



Difficulties do India Students face while studying in Abroad.

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ABSTRACT

There are very few studies done in India on Difficulties do India Students face while studying in Abroad. The aim of the research is to analyze the different difficulties faced by Indian students who study in foreign countries and to examine and compare the problems faced by the students with different places. A cross sectional survey planned and a questionnaire designed based on the topic. The data collected was coded and entered. The data was analysed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) and Excel worksheet software. The study population includes 40% females and 60% males who were graduating in foreign countries. About 25% of the students were in their Bachelor courses and majority of about 75% were pursuing their Masters. 45% of the students are pursuing their degrees in USA, 20% from Canada and Australia, the remaining 15% from UK. Many of the students faces difficulties in their studies, admission process, education expenses, accommodation and other academic activities. The students also benefit in their career, research and socially. Studying abroad offers a unique opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally while going on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Many students learn to cope with the challenges after reaching their study abroad destination and have spent a considerable amount of time.

KEY WORDS: Difficulties; Abroad; Students; Study

INTRODUCTION

An Indian student going abroad for his/her further studies is one of the life changing experiences the student faces. The journey is bound to introduce new emotions, learning and a different view of life altogether. While some difficulties might be anticipated and inevitable, other can come as a surprise. The dream of pursuing studies abroad is a very dominant one in every student's mind. it seems very colorful and fancy. We often compare other countries with India and state how good it is regarding infrastructure, freedom and many other things.

1. Choosing the course and completing the complex application process

The most critical area which an international student worries about is selecting the right course in the right university. Most students have the typical herd mentality and go for conventional courses rather than focusing on what they like to do and are good at doing. Students need to transcend the traditional ways of choosing courses. The correct studying abroad platform guides the student to take up courses of their liking that also leads them to a path of economic stability.

2. Financial worries

Studying abroad in a reputed industry also implies a high cost of education and living expenses. This is a constant source of worry among students. The journey of financing foreign education is a very tedious and complex process. From opening a bank account, enormous documentation work and unavailability of Forex facilities at ready disposal, the challenges add to the student anxieties.

3. Cross-cultural barriers

Studying in a different country among students from multi-cultural backgrounds and other countries also means facing numerous cross-cultural barriers. Food habits, clothing, language, entertainment and lifestyle are many areas in which a student will need to adjust.

4. Issues related to homesickness and integration

Indian students mostly come from very close-knit families. One of the most common problems these students face while studying abroad is homesickness and lack of home comforts. Students can access counselling services for themselves in India with the help of their study abroad counsellors.

5. Communication

If the country language is different it creates huge problems. Countries like France and Spain will not entertain people who do not know their language and their etiquettes. Sometimes the subjects also include their state languages and it becomes difficult for the student to learn and score in those papers. Language barrier is one of the most stressing challenge concurred by the children.

6. Suitable accommodation

Either finding the college hostel or finding a cheap apartment to live is a task. There is a great sense of isolation that Indians have to go through. There are times when they not treated well by their foreign associates. They fail to receive acceptance. Finding accommodation that fits their budget is next to an impossible task.

7. Social life

The amount of work and assignments given to the students will give his/her social life a toss. The only possible interactions possible are group and project discussions. Since it is difficult for an Indian to be accepted too, the barrier adds to the social life. Due to this, it causes a sense of isolation and loneliness.

8. Learning methods

The education system differs from country to country. The method of teaching and student evaluation is tougher in most of the countries when compared to India. Even the syllabus for that matter is more of application and mind based than the rote learning based which is normally practiced in India. The foreign university systems are not at all lecture based. They are more of a field work and experience-based.

9. Culture Shock

Cultural shock can be tackled by the thought of learning different cultures and additional traditions. A positive attitude of gaining is very important. Familiarize yourself with their culture. Know their norms. Do not allow the fear of offending others. Humans learn and learning takes time.

