

# 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. 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 mind, a study was conducted in Warangal district in Telangana province with a total sample of 120 youth selected using a simple random sampling method. 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 per cent) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (35.0 per cent) and low (23.4 per cent). Among male youth nearly half (46.6 per cent) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (30.0 per cent) and low (23.4 per cent). Among female youth 40.0 per cent of the youth belonged to medium level of aspiration category followed by high (36.6 per cent) and low (23.4 per cent).

**Key words :** Youth, agriculture, rural areas, aspiration, Telangana

## 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[1]. This is because the productive level of older farmers are not able to meet the nutritional needs and demands of fast-growing people [6]. Therefore, encouraging youth participation in agriculture is important. The youth are an important category of human resource who can take the responsibility for development including agriculture.

It is need of the hour for the nation to not only produce food to feed its one billion plus humans but also for livestock of equal number. At this point young minds with creative thoughts and motivation can manage impossible tasks such as climate change adaptation, mitigation and enduring malnutrition. Generally, young minds are enthusiastic in adopting new ideas and technologies. Therefore the present status of farming can be easily transformed by them. The youth could play a vital role in changing the poor status of persons involved in farming especially in the

rural areas by adapting new ideas, concepts and technologies which are important to change how the way of farming is practiced and perceived. In order to stop youth from leaving the villages, the best way is to ensure better economic profits for them in farming and improving the quality of life in the rural community.

Generally the term youth is defined as the period from adolescence to middle age. Age is considered as an important element in defining youth by various agencies. UN considered the age group of 15 to 24 to define youth[15]. The National Youth Policy(2003) [7] initially defined the age group 13-35 as youth. However, the new National Youth Policy(2014)[11], modified and defined the age group of 15-29 years as youth.

In accordance to ‘World Population Prospects: The 2015 revision’[15] India ranks first in world’s youth population with 242 millions inspite of having a lesser population compared to China, which is having 185 million youth population. According to India’s Census 2011, Youth (15-29 years) constitutes one-fifth (19.1 per cent) of total population in India.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Bheemappa [5] in his study revealed that 19.17 per cent migrant, 10.00 per cent of non-migrant farmers had high aspiration level. 67.50 per cent and 13.33 per cent of migrant farmers had medium and low level of aspiration respectively as compared to non-migrant farmers (72.5 and 17.50 per cent respectively).

Bhanu [4] in her study reported that enterprises preference ranking of rural youth was agriculture (crop production), dairy, poultry, sericulture and bee keeping, as I, II, III, IV and V ranks respectively. Whereas, rabbit rearing, small scale industry and piggery occupied VI, VII and VIII rank, respectively.

Sangamesh [13] in his study observed that majority of the youth (66.66 per cent) in rainfed area had medium level of aspiration whereas, in irrigated area 69.99 per cent of youth had medium level of aspiration towards agriculture.

Savitha [14] in her study identified that majority of the rural male youth (80.00 per cent) participated in ploughing followed by farm yard manure broadcasting (73.33 per cent), cleaning (60.00 per cent), levelling (53.33 per cent) and 31.67 per cent of rural male youth participated in clod crushing.

Vishwanath [16] in his study revealed that, 55.00 per cent of the rural youth practicing agriculture did not aspired to increase the land holding. With respect to purchase of the agricultural implements, majority of the rural youth (68.33 per cent) aspired for basic implements. About 72.00 per cent of the rural youth aspired to increase the crop production by 1-50 per cent. He further revealed that, 36.67 per cent of the rural youth practicing agriculture had high level of aspiration, whereas 33.33 and 30.00 per cent of the rural youth had medium and low level of aspiration respectively.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

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

According to Preston “Aspiration is the individual conception of his future prospectus and expectation of future performance which is affected by desire to do well”

It was measured with the help of schedule developed for study. To facilitate, obtaining clear responses from the youth, seven items of aspiration were provided. A score of ‘1’ was given to each of response 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 ‘32’ and the minimum was ‘3’. Later the respondents were grouped into three categories by using quartile deviation based on the scores obtained.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1.	Low (<9)	Below lower quartile (Q <sub>1</sub> ) (25 <sup>th</sup> percentile)
2.	Medium (9-18)	Between Q <sub>1</sub> and Q <sub>3</sub> (25 <sup>th</sup> &75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)
3.	High (>18)	Above upper quartile (Q <sub>3</sub> ) (75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

It is evident from table 1. that majority (41.61%) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (35.00%) and low (23.39%). Among male youth nearly half (46.61%) of the youth belonged to high level of aspiration category followed by medium (30.00%) and low (23.39%). Among female youth 40.00 per cent of the youth belonged to medium level of aspiration category followed by high (36.61%) and low (23.39%).

