

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Project on "Career Profile of recipients of Junior Research Fellowships awarded by CSIR and UGC" in science subjects on the basis of first National Eligibility Test (NET) held in August, 1984 was approved by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India in September 1992 and Manpower Management Centre, New Delhi was entrusted the responsibility of conducting the survey, making analysis of data and preparation of report.

In all 1386 candidates with science subjects were successful in the first NET held in August 1984 for award of junior research fellowships for doing Ph.D. These constituted 774 fellowships from UGC and 612 from CSIR.

From all out efforts made, 318 addresses of recipients could be collected who were sent questionnaires to reply. Finally, 200 recipients participated in this study; the break-up of which is that 140 fellows were awarded fellowship by UGC and 60 of them by CSIR.

The study reveals that majority of respondents 87 (43.5 per cent) belonged to southern states of India. However, it cannot be concluded with certainty that students of any particular region or state have participated in a much better ratio in the fellowship scheme of NET because all the successful candidates were not approachable due to a gap of about 9 years i.e. in 1993 when response to the questionnaire of this study was received.

154 (77 per cent) male and 46 (23 per cent) female recipients participated in this study indicating more than three-times entry and inclination of male fellows towards a research career through NET of 1984.

Majority of recipients i.e. 180 (90 per cent) were in the age-group of 21-25 years when they joined as JRF.

In 1993 when the recipients filled-up questionnaires, the position about their marital status as revealed was that 156 (78 per cent) were married and 44 (22 per cent) of them were unmarried.

On the basis of fellowships awarded, 140 (70 per cent) recipients completed their Ph.D. 41 scholars (20.5 per cent) from this group further achieved the highest qualification of Post-Doctorate. 17 (8.5 per cent) of them obtained only M.Phil degree and dropped out from doing Ph.D. The remaining 43 (21.5 per cent) maintained their educational status of post-graduation as it is.

Discipline-wise highest qualification of Ph.D. was obtained by 44 (44.4 per cent) in **Life Sciences** out of 99 fellows and 18 (43.9 per cent) of them, out of 41, attained Post-Doctorate in the same subject. 30 (30.3 per cent) fellows completed Ph.D. and 16 (39.0 per cent) attained Post-Doctorate in **Chemistry**.

Both urban (52 per cent) and rural (48 per cent) parents have shown almost equal interest in taking up of a research career by their children.

Based on the sample, fathers income indicates that those who were drawing income above Rs.50,000/- per annum were not much inclined academically towards a research career for their children in comparison to those having no income or lower income. 169 (84.5 per cent) JRFs belonged to this later group and they made the best possible use of fellowships awarded to them.

The study reveals that research work of 126 (63 per cent) JRFs was found satisfactory and they were upgraded as SRFs after completion of two years. 25 (12.5 per cent) JRFs did not get upgradation to SRF and their term was extended to the third year. 18 of these were upgraded as SRFs after third year and the remaining 7 JRFs dropped-out during the year.

In all, 60 (30 per cent) out of the 200 recipients dropped out of the research career. 20 (10 per cent) of them did not take up fellowship from the initial stage. 40 (20 per cent) dropped out after joining, during first to fourth year of studies. **The fellowship money released to these 40 (20 per cent) recipients is considered to have been wasted.** The majority of them dropped out "to pursue and avail other career opportunities". The other reasons given by recipients for dropping out of Ph.D studies are : **a) lack of proper guidance from the research guides, b) lack of facilities at the universities/institutions, and c) unavoidable family circumstances.**

On the basis of sample, 50 (25 per cent) recipients competed in civil services examinations. 20 (40 per cent) from this group qualified and 17 (85 per cent) of them joined civil services.

119 recipients have contributed valued articles and research papers in science journals during the fellowship tenure. In all 528 articles and papers were written and got published.

18 recipients got awards for their meritorious work such as Gold Medals, Citations and Cash awards, Young Scientists award and Merit certificates etc.

140 (70 per cent) recipients completed their Ph.Ds. The highest number of them i.e. 56 (40 per cent) got their Ph.D in 5 years time in 1989. Thereafter, Ph.D degrees awarded yearwise have been 27, 30, 20 and 7 respectively in the years 1990 to 1993.

42.1 per cent Ph.D holders have gone in for "Teaching" profession and 38.5 per cent of them have joined "Research" jobs.

From the sample of 200 respondents, 15 were found unemployed and 11 of them were holding Ph.D degrees.

The study reveals that the Government sector has been the major employer. Out of the 185 employed recipients, 141 (76.2 per cent) have been employed in government and public sector.

The data reveals that the highest number of recipients i.e., 128 (64.0 per cent) are employed in lower scales and are drawing a monthly salary of upto Rs.5,500/- per month.

71 (35.5 per cent) recipients of JRF were not happy with their jobs.

179 (89.5 per cent) respondents have stated that NET is a good system for providing fellowships.

150 (75 per cent) recipients have agreed with the concept that "fellowship" is used for preparation and appearing in competitive examinations. 146 (73 per cent) have stated that such a violation should be stopped.