There are very few studies done in India on Difficulties do India Students face while studying in Abroad. The main objective of the study is to analyze the different difficulties faced by Indian students who study in foreign countries and to examine and compare the problems faced by the students with different places.

METHODOLOGY:

A cross sectional survey planned and a questionnaire designed based on the topic. The data collected approximately from a random sample size of 20 male and female students who participated in the survey. All the participants were Indians from different regions. The questionnaire with 20 questions related to problems were shared to the participants through WhatsApp. The data collected was coded and entered. The data set was cleaned and edited for inconsistencies. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) and Excel worksheet software. The results were presented as frequencies and percentage for qualitative data.

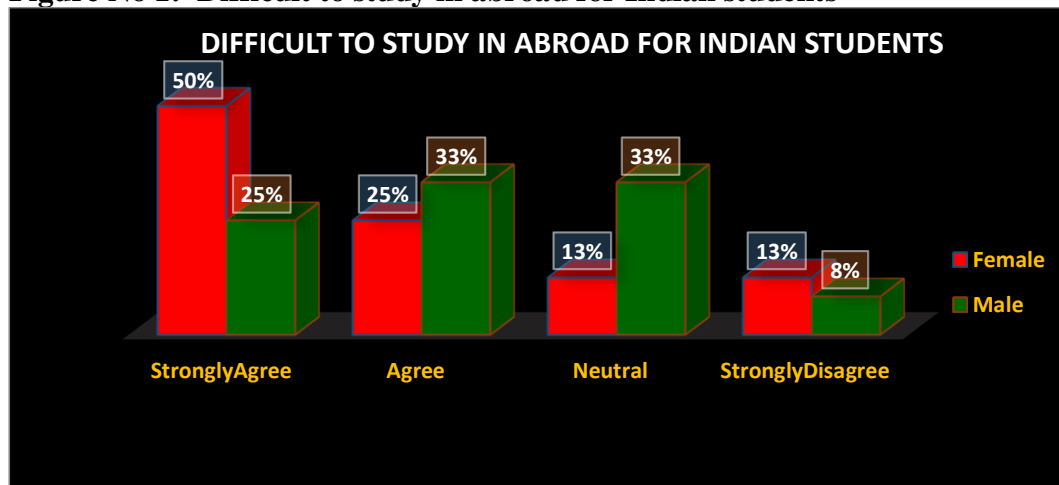
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The study population includes 40% females and 60% males who were graduating in foreign countries. Almost 30% of the students belongs to Engineering department comprises of Computer Science, Civil Engineering,

Aeronautical Engineering. About 70% of the students belongs to Science Department, which include Medicine, Applied Sciences, Chemistry, and Biotechnology. About 25% of the samples were in their Bachelor courses and majority of about 75% were pursuing their Masters. 45% of the study population are pursuing their degrees in USA, 20% from Canada and Australia, the remaining 15% from UK.

Figure No. 1 depicts the difficulty to study in abroad. 50% of the females strongly agree that it is difficult to study in abroad whereas 25% were males. On contrary 13% of female and 8% of the male, strongly disagree on this concept. At the same time, about 33% of the male and 13% of the female remain neutral on their decision.

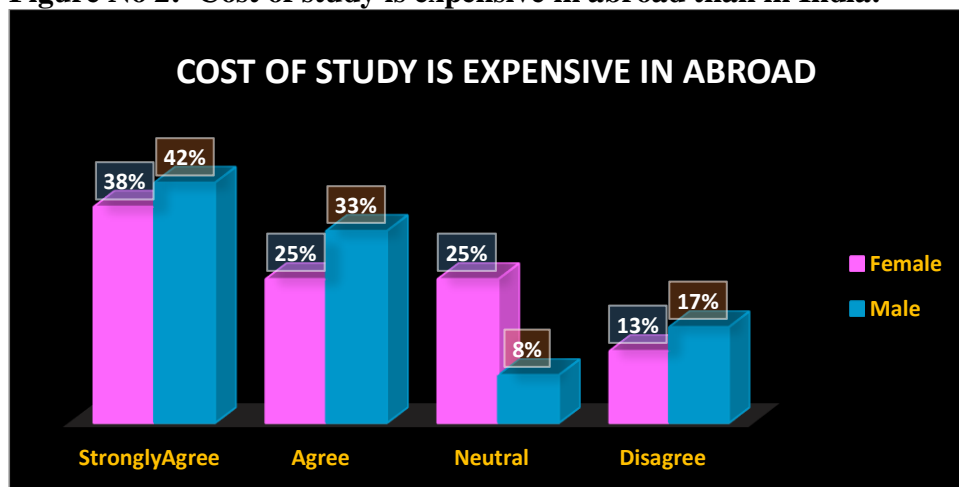
Figure No 1: Difficult to study in abroad for Indian students