**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	23.39	14	23.39	28	23.39
2.	Medium	18	30.00	24	40.00	42	35.00
3.	High	28	46.61	22	36.61	50	41.61
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	100

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.

**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	%
<b>2.1</b>	<b>State the enterprise which you Aspire</b>						
1.	Agriculture (crop production)	5	8.38	4	6.61	9	7.5
2.	Floriculture	4	6.61	18	30.00	22	18.29
3.	Sericulture	6	10.00	1	1.59	7	5.81
4.	Dairy	1	1.600	0	0.00	1	0.78
5.	Goat and sheep rearing	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00

6.	Poultry	0	0.00	1	1.58	1	0.82
7.	Rabbit rearing	0	0.00	0	0.01	0	0.00
8.	Small scale industry	3	5.00	3	5.01	6	5.00
9.	Agriculture + Dairy	21	35.00	16	26.81	37	30.90
10.	Small scale industry + Agriculture	6	10.00	7	11.61	13	10.79
11.	Small scale industry + Agriculture + Animal Husbandry	14	23.41	10	16.80	24	20.11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	100
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Educational Aspiration</b>						
1.	SSC	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	College education	2	3.42	2	3.42	4	3.42
3.	Graduate	20	33.21	18	30.0	38	31.61
4.	Post Graduate	35	58.37	33	55.0	68	56.67
5.	None of the above	3	5.00	7	11.54	10	8.30
	Total	60	100	60	100	120	100
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Aspiration in respect to increase your income in the next three years</b>						
1.	None	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
2.	less than 25%	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	25 to 50%	19	31.61	33	55.00	52	43.31
4.	50 to 75%	18	30.00	16	26.59	34	28.31
5.	more than 75%	23	38.39	11	18.41	34	28.38
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Aspiration in respect to house alteration or construction in the three years</b>						
1.	None	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	minor repairs in the existing house	20	33.41	28	46.61	48	40.00
3.	construction of one kaccha house	3	5.00	0	0.00	3	2.52

4.	construction of one pucca house	30	50.00	19	31.61	49	40.79
5.	construction of 2 more houses.	7	11.59	13	21.78	20	16.69
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	100
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Expectation to have more material possession in the next three years</b>						
1.	None	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
2.	Electronic gadget	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	Furniture	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
4.	Agril. Implements	3	5.00	0	0.00	3	2.51
5.	Land	8	13.39	4	6.60	12	10.00
6.	Vehicle	4	6.61	0	0.00	4	3.31
7.	Silver or gold ornaments	2	3.41	19	31.61	21	17.48
8.	Gold ornaments + Land	10	16.59	25	41.79	35	29.21
9.	Gold ornaments + Land + Agril. Implements	33	55.00	12	20.00	45	37.49
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Occupational Aspiration</b>						
1.	Farming	18	30.00	12	20.00	30	25.00
2.	Factory work	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	Office work	12	20.00	32	53.41	44	36.69
4.	Business	30	50.00	16	26.59	46	38.31
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	100
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Level of expectation in reaching your satisfaction in next three years</b>						
1.	None	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
2.	Some what better	10	16.59	14	23.40	24	20.00
3.	Certainly better	26	43.41	12	20.00	38	31.68
4.	Better/ mostly better	24	40.00	34	56.60	58	48.32
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

## **2.1 Enterprise which youth Aspire**

It is evident from table 2. that 30.90 per cent of total youth aspired combination of agriculture and dairy followed by 20.11 per cent of youth aspired combination of enterprises (Small scale industry + Agriculture + Animal husbandry), 18.29 per cent aspired floriculture as enterprise, 10.79 per cent aspired combination of small scale industry and agriculture, 7.50 per cent aspired agriculture as enterprise, 5.81 per cent aspired sericulture, 5.00 per cent aspired small industry and very low (0.82%) aspired dairy and poultry. Among male youth highest (35.00%) aspired combination of agriculture and dairy and lowest (none) aspired goat and sheep rearing, poultry, rabbit rearing. Among female youth highest (30.00%) aspired floriculture as enterprise and lowest (none) aspired dairy, goat and sheep rearing, rabbit rearing.

