

A Study on Student's Perception on Abroad Studies

**Aneesbhai Amjadbhai Multani¹, Shafaque Faiyaz Saiyed²,
Ms. Hiral Naik³**

^{1,2}Student, SRIMCA-MBA, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli, India

³Guide & Assistant Professor, SRIMCA-MBA, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli, India

ABSTRACT

This research project aims to delve into the diverse realm of perceptions of students about abroad studies. The study addresses the critical need for a comprehensive understanding of how individuals perceive and interpret various facets of abroad studies. By exploring the nuances of perception, we seek to unearth valuable insights that can inform strategic decision-making. The main objective is to investigate to what extent the perception of students towards studying abroad seems to fall in line with increased international focus present in the world of today. Student's main purpose of studying abroad is for better opportunities with highest returns and to boost financial condition. The objectives were To Study the student's perception of studying abroad & to identify factors that influence student's perception of studying abroad. Factors are Visa Process, Finance, Cultural Barriers, Language, Food & Accommodation.

In this study we determined that the most critical factor that mostly influence the respondent's decision regarding studying abroad is Affordability, Safety, Time Frame & Quality (Education & Living standards). It has observed that most of the students have fear/concern factors of Visa Processing and Finance for abroad study. In this case, more specifically, the study reveals that women are more concerned with specific factors such as visa processing and related to study abroad than their male counterparts.

INTRODUCTION

Study abroad is an educational opportunity that involves pursuing college studies in a foreign country. Students can attend lectures, carry out research, or participate in an exchange program. Study abroad programs can last several weeks or months. Students typically live in a residence hall, apartment, or with a local family. Studying abroad can help students develop practical cross-cultural skills, resourcefulness, flexibility, and initiative. These skills can set students apart when competing for positions in graduate and professional schools or jobs. Study overseas applications are academic journey applications in which college students spend numerous weeks or months residing and reading in an overseas country. High school students who take part in these programs are likely to live with host families during their stay.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. (Dorji, 2023) "A Study on the Factors Influencing NRC Students Perception to Study Abroad".

The objective of this research was to explore the perception of Norbuling Rigter College students

1 & 2 Student, SRIMCA-MBA, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli, India.

3 (Guide & Mentor) Assistant Professor, SRIMCA-MBA, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli, India.

toward studying abroad. This research aims to explore the perception of Norbuling Rigter College (NRC)

2. **(Carmen Rodriguez Santos, 2021) “The Study Abroad Experience, Attitude Formation, and Academic Performance in Ireland”**. There was an increasing focus on the internationalization of higher education. The objective of this research was ‘This paper sets out to develop a conceptual framework to illuminate the factors that impact and influence the decision-making process of international students when seeking a period of study abroad.
3. **(Pankaj Salhotra, 2020) “Student's perception toward higher education in abroad”**. A study with special reference to Jalandhar City Punjab. The objective of this study was to understand the student psychology toward higher education abroad, the present research aims to study student’s perception toward higher education abroad.
4. **(Khushbu Agarwal, 2019) “A study on the factors influencing student’s choice decisions to study abroad in Ranchi and Jamshedpur”**. The objective of this article was to investigate the criteria used by students to select a country and institution for higher education and to identify the factors influencing the choice decision to study abroad of the Indian students based in Ranchi & Jamshedpur.
5. **(Kavitha Haldorai, 2017) “Determinants of study-abroad decisions among Indian students”**. The objective of this study was to determine the pre-decision factors that motivate Indian students to seek education outside India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

