

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Young Scientists Programme was launched during the Sixth Five Year Plan. During the period 1985-86 to 1994-95 (10 years), the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India sanctioned grant-in-aid to around 700 young scientists to pursue their exciting and innovative research ideas under the **Young Scientists Programme**. The **National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS)**, a Division of DST entrusted the work of evaluating the impact of its Young Scientists Programme for the aforesaid period to **Manpower Management Centre, New Delhi**. The project was approved titled as "A Study of the recipients of Young Scientists Programme of DST". The study was conducted through a structured questionnaire and its major findings are focussed hereunder :

507 (73 per cent) addresses of young scientists could be confirmed from out of 700, through all means of communication.

398 (79 per cent) completed questionnaires were received from out of 507 young scientists.

The study reveals that the highest number of 104 respondents belonged to Uttar Pradesh, followed by 48 from Andhra Pradesh, 41 from West Bengal and 28 from Maharashtra. Taken altogether these four states are represented by 221 (56 per cent) of the total 398 respondents from all over India.

311 (78 per cent) male and 87 (22 per cent) female recipients participated in this study.

A fair number of 44 (11 per cent) recipients belonging to SC, ST & OBC categories were a part of this study.

330 (83 per cent) young scientists were found married and 68 (17 per cent) unmarried during the year 1996-97 when they filled-up the questionnaire.

Academic background-wise 13 (3 per cent) young scientists were holding Post-Doctoral and 385 (97 per cent) Ph.D qualification.

326 (82 per cent) recipients held 853 memberships of various professional bodies.

204 (51 per cent) parents from urban and 194 (49 per cent) from rural areas have shown almost equal interest and supported their children's higher education and entry to research career.

At the time of joining Young Scientists Programme of DST, 285 (72 per cent) recipients were already employed and 113 (28 per cent) of them were unemployed.

The employment status of recipients improved very much i.e. 383 (96 per cent) were found employed and only 15 (4 per cent) remained unemployed after joining the Young Scientists Programme.

The job classification-wise, 379 (95 per cent) young scientists were found engaged in "R&D" and "Teaching" combined.

The largest number of 285 (72 per cent) young scientists was found to be employed in Academic Sector followed by 79 (20 per cent) in the Government.

236 (59 per cent) young scientists were having a monthly income between Rs.5,001/- to 10,000/-, 111 (30 per cent) between Rs.10,001/- to 20,000/- and only 2 (0.5 per cent) above Rs.20,001/-. 34 (9 per cent) of them were drawing a monthly income below Rs.5,000/- and 15 (4 per cent) were found unemployed.

86 (22 per cent) young scientists were not having job satisfaction for various reasons.

272 (68 per cent) found Young Scientists Programme a useful programme in getting employment. whereas 119 (30 per cent) were not happy and gave a negative response.

Young scientists having "Life Science" as a broad subject of specialisation were found to be the highest in getting research projects i.e. 179 (45 per cent), followed by "Chemical Science", 67 (17 per cent).

Scheme-wise projects sanctioned were 323 (81 per cent), 74 (19 per cent) and 1 (0.25 per cent) respectively under SYS, SERCYS and SYPSSP.

It took DST 6 to 12 months to process research proposals of 235 (59 per cent) young scientists, and over 12 months in approving 102 (26 per cent) proposals. Only 44 (15 per cent) proposals were sanctioned within 6 months.

367 (92 per cent) young scientists did not change their affiliation for their research work whereas 31 (8 per cent) got their projects transferred to other institutes for various reasons.

279 (70 per cent) could attend Group Monitoring Workshops (GMWs). 119 (30 per cent) could not attend these.

Only 16 (4 per cent) recipients dropped-out of their research work.

Out of 382 respondents, 238 (62 per cent) had successfully completed their research projects, 50 (13 per cent) were in the process of completing their reports and 94 (25 per cent) were continuing with their research work, as per the information collected upto the middle of 1997.

310 (78 per cent) recipients contributed 844 research papers in scientific journals.

86 (22 per cent) recipients got 110 awards, medals and fellowships.

National and International conferences and seminars were attended by 252 (63 per cent) young scientists.

Majority of the recipients i.e. 368 (92 per cent) pursued R&D activities and fulfilled the objective of DST's programme.

295 (74 per cent) young scientists stated that technical manpower assistance was not provided to them and almost all of them have desired that this assistance is essential for timely completion of their projects.