

EFFECT OF SUBJECT COMBINATION AS ADMISSION CRITERIA ON SUBSEQUENT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STUDENTS OF M.Sc. STATISTICS

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of the study was to find out whether the subject combination of the students at degree level had any effect on their subsequent achievement in M.Sc. Statistics. Three combinations in order of preference as laid down in the criteria for admission by the Department of Statistics were considered. The results showed that various subject combinations had no significant effect on the subsequent achievement of the students in M.Sc. Statistics.

INTRODUCTION

Education is selective at higher level. Out of a large number of students who apply for admission in a particular discipline every year in our institutions of higher learning, only a few manage to get admission. The mode of selection of students varies from discipline to discipline. Some require the knowledge of a particular subject as a pre-requisite for admission, others prefer a particular subject combination.

In the developed countries [1] there are special agencies and boards who develop and administer special aptitude tests for admission to various disciplines, and universities of such countries select candidates on the basis of these tests. In our country no such arrangement exists. Universities are free to follow their own criteria which in most of the cases are made by a few persons at their own will and according to their experience.

The common approach being followed in our universities for admission to various departments/disciplines is the preference for candidates who have studied a particular subject combination at B.A./B.Sc. level. If for example, the study of a subject or a discipline at the Master's level requires knowledge of some