

Instructional and Institutional Problems Faced by Polytechnic Students of Kerala, India

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Abstract

The present investigation was undertaken to analyse the instructional and institutional problems faced by Polytechnic students of Kerala State. The sample of the study comprised of 500 polytechnic students spread over five districts of Kerala State. The result of the study reveals that 17.8% of polytechnic students have high, 72.6% moderate and 9.8% of them have low level instructional and institutional problems in their course programme.

Keywords

Instructional Problems, Institutional Problems, Polytechnic Students

I. Introduction

Today we find ourselves in peculiar situation and even in the vast ocean of unemployed people we do not get right type of personnel for doing right jobs. We find that there is as much surplus of manpower as there is shortage. There are a number of jobs which lie vacant due to shortage of right personnel. There are also crucial middle level jobs without which neither production nor services be increased or improved. Professional, technical and vocational education is therefore essential for developing the above levels of manpower.

Polytechnic education enables many to become employable without spending years behind to many courses. Polytechnic Education in India provides one with vocational courses. There are many courses covering many fields when it comes to Polytechnic Education in India. The courses help one get job worthy in a few years. So, the main purpose of Polytechnic Education in India is to make students employable.

Envisaging the importance of polytechnic course and to enhance the effective functioning of polytechnic institutions, the investigator has designed the present study. It is a ground reality that polytechnic courses are enmeshed with an array of problems, not only to the teachers of the system; but to the beneficiaries, viz; the students undergoing the programmes. The investigator had held long discussions with the stakeholders of the programme; and had felt the bare necessity of conducting a study, which would throw light on the problem at hand.

II. Objectives of the Study

- To find out the instructional and institutional problems faced by the polytechnic students of Kerala.
- To find out the instructional and institutional problems faced by the polytechnic students with respect to the following sub-samples based on
 - Gender
 - Locality
 - Type of Management of Institution

III. Methodology

The present study was intended to understand the instructional and institutional problems faced by polytechnic students and also to collect the opinion of teachers and pass out students regarding the problems they faced during their course programme period.

Hence the Investigator adopted normative survey method for the collection of data. The sample selected for the study consisted of 500 polytechnic students spread over five districts, viz; Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Kollam, Idukki and Alappuzha. Keeping in view the major objectives of the study, the following tools were used for the present study.

- Questionnaire on the Problems Faced by Polytechnic Students (Suresh & Hameed, 2013).
- Unstructured Interview with Polytechnic Students.
- Unstructured Interview with Teachers.
- Unstructured Interview with Pass Out Students

To achieve the objectives of the study, the data collected were codified; tabulated and descriptive statistics such as Mean and Standard Deviation are used in the analysis of data. An inferential statistic technique, Critical Ratio (t) was also used.

IV. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Objective-wise analysis and interpretation is the main component of the investigation. The data were analysed with the help of Mean, Standard Deviation and 't' test techniques of statistics. The data were presented in the following tables (in the order of objectives formulated).

A. To find out the instructional and institutional problems faced by the polytechnic students of Kerala.

Table 1: Measures of Central Tendency and Standard Deviation for Instructional and Institutional problems faced by polytechnic students

N	Mean	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation (SD)
500	103.91	104.61	104.14	3.50

From the above table, it can be seen that the value of arithmetic mean for the total sample is 103.91; mode is 104.61 and standard deviation 3.50. The median obtained is 104.14 which means 50% students got score above 104.14.

Table 2: Level of Instructional and Institutional Problems Faced by Polytechnic Students

Description	High		Moderate		Low	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Instructional and Institutional problems	89	17.8	363	72.6	48	9.6

From the Table 2, 17.8% of polytechnic students have high, 72.6% moderate and 9.6 of them have low level instructional and institutional problems in their course programme.

B. To find out the instructional and institutional problems faced by the polytechnic students with respect to the following sub-samples based on,

1. Gender

Table 3: Mean, Standard Deviation and Critical Ratio for Instructional and Institutional problems faced by polytechnic students with respect to Gender

Gender	N	Mean	S D	C R	Level of Significance
Male	270	104.32	3.66	2.90	P<0.01
Female	230	103.43	3.22		

Table 3 shows that the mean and standard deviation of male students are 104.32 and 3.66 respectively, whereas the mean and standard deviation for female students are 103.43 and 3.22 respectively. The critical ratio obtained is 2.90, which is significant at 0.01 level. (CR=2.90, P<0.01). So it can be interpreted that there exists significant difference in the problems faced by male and female students, with respect to the institutional and instructional problems.

2. Locality

Table 4: Mean, Standard Deviation and Critical Ratio for Instructional and Institutional problems faced by polytechnic students with respect to Locality

Locality	N	Mean	S D	C R	Level of Significance
Rural	250	104.72	4.0950	3.2376	P<0.01
Urban	250	103.108	2.5425		

Table 4 shows that the mean and standard deviation of rural students are 104.72 and 4.09 respectively, whereas mean and standard deviation of urban students are 103.10 and 2.54 respectively. The critical ratio obtained is 3.23, which is significant at 0.01 level (CR=3.23, P<0.01). It can be interpreted that there exists significant difference between instructional and institutional problems faced by rural and urban students.

3. Type of Management of Institutions

Table 5: Mean, Standard Deviation and Critical Ratio for Instructional and Institutional problems faced by polytechnic students with respect to Type of Management of Institutions

Type of Management of Institutions	N	Mean	SD	CR	Level of Significance
Government	460	104.35	3.25	17.92	P<0.01
Aided	40	98.77	1.72		

Table 5 shows that the mean and standard deviation of government students are 104.35 and 3.25 respectively, whereas mean and standard deviation of urban students are 98.77 and 1.72 respectively. The critical ratio obtained is 17.92, which is significant at 0.01 level (CR=3.23, P<0.01). So it can be interpreted that there exists significant difference between instructional and institutional problems faced by government and aided students.

V. Conclusion

The present study was designed to find out the instructional and institutional problems faced by Polytechnic Students in Kerala. The result of the study reveals that almost all students are facing many problems including both instructional and institutional in their course programme.

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