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### "SWOT Analysis of Agricultural Colleges from Maharashtra"

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#### Abstract

SWOT Analysis of agricultural colleges from Maharashtra state was studied for future improvement in agricultural education particularly in affiliated agricultural colleges. The study was conducted in the jurisdiction of all four agricultural universities in Maharashtra by selecting 27 affiliated and 13 constituent agricultural colleges. The respondents such as principals and teachers were selected for collection of data. Collected data were analyzed using frequency and percentage tools and results were drawn. It was observed that the respondents had identified as many as seven strengths of the constituent agricultural colleges. At overall level, 97.20 per cent of the respondents felt that 'Qualified, experienced and permanent teaching staff.' was the major strength, whereas 97.20 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'Vacant teaching posts' was the major weakness. Regarding opportunities, 93.00 per cent of the respondents stated that 'Receipt generation avenues for college through development of farm projects on commercial basis' was the major opportunity. As regards to threats, 'Anxiety of unemployment for graduated students due to huge number of students graduating from agricultural colleges' was the biggest threat as stated by 89.51 per cent of the respondents. Regarding affiliated colleges, it was noticed that, 98.98 per cent of the respondents felt that 'More opportunities for the students in admissions for agricultural and allied branches.' was the strength of affiliated agricultural colleges, while 95.28 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'Unavailability of qualified and experienced teachers' was the major weakness. As regards to opportunities, 'Receipt generation avenues for college through development of farm projects on commercial basis' was the opportunity felt by 91.91 per cent of the respondents. 'Anxiety of unemployment for agricultural graduates due to large number of students graduating from colleges' was the biggest threat as stated by 95.95 per cent of the respondents.

#### Introduction

In Maharashtra, before privatization of agricultural education, only 2717 students could get admissions for under graduate courses in 33 constituent colleges.

Considering the huge number of applications for admissions to agriculture and allied courses, need for privatization was felt by the policy makers as there are limitations of resources to increase the number of constituent colleges. In Maharashtra at present having 156 affiliated agriculture and allied colleges which are highest number of agricultural colleges in the country, in which 11990 students admitted in affiliated colleges and 2717 students admitted in constituent colleges.

It is observed that many affiliated agricultural colleges have poor infrastructural facilities, lack of qualified teachers. Salary given to the teachers is not as per the UGC norms, that's why teachers with requisite qualification didn't join affiliated agricultural colleges or there is tendency of changing job frequently. These factors are responsible for academic performance of the colleges. Therefore, researcher has planned to study the performance of affiliated agricultural colleges in comparison with constituent agricultural colleges and also to undertake SWOT analysis of these agricultural colleges by collecting views of important stakeholders such as principals and teachers working in agricultural colleges so that the policy makers may design their strategies for better improvement of agricultural education.

## **Methodology**

### **1. Locale of the study:**

The study was conducted in the jurisdiction of all the four agricultural universities viz. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri; Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli; Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola and Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani from the state of Maharashtra so as to achieve the even distribution of samples or regional balance. Keeping in view, the objectives and hypotheses of the research, constituent and affiliated colleges in the jurisdiction of all four agricultural universities were selected purposively which have completed eight years so that the overall performance of the affiliated as well as constituent colleges can be compared effectively. In all 40 agricultural colleges (13 constituent and 27 affiliated colleges) were selected from the Maharashtra state.

### **2. Sample size:**

The respondents such as principals and teachers from the sample agriculture colleges were selected for data collection. All the principals of the sample colleges i.e 40 and 10 teachers from each college were selected.

### **3. Designing of interview schedule and Collection of data:**

For collecting desired information related with the objectives of the present study, an interview schedule was developed. The data were collected from the principals and teachers with the help of interview schedules. Before finalization of interview schedules, it was pretested by interviewing the teachers and principals which were not the part of sample selected for investigation. The data were obtained through personal interviews of respondents.

## **Results**

The principals and teachers of selected Affiliated and Constituent Agricultural Colleges were requested to state the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to their Colleges as perceived by them. The perceptions of the respondents

on these aspects are recorded and discussed here under.

