

A study of the Attitude of the Respondents towards Continuing Education Programme (With special reference to Nainital District of Uttarakhand state)

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Abstract: *Continuing Education provides an opportunity to the people at grass root level to strengthen their literacy skills and take up other activities such as, continue their education, increase their income and improve the quality of their lives. It promotes self confidence amongst them to improve their personal, social and economic conditions. It is a process of lifelong learning which includes all types of learning which they want according to their needs and interest (T.Sundaresan Nair 2006).The scheme of CE was launched in 1995 as fully –funded centrally sponsored scheme. The scheme of CE for neo-literates as visualized by National Literacy Mission (NLM) is an attempt to provide systematic organized and well-coordinated mechanisms to mobilize all resources in support of CE in the perspective of life-long-education. In a rapidly changing society which calls for a radical transformation of the content and methods of education, continuing education will play a vital innovation.In the present paper an attempt has been made to assess the attitude level of the beneficiaries towards continuing education programme.*

Keywords: *Literacy, Education, Continuing Education Programme, Attitude*

1. Introduction

Continuing Education provides an opportunity to the people at grass root level to strengthen their literacy skills and take up other activities such as, continue their education, increase their income and improve the quality of their lives. It promotes self confidence amongst them to improve their personal, social and economic conditions. It is a process of lifelong learning which includes all types of learning which they want according to their needs and interest (T.Sundaresan Nair 2006).The scheme of CE was launched in 1995 as fully –funded centrally sponsored scheme. The scheme of CE for neo-literates as visualized by National Literacy Mission (NLM) is an attempt to provide systematic organized and well-coordinated mechanisms to mobilize all resources in support of CE in the perspective of life-long-education.Attitude is the state of consciousness within the individual human being. It refers to certain regularities of an individual’s feelings, thoughts, and predispositions to acts towards some aspects of his environment. Attitude is an organized pre-disposition to think, feel perceive and behave towards a referents or cognitive objects. It is an enduring structure of beliefs that predisposes the individual to behave selectively towards attitude referents. According to L.L.Bernard, ”The behaviour which we define attitudinal or attitude is a certain observable ’set’ of organism or relative tendency preparatory to and indicative of more complete adjustment.The continuing education scheme is thus a multifaceted programme that enjoys supreme flexibility, to encourage and allow grassroots community to participate.

Various studies regarding CEP and its impact on the beneficiaries have been conducted by many social scientists in India. Today CEP has become an area of concern even for the social scientists. In this very context the studies conducted by HarsinghChouhan(2007), J.P.Dubey (2006), Yashwant Singh Rana(2006), T. Sundaresan Nair(2006), M.

ShanthiPriya(2006), Anuradha Sharma(2006), Rajan(2004), B.K.Sahoo(2004), Krishna(2004), Nagambika Devi(2004), Sachidanand(1995), Kholi(1995), Lakshmi Naryanan(1983), Trivedi(1984), Mishra(1986) are of great importance.

In the present paper attitude cover the different dimension of continuing education programme viz role of literacy in developing good habits and manners, improvement in occupational skills and national development overall improvement in the personality. In order to assess the attitude of the respondents towards CEC programme a five point scale is used. Attitude scales consist of sets of standardized statements with which people are asked to agree or disagree. Scaling assumes that an attitude will have various aspects that in their totality constitute the attitude being measured. The intensity or strength with which people hold the various aspects of the attitude is measured by rating scales for each item by asking respondents how much they agree with the statement or by asking them to choose between a numbers of different statements on each item.

2. Research Methodology

All the Nodal Centers (NCs) and Continuing Education Centers (CECs) located in eight developmental blocks of Nainital district of Uttarakhand constitute the universe of the present work. Out of the universe the sample units have been selected through stratified random sampling method. For this purpose at first one Developmental Block (Haldwani) has been selected for the study using purposive sampling method. At the second step two NCs namely Kuwarpur and Nagarkshetra- Haldwani from sampled development block have been selected through random sampling method (lottery method). The sampled NCs consist of 23 CECs having total 2355 beneficiaries. At the third step 20% beneficiaries out of the total 2355 have been selected through random sampling method (regular marking method). Thus total 460 beneficiaries form the study group of the present study. In the present study, interview schedule method has been used for collecting first hand information.

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The respondents were personally contacted and interviewed with the help of structured interviewed schedule. On the basis of personal interview by avoiding certain types of errors, various pieces of important information were collected and verified by using all senses, means and methods so that no false information could deviate the scientific conclusions. Prior to interview a good rapport was established by contacting frequently the informants and tried to get every possible co-operation from them. Besides this secondary sources like reference books, journals, public records, manuscripts, survey reports and many other related studies and their findings have also been used as the source of secondary information. The fact thus collected were subsequently tabulated and analyzed to draw some empirical conclusions.

