

Aspiration of Agriculture Students towards Agriculture Enterprise in West Bengal: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is a traditional occupation of rural people and also fundamental livelihood of Indians. Present study was undertaken at Palli Siksha Bhavana, Institute of Agriculture, Visva Bharati. Students were supposed to be the primary concern in agriculture sector for entrepreneurship development. Present study highlights the overall outlook, role and perception of Palli Siksha Bhavana students about the agriculture as an enterprise. 73.8 per cent students joined Agriculture College for getting job and 2.5 percent students for enterprise. It is further reported that 69 percent were assisting their families in fodder cutting and 49 per cent revealed they were busy pre cultivation, 43 percent had been found actively in spraying and supervision etc. So it is desirable to involve Palli Siksha Bhavana students in different agriculture activities. It was also observed that aspiration of the students towards agriculture enterprise was positively and significantly associated with father education; father occupation; family size and aim of joining.

Key words: Agriculture enterprise; Role; Training; Students;

In our country the livelihood of majority of population is dependent on agriculture. All the basic necessities of the farm families have to be met from the agriculture and agriculture based activities. In rural area's youth are also playing important role in agriculture by performing some farm activities and helping their families in different farm operations.

Agriculture campus under Visva-Bharati is offering four years under graduate and two years post graduate courses in agriculture. Boys and Girls from farm and different families are seeking admission to this course on large scale. The main object of this course is to provide agricultural education and research to the grass root level students of Palli Siksha Bhavana, which is expected to result increase in farm production. After this course they are supposed to apply their knowledge to agriculture and improve the farming situation without involvement of youth in agriculture field, development will not take place.

Hence this study is an attempt to study the aspiration of agriculture students towards agriculture enterprise in West Bengal: A Case Study of Palli Siksha Bhavana, Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati, West Bengal.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted at Palli Siksha Bhavana, Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati during the year 2012-2013. Agricultural college students were supposed to be the important element in agriculture entrepreneurship development. This study was purpose fully conducted considering the present role and performance of Agriculture students as they are doing B. Sc (Ag.) and M. Sc. (Ag.) in this institute.

Therefore, the present study was an attempt to test the views of Agriculture students about their role in agricultural and entrepreneurship development. Through proportional allocation 56 students from UG and 24 from PG classes were selected randomly for data collection, thus the total sample for the study constituted 80 students using stratified sampling. The data was collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. Statistical tools such as percentage, mean, standard deviation, Ranking, Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient were used to analyze the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 clearly indicates that there was homogeneity among respondents to a large extent. So,

far as their age and education level was concerned, respondents are doing under graduate 56 per cent and post graduate 24 per cent. Out of 80 respondents 40 were boys and 40 were girls. These findings are in line with the results reported by *Kulkarni et al. (2009)*.

Table 1 revealed that majority of fathers' education, 61.3 per cent of them, were college educated, 15 per cent of them having education up to high school, 17.5 per cent upto middle school level, 2.5 per cent of the respondents educated up to primary level, 3.8 per cent were literate. Majority of mothers', 40 per cent of them, were up to middle school educated, 25 per cent of them having education up to high school, 21.3 per cent up to college level, 8.8 per cent of the respondents were literate and only 5 per cent were primary level. Majority of fathers', 68.8 per cent of them in service, 18.8 per cent of them having business, 12.5 per cent were doing farming. Majority of mothers' 92.5 per cent of them house wife, 3.8 per cent of them having business and doing job. A majority i.e. 40 per cent of the respondents had annual income between Rs 200000 - 300000, followed by 36.3 per cent of them between Rs 100000 - 200000, 16.3 per cent more than Rs 300000 annual income and remaining 7.5 per cent had annual income less than Rs 100000. Majority (66.3%) of the Family size had 1-4 members, followed by 20 per cent of them had family of 5-6 members and 13.8 per cent of the respondents having more than 6 family members.