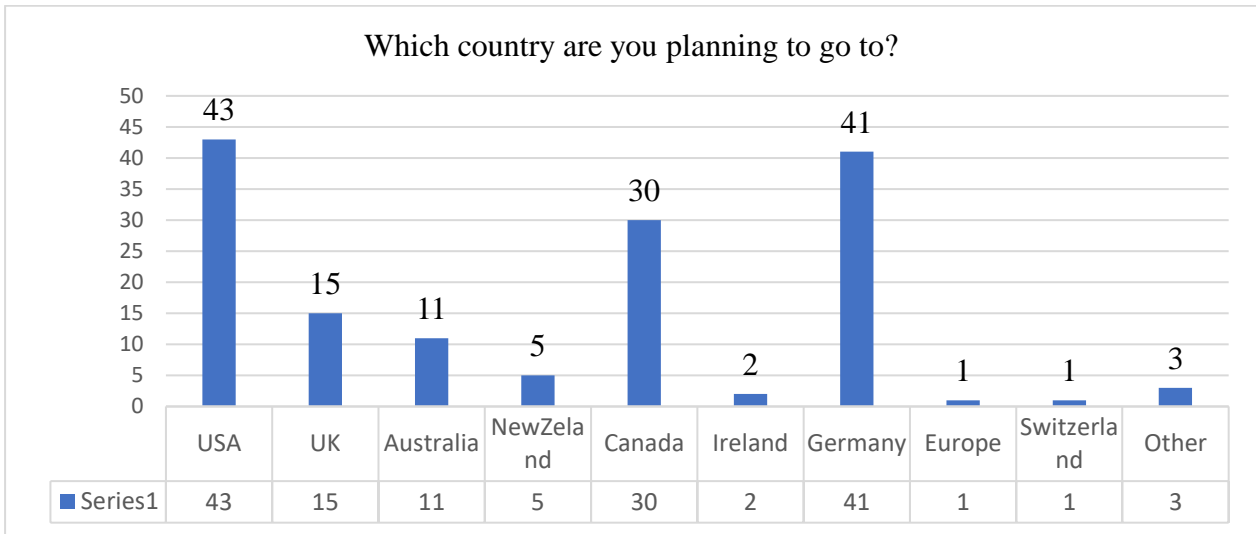
- To Study the student's perception towards studying abroad.
 - To find the association between Fear/Concern Factors and Demographic Variables
- Factors are - Visa Process, Finance, Cultural Barriers, Language, Food, Accommodation.
Demographic variables are - Stream, Gender.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used in the study of student’s perception on abroad studies is Descriptive Research to describe the characteristics of a population and phenomenon being studied. Primary data was collected using structured questionnaire seeking response from the students. The data for forming a basic understanding of the study was taken from various journals and past research papers, and further understanding of topic information from various websites was taken. The data collection tool used in the study was a structured questionnaire developed to meet the objectives The data has been collected from the students through an online survey and by structured questionnaire for the study. In this research Convenience Sampling Method is used for collecting the response. Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling method that involves collecting data from a group of people who are easily accessible to the researcher. The Sample size was 152 respondents for research purposes as those respondents were interested for abroad studies.