### **Strengths:**

It was observed that the respondents had identified as many as seven strengths of the constituent agricultural colleges. At overall level, 97.20 per cent of the respondents felt that 'Qualified, experienced and permanent teaching staff.' was the strength of constituent agricultural colleges followed by 91.60 per cent and 90.20 per cent of the respondents stated that 'Availability of infrastructural and other required facilities' and 'Conduct of research and extension activities other than teaching' respectively were the strengths. Further it was observed that 75.52 per cent of the respondent said that 'Well equipped laboratories, library, farm etc' was the strength, while 69.23 per cent of them felt that 'Availability and use of modern teaching equipment and aids' were the strength of agricultural college. 'Good educational environment' was the strength as expressed by 65.73 per cent of the respondents whereas 60.83 per cent respondents felt that 'Performance of graduated students' was the strength.

As regards to strengths of the affiliated agricultural colleges it was noticed that the respondents had identified as many as seven strengths of affiliated agricultural colleges. At overall level, 98.98 per cent of the respondents felt that 'More opportunities for the students in admissions for agricultural and allied branches.' was the strength of affiliated agricultural colleges followed by 96.63 per cent and 93.60 per cent of the respondents stated that 'Pool of trained manpower to agro-industries.' and 'Young and enthusiastic teachers' respectively were the strengths. Further it was observed that 90.90 per cent of the respondent said that 'Better infrastructural facilities.' was the strength, while 89.22 per cent of them felt that 'Good communication between students and staff' were the strength of agricultural colleges. 'Discipline and conduct' was the strength as expressed by 86.86 per cent of the respondents whereas 84.84 per cent respondents felt that 'Conduct of extra classes, unit tests, personal guidance for improvement of low merit students' was the strength.

### **Weaknesses**

It was observed that principals and teachers were perceived seven weaknesses of the constituent agricultural colleges. At overall level, 97.20 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'Vacant teaching posts' was the major weakness, followed by 91.60 per cent and 87.41 per cent of the respondents stated that 'Insufficient infrastructure facilities for PG programs in same campus' and 'Heavy workload to teachers due to extra duties of examinations of affiliated agricultural colleges and schools' respectively were the weaknesses. Further it was seen that 'Undesirable practices like Common off by the students' and 'Lack of cooperation among staff due to internal politics/ narrow minded thinking.' were the weaknesses felt by 74.12 per cent and 72.02 per cent of the respondents respectively. While 67.83 per cent and 62.23 per cent respondents felt that 'Communication gap between higher authorities, staff and students' and 'Inconvenient locations of the colleges' were the weaknesses respectively.

Regarding weaknesses of the affiliated agricultural colleges as stated by the principals and the teachers it was revealed that, At overall level, 95.28 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'Unavailability of qualified and experienced

teachers' was the major weakness, followed by 94.27 per cent and 85.85 per cent of the respondents stated that 'Unavailability of permanent teaching staff due to frequent changing of job.' and 'Inability to provide better facilities to students and staff due to lack of financial aid from constituent' respectively were the weaknesses. Further it was seen that 'Communication gap between management, staff and students' and 'Insufficient infrastructural and other required facilities' were the weaknesses felt by 81.81 per cent and 76.09 per cent of the respondents respectively. While 74.74 per cent and 41.07 per cent respondents felt that 'Ineffective administration' and 'Inconvenient location of the colleges' were the weaknesses respectively.

### **Opportunities**

It was noticed that major opportunities of constituent agricultural colleges felt by the respondents were, 'Receipt generation avenues for college through development of farm projects on commercial basis' (93.00 %), 'Collaboration with agro industries for sharing of resources' (83.91 %) and 'Development of entrepreneurship among students' (75.52 %). Further it was found that 68.53 per cent and 60.13 per cent of the respondents felt that 'Collaboration with foreign institutes' and 'Increase in intake capacity of PG programs' respectively were the opportunities for constituent agricultural colleges. While 56.64 per cent and 51.74 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'In plant training or attachment with agro based industries' and 'Guidance of experts through virtual learning centers' respectively were the opportunities for the constituent agricultural colleges.

