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Graduates Performance: A Reflection of JPMC

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Abstract

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Education is the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment of others intellectually. One of the major indicators for the development of nation is education. The first university of Nepal is Tribhuvan university established in 1959. Janaprakash Multiple Campus is community campus established in 2062 through affiliation from Tribhuvan university. Tracer study refers to the feedback survey or study of graduates/trainees to find out their actual position after completion of their academic/training course. Tracer study is a qualitative research design. Graduate batches 2016 to 2019 were selected for this study. Tracer team follow the questionnaire prescribed by UGC to conduct this study. Questionnaire were filled up through personal meet, email, telephone contact or by using social media. Collected information were enter in to SPSS 25 version and prepare necessary table and calculation. Study was conducted mainly in four criteria those are profile of the graduates, employment status, situation of further study and response of graduates towards curriculum and facility offered by the institution. Most of the graduates were female from Kaski district and age of 22 to 26 years. Majority of graduates were unemployed and seeking for job. All of the graduates studied MBS in Tribhuvan university. Most of graduates were satisfied with facility and services provided by JPMC i.e., extra- curricular activities, problem solving ability, placement/attachment /internship, teaching learning environment, quality of education delivered, teachers and students relationship, library facility, sports facility, canteen and urinal facility but some were not satisfied with lab facility.

Keywords: Education, Tracer study, Graduates, Employment, Response, Facility

Introduction

Education is the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life. It shapes the life of people. It is generally perceived as one of the most well-developed services that make people more conscious and rationale. It is an important indication of national development because development is possible only when the nation can produce skilled human resources and academic scholars. Development histories of Japan and Singapore have already proved that development is possible with human resource in the absence of other natural resources like minerals and oil.

Nepal has been practicing the concept of multi-university system since 1990 to achieve broader national development goals and has focusing on higher education in recent years. Before 1990 A.D., only two universities were in existence, namely: Tribhuvan University (established in 1959) and Mahendra Sanskrit University (established in 1985). After the restoration of democracy in 1990 A.D. and Federal Democratic Republic Nepal in 2008 A.D., the number of universities in Nepal has been increased. All together 16 universities have been delivering various academic and technical programs along with the help of various constituent campuses and affiliated (public and private) colleges at different parts of the country. However, Tribhuvan University, Pokhara University, Purbanchal University, Agriculture and Forest university, Open university are major universities of Nepal. The above-mentioned scenarios proved that tremendous expansion has been taking place in Nepal to deliver higher education during the last two and half decades.

Janaprakash Multiple Campus (JPMC) is a non-profitable community campus. It was established on 26th Shrawan 2062 B.S. (10th August, 2005 A.D.) as the assembly of local academicians, intellectual personalities and social workers longed to provide higher education to the students of mid and eastern part of Kaski, Syanga and western part of Tanahun and Lamjung. JPMC is one of the leading management campuses in this region. JPMC is offering management faculty course specially BBS in morning shift. Campus has its own land and building, facility of library, computer lab, well-furnished classrooms, drinking water, playground etc. JPMC has established various sub-committees like IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell), QAA, NEHEP, EMIS (education management information system), JPRC (Janaprakash Research Committee), SSR (self-study report), Internal Exam Committee, Sports Committee etc. It provides quality education through well and experienced 16 faculty members and 3 administrative staff. Besides teaching JPMC has conduct regular extracurricular actives

like sports, mini research, industrial tour, motivating trainings or interaction programs. It is in the process of getting QAA certification from University Grant Commission (UGC) and has completed the pre visit. JPMC is working for final accreditation of QAA from UGC, Nepal.

Tracer study refers to the survey or study of graduates / trainees to find out their actual position after completion of their academic /training course. Tracer study is conducted to know the actual position of employment characteristics, competencies, skills development, level of satisfaction graduates towards institution and service provided by them. It helps institutions to prepare further strategies. Especially education institutions conduct tracer study report to know the situation of employability of graduates and revision of their curriculum and policies.

The overall objectives of the study are to obtain a better understanding about the current situation and employment status of the graduates as well as to identify the issues related to employment experiences, expectations and aspiration of graduates after getting graduation. One of its aims is also to find out the issues related to the quality and the relevance of higher education. The study has also aimed at using the study report for the formulation and amendments of its strategic plan and policies as per the needs and expectation of market and the graduates, specially findings the level of satisfaction of graduates towards facilities provided by JPMC and investigating employment status of the graduates of study period.

