ASPIRANTS

(Use of Sampling Technique in any web series)

**Barnali Das | Bindu J | Durgesh Kinnekar | Archana Jaikumar Nair
Sneha M | Neha Mumbaikar**

Abstract :

Aspirants is a popular web series about the life of UPSC aspirants. The following report is about the use of statistics in the aspirant web series. The main focus of the project was on how the main characters of the series TVF aspirants resemble the general people. The analysis was done by using the appropriate graphs for the collected data. It shows how the qualities of characters of a web series are picked up from observing the general people.

Background:

The write up is about the resemblance of characters of the web series to general people; this project is a part of Experiential Learning activity for students of Batch 2021, Symbiosis Statistical Institute. The qualities of the characters of a web series are chosen by observing the people. The investigation of the qualities of people connecting to the characters' qualities was carried out through a survey.

Objectives:

The main objectives of this project are:
- To analyse the distinctive approach of the four main characters in the series.
- To examine how the population within the age group of 16-40 resemble the show's characters.
- To understand how we, the group members, resemble the main characters.

Methodology:

❖ Target Population

The study focuses on citizens of India who fulfil the age criterion of a UPSC aspirant.
Inclusion criterion:
➢ Individuals in the age group of 16-40 years.
Exclusion criterion:
➢ Individuals below 16 years and above 40 years.
➢ Individuals living outside India.

❖ Sample size and sampling technique

A 3-stage study was conducted using different sampling techniques. The 3-stage study involved:
- ➢ Analyzing the positive and negative approaches of each character of the series.
- ➢ Identifying the most consistent character in the series.
- ➢ Conducting a personality test for each member of the group.

Sampling techniques used:
- ➢ Snowball sampling was used to conduct a personality survey among the target population with the help of a network of friends and acquaintances using Google Forms.
- ➢ The dialogues in the series were stratified according to characters where each character forms a stratum.
- ➢ Purposive/ judgemental sampling technique was used to collect each character's positive and negative dialogues throughout the series.

❖ Survey questionnaire:

A questionnaire consisting of a personality test was circulated, and the sample was asked questions related to their temperament, attitude and response to different situations faced in life.A total of 196 responses were collected within the stipulated time.

Overview of the proposed empirical research study :

Analysis of the usage of sampling techniques in the web series was performed, which involved three major aspects. We chose a top-rated show, "Aspirants", and tried to analyze it the best way possible using the different sampling techniques. The three significant aspects are:
- ● Performed a personality analysis among the group members to identify each of us to the main character of the series through a Personality Survey.
- ● Performed a personality analysis on the sample obtained to identify the sample. To find out the youth resembles which character the most in the show.
- ● Performed a sentiment analysis on the dialogues of the series of 4 main characters and tried to identify the positive and negative approaches of the characters episode wise and throughout the season.

For the analysis we prepared a questionnaire and circulated it among our target population. Snowball sampling technique was used to approach our samples. After obtaining the data, data was cleaned, descriptive analysis was done, and contingency tables were made to draw better conclusions. For the dialogue analysis, purpose and stratified sampling were done, and for each stratum, the number of positive and negative dialogues were obtained from each episode. The application of statistical knowledge to real-life problems enhanced the objective analysis of facts and helped us understand the different sampling techniques.

Student Analysis

Objective 1: To analyse the distinctive approach of the four main characters in the series.

