

# Perception of Higher Education Level Students Towards Teaching Profession

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## Abstract

Teaching is a noble profession because it makes a huge impact on the development of society or a country. It is a profession that can make a stronger nation. This study aims to find out the perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession. A descriptive type survey method of research and a qualitative approach was used. 270 postgraduate students as samples through a convenience sampling technique were taken and data were collected through a self-developed standardized questionnaire contained with close-ended questions. The qualitative analysis method was used for data analysis, and percentage calculation was done. It was found that most of the respondents have low levels (31%) and very low levels (22%) of perception toward the teaching profession and the rest of them have average/moderate perception levels (22%), very high perception levels (28%), 14 % have high perception levels toward the teaching profession. Researchers concluded that the perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession displayed a lack of positive or favourable perception towards the teaching profession.

**Keywords:** Perception, Teaching profession, Higher education level, Students.

## INTRODUCTION:

The teaching profession is a sacred obligation bestowed by God. It is considered that teaching is one of the most honorable professions. The teaching profession is the mother of all professions such as lawyer, engineer, doctor, and so on. It is also a respected career in society. A teacher contributes significantly to the development of a country by passing on his or her expertise to students. According to the Kothari Commission (1964-66), "the destiny of India is now being shaped in her classroom." Education has the power to reshape society and the country, and teachers are viewed as 'constructors' in this sense.

Perceptions are created based on the same psychological factors such as their passion for teaching, professional interest in teaching, mastery of topic and language, beliefs, sentiments, and behavior connected to their job. Perception describes a person's feelings or ideas about a certain phenomenon. Perception is important for individual education since it demonstrates a person's interview. If a person has a good view of an object, he will do all in his power to achieve it. He will endeavor to

avoid situations that he perceives to be unpleasant. As a result, it plays a significant influence in deciding a person's success or failure in any sector. A person's perspective of their occupation also influences their choice of teaching vocation. If a student has a favorable opinion of the teaching profession. He will provide good outcomes. However, if he thinks badly. He will be unsatisfied with his efforts. As a result, their opinion of the teaching profession reflects their personality as well as the fervor with which they would approach their employment. As a result, this study looked at higher education students' perceptions of the teaching profession.

#### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

**Htang (2017)** conducted a study on “Pre-service Teachers’ Attitudes towards Teaching Profession in Myanmar.” Results showed that there were no significant differences by subject streams and programs but significant differences were observed between male and female pre-service teachers.

**Audu and Egharevba (2016)** Wrote an article on “Undergraduate Students’ Perception and Attitudes towards Teaching Profession in University of Benin, Nigeria”. Result showed that the perception and attitude of education students toward teaching is not influenced by sex; parents had negative perception and attitude toward their children studying education; and students are not willing to take up teaching jobs because of low status, poor condition of service of teachers and negative perception of the teaching profession by the society.

**Mehtap, Hakan and Bulent (2014)** studied on “The Investigation of Teacher Candidates’ Attitudes Towards Teaching Profession”. Results revealed that while teaching experience has an important effect on attitudes towards teaching, gender, field, and program variables do not have any significant effect on it. Also, it was found that the teacher candidates in the pedagogical formation certificate program have a positive attitude toward the teaching profession.

**Andronache et al. (2014)** wrote a paper on “Attitude towards teaching profession”. Results showed that there is a significant positive correlation between the cognitive and the affective dimension. At the same time, the study demonstrates that there is no significant correlation between the size of the behavioral and cognitive dimensions and the emotional dimension. Therefore, the conducted study hypothesis is partially confirmed.

**Parvez and Shakir (2013)** studied “Attitudes of Prospective Teachers towards Teaching Profession”. Research findings revealed that there is a significant difference in the attitudes of prospective teachers studying in private and public B.Ed. institutions. There is no significant difference in the attitudes of female and male, Muslim and non-Muslim, science, and social sciences prospective teachers towards the teaching profession.

**Pancholi and Bharwad (2015)** studied “Student-Teachers’ Attitude towards Teaching Profession”. It was found that most student-teachers displayed a lack of positive or favorable attitude towards their teaching profession. Teachers subdivided based on gender showed differences in their level of professional attitude. Males had less positive professional attitude than females. This connotes that the professional attitude of male teachers is more negative than that of female teachers.