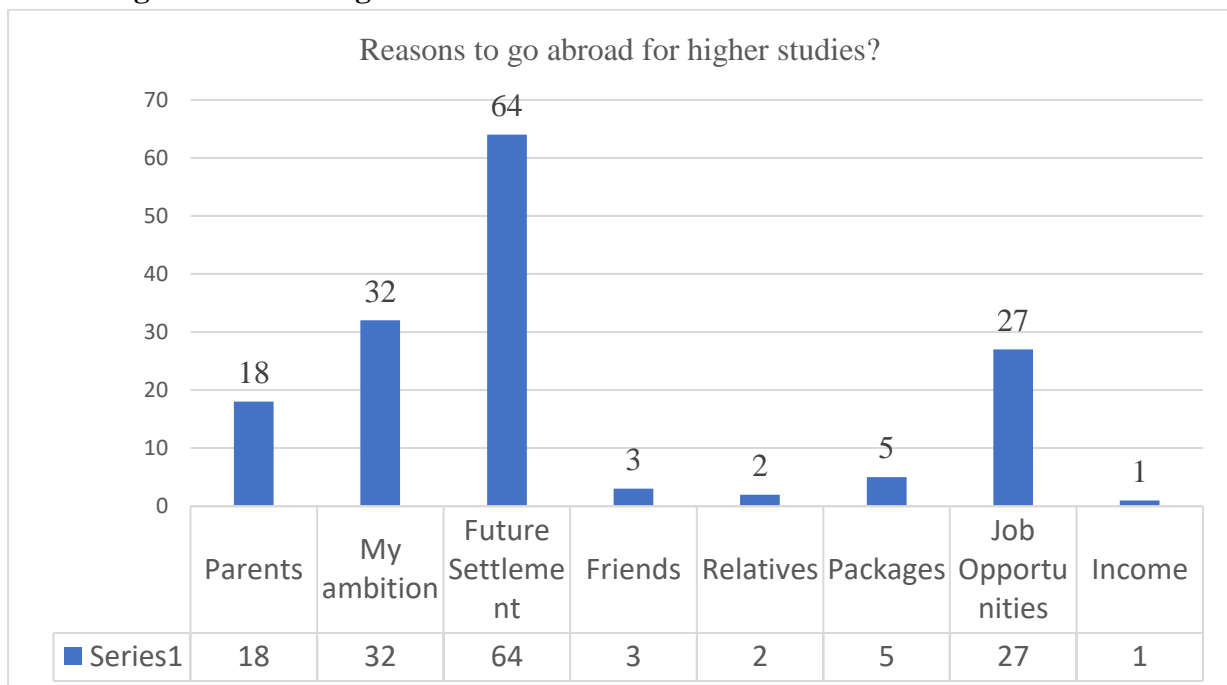
ANALYSIS

1. Country in which Respondent plan to go.



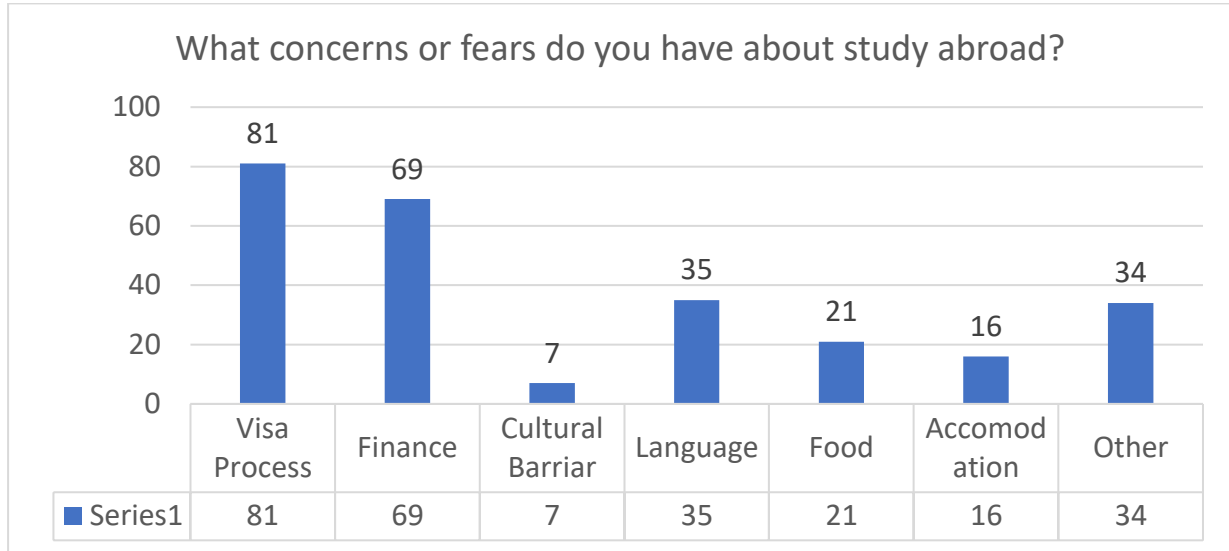
Interpretation: From the above figure it is observed that most of the respondent are planning to go to USA that is 43 (28.3%) of total respondent, 41 (27%) of the respondents are planning to go to Germany, 30 (19.7%) of the respondent are planning to go to Canada, 15 (9.9%) of the respondents are planning to go to UK, and the rest of the other countries are least preferred by the respondents that are Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Europe, Switzerland.

