Correlates of Leisure Time Activities of Farmers

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ABSTRACT

The current decade has witnessed rapid technological changes and advancement through science and technology and attained great strides by enabling the country's head high through defense, food and economic security. These technological advancements have also created some unfavourable impact on society through enhancing the leisure time especially for rural youths. "Leisure an activity to which the individuals may freely devote himself outside the needs and obligation of his occupation, his family and society for his recreation, diversion and personal development" (Dumazedier 1960). The study was carried out in the 5 village of Basti district (UP) by using multi stage sampling techniques and other essential statistical tools. The study reveals that all respondents have leisure hours which have been utilized in non productive and personal purposes. The statistical analysis further reflects that caste, social participation and farm power having significant association with dependent variable and it was felt that there is the need to revive the Yuvak Mangal Dal and Mahila Mangal Dal and other organization to utilize the leisure hours in the interest of community and their quality of life.
Key words: Leisure time; Farmers; Activity; Socio-personal characteristics;

*I*mproving standard of living and socio economic status of the rural people particularly farming community is an eventual goal of most of the developmental programs in India. Majority of these programs could hardly achieve the set goal due to lack of proper stress on key factors associated with the socio economic status and interest of the farming community. The level of unemployment as well as underemployment is very high in rural area as a result plenty of leisure time is available with the rural people and utilization of these leisure hours for unproductive purposes is the common phenomenon. Further, working time has been reduced and leisure time has expanded with the relentless application of science and technology. In spite of utilizing these leisure hours for productive purpose, it is utilized mostly for non-productive and personal purposes as substantiated with the findings of the study conducted by *Singh (1998).* The productive purpose not only involves the economic benefits, but it also covers personality development, improvement of health and high social and national obligations etc.

Henceforth, to re-structure the leisure hours; utilization it needed to have background information on the present leisure time utilization pattern of the farmers and to achieve the goal of rural developmental efforts. Hence, the present study was undertaken to examine the correlation on the availability and utilization pattern of leisure time by farmers with their socio-personal characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh and multistage random sampling technique was used in selection of the respondents. First, out of 19 CD Blocks one CD Block namely Basti Sader was selected randomly and from the selected block 5 villages were again selected randomly as locale of the study. The sample consisted of total 150 respondents were selected randomly. To find out the leisure activity pattern of the farmers Kangaroo Kit developed by *Mundy and Odum (1979)* was used and to find out the interest pattern of the respondent had been used interest-Parisuchi, which was developed by *Kulshrestha (1971)* with some modification. Fourteen independent socio-personal characteristics of the farmers were selected to examine their influence on the availability and

utilization pattern of the leisure time by the respondents, through correlation studies on their response-data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following Table 1 highlights the correlation of different socio-personal characteristics of the farmers with their available leisure in a day, in a week, and in a year.

Table 1. Correlation between farmers' socio-personal characteristics and available leisure time. (N=150)

S. No.	Independent Variable	Available leisure time of the respondent (Correlation coefficient)		
		Daily	Weekly	Days in a Year
1.	Age	(-) 0.047	0.015	0.155
2.	Caste	(-) 0.053	(-) 0.097	(-) 0.306*
3.	Occupation	0.003	(-) 0.012	(-) 0.071
4.	Education	0.119	0.113	(-) 0.159
5.	Social participation	(-) 0.011	(-) 0.067	(-) 0.153
6.	Land	(-) 0.013	(-) 0.053	0.108
7.	House	0.005	0.012	(-) 0.092
8.	Farm power	0.028	0.010	(-) 0.077
9.	Material possession	(-) 0.010	(-) 0.013	(-) 0.097
10.	Family type and size	0.035	0.048	0.025
11.	SE status	0.034	0.014	(-) 0.188*
12.	Extension contact	0.071	0.091	(-) 0.233*
13.	Mass media exposure	0.015	0.016	(-) 0.097
14.	Communication behaviour	0.058	0.064	(-) 0.170*

*Significant at 5% level of probability.

The obtained results show that the correlation between socio-personal characteristics such as caste, socio-economic status, extension contact and communication behaviour and leisure time hour available among the respondents in a year were turned out to be significant but negative. This table clearly indicates that the increase in socio-economic status of an individual in the study area there is grater opportunity to utilize his leisure time and free time for productive purposes. The similar findings in case of extension contact and communication behaviours reflect that the increased extension contact and communication behaviour of the

people decreases their leisure hours, this may be because of persuasion and constructive guidance by the extension personnel. The findings are in line with the observations reported by *Yoshioka (1988).*

The Table 2 reveals the findings related to the association of the variables of socio-personal characteristics with the utilization of leisure hours. It was found that the age was negative and significantly correlated with utilization of leisure hours for all activities where as caste was positively associated with reading and listening and negatively associated with entertainment and domestic activities.

The utilization of leisure hours in social activities and reading and listening were positively and significantly associated with the education, social participation, possession of land, house and farm power, socio-economic status, extension contact, mass media exposure and the communication behaviour. This result reveals that these independent variables are the indicators of increasing involvement of the people in social activities. As far as the utilization of available leisure hours in reading and listening was concerned, it was found significantly affected by all the independent variables except the family type of the respondents. The significant correlation coefficients in all the cases were positive except the age, which was turned out to be negative. The utilization of leisure hours in games and sports was found to be significantly affected by age, education and possession of house. However, the effect was negative in case of age and positive in the cases of level of education and possession of house of the respondents.

