

Received : 22.09.2022 | Accepted : 12.11.2022 | Online published : 15.12.2022

https://doi.org/10.54986/irjee/2022/dec_spl/247-250I
R
J
ESOCIETY OF
EXTENSION
EDUCATION

RESEARCH NOTE

Youth in Agriculture : Problems and Suggestions

Dubany Uttej¹, I. Sreenivasa Rao² and M. Sreenivasulu³

1.P.G. Scholar,
2. Uni. Head and Prof., EEI,
3. Co-ordinator,
Electronic wing,
PJTSAU, Hyderabad, India
Corresponding author e-mail:
uttejdubany@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Today's youth are the hope of the future. They are the real spirit of future agriculture. Young people not only look for their own livelihood, but also for respect and purpose in life. It is a well-known fact that only few young people engage in agriculture, although majority of rural youth have the energy and enthusiasm to do well in agri and allied jobs. In this context, it is worthwhile to know the reason for low participation i.e., problems faced by youth in agriculture and allied activities and their suggestions. Keeping this in mind, a research study was conducted in Warangal district of Telangana state with a sample size of 120 youth selected using a simple random sampling procedure. The data was collected from primary sources with structured interview schedule. The study employed descriptive statistics and garret ranking method to analyse the data. The study indicated that majority of the youth faced the problem of scarcity of labour, lack of irrigation facilities, fear of drudgery in agriculture and allied activities and suggested for timely supply of necessary inputs (93.3%), timely provision of subsidy/credit, mechanization in agricultural sector.

Key words : Youth; Agriculture; Irrigation; Mechanization; Rural areas; Telangana.

Agriculture is primary sector to every nation's development and it remains fundamental to reduce poverty and economic growth especially for the developing countries in the 21st century. Presently, Indian agriculture is facing numerous emerging challenges in spite of the boom in production that it has experienced as a result of green revolution. The concerns have shifted from production to more complicated, subtle and multi dimension issues (Badiger and Huilgul, 2004). Some of the contemporary problems in Indian agriculture are land fragmentation, shortage of labour, climate change, depleting natural resources, low profitability, nutrition and gender issues etc. Under such conditions the agriculture sector needs new ideas, innovations, rebranding and revitalization to overcome these prevailing issues. The present scenario of changing agriculture in India demands the energy and vitality of youth (FAO, 2005). As there is enough opportunity in agriculture sector, the creative minds, innovations, energy and vigor of youth which is current demographic strength of the country can boost up the present status of agriculture. On contrary,

there is decreasing youth participation in agriculture over the time (Bhattacharjee and Dipanwita, 2015). In this context, it is worthwhile to know the reason for low participation i.e., problems faced by youth in agriculture and allied activities and their suggestions.

The World Development Report (2007) defined youth as all people between 12 and 24 years. The United Nations General Assembly (UN, 2011) and the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2005) considered youth as people between the ages of 15 and 24. The Working Group recommends that the age of 18 to 30 years should be the age criterion for Youth. The Government of India officially defines youth as persons between the ages of 15 and 29 years based on the recommendation of National Youth Policy, 2014. The definition of GoI is most widely accepted in Indian context however, it varies depending on the programme.

In accordance to 'World Population Prospects: The 2015 revision' India ranks first in world's youth population with 242 million in spite of having a lesser population compared to China, which is having 185 million youth population. Savitha (2011) reported

in her study that among rural male youth, 81.67 per cent of them expressed lack of awareness (latest technology, varieties etc.) as their major problem. *Hadagali Vishwanath (2013)* reported in his study that 74.16 per cent of rural youth practicing agriculture expressed scarcity of labour. *Lyocks et al. (2013)* identified that majority (51.20%) of the respondents suggested the establishment of youth training and skills acquisition centers followed by agricultural loans to youths (31.40%), Promote young farmers associations through internet linkages (12.40%) and establish farm settlements (5.00%)

According to India's Census 2011, Youth (15-29 years) constitutes about one-fifth (19.1%) of total population in India. This study was carried out with the following objective - To identify problems faced by youth in agriculture and their suggestions for enhancing youth participation in agriculture.

METHODOLOGY

The ex-post-facto research design adopted for the study. Warangal district of Telangana state was selected. Four mandals (4) in the district and three villages (3) from each mandal were selected using simple random sampling technique. Thus, a total of twelve villages (12) were selected. Ten respondents (10) from each village were selected using simple random sampling method thus constituting a total of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents for the study.

The field investigation was carried out during the year 2019. The data was collected by structured interview schedule. The questions were asked in local language *i.e.* Telugu. The youth were personally interviewed by the investigator which helped in getting first-hand information and gave an opportunity to observe the respondents personally. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage and Henry Garrett ranking technique were used for the analysis of data.