## **2.2 Educational aspiration**

It is evident from table 2. that more than half (56.67%) aspired for post graduation followed by graduation (31.61%), no educational aspiration (8.30%), college education (3.42%) and none aspired school education. Among male youth highest (58.37%) aspired post graduation and lowest (none) aspired school education. Among female youth highest (55.00%) aspired post graduation and lowest (none) aspired school education.

## **2.3 Aspiration in respect to increase in income in the next three years**

It is evident from table table 2. that nearly half (43.31%) aspired to increase their income by '25 to 50 per cent' followed by same per cent (28.40%) aspired to increase their income by 'more than 75per cent' and by '50 to 75 per cent'. None aspired to increase their income by 'less than 25 per cent'. Among male youth highest (38.39%) aspired to increase their income by 'more than 75 per cent' and lowest (none) aspired to increase their income by 'less than 25 per cent'. Among female youth highest (55.00%) aspired to increase their income by '25 to 50 per cent' and lowest (none) aspired to increase their income by 'less than 25 per cent'.

## **2.4 Aspiration in respect to house alteration or construction in the three years**

It is evident from table 2. that 40.79 per cent of total youth aspired 'construction of one pucca house' followed by 40.00 per cent aspired 'minor repairs in the existing house', 16.69 per cent aspired 'construction of 2 more houses' and 2.52 per cent aspired 'construction of one kaccha

house' Among male youth half (50%) aspired 'construction of one pucca house' and lowest (2.50%) aspired 'construction of one kaccha house'. Among female youth highest (46.61%) aspired 'minor repairs in the existing house' and lowest (none) aspired 'construction of one kaccha house'.

## **2.5 Expectation to have more material possession in the next three years**

It is evident from table 2. that 37.49 per cent of total youth aspired of having 'Gold ornaments + Land + Agril. Implements' followed by 29.21 per cent of total youth aspired of having 'Gold ornaments + Land', 17.48 per cent aspired of having 'gold or silver ornaments', 10.00 per cent aspired to have 'land', 3.31 per cent aspired to have 'vehicle', 2.51 aspired to have 'agricultural implements' and none aspired to have electronic gadgets and furniture. Among male youth highest (55.00%) aspired of having 'Gold ornaments + Land + Agril. Implements'. Among female youth highest (41.79%) aspired of having 'Gold ornaments + Land'.

## **2.6 Occupational aspiration**

It is evident from table 2. that more than one third 38.31 per cent and 36.69 per cent aspired to do 'Business' and 'Office work' respectively and the rest 25.00 per cent aspired to do farming and none aspired to do 'factory work'. Among male youth half (50.00%) aspired to do 'Business' and among female youth more than half (53.41%) aspired to do 'office work'.

## **2.7 Level of expectation in reaching youth satisfaction in next three years**

It is evident from table 2. that nearly half (48.32%) aspired for 'better\mostly better' level of satisfaction followed by 'certainly better' (31.68%) and 'some what better' (20.00%) level of satisfaction.

Among male youth 43.41 percent aspired for 'certainly better' level of satisfaction followed by 'better\mostly better' (40.00%) and 'some what better' (16.59%) level of satisfaction. Among female youth majority (56.60%) aspired for 'better\mostly better' level of satisfaction followed by 'some what better' (23.40%) and 'certainly better' (20.00%) level of satisfaction.

## **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. The favorable factors like easy reach of technology, high mass media use, extension participation, Cosmopolitanism etc made the youth to have medium to high level of aspirations. In the context of ever increasing needs, demands and comforts, youths want to change their life style by comparing with others. Hence, this might have made them to aspire for higher education. 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.

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