Character: Abhilash

Abhilash is the main character around whom the story revolves. He is an IAS aspirant who is about to give his 4th and final attempt of his preliminary exam. Six years later, he is shown as an IAS officer.
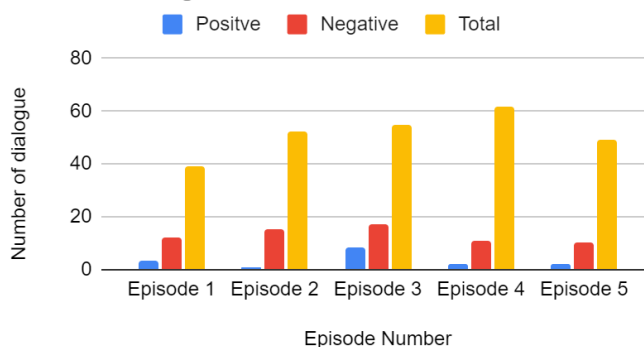
Number of Positive and Negative Dialogues by Abhilash
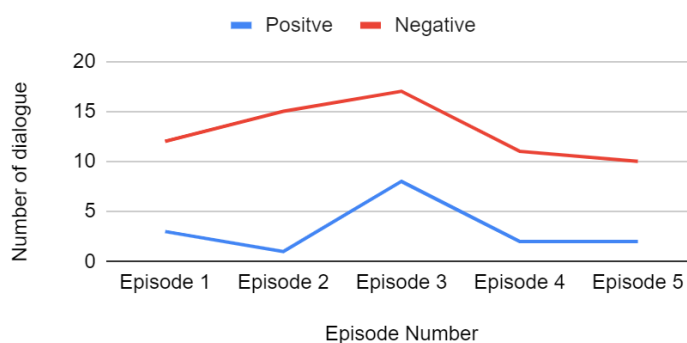
Graph 1.1.1

Throughout the series, it is observed that Abhilash has a pessimistic approach towards life. It can be seen from the graph (1.1.1) the same. The line graph clearly shows that Abhilash has more negative dialogues in every episode. In the story, Abhilash makes an effort to change his approach, which is evident from the line graph (see Episode 3) due to some advice given by Sandeep. However, this does not bring any significant change in his approach, as the chart clearly shows. But the series ends with a note that Abhilash has changed his course, which again was inspired by Sandeep.

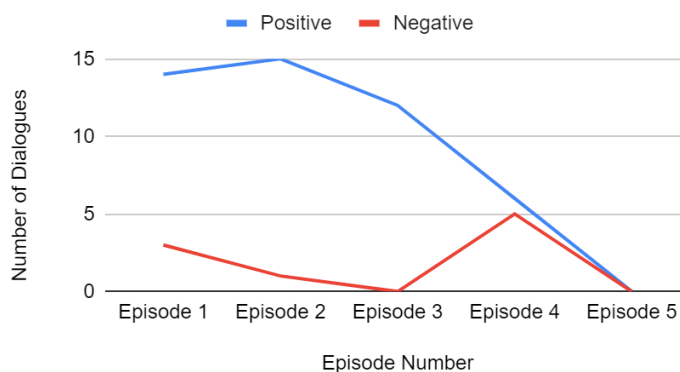### Positve, Negative and Total

Graph 1.1.2

The bar graph shows the count of positive, negative and total dialogues of the character in the series. Out of the total dialogues from which inferences can be made, which refers to the sum of positive and negative dialogues (excluding neutral dialogues), it is observed that 80.25% dialogues were negative and only 19.75% dialogues were positive.

Character: SK

The full name of SK in the TVF Aspirants is Shvetketu Jha. He is one of the main characters in the series. He is an IAS aspirant who is giving his 4th attempt at the UPSC exam. After six years, he became a UPSC teacher and seemed to be satisfied with his job.
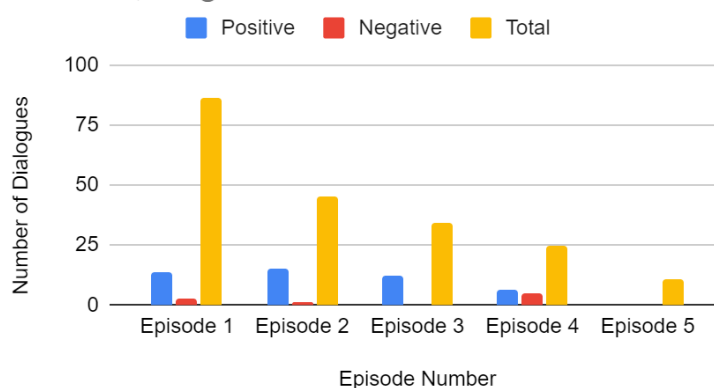