When an enquiry was made about the aim behind joining the agricultural college, majority of the respondents expressed it for seeking good job. But at the same time most of them had opted for more than one motivating force behind their joining agriculture course. It was observed from the Table 1. The 11.3 per cent of respondents joined this course for education purpose, while 2.5 percent opined agricultural business was the motivating factor. Where as, 12.5 per cent expressed that this course could be useful for any other ways. It is clear from above Table 1 that 12.5 percent respondents were working, whereas, 87.5 per cent were not working in their own field.

It was clear from above Table 1 that 97.5 Percent respondents were ready to do farming by using modern technology, while only 2.5 percent preferred to adopt traditional method of cultivation.

The Table 2, which deals with distribution of respondents according to different activities performed by students revealed that majority respondents had given

Table 1: Socio-economic and personal characteristics (N=80)

Attributes	Category	No.	%
Age Group	20-26 years	80	100
Education level	Under Graduate (UG)	56	70.0
	Post Graduate (PG)	24	30.0
Gender	Boys	40	50.0
	Girls	40	50.0
Father's Education	Literate	03	03.8
	Primary school	02	02.5
	Middle school	14	17.5
	High School	12	15.0
Mother's Education	College education	49	61.3
	Literate	07	08.8
	Primary school	04	05.0
	Middle school	32	40.0
Father's Occupation	High School	20	25.0
	College education	17	21.3
	Service	55	68.8
	Business	15	18.8
Mother's Occupation	Farming	10	12.5
	House Wife	74	92.5
	Service	03	03.8
Family Income	Business	03	03.8
	Less than 100000	06	07.5
	100000 – 200000	29	36.3
	200000 – 300000	32	40.0
Family Size	More than 300000	13	16.3
	1 – 4 members	53	66.3
	5 – 6 members	16	20.0
Aim of Joining agriculture	More than 6 members	11	13.8
	Service (Job)	59	73.8
	course		
	Education	09	11.3
Working in their own field	Enterprise	02	02.5
	Any Other ways	10	12.5
	Yes	10	12.5
Views Regarding type of farming	No	70	87.5
	Advance	78	97.5
	Traditional	02	02.5

more than one option. Out of the total sample, 69 per cent were assisting their families in fodder cutting and 49 per cent were engaged in pre cultivation, 43 per cent had been found actively in spraying and supervision, whereas, 68 per cent respondents told that their participation in agricultural activities were only at college level. It can be concluded that majority of the respondents had been involved in more than one agricultural operations. Same findings were reported by *Kulkarni et al. (2009)*.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to agril activities performed by students in their own field

Name of Activities	Yes		No	
	No.	%	No.	%
Supervision	27	34	53	66
Helping Family	23	29	57	71
Spraying	34	43	46	57
Harvesting	28	35	52	65
Fodder Cutting & Bringing	55	69	25	31
Cleaning Field	28	35	52	65
Pre-cultivation	39	49	41	51
Manuring	26	33	54	67
Weeding	22	28	58	72
Sowing	22	28	58	72
Irrigation	23	29	57	71
Participation only at collage level	54	68	26	32

Table 3. Distribution of Respondents according to their preferences for various agriculture based Enterprises

Enterprise	I ranking		II ranking		III ranking	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture	30	38	11	14	8	10
Poultry Farm	-	-	3	4	8	10
Vegetable Cultivation	3	4	6	8	11	14
Floriculture	1	1	16	20	6	8
Nursery	4	5	3	4	7	9
Sericulture	-	-	5	6	4	5
Dal making	1	1	6	8	1	1
Vegetable Dehydration	10	13	2	3	2	3
Mushroom Cultivation	1	1	1	1	7	9
Bee Keeping	1	1	2	3	2	3
Fruit Processing	17	21	11	14	2	3
Pig Rearing	-	-	3	4	5	5
IPM	12	15	12	15	5	6
Vermiculture	8	10	7	9	7	9