By reviewing so far researcher came to know that no work has been done on my topic “Perception of Higher Education Level Students Towards Teaching Profession.” So, this issue is a research gap.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:**

The problem has been stated as: *“Perception of Higher Education Level Students Towards Teaching Profession.”*

**RATIONALE OF THE STUDY:**

- Teaching is a job as well as a means of developing students' potential and instilling important life skills such as respect, ethical principles, and cultural awareness. Education provided by teachers improves people's quality of life, benefiting both individuals and society.
- Teaching is regarded as one of the most noble professions. Teaching is the mother of all professions, including law, engineering, and medicine. It is also a prestigious profession in society.
- Students' perceptions of the teaching profession are considered a significant variable in many studies. Students see teachers as role models.

From the above-mentioned ground, the present research was justified.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

Objectives of the study were-

1. To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession.
2. To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Gender.
3. To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Locality.
4. To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Stream of education.
5. To study the perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Selected dimensions.

**DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:**

The present study was delimited from the following aspects -

- **Level of Education:** The study research was delimited to only postgraduate level students.
- **Sample Size:** The study was restricted to only around 400 postgraduate-level students.
- **Area:** The study was delimited only to 7 selected universities.
- **Tools and Technique:** The study uses only one self-developed questionnaire as a tool (Scale for measuring perception towards the teaching profession) as a tool for data collection.
- **Approach of the study:** The study delimited only the qualitative approach and Simple Percentage calculation done by the researcher.
- **Variables:** The study was delimited to only two main variables and some categorical variables.

**METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:**

- **Method and Approach of the Study:** The researcher has applied a descriptive type survey method of research and a qualitative approach.
- **Population of the Study:** All the higher education level students of West Bengal comprised the population of this study.

- **Sample and Sampling procedures:** Researcher took 270 higher education level students as samples through a Convenience Sampling technique.
- **Instrument for data collection:** A self-developed standardized questionnaire was used for data collection in this present study.
- **Procedure of data collection:** This study collected data through both online and as well as online modes. Firstly, some data is collected offline mode by using the self-made questionnaire.
- **Statistical techniques used:** Percentage Analysis was used to be done from the collected through close-ended questions analyzed using qualitative analysis.

### OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN THE STUDY:

- **Perception:** The thoughts or mental images that students have about the teaching profession and activities. In this study, perception considered the perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession.
- **Teaching profession:** A profession that contributes to the teaching-learning process. It is a respectable job in society. It is also regarded as the mother of all vocations. A teacher is a person who chooses to work in this field. A professional teacher is someone who accepts teaching on a professional basis.
- **Higher Education:** Higher education is tertiary-level of education. Students entered in higher education after passing school education. It consists of undergraduate and post-graduate programs. In this study, postgraduate students are considered as higher education students.
- **Selected dimension:** In this study dimensions refer to used parameters mentioned for tool development for this study. These are professional satisfaction, economic satisfaction, and conceptual aspects.

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The analysis and interpretation of the data have been done objective-wise.

**Analysis of obj-1:** To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession.

Table 01: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession.

Levels of Perception	No of respondent	Percentage (%)
Very High	28	11
High	39	14
Average/Moderate	59	22
Low	84	31
Very Low	58	22
Total	270	100

