

PERCEPTION OF THE CANDIDATES AND THE UTILITY OF E-RESOURCES TOWARDS COMPETITIVE EXAMS IN INDIA WITH REFERENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT EXAMS

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ABSTRACT

Examination is a procedure to evaluate ones subject knowledge and scrutinize the errors committed by the humans. In education institutions, humans are known as pupils, whereas in national and in global levels one is known as candidates. Candidature occurs when a person becomes eligible to apply and attempt an exam. Competitive exam instigates the confidence in human beings to face all the hindrances in a positive attitude. The research project portrays the perception of the candidates or the aspirants of various Governments' Competitive exams like UPSC, SSC, TET, and UGC-NET, etc. Random sampling method was adopted with a sample size of 209. Data was analyzed through MS –Excel 2007 and Jamovi Version 2.3.24. A well structured questionnaire was designed and circulated. Productive use of e-resources provides a nation with competent workforce.

KEYWORDS: *Competitive exams, candidates, e-resources, perception, Jamovi Version 2.3.24*

INTRODUCTION

Examination is the process of analyzing or checking something in detail the mistakes occurred, skills or knowledge of a person or a product. It is also known as test or trial. It is a formal situation to arrive at a proper solution or a result in the future.

Exams are recognized as a source of analyzing the capabilities of students. It is a conventional system to evaluate knowledge and intelligence, which is being practiced in nearly educational universities. It is the concern of both teachers and students. Irrespective of the students they like it or not, they have to take the assessments periodically because there is no other system being proposed by experts yet.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i. To identify the demographic profile of the respondents
- ii. To reveal the most preferred exams among the respondents
- iii. To ascertain the highly preferred online platforms

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **RESEARCH DESIGN:**

Descriptive and Analytical

- **DATA COLLECTION:**

Primary Data – A well designed Structured Questionnaire

Secondary Data – Journals, Dissertations, Websites, Textbooks, Study Materials, News Articles

- **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:** Simple Random Sampling Technique

- **SAMPLE SIZE:** 209

- **STATISTICAL TOOLS USED:**

Percentage Analysis

Weighted Average Analysis

Multiple Response Analysis

- **STATISTICAL SOFTWARES USED:**

Jamovi Version 2.3.24

Microsoft Excel 2007

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is not unique in the hands of bias as the findings cannot be generalized
- The specific geographic region might not be indicated in-depth as the data is collected in both online and offline modes.
- The findings may not be exact due to the sample size of 209.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Various research articles are collected from National and International Journals. Some of them are as follows:

- Ananda Ramesh and Kishore Kumar (2016) explained the practices and utility of resources by the aspirants of competitive exams in Karaikal district by examining the practices, sources used, level of utility derived from these resources and the satisfaction stage. The study had a sample size of 218. ANOVA and Chi-square test were the tools used. 65.14% respondents were in the age group of 21-25 years, 59.17% respondents were female, 86.2% were taking training from coaching centres, and 60.1% were self-motivated and 68.3% preferred to attempt Bank exams. The e-resources obtained Rank1 in the level of satisfaction on resources by the aspirants. ANOVA resulted that there was no difference between age and the level of satisfaction whereas Chi-square test resulted that there had no relation between gender and level of satisfaction. The utility could be expanded through bringing out lot of free resources.
- Saraswathy K and Sahaya Mary (2021) elucidated the attitude of college pupils towards the competitive exams to find out vital difference between the students in terms of stream and gender with a sample size of 80 using simple random sampling method. Mean, standard deviation and t-test were the tools used and the study discovered that there had been no difference between the attitude and stream as well as attitude and gender. The research concluded that science students had a better attitude than arts students.