2. Reasons to go abroad for higher studies.



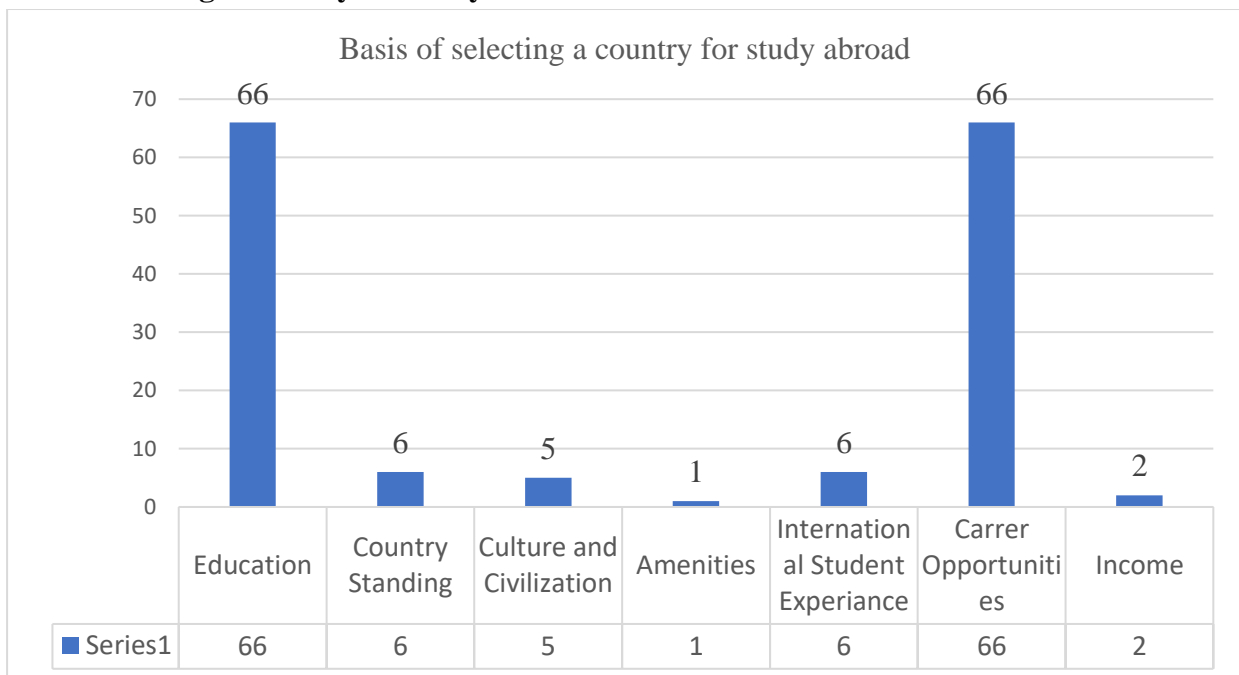
Interpretation - From the above figure it is observed that 64 (42.1%) of the respondent go for abroad study for the reason of future settlement, 32 (21.1%) of the respondent go for abroad study for fulfilling their ambition, 27 (17.8%) of respondent go for abroad study for the reason of job opportunities in abroad. Rest of the respondent go for abroad study for the reason of friend, relatives, package, income.

3. Concern/Fear Factors about study abroad.



Interpretation - From the above figure it is observed that 81 (53.3%) of respondent have fear of visa processing for abroad study, 69 (45.4%) of respondent have concern of finance, 35 (23%) of respondent have fear of language barrier, 16 (10%) & 21 (13.8%) of respondent have fear of food and accommodation, 7 (4.6%) of respondent have fear of cultural barriers.