Henry Garrett ranking technique: It was used to assess the challenges faced by the fish farmers. The orders of merit given by the participants were converted into ranks by using the following formula.

$$\text{Per cent position} = \frac{100(R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where,

R_{ij} = Rank given for the i^{th} item j^{th} individual

N_j = Number of items ranked by j^{th} individual

The percentage position of each rank obtained was converted into scores by referring to the table given by Henry Garrett. Then for each factor, the scores of individual respondents were added together and divided by the total number of respondents for whom the scores were added. The mean scores for all the factors were calculated and ranked accordingly and inferences were drawn.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in the Table 1 indicated the major problems expressed by the youth participating in agriculture. Among male youth, 'fear of drudgery in agriculture' ranked as first psychological problem followed by 'lack of positive attitude towards agriculture', 'fear of failure in agriculture and allied activities (no profitability)'. Among social problems, 'prevalence of farmers distress due to lack of profits in agriculture' ranked first followed by 'no value and dignity in agriculture'. Among situational problems, 'scarcity of labour' ranked first followed by 'lack of irrigation facilities'. Among economic problems, 'high cost of production and lower returns' ranked first followed by 'high cost of inputs'. Among extension related problems, 'lack of training programs' ranked first followed by 'lack of technical advice from extension agents'.

Among female youth, 'fear of drudgery in agriculture' ranked as first psychological problem followed by 'lack of positive attitude towards agriculture'. Among social problems, 'no value and dignity in agriculture' ranked first followed by 'prevalence of farmers distress due to lack of profits in agriculture'. Among situational problems, 'scarcity of labour' ranked first followed by lack of irrigation facilities. Among economic problems, 'high cost of production and lower returns' ranked first followed by 'high cost of inputs'. Among extension related problems, 'lack of training programs' ranked first followed by 'irregular visits of extension staff'.

The probable reason for the problems given by farm youth might be scarcity of labour increased because of migration rate, availability of employment with high wage rate under MGNREGA, other occupation, dignity of labour, low wage rate. As irrigation source is major critical input lack of that facility will directly decrease the yield which we can visualize now a days increased cases of drought. As farming involves heavy physical work youth developed psychological fear of

drudgery. Witnessing the regular losses in farming in their village's youth developing unfavourable attitude towards farming. After harvest of produce due to lack of availability of proper storage, transportation facilities post-harvest loss has increased. Lack of proper training programmes to create awareness and to enhance the skills of them so that youth will be attracted and retained in the farming in rural areas ensuring their participation.

Suggestions expressed by youth for enhancing participation and overcome problems in agriculture and allied activities are presented in Table 2. Suggestions given by youth in order are timely supply of necessary inputs like seed, irrigation etc (Rank I), timely provision of subsidy or credit (Rank II), mechanization in agricultural sector (Rank III), provide crop insurance by government (Rank IV), creating positive attitude towards agriculture and allied activities (Rank V), establishment of storage facility (Rank VI), establishment of local markets (Rank VII), Provide training programs (Rank VIII), strengthening and increasing extension staff in agriculture and allied sectors (Rank IX), establishing agri-rural youth organization (Rank X).

Among male youth major suggestions given by youth in order are timely supply of necessary inputs like seed, irrigation etc (Rank I), timely provision of subsidy or credit (Rank II), mechanization in agricultural sector (Rank III), provide crop insurance by government (Rank IV), creating positive attitude towards agriculture and allied activities (Rank V), establishment of storage facility (Rank VI), establishment of local markets (Rank VII), provide training programs (Rank VIII), strengthening and increasing extension staff in agriculture and allied sectors (Rank IX), establishing agri rural youth organization (Rank X).

Among female youth major suggestions given by youth in order are timely supply of necessary inputs like seed, irrigation etc (Rank I), timely provision of subsidy or credit (Rank I), mechanization in agricultural sector (Rank III), provide crop insurance by government (Rank IV), creating positive attitude towards agriculture and allied activities (Rank V), establishment of storage facility (Rank VI), establishment of local markets (Rank VII), provide training programs (Rank VII), strengthening and increasing extension staff in agriculture and allied sectors (Rank IX), establishing agri rural youth organization (Rank X).

Table 1. Problems faced by youth participating in agriculture and allied activities (N=120)

Problems	Male (n=60)		Female (n=60)	
	GMS	Rank	GMS	Rank
<i>Psychological problems</i>				
Lack of positive attitude towards agriculture and allied activities	48.34	II	54.36	II
Fear of drudgery in agriculture and allied activities	59.68	I	61.53	I
Fear of failure in agriculture and allied activities (No profitability)	37.55	III	39.62	III
<i>Social problems</i>				
Lack of proper guidance, encouragement from the parents	43.92	III	32.59	III
Prevalence of farmers distress due to lack of profits in agriculture and allied sectors	57.65	I	44.35	II
Peer group pressure diverted towards metro works	33.56	IV	31.22	IV
No value and dignity in Agriculture and Allied sectors	51.48	II	56.36	I
<i>Situational problems</i>				
Scarcity of labour	63.25	I	62.58	I
Electricity problem	32.32	VI	39.63	V
Lack of timely necessary inputs like seeds and fertilizers	54.36	III	50.59	III
Lack of Irrigation facilities	61.53	II	57.35	II
Lack of storage facility	51.48	IV	42.84	IV
Lack of transportation facility	43.85	V	32.54	VI
<i>Economic problems</i>				
High cost of inputs	42.35	II	41.28	II
Lack of credit support	37.58	III	34.61	III
High cost of production and lower returns	57.81	I	56.36	I
<i>Extension related problems</i>				
Lack of training programs	55.35	I	57.21	I
Lack of sufficient extension staff in agri allied sectors	31.23	IV	32.56	IV
Irregular visits of extension staff	35.84	III	43.25	II
Lack of technical advice from extension agents	42.65	II	35.34	III
GMS=Garrett means score				

