

An Assessment of UPSC Examination Awareness Among Newly Graduate Students in KOPPAL and VIJAYAPUR Districts of Karnataka

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Abstract:

*This research article investigates the level of awareness and understanding of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination (CSE) among newly graduate students in the tier-2 and tier-3 cities of Koppal and Vijayapur districts in North Karnataka. The UPSC CSE is the gateway to the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and other central civil services. Anecdotal evidence suggests a disparity in competitive exam knowledge between students in metropolitan and regional centers. A survey-based methodology was employed to assess awareness regarding the exam pattern, syllabus, eligibility criteria, and preparation resources. Preliminary findings indicate that while **aspiration levels are high**, there exists a significant **knowledge gap** regarding the nuanced requirements and the multi-stage process of the UPSC CSE. This gap is compounded by limited access to quality coaching, resource materials, and mentorship networks in these regions. The study concludes with recommendations for targeted university and government interventions to bridge this rural-urban divide in competitive exam awareness.*

Key words: Awareness, UPSC CSE, Newly Graduates

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I. Introduction

The aspiration for a career in the civil services remains a significant professional goal for a large segment of Indian youth, symbolizing both social prestige and an opportunity for public service. The UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) is notoriously challenging, demanding comprehensive knowledge, critical thinking, and sustained effort. While the success stories of aspirants from North Karnataka districts like Vijayapur clearing the UPSC are occasionally highlighted, the general awareness level among the broader graduate population in these regions, particularly Koppal and Vijayapur, remains under-researched. This study aims to quantify the baseline knowledge of newly graduated students from these two districts concerning the structure, eligibility, and preparation strategies for the UPSC CSE. Understanding this baseline is crucial for designing effective intervention programs.

Objectives of the Study:

- To study the awareness of UPSC/CSE among newly graduated students.
- To study the source of awareness of UPSC/CSE among newly graduated students.
- To study of role of gender in awareness of UPSC/CSE among newly graduated students.
- To study of role of demographical aria in awareness of UPSC/CSE among newly graduated students.
- To study of role of social media in awareness of UPSC/CSE among newly graduated students.

II. Research Methodology

Study Area and Population

The study focused on newly graduated students (those who completed their bachelor's degree in the last 12 months) from a diverse set of colleges affiliated with the respective universities in Koppal and Vijayapur districts. A sample size of N=350 was targeted, equally distributed between the two districts and across various academic streams (Arts, Commerce, Science, and others).

Data Collection Tool

A structured questionnaire was developed, comprising three main sections:

1. **Demographics and Aspiration:** Educational background, parental occupation, and professional goals (e.g., desire to attempt UPSC).
2. **Awareness of UPSC CSE:** Questions on the number of stages (Prelims, Mains, Interview), correct age and attempt limits, the nature of the CSAT paper, and the number of optional subjects.
3. **Resource and Support Knowledge:** Questions on awareness of government-sponsored coaching schemes, popular preparation materials (NCERTs, standard books), and online/digital resources.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to determine the overall awareness index. Cross-tabulation and Chi-square tests were employed to analyze the relationship between awareness levels and demographic variables, such as district, academic stream, and access to the internet.