With respect to opportunities available to the affiliated agricultural colleges, it was found that major opportunities of affiliated agricultural colleges felt by the respondents were, 'Receipt generation avenues for college through development of farm projects on commercial basis' (91.91 %), 'Collaboration with agro-industries for academic and financial benefits' (90.23 %) and 'Development of entrepreneurship among students' (80.80 %). Further it was found that 70.03 per cent and 67.67 per cent of the respondents felt that 'Counseling of students for better career options' and 'Starting of PG courses in the same campus' respectively were the opportunities for affiliated agricultural colleges. While 53.53 per cent and 41.07 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'Starting of new college for income generation' and 'Increase in intake capacity to meet increasing admission demands' respectively were the opportunities for the affiliated agricultural colleges.

### **Threats**

As regards to threats for constituent agricultural colleges, it was observed that, 'Anxiety of unemployment for graduated students due to huge number of students graduating from agricultural colleges' was the biggest threat as stated by 89.51 per cent of the respondents, followed by 85.31 per cent and 82.51 per cent of them felt that 'Dominance of affiliated agricultural colleges over constituent colleges' and 'Decline in educational standard due to internal politics' were the major threats respectively. Further it was seen that 'Withheld of accreditation, grants from state or central government' and 'Entry of foreign universities/ institutions' were the threats as stated by 67.13 and 52.44 per cent of the respondents respectively. While 51.04 per cent and 49.65 per cent of the respondents felt that 'Decline in morale of

staff due to heavy workload and other reasons' and 'Curtailement of sanctioned posts by government or ICAR' respectively were the threats for constituent agricultural colleges.

The threats for affiliated agricultural colleges, as perceived by the respondents were, 'Anxiety of unemployment for agricultural graduates due to large number of students graduating from colleges' was the biggest threat as stated by 95.95 per cent of the respondents, followed by 91.58 per cent and 90.57 per cent of them felt that 'Decline in admission demands' and 'Qualified and experienced teaching staff leaving job' were the major threats respectively. Further it was seen that 'Government policies to close ineffective colleges' and 'Poor educational standard due to administrative problems' were the threats as stated by 83.16 and 81.48 per cent of the respondents respectively. While 74.07 per cent and 64.64 per cent of the respondents felt that 'Commercialization of agricultural education that may leads to exploitation of the students.' and 'Entry of foreign universities/ institutions' respectively were the threats for affiliated agricultural colleges.

### **Summary and Conclusions**

**SWOT analysis of Constituent Agricultural Colleges:** It was observed that the respondents had identified as many as seven strengths of the constituent agricultural colleges. At overall level, 97.20 per cent of the respondents felt that 'Qualified, experienced and permanent teaching staff.' was the major strength, whereas 97.20 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'Vacant teaching posts' was the major weakness. Regarding opportunities, 93.00 per cent of the respondents stated that 'Receipt generation avenues for college through development of farm projects on commercial basis' was the major opportunity. As regards to threats, 'Anxiety of unemployment for graduated students due to huge number of students graduating from agricultural colleges' was the biggest threat as stated by 89.51 per cent of the respondents

**SWOT analysis of Affiliated Agricultural Colleges:** It was noticed that, 98.98 per cent of the respondents felt that 'More opportunities for the students in admissions for agricultural and allied branches.' was the strength of affiliated agricultural colleges, while 95.28 per cent of the respondents expressed that 'Unavailability of qualified and experienced teachers' was the major weakness. As regards to opportunities, 'Receipt generation avenues for college through development of farm projects on commercial basis' was the opportunity felt by 91.91 per cent of the respondents. 'Anxiety of unemployment for agricultural graduates due to large number of students graduating from colleges' was the biggest threat as stated by 95.95 per cent of the respondents.

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