Opinion about the socio-economic impact of CEP on the community

Table-1

Age-group and attitude of the respondents towards the statement- Socio -Economic Life can be changed due to CEP

Response	Fully-Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Fully-disagree	
	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur
< 20	11(42.31)	30(49.18)	29(47.54)	37(24.18)	12(42.86)	26(35.14)	7(50.00)	13(43.33)	-	2(22.22)
20-30	11(42.31)	22(36.07)	18(29.51)	63(41.18)	12(12.86)	23(31.08)	5(35.71)	8(26.67)	2(50.00)	3(33.33)
30-40	4(15.38)	8(13.11)	14(22.95)	43(28.10)	4(14.28)	22(29.73)	2(14.29)	8(26.67)	2(50.00)	4(44.44)
40-50	-	1(1.64)	-	10(6.54)	-	3(4.05)	-	1(3.33)	-	-
Total	26(100)	61(100)	61(100)	153(100)	28(100)	74(100)	14(100)	30(100)	4(100)	9(100)

The Table-01 revealed that out of sampled respondents, 78 were fully agree, 214 agreed, 102 remained neutral, 44 disagreed with the statement and the rest 13 fully disagreed. Out of 26 respondents from Haldwani maximum number of the respondents, 11(42.31) were in the age-group of 0-20 and 21-30 who fully agreed with the statement followed by the respondents of age group 30-40. Similarly in Kuwarpur out 61 respondents who fully agreed with the statement, 30(49.18) were in the age-group of < 20 of age, 22(36.07) were in the age-group of 21-30, 08(13.11) were in the age-group of 31-40 and the rest 01(1.64) were in the age-group of 41-50. Thus, maximum number of respondents from both the centers who were fully agreed with the statement was in the age group of 0-20. The respondents who agreed were of the view that because of CEP they gain knowledge about the society with is very useful for them. In case of Kuwarpur same situation was found. Similarly out of 61 respondents from Haldwani who agreed with the statement, the maximum number of respondents, 29(47.54) was in the age-group of 0-20 and in Kuwarpur the maximum number of respondents, 63(41.18) were in the age group of 21-30, followed by the respondents of age group 31-41. Out of 28 respondents from Haldwani, the maximum number of respondents, 12(42.86) remained neutral. Similarly in Kuwarpur out of 74 respondents the maximum number of respondents, 26(35.14) remained neutral. In case of respondents who disagreed with the statement, out of 14 respondents from Haldwani the maximum number of respondents, 7(50.00) and in Kuwarpur, out of 30 respondents, the maximum number of respondents, 13(43.33) disagreed with the statement. In Haldwani out of 4 respondent who fully disagreed with the statement, 2(50.00) were in the age group of 21-30 and the rest 2(50.00) were in the age group of 31-40. Similarly in Kuwarpur out of 9 respondents, 4(44.44) were in the age group of 31-40, 3(33.33) were in the age group of 21-30. Thus, it is clear from the above table that majority of the respondents agreed with the statement that socio-economic life can be changed due to CEP, they are of the view that through CEP they gain self-confidence and a better status in the society.

They could read whatever they liked, although they did not always read properly. No noticeable variation was found in Haldwani and Kuwarpur centers. The views of the respondents of both the centers were almost same.

Table-02
Sex-profile and attitude of the respondents towards the statement- Socio-Economic Life can be changed due to CEP

Response	Fully-Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Fully-disagree	
	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur
Sex										
Male	2(7.69)	5(8.20)	8(13.11)	12(7.84)	3(10.71)	7(9.46)	-	-	-	-
Female	24(92.31)	56(91.80)	53(86.89)	141(92.16)	25(89.29)	67(90.54)	14(100)	30(100)	4(100)	9(100)
Total	26(100)	61(100)	61(100)	153	28(100)	74(100)	14(100)	30(100)	4(100)	9(100)

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It is clear from table-02 that maximum number of respondents (92.31 and 91.80) from both the centre was female who fully agreed with the statement followed by the male respondents. The main reason found behind it was that after attending CEP they developed self-confidence and now they want to learn more to teach and guide their children. Similarly maximum number of female respondents who agreed with the statement is of the view that due to CEP they start learning and now they are realizing the importance of education for themselves and for their children. Out of 28 respondents from Haldwani who remain neutral to the statement, 25(89.29) were female and the rest 3(10.71) were male and similarly out of 74 respondents from Kuwarpur, 67(90.54) were female and the rest 7(9.46) were male who remained neutral to the statement. According to them, it is difficult to give any view regarding the program. Those who disagreed with the statement were females and no male respondent disagreed with the statement. The females who disagreed were of the view that no change occurred in them as so far no training program is running in the centre which is more important for self-employment as only being literate is not enough. The respondents from both the centers who were fully disagreed with the statement are of the view that centre mostly remained close and no training program is performed in the centre which can improve their socio-economic condition. Thus it is clear from the analysis of the table that females were more aware of the program in comparison to the male respondents. They were more eager to send their children to school and at the same time they found that the children were making mistakes in preparing lessons, they helped correcting them. Female's learners, who could help their children in education, were contented to do it, although a few learners lacked confidence in this regard. They were hesitant to do it because they thought they were not sufficiently equipped.