More than half of the study population express that it is difficult to choose university in abroad. 75% of the females strongly disagree that studies in abroad is easier than studies in India whereas 58% of males just disagree. At the same time, 25% of both males and females agree on this opinion.

On the question whether it is easy to get scholarships in abroad than in India about 50% of the females disagree and almost 25% of the males agree. Figure No.2 states that 42% of males and 38% of females strongly agree that the cost of study is very expensive in abroad. 13% of females and 17% of males disagree on the fact.

Figure No 2: Cost of study is expensive in abroad than in India.



38% of females and 33% of males strongly agrees to the point that the quality of education is in foreign countries is better than in India. More than half of the population of both females and males agree that the admission process is difficult in abroad compare to India.

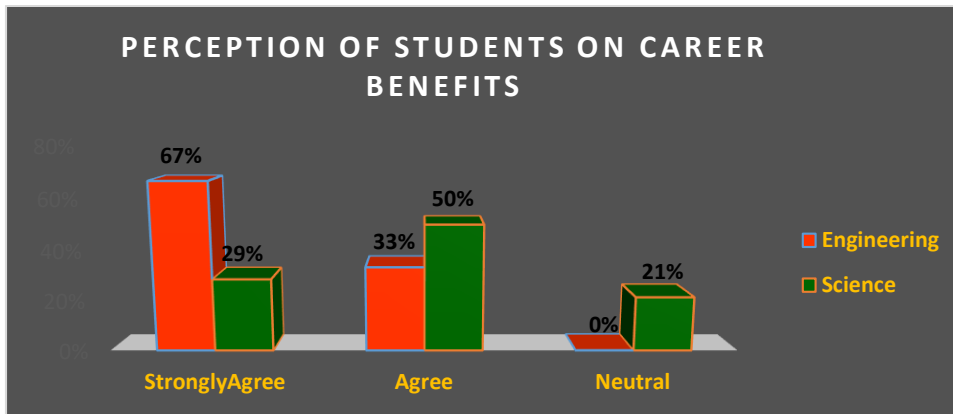
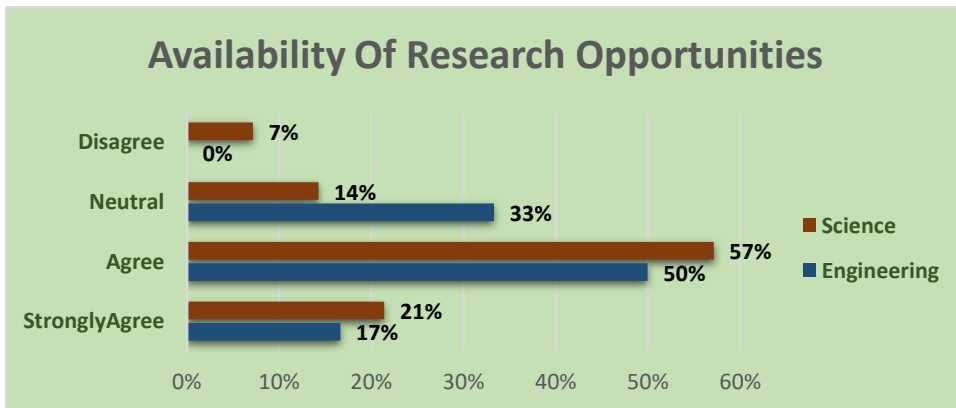
Figure No 3: Career Benefits in abroad.