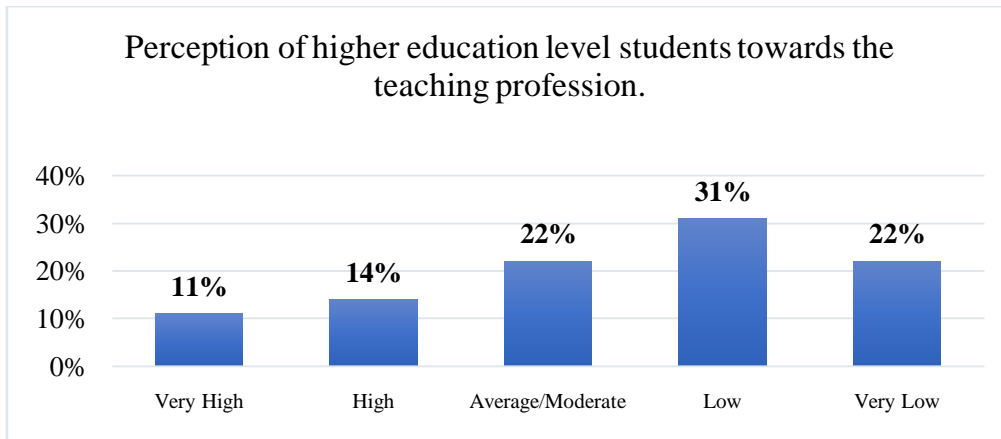


Figure 01: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession

**Interpretation:** Table 1 shows the levels of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession. Out of the 28% of respondents who have very high perception levels, 14% have high perception levels, 22% have average/moderate perception levels, 31% have low perception, and 22% have very low perception.

**Analysis of obj-2:** To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Gender.

Table 02: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Gender.

Levels of Perception	No of respondent		Percentage (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Very High	15	28	11	21
High	19	41	14	30
Average/Moderate	35	37	26	27
Low	39	18	29	14
Very Low	27	11	20	8
Total= 270	135	135	100	100

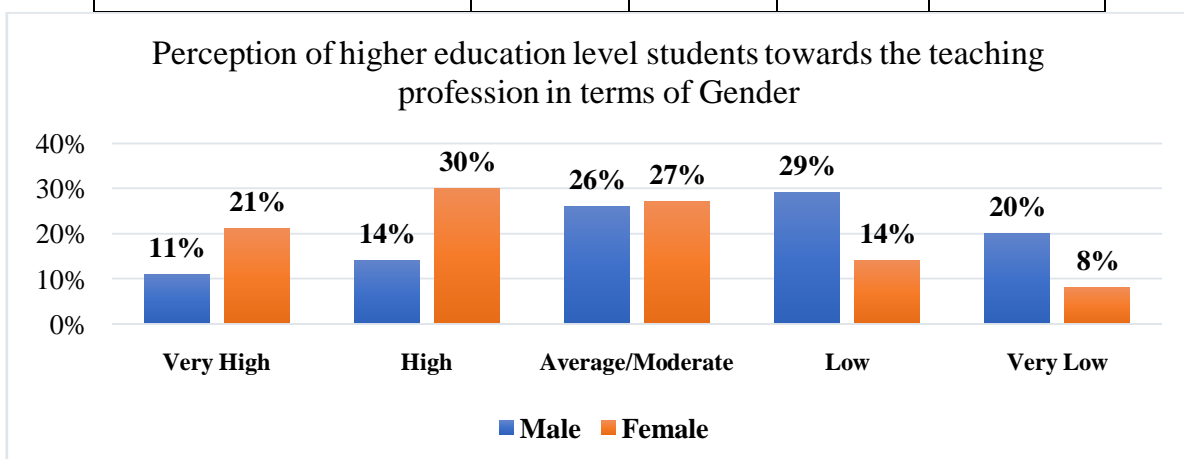


Figure 02: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Gender.

**Interpretation:** Table 2 shows the levels of perception of male and female higher education level students towards the teaching profession. Out of the total male respondents 11% of respondents who have very high perception levels, 14 % have high perception levels, 26 % have average/moderate perception levels, 29 % have low perception, and 20 % have very low perception. Also, out of the total female respondents, 21% of respondents have very high perception levels, 30 % have high perception levels, 27 % have average/moderate perception levels, 14 % have low perception, and 8 % have very low perception.

**Analysis of obj-3:** To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Locality.

Table 03: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Locality.

Levels of Perception	No of respondent		Percentage (%)	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Very High	21	18	16	14
High	28	26	22	19
Average/Moderate	24	22	17	16
Low	34	39	25	29
Very Low	28	30	20	22
Total= 270	135	135	100	100