Graph 1.2.1

The line graph shows how the character's approach changed through the course of the series. The number of positive dialogues is consistently greater than the number of negative dialogues, but by Episode 4, both positive and negative dialogues are almost the same in number.
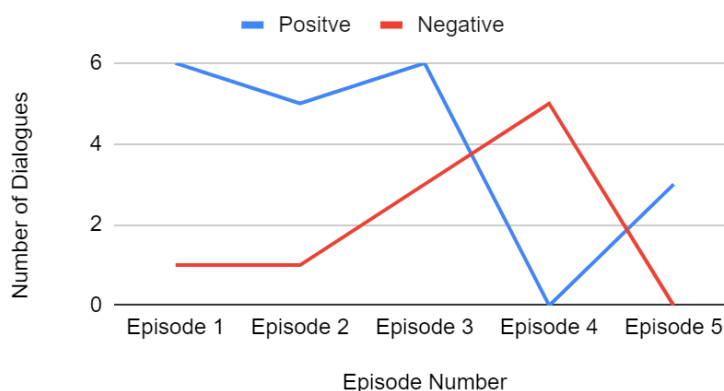

Graph 1.2.2

The bar graph shows the count of positive, negative and total dialogues of the character in the series. It is evident from the chart that the character, SK, consistently has a positive approach

though the level of positivity declines through the show. For the character SK, out of the total dialogues from which inferences can be made, which refers to the sum of positive and negative dialogues (excluding neutral dialogues), it is observed that 83.92% of dialogues indicate positivity or a positive view of the situation.

Character: Guri

Guri is one of the main characters of the series; he is also an IAS aspirant. He wanted to become an IAS because he felt IAS is the most influential person in India. He is the most carefree person among the three. After six years, he is a successful businessman and is getting married.
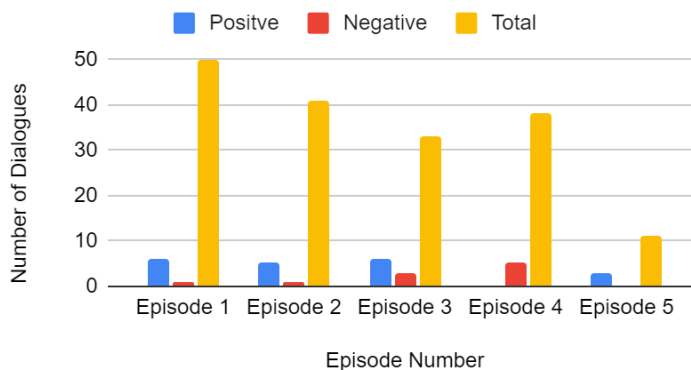

Graph 1.3.1

The line graph(1.3.1) shows how the character Guri developed through the course of the story and the changes in his approach. The variations in the count of the positive and negative dialogues show the changing circumstances in the plot of the series and the character responds to it. It can be observed that during the first three episodes, the count of positive dialogues outweigh the negative dialogues but this changes in Episode 4 and again in Episode 5.
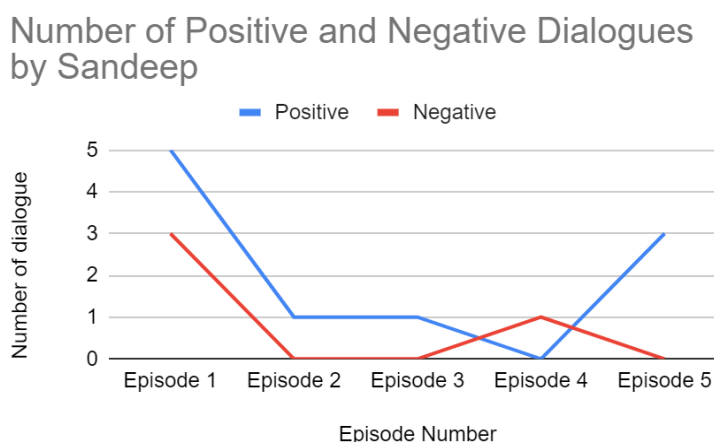

Graph 1.3.2

The bar graph shows the number of positive, negative and total (including neutral) dialogues of the character in the series. It is observed that the character, in general, has a positive approach but changes drastically according to the circumstances of the story; this can be observed from the Episode 4 plot in the above graph. Out of the total dialogues from which inferences can be made, which refers to the sum of positive and negative dialogues (excluding neutral dialogues) for the character, 66.66% positive dialogues.
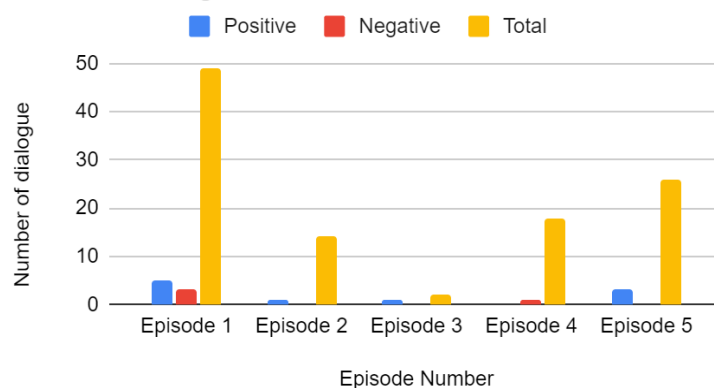
Character: Sandeep