The finding related to the association of independent variables with the interest pattern of all the 150 respondents is highlighted in Table 3. It was found that there was no association of all the independent variables with the interest of respondents towards art and humanities and home science. However, the interest towards commerce was found to be positive and significantly affected by caste and occupation. Likewise, the interest towards fine art was also found to be positive and significantly affected by the level of education and material possession. The interest towards science was found negative and significantly affected by occupation, social participation, possession of land, farm power, socio-

economic status, mass media exposure and communication behaviour. This shows that as the level of these variables increases the interest towards science decreases. This is because of the increases facilities makes the people more busy and interested towards professional activities. In case of interest towards agriculture, it was found negative and it significantly affected by caste, level of education, land, house, farm power, material possession, socio-economic status, extension contact and communication behaviour. As far as the interest towards technology was concerned it was found to be positive and significantly associated with the level of education, possession of land, house, farm power, and socio-economic status. It is worth to note that as the level of education and financial position of people improves the interest towards technology also improves.

Table 2. Association between farmers' selected characteristics and utilization pattern of leisure activities. (N=150)

S. No.	Independent Variable	Utilization Pattern of Leisure Activities (Correlation coefficient)				
		Entertainment	Domestic Activities	Social Activities	Reading and Listening	Games and Sports
1.	Age	(-) 0.269*	(-) 0.315*	(-) 0.093*	(-) 0.269*	(-) 0.636*
2.	Caste	(-) 0.167*	(-) 0.182*	0.158	0.322*	(-) 0.043
3.	Occupation	0.044	0.058	0.137	0.202*	0.102
4.	Education	0.114	0.114	0.356*	0.594*	0.278*
5.	Social participation	(-) 0.053	0.022	0.305*	0.395*	0.002
6.	Land	(-) 0.144	0.092	0.226*	0.228*	(-)0.086
7.	House	(-) 0.044	0.129	0.247*	0.245*	0.219*
8.	Farm power	(-) 0.034	0.160	0.220*	0.195*	0.054
9.	Material possession	(-) 0.104	(-) 0.024	0.119	0.266*	0.048
10.	Family type	(-) 0.109	0.109	0.027	0.104	0.072
11.	Socio-economic status	(-) 0.058	0.090	0.319*	0.466*	0.131
12.	Ext. contact	(-) 0.035	0.108	0.288*	0.474*	0.103
13.	Mass-media exposure	0.063	0.090	0.220*	0.361*	0.117
14.	Communication behaviour	0.039	0.108	0.293	0.471*	0.140

*Significant at 5% level of probability.

Table 3. Association between farmers selected characteristics and area of interest. (N=150)

S. No.	Independent Variable	Overall Interest (Correlation coefficient)						
		Art & Hum.	Science	Commerce	Agri.	Home Sc.	Fine Art	Tech.
1.	Age	0.105	0.009	(-)0.050	0.053	(-) 0.086	0.040	0.129
2.	Caste	(-) 0.072	(-)0.033	0.175*	(-)0.158*	0.051	(-)0.068	0.104
3.	Occupation	0.082	(-)0.171*	0.321*	(-)0.094	0.068	(-)0.070	0.082
4..	Education	(-)0.147	(-)0.095	0.066	(-)0.283*	0.042	0.168*	0.205*
5.	Social participation	(-)0.069	(-)0.226*	0.130	(-)0.143	0.013	0.010	0.150
6.	Land	0.027	(-)0.189*	(-)0.035	(-)0.174*	(-)0.016	(-)0.133	0.199*
7.	House	(-) 0.138	(-)0.127	0.104	(-) 0.188*	0.049	0.136	0.188*
8.	Farm power	(-)0.017	(-)0.208*	0.056	(-) 0.225*	(-)0.050	0.143	0.174*
9.	Material possession	(-)0.026	(-)0.134	0.062	(-) 0.248*	0.014	0.191*	(-)0.049
10.	Family type	(-) 0.044	(-)0.045	(-)0.113	(-) 0.040	0.065	0.113	0.089
11.	Socio-econo mic status	(-) 0.074	(-)0.211*	0.139	(-) 0.284*	0.034	0.145	0.194*
12.	Ext. contact	(-)0.048	(-) 0.126	0.091	(-)0.289*	0.109	0.135	0.131
13.	Mass media exposure	(-)0.021	(-)0.191*	0.124	(-) 0.130	0.061	0.130	0.045
14.	Communication behaviour	(-)0.053	(-)0.185*	0.133	(-) 0.209*	0.014	0.106	0.153

*Significant at 5% level of probability.

CONCLUSION

In view of the findings of this study, it is worth to note that all the respondents had the considerable amount of leisure hour available with them. These leisure hours were utilized mostly for non-productive and personal purposes. More so, with the observation it was found that this available leisure hour especially among young generation has been creating social problem in the area and mass-migration. The data revealed that the caste, social participation and the farm power had significant influence on the available leisure hour. The over all interest pattern of the respondents were found positive and significantly affected by education, land, possession of house, farm power and socio-economic status. Therefore, there is need to further revive and restructure the Yuvak Mangal Dal, Mahila Mangal Dal and other similar programmes in view to utilize available leisure hours and interest of the farming community for enhancing their quality of life.

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