

Title of the Project : A study of Recipients under Young Scientist Programme of DST
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Implementing Agency : Manpower Management Centre, F-8/A, Munirka Flats, New Delhi – 110 067
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Executive Summary :

Young Scientists Programme was launched during the Sixth Five Year Plan. During the period 1985-86 to 1994-95 (10 years), the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India sanctioned grant-in-aid to around 700 young scientist to pursue their exciting and innovative research ideas under the Young Scientists Programme. The National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS), a Division of DST entrusted the work of evaluating the impact of its Young Scientists Programme for the aforesaid period to Manpower Management Centre, New Delhi. The project was approved titled as "A study of the recipients of Young Scientists Programme of DST". The study was conducted through a structured questionnaire and its major findings are focussed here under :

507 (73 percent) addresses of young scientists could be confirmed from out of 700, through all means of communication.

398 (79 percent) completed questionnaires were received from out of 507 young scientists.

The study reveals that the highest number of 104 respondents belonged to UP, followed by 48 from AP, 41 from WB and 28 from Maharashtra. Taken altogether these four states are represented by 221 (56 percent) of the total 398 respondents from all over India.

311 (78 percent) male and 87 (22 percent) female recipients participated in this study.

A fair number of 44 (11 percent) recipients belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories were a part of this study.

330 (83 percent) young scientists were found married and 68 (17 percent) unmarried during the year 1996-97 when they filled-up the questionnaire.

Academic background-wise 13 (3 percent) young scientists were holding Post-Doctoral and 385 (97 percent) Ph.D qualification.

326 (82 percent) recipients held 853 memberships of various professional bodies.

204 (51 percent) parents from urban and 194 (49%) from rural areas have shown almost equal interest and supported their children's higher education and entry to research career.

At the time of joining Young Scientists Programme of DST, 285 (72%) recipients were already employed and 133 (28%) of them were unemployed.

The employment status of recipients improved very much i.e. 383 (96%) were found employed and only 15 (4%) remained unemployed after joining the Young Scientists Programme.

The job classification-wise, 379 (95%) young scientists were found engaged in R&D and Teaching combined.

The largest number of 285 (72%) young scientists was found to be employed in Academic Sector followed by 79 (20%) in the Government.

236 (59%) young scientists were having a monthly income between Rs.5,001/- to 10,000/-, 111 (30%) between Rs.10,001/- to 20,000/- and only 2 (0.5%) above Rs.20,001/- 34 (9%) of them were drawing a monthly income below Rs.5,000/- and 15 (4 percent) were found unemployed.

86 (22%) young scientists were not having job satisfaction for various reasons.

272 (68%) found Young Scientists Programme a useful programme in getting employment whereas 119 (30%) were not happy and gave a negative response.

Young scientists having "Life Science" as a broad subject of specialisation were found to be the highest in getting research project i.e. 179 (45%) followed by Chemical Science, 67 (17%).

Scheme-wise projects sanctioned were 323 (81%), 74 (19%) and 1 (0.25%) respectively under SYS, SERCYS and SYPSSP.

It took DST 6 to 12 months to process research proposals of 235 (59%) young scientists, and over 12 months in approving 102 (26 percent) proposals. Only 44 (15%) proposals were sanctioned within 6 months

367 (92%) young scientists did not change their affiliation for their research work whereas 32 (8%) got their projects transferred to other institutes for various reasons.

279 (70%) could attend Group Monitoring Workshops (GMWs). 1919 (30%) could not attend these.

Only 16 (4 percent) recipients dropped-out of their research work.

Out of 382 respondents, 238 (62%) had successfully completed their research projects, 50 (13 %) were in the process of completing their reports and 94 (25%) were continuing with their research work, as per the information collected upto the middle of 1997.

310 (78%) recipients contributed 844 research papers in scientific journals.

86 (22 percent) recipients got 110 awards, medals and fellowships.

National and International conferences and seminars were attended by 252 (63%) young scientists.

Majority of the recipients i.e. 368 (92%) pursued R&D activities and fulfilled the objective of DST's programme.

295 (74%) young scientists stated that technical manpower assistance was not provided to them and almost all of them have desired that this assistance is essential for timely completion of their project.