

Original Research Article

ASPIRATION OF RURAL YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS

ABSTRACT

Youth are the most potent segment of the population of a country. Today's youth are the hope of the future. They are the real spirit of future agriculture. Young people look not only for their own livelihood, but also for the dignity and purpose in life. Young people make up about one fifth of the population in most countries in the developing world and the economy. It is a well-known fact that few young people engage in agriculture, although the majority of rural youth have the energy and enthusiasm to do well in agriculture and allied jobs. In this context, it is worthwhile to know the aspirations of youth in agriculture and allied activities. Keeping this in view, a study was conducted in Warangal district of Telangana state with a total sample of 120 youth who are selected using simple random sampling technique. The data was collected from primary sources with structured interview schedule. The study employed descriptive statistics and rank order method to analyse the data. The study indicated that majority (41.6%) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (35.0%) and low (23.4%). Among male youth nearly half (46.6%) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (30.0%) and low (23.4%). Among female youth 40.0 per cent of the youth belonged to medium level of aspiration category followed by high (36.6%) and low (23.4%).

Key words : Youth in agriculture, Aspiration

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture remains critical to the economic development of most if not all developing countries across the globe. The agricultural future of most developing countries may be bleak if the bulk of the production efforts are left in the hands of aged subsistent farmers who presently constitute the major farming population. This is because the productivity level of the aged farmers cannot meet the food and fiber needs of the rapidly growing population. Consequently, fostering youth involvement in agriculture is fundamental. Youth are an important and vital segment of human resources that can shoulder the responsibility of development including agriculture.

It is imperative for the nation to produce food not only to feed its one billion plus human population but also for an equal number of livestock. At this juncture young minds with creativity

and achievement motivation seemingly can handle impossible tasks such as climate change adaptation and mitigation and enduring malnutrition. Generally, youth are willing to adopt new ideas and technologies and therefore they can easily transform the present status of farming. The youth could be the ideal catalyst to change the poor image of persons involved in farming, especially in the rural communities given their greater possibility to adapt new ideas, concept and technology which are all important to changing the way farming is practiced and perceived. The only way to stop youth from leaving the villages is by ensuring better economic prospects for them in farming and improving the quality of life in the rural belt.

Conventionally, period from adolescence to middle age is termed as youth. Age constitute the determining characteristics in the definition of Youth by various agencies. UN adopted the age group 15 to 24 for defining youth. The National Youth Policy initially in (2003) defined the youth as in the age group 13-35. However, National Youth Policy, 2014 modified it and defined 'youth' as persons in the age group of 15-29 years.

According to 'World Population Prospects: The 2015 revision' Population Database of United Nations Population Division, India has the world's highest number of youths, with 242 million-despite having a smaller population than China, which has 185 million young people. As per India's Census 2011, Youth (15-24 years) in India constitutes one-fifth (19.1%) of India's total population.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Savitha (2011) in her study on Participation of rural youth in agriculture revealed that majority (80.00%) of the rural male youth participated in ploughing, followed by FYM broadcasting (73.33%), cleaning (60.00%), leveling (53.33%) and 31.67 per cent of rural male youth were participated in clod crushing.

Hadagali Vishwanath (2013) in his study on a study on Aspirations and participation of rural youth practicing agriculture and allied activities found about overall participation that as high as 41.01 per cent of rural youth had high level of participation in agriculture, whereas, 34.16 and 25.83 per cent of them were having medium and low level of participation, respectively.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ex-post-facto research design was adopted for the study. Warangal district of Telangana state was selected. Four mandals in the district and 3 villages from each mandal were selected using simple random sampling technique. Thus, a total of 12 villages were selected. From each village 10 respondents were selected using simple random sampling technique thus constituting 120 respondents for the study.

Level of Aspiration was measured with the help of schedule developed for study. To facilitate, obtaining clear responses from the youths, seven items of aspiration were provided. A score of '1' was given to each of responses provided for seven items of aspiration. Finally, the scores of all the items were added to get the aspiration score. The maximum score that one could get was '11'. Later the respondents were grouped into three categories by using quartile deviation based on the scores obtained.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

It is evident from table 1 that majority (41.6%) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (35.0%) and low (23.4%).