RESEARCH GAP

Various researchers have studied the awareness, attitude, the psychological aspects, comparative study, and web-analytical framework of competitive exams and also about the e-

learning usage among the candidates. The research gap, based on the review of literature is identified as the most preferred online platforms and its utility among the respondents for the purpose of preparation

DATA ANALYSIS

- i. **To identify the demographic profile of the respondents using percentage analysis**
 - 53.59% of the respondents fell in the age group of 18-25 years
 - 55.50% of the respondents were female
 - 40.19% of the respondents were Graduates
 - 44.50% of the respondents were students
 - 35.89% of the respondents had an income ranging from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakhs
 - 63.64% of the respondents were from urban area
 - 49.76% of the respondents had 1 sibling
 - 63.16% of the respondents were unmarried

- ii. **To reveal the most preferred exams among the respondents using multiple response analysis**

TABLE NO.1 THE MOST PREFERRED EXAMS

MOST PREFERRED EXAMS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
UPSC	53	23.87%
RRB	30	13.51%
State PSC	29	13.06%
Staff Selection Commission	25	11.26%
UGC-NET	25	11.26%

Source: Primary Data

From the above table, UPSC exams had got the uppermost response with the percentage of 23.87 followed by Railway Recruitment Control Board with 13.51%. State Public Service Commission bagged the third position with 13.06%. SSC Exams and UGC-NET exam shared the same position with the percentage of 11.26%.

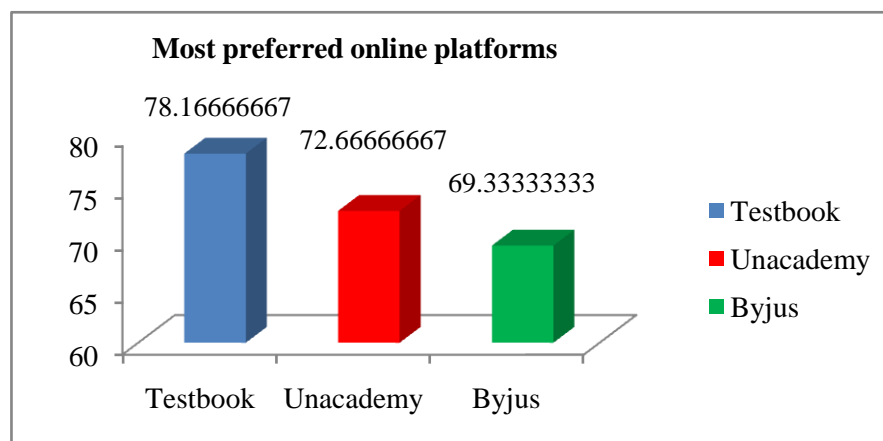
i. To ascertain the highly preferred online platforms through weighted average analysis

TABLE NO.2 HIGHLY PREFERRED ONLINE PLATFORMS

Online Platforms	1	2	3	Weighted Total	Weighted Average	Rank
Testbook	34	90	85	469	78.16666667	1
Unacademy	51	89	69	436	72.66666667	2
Byjus	59	93	57	416	69.33333333	3

Source: Primary Data

From the above table, Rank 1 depicted that the respondents preferred Testbook the most with the weighted mean of 78.16667 whereas Rank 2 illustrated that the online platform Unacademy was the second highest preferred one with weighted average of 72.6667 and Rank 3 was provided Byjus as it bagged the third highest preference with the weighted average of 69.33333.



SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDIES

The investigation or the research could also be carried out for the study of entrance exams like NEET UG and NEET PG, JEE Mains and Advanced, AIIMS, JIPMER, CUET, CAT, GATE, TANCET, UCEED and also for the Professional courses like CA, CMA, ACS, ACCA in the stream of Commerce. Moreover, the further study could be carried out on the challenges faced by the candidates during applying, preparing and on the day of exam.

CONCLUSION

- The survey found that candidates find e-materials very useful in preparing for exams, with many citing simplicity, relevance, usefulness and reliability as key factors for acceptance. The study also revealed that the use of electronic resources can significantly improve the quality of preparation for exams and improve the performance of candidates in state exams. However, applicants face several challenges in accessing and using e-resources including lack of infrastructure, digital literacy and affordability.
- In conclusion, the study provides valuable insights into the perception and usefulness of electronic resources for competitive exam preparation in India and emphasizes the need for continuous improvement in this area.
- Effective use of e-resources can significantly improve the quality of exam preparation, improve the performance of candidates in national exams, and contribute to the development of a skilled and competent workforce in India.

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