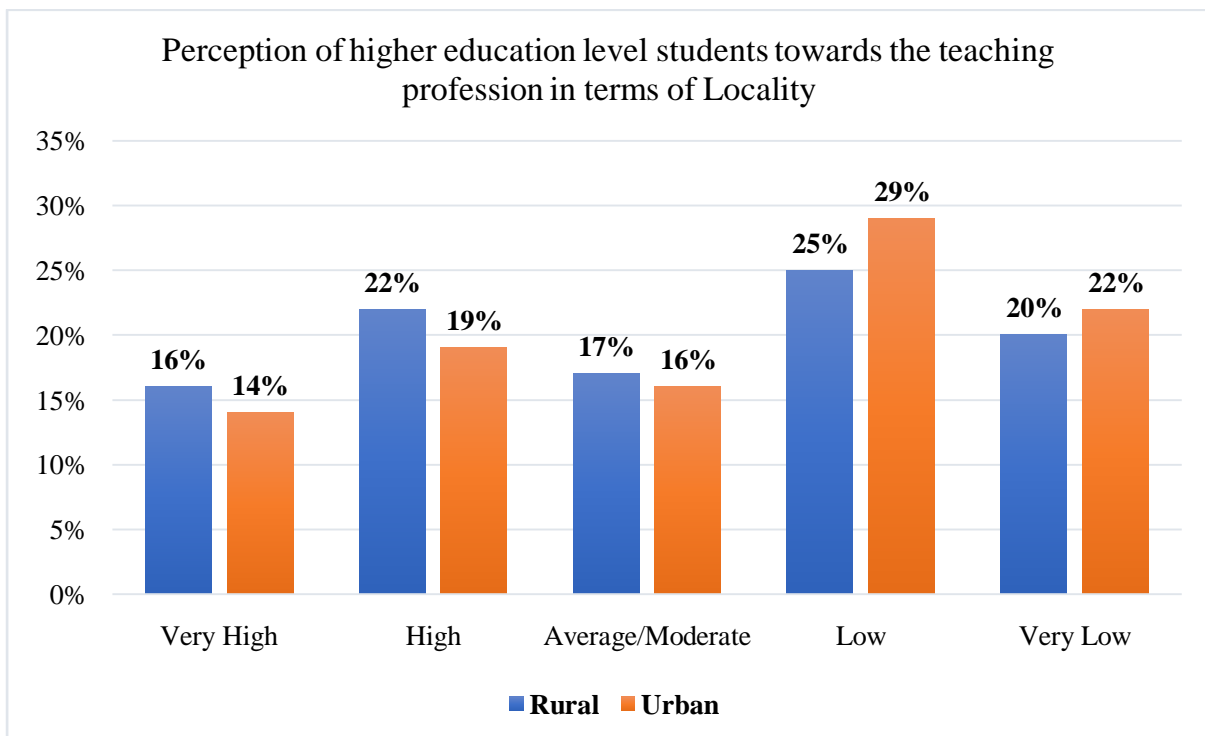


Figure 03: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Locality.

**Interpretation:** Table 3 shows the levels of perception of rural and urban higher education level students towards the teaching profession. Out of the total rural respondents 16% of respondents who have very high perception levels, 22 % have high perception levels, 17 % have average/moderate perception levels, 25 % have low perception, and 20 % have very low perception. Also, out of the total urban respondents, 14% of respondents have very high perception levels, 19 % have high perception levels, 16 % have average/moderate perception levels, 29 % have low perception, and 22 % have very low perception.

**Analysis of obj-4:** To study the level of perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Stream of education.

Table 04: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Stream of education.

Levels of Perception	No of respondent		Percentage (%)	
	Arts & humanities	Science	Arts & Humanities	Science
Very High	21	13	16	10
High	36	19	27	14
Average/Moderate	25	27	18	20
Low	31	42	23	31
Very Low	22	34	16	25
Total= 270	135	135	100	100