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

This tracer study was designed and conducted by the tracer study team of JPMC to trace the performance of the graduates. Altogether fifteen batches from JPMC were graduated up to 2023. However, this study has traced four batch graduates, incorporating from the year 2016 to 2019. Altogether 57 students have been completed their bachelor's degree during this period including the partial involvement in final examination held by Tribhuvan University. This was the population of the study. This study was conducted taking the whole populaiton. However, three graduates could not be traced, the valid population thus remained 54.

The tracer team prepared the questionnaire for tracing the graduates on the basis of the framework as provided by UGC which was slightly modified to address the issues of the campus. The survey questionnaire incorporated questions covering source area of the graduates, age, gender, ethnic affiliation, access to media and technology, employment status, and graduates involvement in further study as a profile of the graduates. Secondly, a Likert Scale question was asked incorporating 11 different criteria namely relevance of program to job, extracurricular activities, problem solving ability, attachment to job, learning environment,

quality of education, teacher student relationship, library facility, lab facility, sports facility, and canteen and urinals facility. The tracer study team collected the list of graduates from 2016 to 2019 from administration. The notice for tracer study was shared using the college notice board, social media/Face-book and mail from internet. Those who couldn't come in contact were contacted through telephone, e-mail and social media. The data were collected from individual forms by filling up the questionnaire through face-to-face interview in the presence of tracer team, telephonic conversation and via mails during Janaury and March 2023. The institutional data were collected by mobilizing the internal staff and member of tracer committee at JPMC, using personal meeting, e-mail, social media and telephone call. EMIS unit, Examination Committee and all of the related departments had also facilitated the whole data collection activities by providing the contract information of graduates. Sufficient time was taken to data collection and analysis for the study. The collected data were compiled by using excel and SPSS softwares. The data were analyzed and evaluated by using qualitative and quantitative tools as applicable.

Result and Discussion

This study was conducted in 2023 to trace the graduates of JPMC from 2016 to 2019. A population of 54 graduates have been traced for the study. The data were categorized in four categories i.e., profile of the respondents, employment status, situation of further study and satisfaction of graduates towards program and facilities provided by the institution. The criteria-wise data presentation can be present as:

Profile of the respondent

Altogether 54 graduates have responded for this study. The detail of graduate batch, catchment area, gender, age, ethnic group and access with media is presented in this subsection.

Graduate batch: The traced graduates of JPMC from the year 2016 to 2019 was 54. The study report shows that 22.2 percent in 2016, 24.1 percent in 2017, 22.2 percent in 2018 and 31.5 percent in 2019 (table 1). It shows that percentage of graduates was lowest in 2016 and highest in 2019. It confirmed a continous progression in the trend of graduate success.

Table 1

Year wise detail of graduates

Year	Frequency	Percent
2016	12	22.2
2017	13	24.1
2018	12	22.2
2019	17	31.5
Total	54	100.0

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023

Catchment area of graduates: The permanent address of graduates of JPMC during the study period was 64.8 percent from the Kaski district, 13 percent from Tanahun district, 3.7 percent from Lamjung district, and 18.5 percent from other districts, respectively (table 2). It confirmed that the majority of graduates were from Kaski district. Thus this campus is a local campus rather than regional, provincial or national.

Table 2

Catchment area of graduates

District	Frequency	Percent
Kaski	35	64.8
Tanahun	7	13.0
Lamjung	2	3.7
Others	10	18.5
Total	54	100.0

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023

Age and gender of graduates: Majority of graduates of JPMC during study period were female and the age between 20 and 26 years. The gender wise detail is 64.81 percent female and only 35.19 percent male. Table 3 shows the year wise detail of graduates i.e., 31.5 percent of 20 to 22 years, 51.9 percent of 22 to 24 years, and 16.7 percent of above 24 years.

Table 3

Age and gender of graduates

Age range	Male		Female		Total	Percentage
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent		
20 to 22	5	9.26	12	22.22	17	31.48
22 to 24	11	20.37	17	31.48	28	51.85
Above 24	3	5.55	6	11.11	9	16.7
Total	19	35.19	35	64.81	54	100

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023

Ethnic group of graduates: Majority of the graduates of JPMC during the study period were from Brahmin and Chhetri community. Table 4 shows that 66.7 percent of graduates were from Brahmin and Chhetri and 33.3 percent graduates were from Educationally Disadvantaged Janajati and Dalit (EDGs).