Sandeep, also known as Sandeep bhaiya, is also an IAS aspirant making his final attempt. He is the character that everyone else looks up to; the one anyone turns to when they need guidance. Six years down the road, we see him as a Civil Servant who has cleared his PSC exams after not clearing the final attempt for UPSC.

Graph 1.4.1

If we look at the graph(1.4.1), Sandeep mostly tries to have a positive approach. As we see in the 1st Episode, he has a few negative dialogues, which is because initially, he appears to be closed off and non-interactive, but this changes by the end of the episode where we get to know the character more and see that in fact, he is a positive character. In Episodes 2 and 3, we see that he has no negative dialogues at all, but in the 4th Episode, he is going through some personal problems during which he has a negative approach. In the final episode, we see the development that has happened to the character over the past six years and how he has accepted the mistakes he made with his family and made an effort to move forward, to do things better.

Graph 1.4.2

The bar graph shows the proportion of positive, negative and total (including neutral) dialogues of the character in the series. It is evident that the character, Sandeep, has the majority of dialogues labelled as neutral but comparatively, the count of positive dialogues is more than the negative ones. This proposition is confirmed by the fact that the percentage of positive dialogues for this character which is calculated by taking the sum of positive dialogues and negative dialogues as the denominator, that is, neutral dialogues are excluded, is 71.42%.

Percentage Analysis Comparing the Main Characters:

The following table shows the count of positive, negative and neutral dialogues of each character. Also, it demonstrates the methodology used to calculate the percentage of positive dialogues in an unbiased manner.

Character	Positive Dialogues (A)	Negative Dialogues (B)	Neutral Dialogues (N)	Total Dialogues (C) = A + B + N	Total Dialogues (D) = A + B	Percentage of Positive dialogues (A/D * 100)	Percentage of Negative dialogues (B/D*100)
Abhilash	16	65	176	257	81	19.75%	80.25%
SK	47	9	145	201	56	83.92%	16.08%
Guri	20	10	143	173	30	66.66%	33.33%
Sandeep	10	4	95	109	14	71.42%	28.58%

It can be observed that Abhilash is the character with the highest proportion of negative dialogues (80.25% negative dialogues), and SK is the character with the highest proportion of positive dialogues (83.92% positive dialogues).

Objective 2: To analyze how the population within the age group of 16-40 resemble the characters of the show.

We created a questionnaire and circulated it among our population through a snowball sampling technique to obtain our sample to analyse the population. After getting the samples, we analysed the responses of each question and tried to observe question wise our sample resembles to which character in the series.
After analysing question-wise, we tried to understand which character has been the most consistent, and our sample resembles which character in the series overall. So we collected the responses in the form of a contingency table and drew a multi-bar diagram showcasing the most consistent responses of the character in the series.

Contingency table representing the responses question wise of each character in the series.

Characters					
	Abhilash	Dhairya	SK	Guri	Sandeep
Q1	0	55	24	96	22
Q2	17	32	87	45	9
Q3	66	36	31	24	7
Q4	65	33	10	1	81
Q5	39	39	6	25	55
Q6	25	22	45	74	24
Q7	17	25	79	27	42
Q8	12	48	11	23	70
Q9	38	41	41	22	22
Q10	27	72	15	3	28
Total	306	403	349	340	360