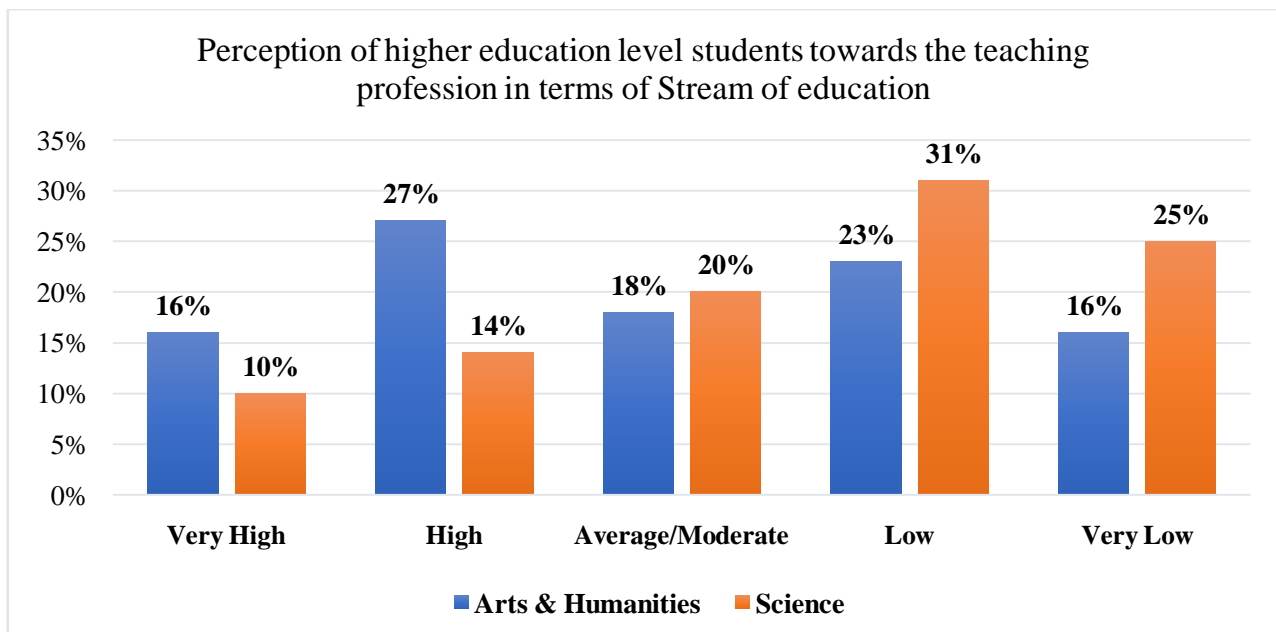


Figure 04: Perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of Stream of education.



**Interpretation:** Table 4 shows the levels of perception of rural and urban higher education level students towards the teaching profession. Out of the total Arts & Humanities respondents 16% of respondents who have very high perception levels, 27 % have high perception levels, 18 % have average/moderate perception levels, 23 % have low perception, and 16 % have very low perception. Also, out of the total science respondents, 10 % of respondents have very high perception levels, 14 % have high perception levels, 20 % have average/moderate perception levels, 31 % have low perception, and 25 % have very low perception.

**Analysis of obj-5:** To study the perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession in terms of selected dimensions.

**Dimension 01: Professional Satisfaction**

	Items	Percentage (%)				
		SA	A	UD	D	SD
1.	Teaching is a peaceful profession.	33.70	45.18	5.92	10.74	4.44
2.	The teaching profession gets a lot of love and respect from the students.	30.37	47.77	8.88	8.51	4.44
3.	Opportunity to work independently in the teaching profession.	25.55	31.11	28.51	8.88	5.92
4.	Childcare is not a problem in the teaching profession.	28.14	36.66	15.18	11.48	8.51
5.	Teaching is a very good profession as there is no transfer possibility like other professions.	25.18	39.25	20.37	9.25	5.92
6.	Feeling uncertain and insecure about future security in the teaching profession.	21.85	37.03	17.40	14.44	9.25
7.	Opportunities for professional development in the teaching profession.	22.59	36.66	21.11	12.22	7.40
8.	Teaching profession is a boring profession.	4.81	8.51	13.33	35.92	37.40
9.	Teaching is the only profession that makes future life fulfilling.	10.74	15.55	25.55	21.85	26.29
10.	Teaching profession is less stressful than other professions.	5.92	10.74	18.88	33.70	30.74
11.	One can work with self-esteem in the teaching profession.	29.25	39.25	15.18	9.259	7.03

**Dimension 02: Economic Satisfaction**

	Items	Percentage (%)				
		SA	A	UD	D	SD
12.	I am not interested in the teaching profession as there is no opportunity for extra income.	6.29	7.77	20.74	40.37	24.81
13.	Salary from the teaching profession is satisfactory.	20	40.37	12.96	18.14	8.51
14.	The way financial security is diminishing should not come into the teaching profession.	11.11	17.03	14.44	35.55	21.85



