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Attitude of rural youth towards farming

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Latur district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2019-2020. There were ten tahsils in Latur district viz. Latur, Renapur, Ausa, Nilanga, Shirur (Anantpal), Chakur, Ahmedpur, Jalkot, Udgir, and Deoni Out of which Latur, Ausa, and Renapur tahsils were selected purposively. For the purpose of the study, four villages selected from each selected tahsils were randomly selected. Thus, total 12 villages were selected for the study. From each selected village 10 respondents were selected randomly thus, the total 120 respondents comprised for the study. For the objective of attitude of rural youth towards farming, Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation and multiple regression analysis were used. The results regarding attitude of the rural youth towards farming shows that, 73.33 per cent of rural youth had favourable attitude, followed by 14.17 per cent of rural youth had less favourable attitude, and 12.50 per cent of rural youth had highly favourable attitude towards farming.

Keywords: Attitude, profile, rural youth, Latur district, Marathwada region, Maharashtra state

1. Introduction

Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of interdependence as members of a community. This period of transition refers to a complex interplay of personal, institutional and macroeconomic changes that most young people have to negotiate in other than wholly traditional societies. The relative importance and intermingling of these factors can vary widely between countries according to their level of economic development. It can also vary within countries according to socio economic, ethnic and other social groupings. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group.

The National Youth Policy of India was initially framed during the year, 1988. This policy aimed to put young people at the centre of country's growth and development. The National Youth Policy document of 2012 aims to covers the age-bracket of 16-30 years. However, it needs to be recognized that all young people within this age group are unlikely to be a homogeneous group, sharing common concerns and needs and having different roles and responsibilities. Nearly 30 crores of the nation's youth reside in rural areas. The rural youth population, both male and female is higher than the urban population. The total rural youth population is 296.2 million (153.2 million male and 143.9 million female) as against 130.9 million urban youth population (69.5 million male and 61.4 million female) (Web source: The Hindu, 2011) [6].

The rural youth remain in a disadvantageous position, the needs and challenges of the rural youth today are greater than they have ever been in the past. Because of their numbers and potential impact, the rural youth must be a major part of any equation dealing with immediate and long-term approaches to promote sustainable development. Rural youth of today need education and training to become leaders of future. More importantly, they should have exposure to the latest technology and access to resources to enable them to become active partners in development.

2. Methodology

The present study was conducted in Latur district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2019-2020. There were ten tahsils in Latur district viz. Latur, Renapur, Ausa, Nilanga, Shirur (Anantpal), Chakur, Ahmedpur, Jalkot, Udgir, and Deoni Out of which Latur, Ausa, and Renapur tahsils were selected purposively. For the purpose of the study, four villages selected from each selected tahsils were randomly selected.

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3. Objective

Attitude of rural youth towards farming.

4. Research findings

Attitude of rural youth towards farming

Attitude means a set of tendencies, views and beliefs of an individual about his/her environmental factors. This tendency and belief will be stabilized based on environmental effect, the gained experiences and the period of time. Usually, attitude portrays either positive or negative view towards a person, place, thing or event which is known as attitude object. People can also be conflicted towards an object that they simultaneously possess both negative and positive attitude toward the psychological object. In this study, attitude was operationalized as the psychological disposition of the rural youth about agriculture in varying degrees of favourableness or unfavourableness.

Rural youth are a formidable force in the agricultural sector. They constitute a sizeable proportion of future progressive farmers. While their contribution towards attaining food security cannot be under estimated, their lukewarm attitude towards agriculture is a primary issue of concern and challenge to the future of the agricultural in India. Considering this point of view, an attitude scale was developed to measure the attitude of rural youth towards agriculture by using equal appearing interval method.

The final scale consisted of ten statements of which five were positive and five were negative. Using cumulative frequency method, the respondents were categorized into three groups viz., less favourable, moderately favourable and highly favourable based on their expressions of attitude. With a scoring pattern of Favourable statements may be given the scores as strongly agree – 5, agree – 4 undecided – 3, disagree – 2 and strongly disagree – 1 respectively for positive statements and for unfavourable statements the scoring procedure can be reverse order of scoring for negative statements.

The data pertaining to the attitude of the respondents have been analysed and presented as below in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards farming

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Less favourable (0-35)	17	14.17
2.	Favourable (36-41)	88	73.33
3.	Highly favourable (42 and above)	15	12.50
	Total	120	100.00

Data from the Table 1 The results regarding attitude of the rural youth towards farming shows that, 73.33 per cent of rural youth had favourable attitude, followed by 14.17 per cent of rural youth had less favourable attitude, and 12.50 per cent of rural youth had highly favourable attitude towards

farming.

The probable reason for such kind of the result may due to the, Youth have desirable qualities to organizing rural development programme. Since majority of them are awareness about the rural development activities like road repair, village sanitation, public library programme, construction of school building etc. as they are meant for the benefit of community itself, the benefits are ultimately to them only. The reasons for this kind of result may be that, as a now day's government is taking up various rural development activities in the villages. Hence, rural youth may be thought that this is not their work, there is no need to participate and sometimes think about that for the rural developmental activities are lack of financial assistance from government, sometimes local leaders can't guide properly to participate various activities., villagers not showing faith in youth, less training facilities about the rural development programme.

The findings of the study were supported by the findings of Kitturmath *et al.* (2014) [4].

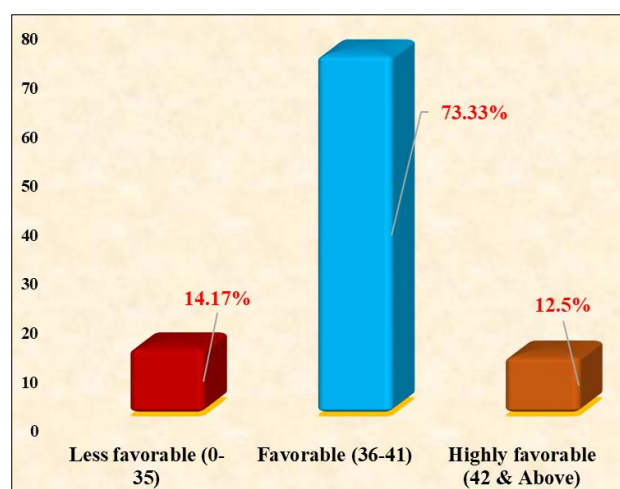


Fig 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards farming

5. Conclusion

It was clear that, 73.33 per cent of rural youth had favourable attitude, followed by 14.16 per cent of rural youth had less favourable attitude, and 12.50 per cent of rural youth had highly favourable attitude towards farming.

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