Table 4

Ethnic group of respondents

Ethnic group	Frequency	Percent
Educationally Disadvantaged Group	15	33.3
Others	36	66.7
Total	54	100.0

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023

Access with media technology: All of the graduates of JPMC during study period were familiar with communication media. All the graduates used smart mobile phone and Facebook, whereas 85.2 percent of graduates use email and only 3.7 percent graduates use Twitter (table 5).

Table 5

Access with media technology

Means of communication	N	Percent
Mobile	54	100
Facebook	54	100
Email	46	85.2
Twitter	2	3.7

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023

Employment status: Employment status of graduates of JPMC who graduated from 2016 to 2019 was limited. The study report shows that only 27.8 percent of graduates were employed, 68.5 percent unemployed and only 3.7 percent were self-employed. Table 6 shows that majority of graduates were unemployed and seeking for job. The detail of employment status of total graduates i.e., 47.4 percent of male and 17.1 percent of female were employed in organization, 5.3 percent male and 2.9 percent of female were self employed and 47.4 percent of male and 80.0 percent of female were unemployed.

Table 6

Employment status of graduates by gender

State of employment	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<i>State of employment</i>						
Employment in organization	9	47.4	6	17.1	15	27.8
Self-employment	1	5.3	1	2.9	2	3.7
Unemployed	9	47.4	28	80.0	37	68.5
Total employed	19	100.0	35	100.0	54	100.0

Note: N – Number of respondents.

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023.

Further study situation: The further study situation of JPMC during the study period is 42.6 percent. The same proportion of male and female graduates were found going for further studies (Table 7). All of the graduates were studied MBS in various campuses of Tribhuvan university. This is a big proportion for moving to higher level of studies.

Table 7

Further study status of graduates by gender

State of employment	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total studying	8	42.1	15	42.1	23	42.6
Total employed	19	100.0	35	100.0	54	100.0

Note: N – Number of respondents.

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023.

Perception of graduates towards program and facilities

This section shows the perception of graduates towards facilities provided by the college while they were studying in JPMC and their working area. The graduates' perception were measured by using a six point Likert Scale under 11 criteria.

The perception of graduates towards various services and facilities is presented in table 8. For a single facility the minimum response on each scale is zero where as the maximum response is 5 point. An average score of the response for each service or facility is calculated and the highest average score of 4.72 is observed in response to teacher-student relationship and the lowest average score is 2.28 in response to lab facilities. It shows that three facilities; (i) teacher student relationship, (ii) teaching learning environment and (iii) quality of education delivered are responded above better quality tending toward excellent. Similarly, seven services or facilities namely, (i) library facility, (ii) canteen and urinals facilities, (iii) problem solving ability, (iv) extracurricular activities, (v) workplacement / internship (vi) sports facilities and (vii) relevance of program for job requirement are perceived between good and better whereas only one facility i.e., lab facility was perceived below good (table 8). It seems those responses towards services and facilities in terms of percentage of better-excellent are above 80 percent, neutral to good falls between 60 to 80 percent and remaining are under 60 percent.

Table 8

Response of graduates towards program and facilities

Services and facilities	Very weak		Weak		Neutral		Good		Better		Excellent		Average
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
	Teacher student relationship	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5.6	9	16.7	42	
Teaching learning environment	-	-	-	-	4	7.4	3	5.6	22	40.7	25	46.3	4.26
Quality of education delivered	1	1.9	-	-	1	1.9	4	7.4	27	50.0	21	38.9	4.20
Library facility	-	-	1	1.9	3	5.6	15	27.8	21	38.9	14	25.9	3.81
Canteen/urinal facility	-	-	2	3.7	2	3.7	15	27.8	27	50.0	8	14.8	3.69
Problem solving ability	-	-	2	3.7	9	16.7	15	27.8	17	31.5	11	20.4	3.48
Extracurricular activities	-	-	3	5.6	3	5.6	20	37.0	22	40.7	6	11.1	3.46
Work placement/ attachment / internship	2	3.7	3	5.6	9	16.7	15	27.8	13	21.4	11	20.4	3.26
Sports facility	1	1.9	6	11.1	8	14.8	13	24.1	16	29.6	10	18.5	3.24
Relevance of the program for job requirements	-	-	3	5.6	13	24.1	17	31.5	13	24.1	8	14.8	3.19
Lab facility	7	13.0	7	13.0	20	37.0	10	18.5	4	7.4	6	11.1	2.28

Note: F - Frequency

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023.