4. Basis of selecting a country for study abroad.



Interpretation - From the above figure it is observed that 66 (43.4%) of respondent select country on the basis of education and the same percentage of respondent select country on the basis of career opportunities, both country standing and international students experience each have the same percentage of respondents that is 6 (3.9%), other reasons of selecting country are cultural and civilization, amenities, income are preferred by few of the respondent.

5. Chi-square of “Gender” to “Fear/Concerns factors”

Hypothesis -

H₀; There is no significant association between gender and fear/concern factors.

H₁; There is significant association between gender and fear/concern factors.

Cross Tab

Gender	Visa Process	Finance	Cultural Barriers	Language	Food	Accommodation	Others
Male	39	27	3	21	14	8	19
Female	42	42	4	14	7	8	15

Chi-Square

Pearson Chi-Square	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Visa Process	.001 ^a	1	0.974
Finance	4.006 ^a	1	0.045
Cultural Barriers	.079 ^a	1	0.779
Language	2.612 ^a	1	0.106
Foods	3.392 ^a	1	0.066
Accommodation	.028 ^a	1	0.867
Others	1.083 ^a	1	0.298

Interpretation

- Here, it has been observed that significant test value for fear/concern factors is more than 0.05, hence the null hypothesis is Fail to Reject. That means there is no significant association between gender and fear/concern factors.
- Here, it has been observed that significant test value for fear/concern factor “Finance” is less than 0.05, hence the null hypothesis is Rejected. That means there is significant association between gender and fear/concern factor “Finance”.

6. Chi-square of “Gender” to “Basis of selection of country”

Hypothesis -

H₀; There is no significant association between gender and basis of selection of country.

H₁; There is significant association between gender and basis of selection of country.

Cross Tab

On what basis would you select a country for study abroad?

	Education	Country Standing	Culture and Civilization	Amenities	International Student Experience	Carrer Opportunities	Income	Total
Male	34	4	3	1	4	27	0	73
Female	32	2	2	0	2	39	2	79
	66	6	5	1	6	66	2	152

Chi-Square

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.549 ^a	6	.365
Likelihood Ratio	7.737	6	.258
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.128	1	.145
N of Valid Cases	152		

Interpretation –

Here, it has been observed that significant test value for basis of selection of country is more than 0.05, hence the null hypothesis is Fail to Reject. That means there is no significant association between gender and basis of selection of country.

7. Chi-square of “Stream” to “Reflection on CV”

Hypothesis -

H₀; There is no significant association between Stream and Reflection on CV.

H₁; There is significant association between Stream and Reflection on CV.

Cross Tab

	Do you Perceive that reflection of your studies abroad is important for your resume?					Total
	Extremely Important	Important	Moderately Important	Least Important	Doesn't make any difference	
Science	2	4	1	1	0	8
Commece	2	2	2	0	2	8
Medical	18	17	5	1	1	42
Management	1	5	0	0	0	6
IT	37	37	6	1	0	81
Paramedical	2	5	0	0	0	7
	62	70	14	3	3	152

Chi-Square

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	39.260 ^a	20	.006
Likelihood Ratio	24.786	20	.210
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.623	1	.006
N of Valid Cases	152		

Interpretation –

Here, it has been observed that significant test value for Reflection on CV is Less than 0.05, hence the null hypothesis is Rejected. That means there is significant association between Stream and Reflection on CV

8. Your study abroad purpose.

Your study abroad purpose	Frequency	Percent
It will boost my financial condition	52	34.2
It will enhance my exposure and understanding of the world	21	13.8
It will give me opportunities to work for better returns	49	32.2
It will take me to global platforms	16	10.5
It will make me understand my self by exposing to diversity	14	9.2
Total	152	100

Interpretation - From the above figure it is observed that 52 (34.2%) of the respondent believe that study will boost their financial condition, 49 (32.2%) of the respondent believe that It will give them opportunities to work for better returns, 21 (13.8%) of the respondent believe that It will enhance my exposure and understanding of the world, 16 (10.5%) of the respondent believe that It will take them to global platforms, 14 (9.2 %) of the respondent believe that It will make them understand their self by exposing to diversity.