Among male youth nearly half (46.6%) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (30.0%) and low (23.4%).

Among female youth 40.0 per cent of the youth belonged to medium level of aspiration category followed by high (36.6%) and low (23.4%).

Table 1: Distribution of youth according to their Level of aspiration N=120

S.No.	Category	Male		Female		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Low	14	23.4	14	23.4	28	23.4
2.	Medium	18	30.0	24	40.0	42	35.0
3.	High	28	46.6	22	36.6	50	41.6
	Total	60	100	60	100	120	100

Table 2: Distribution of youth according to their Level of aspiration in various activities N=120

S.No.	Category	Male		Female		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
I	State the enterprise which you Aspire						
1.	Agriculture (crop production)	5	8.4	4	6.6	9	7.5
2.	Floriculture	4	6.6	18	30.0	22	18.3
3.	Sericulture	6	10.0	1	1.6	7	5.8
4.	Dairy	1	1.6	0	0.0	1	0.8
5.	Goat and sheep rearing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
6.	Poultry	0	0.0	1	1.6	1	0.8
7.	Rabbit rearing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
8.	Small scale industry	3	5.0	3	5.0	6	5.0
9.	Agriculture + Dairy	21	35.0	16	26.8	37	30.9
10.	Small scale industry + Agriculture	6	10.0	7	11.6	13	10.8
11.	Small scale industry + Agriculture + Animal Husbandry	14	23.4	10	16.8	24	20.1
	Total	60	100	60	100	120	100

Enterprise which youth Aspire

It is evident from table 2. that 30.9 per cent of total youth aspired combination of agriculture and dairy followed by 20.1 per cent of youth aspired combination of enterprises (Small scale industry + Agriculture + Animal husbandry), 18.3 per cent aspired floriculture as enterprise, 10.8 per cent aspired combination of small scale industry and agriculture, 7.5 per cent aspired agriculture as enterprise, 5.8 per cent aspired sericulture, 5.0 per cent aspired small industry and very low (0.8%) aspired dairy and poultry.

Among male youth highest (35.0%) aspired combination of agriculture and dairy and lowest (none) aspired goat and sheep rearing, poultry, rabbit rearing.

Among female youth highest (33.0%) aspired floriculture as enterprise and lowest (none) aspired dairy, goat and sheep rearing, rabbit rearing.

CONCLUSION

Majority of the youth had high level of aspiration followed by medium and low. It is possible that, the aspirations were generally the resultant of increased contact with urban areas and comparing themselves with other people. Youth being enthusiastic, vibrant, innovative and dynamic in nature, aspire high. Modern and technologically advanced Agriculture is found to be more appealing to the youth. The investment in agriculture, technical support and technological advances could motivate young people to engage more in agriculture and allied activities. This has an implication to Government's efforts to raise the profile of farming among young people, and to invest for higher productivity. In addition providing the proper kinds of training to youth reflecting the demands of the job market. Enabling young people to see the potential of different employment choices in agriculture business and experiences successful role models.

REFERENCES

- Agriculture Census Division. 2014. All India report on number and area of operational holdings. Department of Agriculture and Co-Operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- Ahire, R. D., Kulkarni R.R and Lambat A.H. 2001. Participation of Rural Youth in Farm Activities. *Maharashtra Journal of Extension Education*. 20: 152-154.
- National Youth Policy of India. 2014. *Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports*.
- Preethi and Nataraju, M.S. 2014. Participation of Farm Youth in Agriculture. *The Mysore Journal of Agricultural Sciences*. 49 (2):390-402.
- Savita Nashi, B. 2011. Participation and decision making of rural youth in agriculture. *M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis*. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.
- Viswanatha, H., Manjunatha, B.N and Lakshminarayana, M.T. 2014. Aspirations and problems of rural youth practicing agriculture. *The Mysore Journal of Agricultural sciences*. 48 (4): 583-588.

UNDER PEER REVIEW