Response of graduates towards program, service and facilities by gender: A serious question can be asked that if those responses differ by gender and ethnic affiliation of the graduates. When the mean score calculated and an ANNOVA test is calculated, there is no significant variation between the male and female graduates, except for teaching learning environment service/facility (Table 9). The overall satisfaction level of graduates towards program, service and facilities by gender found satisfactory.

Table 9

Gender response on the perception of graduates towards college services and facilities

Services and facilities	Male (19)		Female (35)		Total (54)		ANNOVA	
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Relevance of the program to job requirements	3.21	1.228	3.17	1.098	3.19	1.134	.014	.905
Extracurricular activities	3.26	1.147	3.57	.850	3.46	.966	1.261	.267
Problem solving ability	3.26	1.195	3.60	1.063	3.48	1.112	1.134	.292
Attachment to job	3.00	1.528	3.41	1.209	3.26	1.332	1.168	.285
Teaching / Learning environment	3.79	1.134	4.51	.562	4.26	.873	9.924	.003
Quality of education delivered	3.89	1.150	4.37	.690	4.20	.898	3.641	.062
Teacher Student relationship	4.63	.684	4.77	.490	4.72	.564	.755	.389
Library facility	3.42	1.121	4.03	.785	3.81	.953	5.420	.024
Lab facility	2.00	1.563	2.43	1.378	2.28	1.446	1.083	.303
Sports facility	3.26	1.284	3.23	1.374	3.24	1.331	.008	.928
Canteen / Urinals etc.	3.53	.964	3.77	.877	3.69	.907	.897	.348

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023.

Response of graduates towards program, service and facilities by ethnic affiliation:

The study has seriously analyzed the response of graduates towards program, services and facilities provided by the institution with relation of ethnic affiliation. For that the mean score and an ANNOVA test is calculated and found there is no significant variation between the educationally disadvantage group, i.e., educationally disadvantage janajaties and dalits (Table 10). It means that there is no variation on the provision of program, service and facility provided by the institution and overall response found satisfactory.

Table 10

Response on the perception of graduates towards college services and facilities by ethnic affiliation

Services and facilities	EDGs (18)		Other groups (36)		Total (54)		ANNOVA	
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig.
Relevance of the program to job requirements	3.72	1.227	2.92	0.996	3.19	1.134	6.708	.012
Extracurricular activities	3.72	0.826	3.33	1.014	3.46	0.966	1.982	.165
Problem solving ability	3.72	1.227	3.36	1.046	3.48	1.112	1.273	.264
Attachment to job	3.47	1.375	3.17	1.32	3.26	1.332	1.982	.165
Teaching / Learning environment	4.28	0.826	4.25	0.906	4.26	0.873	.596	.444
Quality of education delivered	4.39	0.502	4.11	1.036	4.2	0.898	.012	.913
Teacher Student relationship	4.83	0.383	4.67	0.632	4.72	0.564	1.151	.288
Library facility	3.94	1.056	3.75	0.906	3.81	0.953	1.051	.310
Lab facility	2.5	1.383	2.17	1.483	2.28	1.446	.495	.485
Sports facility	3.61	1.243	3.06	1.351	3.24	1.331	.633	.430
Canteen / Urinals etc.	3.94	0.802	3.56	0.939	3.69	0.907	2.136	.150

Source: Tracer study survey, 2023

Conclusion

This study provided a ground to conclude on the tracing of the JPMC. The success rate of of graduates on this study from 2016 to 2019 is inclining. The catchment area of college is highly local. The college is in high choice of females yet a standard age group has become the attraction of students. Though higher proportion of EDGs were expected all the graduates JPMC were famier with the communications media and they are acquainted with modern means of communications like smart phones, Facebook and email. Employment status of graduates of JPMC during the study period was still not to the satisfactory level. However, a

significant proportion of graduates of JPMC are continuing their further studies.

Majority of graduates were satisfied with their graduation and most of graduates were satisfied with the quality of the 11 types of services and facilities provided by JPMC. As three facilities are responded above better quality tending toward excellent, seven services and facilities are perceived between good and better and only one facility was perceived below good. However, there is no variation on the perception toward the quality of services and facilities provided by JPMC as perceived by males and females as well as people of different ethnic affiliation, there is a good scope to increase the quality of services and facilities in the major areas of services and facilities to be provided by JPMC.

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