Multi bar Diagram Representing the character resemblance of our sample
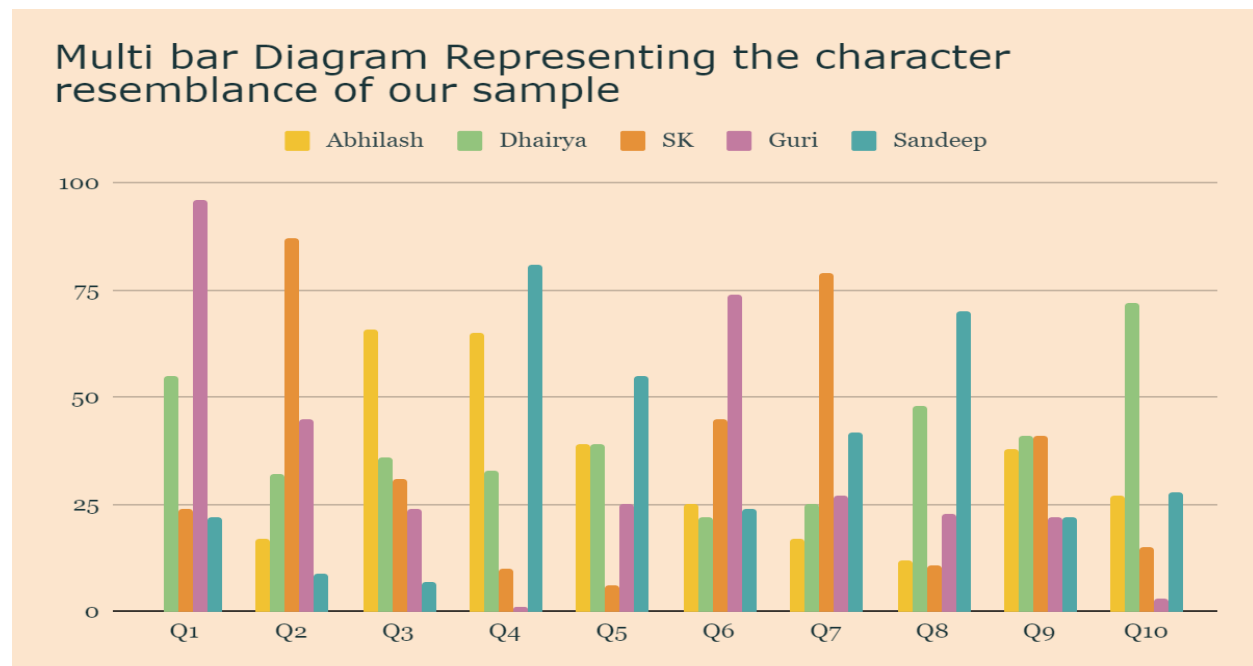
Through the multi-bar diagram, we can clearly observe that the Green colour bar has been the most consistent and the among top 3 responses in each question which represents Chairya's character in the series and through this descriptive analysis, we can clearly state that our sample resembles Dhairya's character and hence our target population corresponds to Dhairya's character of the Aspirants series.

Objective 3: Resemblance of group members with the main characters

Personality Survey of Group Members
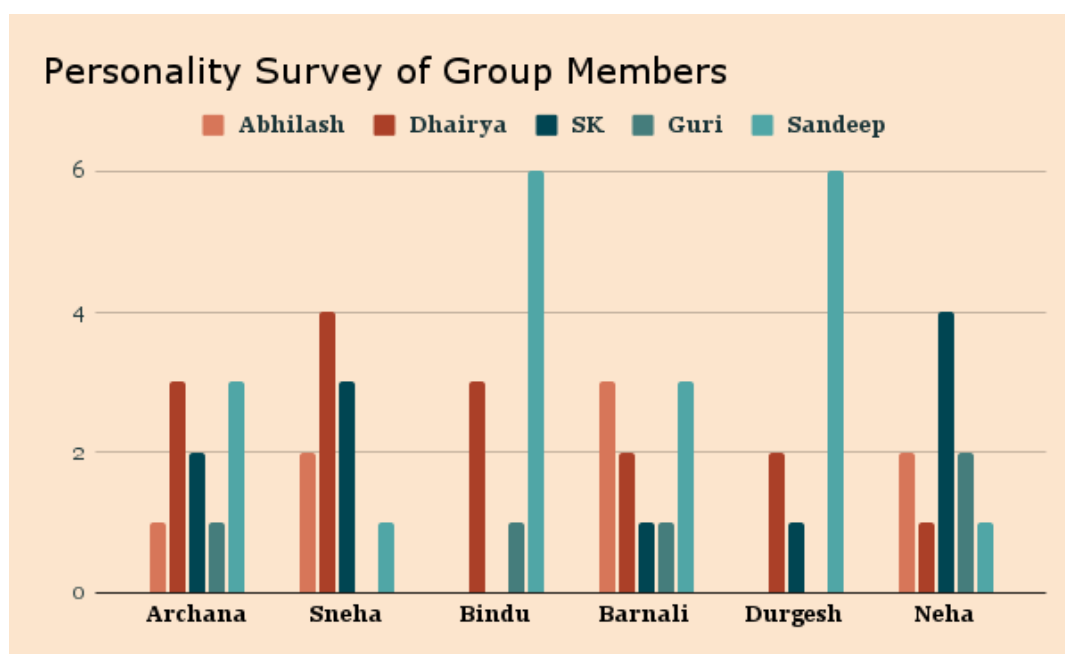
Multiple bar diagrams representing the frequencies of different character personalities for each member of the group.