Table-03
 Religious-profile and attitude of the respondents towards the statement-Socio &
 Economic Life can be changed due to CEP

Response	Fully-Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Fully-disagree
Religion	Haldwani Kuwarpur	Haldwani Kuwarpur	Haldwani Kuwarpur	Haldwani Kuwarpur	Haldwani Kuwarpur
Hindu	14(53.85)	54(88.52)	23(82.14)	8(57.14)	4(100)
Muslim	12(46.15)	7(11.48)	5(17.86)	6(42.86)	-
Total	26(100)	61(100)	28(100)	14(100)	4(100)
		153(1)	74(100)	30(100)	9(100)

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The religion wise response of the respondents show that out 26 respondents from Haldwani who fully agreed with the statement, 14(53.85) were Hindu respondents and the rest 12(46.15) were Muslim respondents. In Kuwarpur centre no Muslim religion respondent was found, all of the respondents were of Hindu. Out of 61 respondents from Haldwani who agreed with the statement, 54(88.52) were Hindu and the rest 7(11.48) were of Muslim. In Kuwarpur all of the 153 respondents were of Hindu religion. Out of 28 respondents from Haldwani who remained neutral, 23(82.14) were of Hindu religion and the rest 5(17.86) were of Muslim religion. In Kuwarpur all the 74 respondent were of Hindu religion. In Haldwani out of 14 respondents who disagreed with the statement, 8(57.14) were Hindu and rest 6(42.86) were of Muslim respondents.

In Kuwarpur all of the 30 respondents who disagreed with the statement were Hindu. Out of 4 respondents from Haldwani all the 4 were of Hindu religion who fully disagreed with the statement. Similarly in Kuwarpur out of 9 respondents who fully disagreed with the statement all of them were of Hindu religion. Thus, it is clear from the above table that majority of the respondents who were agree with the statement were of Hindu religion respondents. Only one noticeable variation was found that no Muslim religion respondents fully disagreed with the statement.

Table-04
 Marital-Status and attitude of the respondents towards the statement- Socio -
 Economic Life can be changed due to CEP

Response	Fully-Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Fully-disagree	
	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur
Unmarried	10(38.46)	39(63.93)	32(52.46)	70(45.75)	12(42.86)	34(45.95)	6(42.86)	12(40.00)	3(75.00)	2(22.22)
Married	16(61.54)	22(36.07)	29(47.54)	83(54.25)	16(57.14)	40(54.05)	8(57.14)	18(60.00)	1(25.00)	7(77.78)
Total	26(100)	61(100)	61(100)	153(100)	28(100)	74(100)	14(100)	30(100)	4(100)	9(100)

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The table-04 exhibit that out of 26 respondents from Haldwani who fully agreed with the statement the maximum number of respondents, 16(61.54) were married and the rest 10(38.46) were unmarried. Similarly, in Kuwarpur out of 61 respondents, 39(63.93) were unmarried and the rest 22(26.07) were married. This shows that in Haldwani centre married respondents were more satisfied with the program in comparison to unmarried respondents. The main reason found behind this was that after attending CEP their family started supporting them and now they understand the importance of education for the wellbeing of their family. In Kuwarpur the respondents view was different. According to them, after attending the program of CEP they gain knowledge of other subjects also which is very useful for them. Similarly, the maximum number of respondents 52.46 from Haldwanicentre who agreed with the statement was unmarried followed by the married respondents. In Kuwarpur majority of the respondents 83(54.25) were married. The reason of the respondents of both the centre was same that after attending CEP little change occurs in their life, now through the training program which is organized in the centre they feel they can earn some money at home through self-employment. The maximum number of respondents from both the centre i.e. 57.14 and 54.05 who were married remained neutral. According to them, they are still in learning process so it is so early to give any view regarding the program.

The maximum number of respondents (57.14 and 60.00) who disagreed with the statement is married. They are of the view that they manage time from their busy schedule to attend the program of CEP but the centre remained close mostly. The maximum numbers of respondents from Haldwani 03(75.00) were unmarried who disagreed with the statement as according to them there were machines in the centre but no trainer to give practical training. Similarly in Kuwarpur, maximum number of respondents 07(77.78) were married who fully disagreed with the statement.

