

HERO KITE

in Undergraduate Students

A Comparative Study of Two Agricultural Colleges' PsyCap

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Introduction

Psychological Capital [PsyCap]
Crucial role

Academic Performance

Career Success

Overall Wellbeing

Agricultural Education

Challenges & Strengths
Undergraduate Agriculture Students [UAS]

Research Questions

- 1 How do PsyCap constructs manifest among UAS?
- 2 How does the PsyCap of UAS differ based on the size of the college they attend?

Theoretical Framework



Positive Psychology - developing human strengths
Psychological Capital [PsyCap]

H Hope **E** Self-Efficacy **R** Resilience **O** Optimism

Implications for academic engagement and outcomes

Methodology

Qualitative study
Multiple Case Study

Hispanic Serving Institutions [HSI]

- D Doctoral University [D-HSI]
- M Masters University [M-HSI]

Data collection

20 participants
Interviews: one-on-one, semi-structured, in-person, audio-recorded

Data analysis

Iterative coding and categorization process

Qualitative Quality

- Credibility
- Transferability
- Dependability
- Confirmability

Findings

- H** Personal Aspirations, Social Influence, & Career Goals
- E** Personal Growth, Time Management, & Balancing Commitments
- R** Social Support, Self-care, & Organizational Skills
- O** Personal Connections & Supportive Community

"I want to prove people wrong who thought that I couldn't get a bachelor's degree"

"It's not all about being a letter grade, but it's also about learning and taking each opportunity, one step at a time."

- D** Organization & Prioritization Benefits (academic & personal)
Supportive Community
- M** Overcoming Challenges
Sense of Belonging
Positive Experience

"It was overwhelming, coming from something so small, and this is so big. I was really nervous [...] I had to overcome that and just kind of tell myself, you're putting yourself out there, you're moving forward."

"All my Professors know me by name, and the student body is really welcoming."

Conclusions

- PsyCap constructs are diverse among UAS
- Every UASs experiences in college are different
- HERO are influenced by two components
 - Self (background, organization, personal growth and aspirations)
 - Social (family, friends, community)

- Similar
 - Hope
 - Self-Efficacy
- Different
 - Resilience
 - Optimism

Implications

- Tailored Interventions & Support Programs
- Goal setting
 - Social networks
 - Time management
 - Personal development

Improve

- Academic performance
- Well-being
- Engagement



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