15.	There is no financial comfort in the teaching profession so the importance of this profession is decreasing.	7.03	8.88	22.59	29.25	32.22
16.	Teaching is a suitable profession as there is scope for salary increments in a regular manner.	9.62	16.66	25.18	31.85	16.66

**Dimension 03: Conceptual aspect**

	Items	Percentage (%)				
		SA	A	UD	D	SD
17.	The teaching profession sets the moral standards of the nation.	28.14	30	23.33	14.44	4.07
18.	Teaching develops character.	25.92	41.11	12.22	9.25	11.48
19.	Teaching is one of the professions for national development.	30	40	10.74	11.85	7.407
20.	Nowadays, people have a negative attitude towards the teaching profession in the society.	33.70	39.25	7.037	7.03	12.96
21.	Teachers have a great role in the progress of the society.	25.18	44.81	6.29	15.18	8.51
22.	The current situation in the teaching profession is very alarming.	27.40	49.25	8.88	8.51	5.92
23.	Currently, the future of the teaching profession is bright.	7.03	9.62	13.33	31.48	38.51
24.	There is an opportunity to work independently in the teaching profession.	25.55	40.37	10.74	14.81	8.51
25.	The teaching profession is quite risky nowadays.	10.74	12.96	15.18	24.44	36.66
26.	A teacher can improve many generations.	19.25	42.59	34.44	11.48	12.22
28.	Currently, the future of the teaching profession is bright.	8.88	12.22	12.59	31.11	35.18
29.	I consider the teaching profession suitable.	26.29	37.03	24.07	25.55	13.33
30.	The teaching profession is quite risky nowadays.	31.85	36.29	12.59	10.74	8.51
31.	This profession is a great profession.	35.92	40.74	7.77	8.51	7.03
32.	I will feel proud if I can be engaged in the teaching profession.	21.11	36.66	10.74	18.14	13.33
33.	I am not very optimistic about the future of the teaching profession.	34.07	39.62	6.66	11.11	8.51

**FINDINGS:**

Findings of the study are presented below according to objectives -

1. It has been found that most of the respondents have low levels (31%) and very low levels (22%) of perception toward the teaching profession and the rest of them have average/moderate perception

levels (22%), very high perception levels (28%), 14 % have high perception levels toward the teaching profession.

2. It has been found that female respondents have more very high (21%) and high (30%) perception levels than male respondents very high (11%) and high (26%) towards the teaching profession.
3. It has been found that rural respondents have more very high (16 %) and high (22 %) perception levels than urban respondents very high (14 %) and high (19 %) towards the teaching profession.
4. It has been found that Arts and humanities respondents have more very high (16 %) and high (27 %) perception levels than urban respondents very high (14 %) and high (20 %) towards the teaching profession.
5. It has been found that most of the respondents responded positively on all selected dimensions.

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

A very significant area explored in the present study was the perception of higher education level students towards the teaching profession, where it was found that most higher education level students displayed a lack of positive or favorable perception towards the teaching profession. Students were subdivided based on gender and showed differences in their level of perception. Males had less perception than females. This connotes that the perception of male students is more negative than that of female students. Also, Students were subdivided based on locality and showed differences in their level of perception. Urban had less perception than rural, and students' categories based on the stream of education showed differences in their level of perception, science students had less perception than arts and humanities.

A healthy student viewpoint regarding the teaching profession is required for an effective educational system. Students' viewpoint level will fall if they lose trust in the teaching profession and its contribution to the forming of mankind and generating development in a society; if the honour of the 'noblest of all' profession is not acknowledged and valued by the students. The current situation of students holding less favorable or positive impressions of the teaching profession is extremely problematic because it destroys the perception of the teaching profession.

### IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY:

According to the researcher, the importance of this investigation is mentioned below-

- Additional research on perception towards the teaching profession anticipated by this research.
- Through this research, the perception of higher education students towards the teaching profession will be known.
- This study will encourage prospective researchers to carry out research on undergraduate and trainee teachers.
- The result of this research enriched the field of policy and planning.
- The result of the study will add knowledge to the existing field of study.
- The result of the study acts as a review of the literature for future research.
- The result of the study will be helpful for the welfare of society.

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