The focus of the study was made to see preferences of respondents towards different agriculture based enterprises (Table 3). 38 per cent respondents had shown interest in agriculture (commercial crop production) and had given first preference. Another enterprise preferred was fruit processing by 21 per cent respondents as first rank. 20 per cent respondents were interested in Floriculture farming and given second preference. Whereas, 14 per cent students had shown their preference for vegetable cultivation keeping as third rank respectively. Agriculture (commercial crop production), Fruit processing, Vegetable cultivation and Floriculture were the four most preferred agriculture based enterprises.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to their opinion regarding training needs and training benefits (N=80)

Distribution	No.	%
Training needs		
Yes	80	100
No	00	00
Training Benefits		
Information	11	14
Skill Development	61	76
Confidence Building	08	10

From the above Table 4 it was observed that 100 per cent respondents stated that they need training for farm activities. From the above data it can be said that majority of the respondents agreed that training can help them in skill development and it gives required information and enhance their knowledge about new methods (Kulkarni et al. 2009)

Agricultural college has been providing the required training to the students during their course tenure. Majority of the students join this course in order to apply the acquired knowledge to the field. Agriculture (commercial crop production), Fruit processing, vegetable cultivation and Floriculture were the four most preferred agriculture based enterprises.

Table 5. Association between selected independent variables and aspiration of agriculture students towards agriculture enterprises (N=80)

Independent Variables	'r' value
Age	0.010
Gender	-0.016
Father's Education	0.223*
Mother's Education	-0.097
Father's Occupation	0.388**
Mother's Occupation	-0.136
Family Income	-0.136
Family Size	0.346**
Aim of Joining	0.390**

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

Association between Aspiration of students towards agriculture enterprise: The association between aspiration of students towards agriculture enterprise and the selected independent variables viz. age, gender, fathers' education, mothers' education, fathers' occupation, mothers' occupation, family income, family size, aim of joining was calculated by applying correlation (r). The results have been presented in Table 5. It may be observed that aspiration of students towards

agriculture enterprise were positively and significantly associated with father education and with father occupation, family size and aim of joining. It means father education, father occupation, family size and aim of joining exerted influence on the aspiration of students towards agriculture enterprise.

Table 6. Multiple regression values showing influence of independent variables to the aspiration of agriculture students towards agriculture enterprise (N=80)

Independent Variables	b-value	Standard Error	t-value
Age	-0.080	0.070	-1.153
Gender	-0.156	0.158	-0.987
Fathers' Education	0.014	0.098	0.142
Mothers' Education	0.017	0.085	0.196
Fathers' Occupation	0.418	152	2.754**
Mothers' Occupation	-0.069	204	-0.339
Family Income	0.094	124	0.762
Family Size	0.319	0.111	2.878**
Aim of Joining	0.228	0.058	3.923**

$R^2 = 0.668$,

Cal. value of 'F' = 4.49** (with 9 and 70 degree of freedom),

** significant at 1% level of probability

Multiple regression equation with selected independent variables to aspiration of students: The correlation indicates only existence or non existence of relationship between independent and dependent variables. For further analysis multiple regression technique was used to determine the individual and overall influence of selected independent variable on the aspiration of students towards agriculture enterprise. The Table 6 indicated that there was 66.8 per cent

contribution of all the nine independent variables on aspiration of the students towards agriculture enterprise. The respective 'F' value was also 4.49. Thus, the results implied that all the nine selected factors had accounted for a significant variation in shaping the aspiration of the students towards agriculture enterprise. Further, test of significance ('t' value) indicated that the coefficient of regression (b-value) was found to be positively and significantly associated with the fathers' occupation, family size and aim of joining at 1 per cent level of significance. This table also depicted that regression coefficient was non-significant for participation in age, gender, father education, mother education, mother occupation and family income. The depth analysis of the relationship between dependent and independent variables portrayed that father occupation, family size and aim of joining of students was the most important among all the nine variables selected in the study whose contribution was maximum in developing positive aspiration towards agriculture enterprise. The findings of Patil et al (2002), Sharma et al (2012) and Sonawane et al (2002) were in the same line of the present findings.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussions it is concluded that the majority of the students had positive aspiration of students towards agriculture enterprise. So the study also revealed that aspiration of students towards agriculture enterprise was positively and significantly associated with father occupation, family size and aim of joining.

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