The probable reasons for the suggestions given by the youth are based on the problems what they face to take up agriculture and retain in it. They have faced the major problems like availability of necessary inputs in time as in agriculture delaying to take up activities by one day also lead to a greater loss, they have given this major suggestion. Irrigation source is the major critical input that need to be provided especially in the rainfed areas. We cannot expect anything from agriculture

Table 2. Suggestions given by youth for enhancing participation in agriculture and allied activities (N=120)

Suggestions	Male		Female		Total	
	No. & %	Rank	No. & %	Rank	No. & %	Rank
Creating positive attitude towards agriculture and allied activities	47 (78.3)	V	43 (71.7)	V	90 (74.9)	V
Provide crop insurance by government	48 (80.0)	IV	45 (75.0)	IV	93 (77.5)	IV
Timely provision of subsidy or credit	56 (93.3)	II	55 (91.7)	I	109 (90.8)	II
Establishing agri rural youth organization	30 (50.0)	X	23 (38.3)	X	53 (44.2)	X
Timely supply of necessary inputs like seed, irrigation etc	57 (95.0)	I	55 (91.7)	I	112 (93.3)	I
Mechanization in agricultural sector	50 (83.3)	III	50 (83.3)	III	100 (83.3)	III
Establishment of storage facility	44 (73.3)	VI	40 (66.7)	VI	84 (69.9)	VI
Establishment of local markets	43 (71.7)	VII	38 (63.3)	VII	81 (67.5)	VII
Provide training programs	41 (68.3)	VIII	38 (63.3)	VII	79 (65.8)	VIII
Strengthening and increasing extension staff in agri & allied sectors	32 (53.3)	IX	29 (48.3)	IX	61 (50.8)	IX

without the irrigation. Timely provision of credit is essential for purchase of necessary inputs in time. In order to reduce drudger in agriculture mechanization is essential. In order to increase participation in agri allied activities, raise status of farming in society so that they a positive attitude towards agriculture and allied sectors. They want to get better prices for their produce so that they will get good returns, hence they want the facilities such as storage facility and local market facility.

CONCLUSION

There are evidences from many sources that youth are showing disinterest in agricultural sector. With careful changes in the present situation of this sector, it can have the potential to engage the massive youth workforce presently available in the country. This would automatically help in resolving the crisis of unemployment and migration of youth as well. In order to attract and retain youth in farming a respectable brand image is to be formed so that people's view on this sector will be changed. Today, agriculture needs to be perceived as an enterprise and the farmer as an agri-preneur. A vast range of scope exists in this sector which await exploration by youth as they are innovative and creative that help in reshaping agriculture. In order to retain youth in this sector it is need of hour to formulate proper policies and strategies so that Indian agriculture can experience a new position in the hands of young and enthusiastic farmers.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

- Badiger, C. and Huilgul, S. (2004). Participation of farm women in agriculture and animal husbandry. *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.*, 4 (1&2):124-128.
- Bhattacharjee, Dipanwita. (2015). Participation of women in agricultural activities in Gazipur District of Bangladesh. *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.*, 15 (3): 43-46.
- FAO. (2005). Women and the green revolution in agriculture. *FAO Focus: Women and food security*.
- Hadagali vishwanath (2013). A study on aspirations and participation of rural youth practicing agriculture and allied activities. M.Sc.(Ag.) Thesis. UAS, Bangalore.
- ILO (2005). Youth: Pathways to decent work: Promoting youth employment. International Labour Organization.
- Indian Census (2011). Population enumeration data. Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. India.
- Lyocks, J.S.; Lyocks, S.W.J and Kagbu, J. H. (2013). Mobilizing youth for participation in Nigerian agricultural transformation agenda: A grassroots' approach. *J. Agril. Ext.*, 17 (2):78-87.
- National Youth Policy of India. (2014). Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- Savitha Nashi, B. (2011). Participation and decision making of rural youth in agriculture. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis. UAS, Dharwad.
- UN. (2011). World youth report. United Nation. www.unworldyouthreport.org.
- World Development Report. (2007). Development and the next generation. Washington, D.

• • • • •