	Archana	Sneha	Bindu	Barnali	Durgesh	Neha
Abhilash	1	2	0	3	0	2
Dhairya	3	4	3	2	2	1
SK	2	3	0	1	1	4
Guri	1	0	1	1	0	2
Sandeep	3	1	6	3	6	1

Contingency table representing the frequencies of different character personalities for each member of the group.

Each of the 6 group members took the personality test, and their responses were analysed to identify the dominant characteristic personality in each member. The five main characters of the series are Abhilash, Dhairya, SK, Guri and Sandeep bhaiya. Group members Durgesh and Bindu, with a substantial majority of 6 responses, portrayed the personality of Sandeep bhaiya, Sneha portrayed the personality of Dhairya with a majority of 4 responses, Barnali portrayed a combination of the personalities of Abhilash and Sandeep bhaiya with a majority of 3 responses each, Neha portrayed the personality of SK with a majority of 4 responses and Archana portrayed a combination of the personalities of Dhairya and Sandeep bhaiya with a majority of 3 responses each.

LIMITATIONS

- In snowball sampling, the sampling technique used for a personality survey, the respondents mainly depend on the previous respondents; hence the investigator has no control over the sampling method.
- The respondents of the personality survey may include students who are not severe or genuine UPSC aspirants, as portrayed in the web series.
- As the researchers have no idea about the actual distribution of the population, the sample may not be a perfect representative of the target population.
- Dialogue analysis can be affected by sampling bias as the sampling technique depends on the individual judgement of the researchers.

SCOPE OF IMPROVEMENT

- The categorisation of dialogues could be more accurate if the researchers defined the classification criteria clearly and distinctly.
- The sample size for the personality survey can be increased to get a perfectly representative sample of the population and extract more information.
- The process of sampling and analysing dialogues could have been more efficient if the script or screenplay of the web series had been available.

CONCLUSION

- Using the dialogue analysis, we analyzed the distinctive approach of the four main characters in the series "The Aspirants". From this analysis we conclude that SK had 83.92% of positive dialogues showing that he was the most optimistic character in the series. Sandeep bhaiya had 71.42% of positive dialogues. Guri had 66.66% of positive dialogues. Abhilash showed a 19.75% in positive dialogues and 80.25% in negative dialogues, thus concluding that he had the most negative approach in life and showed a strong pessimistic trait in the series.
- From the data obtained in the survey we conducted, we analyzed how the target population within the age group of 16-40 resemble the show's characters. We conclude that the target population mostly resembles the Dhairya's character.
- Using the survey, we wanted to analyze how we, the group, resembled the main characters. All group members showed some small traits of Sandeep and Dhariya. Group members Durgesh and Bindu resembled the personality of Sandeep bhaiya. Sneha resembled the character Dhariya in the series. Barnali resembled a combination of personalities of characters Abhilash and Sandeep bhaiya. Neha resembled the character of SK and Archana resembled a combination of personalities of Dhariya and Sandeep bhaiya.

REFERENCES

- "Aspirants" web series from TVF on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Kl1ucZuSZ8&list=RDCMUCNJcSUSzUeFm8W9 P7UUlSeQ&start_radio=1&rv =0Kl1ucZuSZ8&t=508
- "Money Heist" Quiz: Which Two Characters Are You Most Like? (buzzfeed.com)