectations then the functioning and image of the University may improve to a large extent and the University will be able to deliver better goods to its beneficiaries and come up to the expectations of its stakeholders.

6. Some such conflicting expectations were also found where students and the parents stood just opposite. On one hand, the parents expected something from the University of Lucknow, and on the other hand the students condemned that idea and expected just contrary or the vice versa.

7. On the basis of obtained expectations of students and parents an attempt was made to develop a students' portrait of University of Lucknow and a parents' portrait of University of Lucknow. These portraits show the lines on which the University of Lucknow needs to be reformed in future if it has to come up to the expectations of its most important stakeholders as well as beneficiaries.

Conclusion

This study was concluded by designing two portraits of the University Of Lucknow in which the various shades and colors have been supplied by the expectations from University of Lucknow. First portrait is based on the expectations of students and the second portrait is based on the expectation of parents.

Students' portrait of University of Lucknow

As the society grows, the needs, ambitions and aspirations of the people also change which should be reflected in the area of education too. There is a need for rapid changes to cater to the mental thirst of the people. Globalization, multi-cultural influences, changes in the quality of life, etc. demand a fresh look in educational sphere. Undoubtedly a nation's progress and prosperity lies in the hands of its youth. The students prefer those teachers' who have knowledge of the subject matter, maintaining good discipline, getting things done effectively by using latest educational technology for student amount of learning. In every subject practical knowledge should be given along with theoretical knowledge. Classrooms should be converted into high tech rooms having projectors, speakers, microphones etc. In labs sufficient instruments, equipment, reagents should be made available to all students with good on line library facilities etc. There should be hygienic, spacious, well managed canteens having all the items of students' necessity like stationary, phone etc along with other food items. University should prepare the student such that they become good citizen so that when they go out of university, people regard them as humble and good citizen. This can be done by organizing small social camps, old age workshops, senior citizen reward ceremony, celebrations of important days etc.

Parents' portrait of University of Lucknow

For all parents the education of their children is the first priority of their life for which they have several expectations about the quality of education being imparted in the University. University should provide calm and healthy atmosphere to students where academic session should be regularized and teachers, provost and warden should sincerely perform their work. Administrative staff should be well qualified, knowledgeable, cooperative, and having good

communication skills. University should organize camps in villages, cities, and colonies etc where LU student can teach children, can help aged and handicapped people. Admission and examination results should be timely declared. Instead of caste, creed basis reservation should be done on financial status of student.

There should be good library, high tech labs, computer facilities, first aid etc. All essential commodities like food, water, proper sitting arrangement should be provided to students. In order to solve problems of weak and poor students' university should provide tuition facility where seniors or intelligent students should teach and teachers should only supervise them. In university there should be no student politics.

References

- Bean, J., & Bradley, R. K., (1986). Untangling the satisfaction-performance relationship for college students. *Journal of Higher Education*, 57, 393-412.
- Benjamin M., & Hollings, A. (1997). Student satisfaction: Test of an ecological model. *Journal of College Student Develop*, 55,146-150.
- Laura W. Perna & Cook (2004) .Impact of student aid program design, operations, and marketing on the formation of family college-going plans and resulting college-going behaviors of potential students,
- Olson, L., & Rosenfeld, R. A. (1984). Parents and the process of gaining access to student Financial aid. *Journal of Higher Education*, 55(4), 455-480.
- Perna, L.W. The key to college access: A college preparatory curriculum. NY: State University of New York Press
- W. G.Tierney, Z. B. Corwin, & J. E. Colyar (Eds.), *Preparing for College: Nine Elements of Effective Outreach*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press. 38(3), 213-228.