III. Findings and Discussion

Aspiration Levels and Demographic Insights

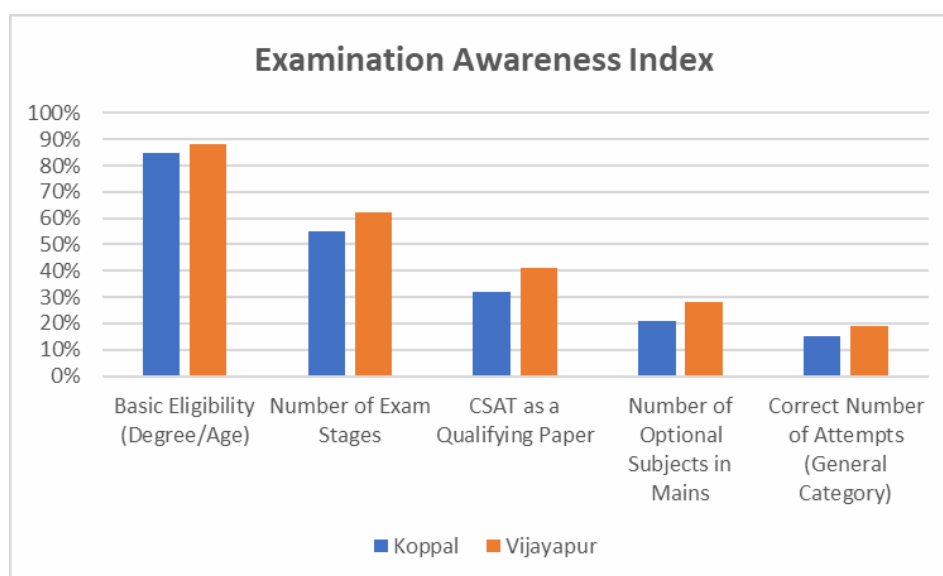
A high percentage of respondents (78%) expressed a strong or moderate desire to attempt the UPSC CSE at least once. However, a significant majority hailed from non-metropolitan or rural backgrounds, with limited family history of success in civil services, underscoring the potential for a lack of inherited 'social capital' in exam preparation.

Examination Awareness Index

The overall awareness index revealed a mixed picture:

Parameter	Koppal	Vijayapur
Basic Eligibility (Degree/Age)	85%	88%
Number of Exam Stages	55%	62%
CSAT as a Qualifying Paper	32%	41%
Number of Optional Subjects in Mains	21%	28%
Correct Number of Attempts (General Category)	15%	19%

Table 1:



The data clearly indicates that while **basic eligibility is well-known**, **detailed knowledge of the exam structure, particularly the Mains (optional subjects) and Prelims (CSAT specifics), is alarmingly low**. The awareness gap in Koppal appears marginally greater than in Vijayapur.

Awareness of crucial preparation resources was found to be inadequate. Only **45%** of graduates across both districts correctly identified the importance of NCERT textbooks as a foundational resource. Furthermore, awareness of **government-sponsored free coaching** for the Kalyana Karnataka region (which both districts belong to) was low (**38%**), indicating a failure in the dissemination of information about public welfare schemes intended to help aspirants from these areas. The heavy reliance on **digital content (YouTube, Telegram)** for information was cited by **65%** of respondents, but this also raised concerns about the quality control and structure of the information consumed.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study confirms that while the **ambition to pursue the civil services is widespread** among newly graduate students in Koppal and Vijayapur, the necessary **technical knowledge and strategic awareness** about the UPSC CSE is severely lacking. This lack of knowledge acts as a significant barrier to effective preparation, perpetuating the rural-urban divide in final selection rates.

Recommendations:

1. **University-Level Career Cells:** All affiliated colleges in Koppal and Vijayapur must establish a dedicated **UPSC/KPSC Career Guidance Cell** to conduct regular workshops on exam pattern, syllabus breakdown, and resource mapping.
2. **Targeted Government Outreach:** The State Government should actively publicize its free coaching and mentorship schemes through regional newspapers, college notice boards, and targeted social media campaigns to ensure beneficiaries in tier-2/3 districts are fully aware.
3. **Library Resource Augmentation:** University and college libraries should be sufficiently stocked with the recommended standard books and daily newspapers (both English and regional) necessary for UPSC preparation.
4. **Mentorship Network:** Establishing a formal mentorship program connecting successful UPSC qualifiers from the region with current aspirants can provide the essential strategic guidance that is currently missing.

Addressing this awareness and resource gap is critical to unlocking the potential of talented youth from North Karnataka and ensuring equitable representation in the national civil services.

This YouTube video offers a discussion on what happens after clearing the UPSC Civil Services Exam, which provides valuable context for students in Koppal and Vijayapur who are aspiring to understand the culmination of their efforts. UPSC Civil Services Exam Interview

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