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Table-05
Educational-profile and attitude of the respondents towards the statement-Socio -
Economic Life can be changed due to CEP

Response	Fully-Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Fully-disagree	
	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur	Haldwani	Kuwarpur
Occupation										
Agriculture	-	16(26.23)	-	25(16.34)	-	14(18.92)	-	5(16.67)	-	1(11.11)
Labour	8(30.77)	17(27.87)	18(29.51)	58(37.91)	13(46.43)	30(40.54)	2(14.29)	5(16.67)	1(25.00)	2(22.22)
Business	2(7.69)	1(16.39)	3(4.92)	3(1.96)	-	3(4.05)	-	2(6.66)	-	-
House-wife	9(34.62)	9(14.75)	16(26.23)	40(26.14)	8(28.57)	13(17.57)	7(50.00)	9(30.00)	1(25.00)	5(65.56)
Other	7(26.92)	18(29.51)	24(39.34)	27(17.65)	7(25.00)	14(18.92)	5(35.71)	9(30.00)	2(50.00)	1(11.11)
Total	26(100)	61(100)	61(100)	153(100)	28(100)	74(100)	14(100)	30(100)	4(100)	9(100)

It is clear from table-05 that out of 26 respondents from Haldwani, 9(34.62) were housewives, 8(30.77) were labourers and 7(26.92) engaged in other work. Similarly, in Kuwarpur out of 61 respondents, 18(29.51) engaged in other work, 17(27.87) were working as a labourers, 16(26.23) were from agricultural background, 9(14.75) were housewives. In Haldwani out of 61 respondents who agreed with the statement the maximum number of respondents, 24(39.34) were doing other types of jobs. Similarly in Kuwarpur out of 153 respondents the maximum number of respondents, 58(37.91) were working as a labourers. The main reason found behind this was that after attending the program of CEP they started reading and writing due to which they feel confidence and now they want to learn more to do jobs. Out of 28 respondents from Haldwani, the maximum number of respondents, 13(46.43) respondents who remained neutral were working as a labourers and in Kuwarpur out of 74 respondents, the maximum number of respondents, 30(40.54) were also working as a labourers. According to them, they are just attending the program of CEP so it is so early to give view regarding CEP program. Out of 14 respondents from Haldwani who disagreed with the statement, the maximum number of respondents, 7(50.00) were housewives. Similarly in Kuwarpur out of 30 respondents the maximum number of respondents, 9(30.00) were housewives. The reason found behind their response was that no emphasis was given on practical training which is more important for self-employment and centre mostly remained closed. That is why; they were not satisfied with the performance of CEP. Out of 4 respondents from Haldwani who fully disagreed with the statement, the maximum number of respondents, 2(50.00) were engaged in other jobs. In Kuwarpur out of 9 respondents the maximum number of respondents, 5(55.56) were housewives.

3. Conclusions and Findings

In order to assess the attitude and behavioral pattern of the beneficiaries towards CEP, a five-point scale was used by the researcher. The findings of the study show that majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the performance of the CEP, a positive attitude towards CEP were found among the beneficiaries. They were of the views that

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because of CEP they have gained self-confidence and better status in the society. They had learned to keep their budget account correctly, which they felt could help them to control the earnings of their families. According to them the technical skill they developed from CEP can be utilized in earnings. One of the interesting findings found during the study was that cent percent of the beneficiaries like to motivate others to join CEP. They were of the view that after attending CEP a new approach can be developed towards life. They were of the opinion that they are no looser they are in position to get something new which will be helpful for them and their family.

Besides this the researcher also tried to assess the impact of CEP on the attitude and social-bheaviour of the respondent. The study shows that a positive change was occurred among the beneficiaries. Majority of the respondents were of the view that socio-economic life has been changed due to CEP. A positive attitude towards reading and education has been developed among the learners. For example the majority of the learners now prefer medical treatment instead of visiting religious healers like Ojhas and Moulvis in their neighborhood. Almost all the learners now consult the private practitioners for medical treatment and medicine. Attitude of the respondents towards child education has changed. They believe in gender equality. In this respect some learners said that they consider and treat equally the male and the female children. For them both the children are the gifts of God. Though the female learner's attitude towards the girl child is reportedly changed, yet a study reveals that expansion of family caused by successive births of girls' still tool place in the society. In case of three or four daughters born one after another, the family still hankered for a son. Dowry for a daughters marriage has long been a problem for the society and has been primary responsible for the deep apathy towards the girl child. But with the impact of CEP more and more learners are beginning to feel that dowry considerations are becoming less and of less importance.

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