



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH SELF-EFFICACY, RESEARCH ANXIETY AND ATTITUDE TOWARD RESEARCH: A STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between agricultural students' research self-efficacy and their personal and professional characteristics, research anxiety and attitude toward research. The statistical population of this study was graduate agricultural students (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) at Shiraz University, Iran. A sample of 210 students was selected using a proportional stratified sampling technique. A questionnaire was developed to interview the subjects of the study of which the validity and reliability were estimated based on opinions of a panel of experts and Cronbach's alpha coefficient, respectively. Results revealed that the respondents had a moderate level of research anxiety, high level of research self-efficacy and positive attitude toward research. The t-test revealed that there was a significant difference between research self-efficacy levels of M.Sc. students with those of Ph.D. students, and Ph.D. students had higher levels of research self-efficacy than did M.Sc. students. Further, results indicated that there was a positive significant relationship between age, number of published papers, attitude toward research and students' research self-efficacy. In addition, the relationship between research anxiety and research self-efficacy was negative. Suggestions have been provided based on the findings.

Key Words: Agricultural graduate student; Attitude toward research; Research anxiety; Research self-efficacy.