Figure No 3 depicts the perception of students on career benefits if studied in abroad. It was found that about 67% of the Engineering students strongly agree and 50% of Science students agree to the asked question that the career benefits are good if educated in foreign countries.

The availability of research opportunities in foreign countries is good when compare to India in Figure No.4. Almost 78% of students from Science stream and 67% of the students from Engineering background agrees to the point.

Figure No 4: Availability of Research Opportunities in abroad.

40% of the students pursuing their Masters strongly disagree on Difficult to prepare IELTS exam whereas 40% of the Bachelor students stay neutral and 20% strongly agree. Similarly, on the question 'It is difficult to score in IELTS exam' 33% of the Masters strongly disagree again 33% disagree. While 40% of the Bachelors stayed neutral and again 20% of the same agreed. Thus it is very clear that as the students move to higher studies their potential increases. As in this case the Masters find easy to crack IELTS exam as well as score higher bands.

Table No 1: Social Relationships of the study population living abroad

S N O	Variable	FEMALE					MALE				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Agree
1	Food is not suitable	25%	25%	25%	25%	0	25%	50%	17%	8%	0
2	Students miss their family members	65%	25%	13%	0	0	50%	25%	25%	0	0
3	Difficult to get new friends and relations	0	0	25%	63%	13%	0	8%	33%	50%	8%
4	Social relationships are good	25%	38%	25%	13%	0	0	50%	33%	8%	8%
5	Students find difficult to communicate in abroad.	25%	38%	25%	13%	0	0	50%	33%	8%	8%

Table No.1 predicts the student's social relationships and other comforts. About 50% of females and 75% of males agrees that the food available in foreign countries are not suitable. 90% of the females and 75% of the males respectively miss their family members a lot. On contrary almost 76% of the females disagree on difficult to get new friends and relations but in males only 58% disagree. 63% of females and 88% of males agrees that the social relationships are good in abroad. About 63% of females and 50% of males find difficult to communicate in abroad may be due to their different national language.

It is clear that the students studying in Australia equally agree and disagree on the fact. The students in Canada 50% agrees the accommodation expenses are high and 25% stays neutral and remaining 25% disagree. The students who belong to UK, 66% agrees that the living cost is high, 33% are neutral and none disagree. The students who are in USA, 44% agrees to high accommodation cost, 33% are neutral and 22% disagree.

It is surprising to find that 100% of the students in Canada strongly agrees that the safety and security is very good and satisfying. In Australia and UK as well safety and security is good. But in USA 78% of the students agree and 22% stays neutral.

Almost all the students staying in Australia, Canada and UK either strongly agree or agree to the utmost medical facilities provided. But the students from USA 67% strongly agree, 22% agree and 11% of the students stays neutral.

75% of the students residing in Canada agrees that the climate is not suitable to them. The students from Australia 25% strongly agree and 50% stays neutral. The students studying UK 33% strongly agree whereas 33% disagree as well. 44% of the students from USA both agree and stayed neutral respectively, and about 11% disagree.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Studying abroad offers a unique opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally while going on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. The present research concludes that the major countries chose by the candidates are UK, Canada, Australia and USA. Female students were less compare to male students. The educational system is different compare to India, so in our study the students find difficult to deal with. There are a number of other benefits to studying abroad; however, there are also numerous challenges. Some of the critical challenges faced by the students include homesickness, language barrier, financial problems, culture shock, and most importantly,

the complex application process itself. It always better to be aware of the common problems students have faced abroad. Students must be given intense training and counselling thus preparing them mentally to how to handle situations during difficulties and other crisis. The government of India must conduct awareness programs in different regions for students seeking their higher education abroad.

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