9. You agree with the most regarding the study abroad.

You agree with the most regarding the study abroad.	Frequen cy	Perce nt
Contact with individuals with different backgrounds	32	21.1
I enjoy taking courses that challenge my beliefs and values	46	30.3
I enjoy courses that make me think about things from a different perspective	36	23.7
Learning about people from different cultures is a very important part of my education	37	24.3
Other	1	0.7
Total	152	100

Interpretation - From the above figure it is observed that 46 (30.3%) of the respondent feels that they enjoy taking courses that challenge their beliefs and values, 37 (24.3%) respondents agree with Learning about people from different cultures is a very important part of their education, 36 (23.7%) respondents agreed that they enjoy courses that make them think about things from a different perspective, 32 (21.1%) respondents agreed that study abroad can help to make Contact with individuals with different backgrounds.

FINDINGS

- Females are comparatively more interested than males for abroad studies.
- Students from IT sector is in more number for abroad studies, Followed by medical stream students.
- Students Pursuing bachelors are more eager to go abroad then others as for doing masters.
- Most preferred country by students to go abroad is USA followed by Germany and Canada.
- Fees of students, who will go abroad will be sponsored majorly by Parents and some will bear it by taking Loan and Institutional Financial Support.
- Primary objective of students to go abroad is future settlement and Job Opportunities.
- Half of the Students are not preparing for any exam, out of rest, some have given IELTS.
- The major Fear/Concern factors among students who are willing to go abroad is Visa-Process followed by Financial Problems and rest.
- Usually, the parameter on which candidate select country for proceed is Carrer opportunity available and Education in that particular country.
- Perception of respondent is that reflection of the studying abroad is important for their Resume.
- It is understood that, perception of students regarding study abroad is about getting cultural exposure, career opportunities with highest returns, and future settlement.
- Most of the students agreed that they enjoy taking course that challenge their beliefs and values.
- Students perceive that Affordability of foreign studies is most influential factor followed by Time

frame of Process and Course, Safety and least influential is quality of Life and Education while making decision about abroad studies

- Among the fears/concern factors i.e. Visa Process, Finance, Cultural Barrier, Language, Foods, Accommodation, only Finance is the factor that is indifferent on basis of Gender.
- Perception of country selection by students is not differentiated by gender, i.e. irrespective of gender, basis for country selection is Education and Career opportunities.
- Irrespective of gender, every student perceives that it is important to have reflection of abroad study in their resume.

CONCLUSION

The main objective is to investigate to what extent the perception of students towards studying abroad seems to fall in line with increased international focus present in the world of today. Student's main purpose of studying abroad is for better opportunities with highest returns and to boost financial condition. In this study we determined that the most critical factor that mostly influence the respondent's decision regarding studying abroad is Affordability, Safety, Time Frame & Quality (Education & Living standards). It has observed that most of the students have fear/concern factors of Visa Processing and Finance for abroad study. In this case, more specifically, the study reveals that women are more concerned with specific factors such as visa processing and related to study abroad than their male counterparts.

Generally, Females have shown greater preparedness for studying abroad than Males. Students mostly opted to travel to popular countries such as USA, Canada, UK, Australia.

Chi-square test has used for identifying significant association between Gender & Fear/Concern Factors; hence it is concluded that there is no significant association between gender and Fear/Concerns Factors.

This Research has shown that increasing number of students have realized that study abroad will enhance their career options when they enter a marketplace requiring knowledge and skills beyond those taught at home. The results of the current study reveal that studying abroad is a better choice for bachelors and master's program. The study has provided with why students want to go abroad for higher studies the reasons are future settlement, fulfilling their ambition, and career opportunities.

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