



RESEARCH ARTICLE

A SCALE TO MEASURE THE ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENTS TOWARDS HOME SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

The aims and objectives of Home Science education have been changed to a greater extent. It is treated as the systematic arrangement for the use of human and non-human resources for deriving maximum satisfaction to bring about qualitative change in life. Further, the study of Home Science opens avenues for a number of vocations. Hence, it was felt necessary to construct a comprehensive, valid and reliable scale and an attempt was made to develop a scale in order to measure the attitude of the students towards Home Science degree programme. Eighteen statements were selected from 26 statements for which the validity was identified with the help content validity method and reliability was determined by split half method which was found to be 0.78.

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INTRODUCTION

Home Science Education helps pupil to recognize the importance of food in healthy living, teaches how to prepare food by retaining its nutrients and the importance of balanced diet. It also enables one to sort out family problems and find out solutions for them. Home Science education helps one to start self employment and become a wage earner at younger age. The curriculum empowers to take intelligent decisions concerning the use of materials and resources. The student becomes efficient to nurture and take care of the young, to foster their healthy growth and development. Moreover one gains technical knowledge and information from various branches of Home Science for both personal and professional use. The primary aim of establishing Home Science colleges is to train and educate the students so that they could carry out various activities in scientific manner and thereby boost the production by using human resources. Similarly, these students are expected to be well equipped with knowledge required for employment in public and private sector.

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In this modern age, it is imperative to know the choice of career of students studying Home Science and to prepare them for a satisfied life, as Home Science education offers different job opportunities to plan and choose their career, to avoid frustration in their life. The attitude towards the psychological object may be formed by the interrelation of cognition, feeling and action tendencies about the object. The feeling component refers to the emotions i. e., likes or dislikes, pleasing or displeasing, etc. which gives attitude a motivating character or action tendencies. These three components of the attitude are however consistently related to each other i.e., more favourable in belief, more likes for the object and then more intense is the action tendency in its favour.

Attitude in the present study was operationally defined as the degree of positive or negative feeling of the students towards Home Science degree programme. Thurstone (1946) defined attitude as the degree of positive or negative effect associated with some psychological objects like symbol, phrase, slogan, person, institution and idea towards which people can differ in varying degrees. From the point of view of psychology, it is the preparedness of people to respond in certain way towards a social object or phenomenon.

Table 1. Attitude of students towards Home Science Degree Programme

S.No.	Statements	SA		A		UD		DA		SDA	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Joining to Home Science degree programme is boon to the students										
2.	Home Science is perceived by non Home Scientists as related to cooking and managing home										
3.	Home Science degree programme is very useful even for daily living of an individual										
4.	Home Science degree helps in all round development of a student										
5.	Home Science as a career and course has a low societal prestige										
6.	Home Science graduate is able to start his/her own enterprise enterprise without much difficulty										
7.	Home Science course is interesting and useful										
8.	The employment situation makes the students loose interest in Home Science Education										
9.	Home Science education is the need of the hours to prevent social evils										
10.	Home Science is a skill oriented course										
11.	Knowledge gained through Home Science degree programme helps us to contribute for the upliftment of the society										
12.	Home Science is a least preferred course by the students under State Agricultural university										
13.	The course curriculum helps to provide an opportunity to students to learn more in rural life situation										
14.	Combination of Agriculture and allied courses enriches the Home Science course										
15.	Home Science degree is more suitable for females										
16.	Experiential Learning programme helps the students to build better confidence and professionalism										
17.	Good values and virtues are developed through Home Science education										
18.	Home Science degree is not on par with other technical courses										

Note: - Strongly Agree - SA Agree - A Undecided - UD Disagree - DA Strongly Disagree - SDA

Steps in development of the instrument

Selection of type of attitude scale

The attitude scale was developed using the Likert's method of summated ratings procedure.

Collection of attitude stimuli

A set of statements broadly covering the areas of Home Science education were collected from the available literature and through interaction with the psychologists, statistician, home scientists staff, Home Science graduates and postgraduates who are employed in the University of Agricultural sciences, Dharwad. A tentative list of 26 statements consisting of eighteen positive and eight negative statements was made. Based on the response of the 50 judges, validity of the scale was calculated.

Validity of the scale

The validity of the test depends upon the fidelity with which it measures what is expected to measure. Validity of a measuring instrument is defined as the property of a measure that allows the researcher to say that the instrument measures what he says it measures.

The Content Validity of the attitude scale

When a test is constructed so that its content measures what the whole test claims to measure, the test is said to have content or curricular validity. Also the content, logical, construct and concurrent validity of the scale was ensured through jury validation and proper selection the statements to cover the whole universe of the content with the help of literature.

Administration of the scale

Based on the expert's suggestions, the statements were edited and some new were added. A total of 18 statements consisting of twelve positive statements and six negative statements were administered to the passed out students of Home Science degree programme under the College of Rural Home Science, UAS, Dharwad. The respondents were asked to indicate their degree of favourableness or unfavourableness with each item on five point a continuum as strongly agree (SA), agree (A), undecided (UD), disagree (DA) and strongly disagree (SDA).

Reliability of the scale

Reliability is the accuracy or precision of measuring instrument. To know the reliability of the scale, split - half method was used.

The split – half method

The eighteen statements in the scale were divided into equal halves by putting the odd numbered items on one side and even numbered items on the other side.

Both halves were considered as separate schedule with 9 statements each. Each set of half part of a schedule was administered on the group of 30 respondents each. To find out the agreement between two sets of statements of the schedule, correlation coefficient was calculated and put to spearman Brown prophecy formula as given here:

$$r_{11} = \frac{2 r_{oe}}{1 + r_{oe}}$$

Where r_{oe} is the coefficient of reliability of the two half test i.e., odd and even. Reliability coefficient (r) for attitude

scale was found to be 0.78 indicating that the attitude scale has precision, accuracy and can be used for measurement. The scale thus met the reliability and validity test satisfactorily and indicating that the attitude scale has precision, accuracy and can be used as a standardized instrument for measuring attitude of the students towards Home Science degree programme.

Scoring procedure

Scoring was given for positive statements as 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 and for negative statements as 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. The total individual scores of each respondent for 18 statements were computed by summing up their score for all statements.

Final format of the scale

The selected eighteen statements, out of which twelve statements were the indicators of favourable attitude towards the Home Science degree programme and remaining six statements were indicating unfavourable attitude. These statements are then arranged in random order with one negative statement after every two positive statements and presented to subject with instructions to indicate those that they are willing to accept or agree with and those that they reject or disagree with.

Final attitude scale

The individual score of the respondents was obtained by summing up the responses of all the items. Based on the total score, the respondents were grouped into three categories by using mean and standard deviation as measure of check.

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