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Study on profile characteristics of farm youth practicing farming in Rayagada district of Odisha

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Abstract

Present study was carried out in Rayagada district of Odisha state during the academic year of 2022-23. To study the profile characteristics of farm youth practicing farming in Rayagada district of Odisha. Two blocks of Rayagada district were selected purposefully for the study *i.e.*, Rayagada and Gunupur block. From each block 5 villages were taken purposefully and from each village 15 respondents were selected randomly. Thus, a total of 150 respondents were selected and *Ex-post-facto* research design was used for the study. The results of the study revealed that, majority (88.60%) of the respondents under the study area practicing agriculture fall under the age group of 25-35 and most (37.30%) of them had education up to primary level, family size up to 5 members, majority of the respondents had medium level of innovative proneness, risk orientation, economic motivation and farming commitment, low extension contact, mass media and cosmopolitaness.

Keywords: Farm youth, agriculture, age, innovative proneness, education and economic motivation

Introduction

Agriculture is the only source of income and livelihood for 50-70 percent of the population and contributes major to the national income, it is the only source of food and also important source of fibers and other important products. In the present scenario research carried on farming plays a vital role in the Indian farming research agenda. (Chitra and Ramanna 2017)^[4]. Lack of employment and food security are the primary problems in the country which can be reduced by improving the participation of youth in agriculture, Active involvement of youth has the potential to reduce the challenges of food security, unemployment of youth and ageing farm populations (Bagson and Kuuder, 2013)^[2]. Therefore, there is a need to attract youth to participate in agriculture in rural agricultural societies (Man, 2012)^[9]. As development of youth determines the development of community and country, Hence there is a need to study the personal characteristics along with socio-economic, psychological and communication characteristics of rural youth, which in turn ensures the development of the country. With this background, the present study was carried out with specific objectives of knowing the profile characteristics of the farm youth in the selected blocks of Rayagada District.

Methodology

The study was carried out in the Rayagada district of Odisha State to study the profile characteristics of two blocks of Rayagada *i.e.*, Rayagada and Gunupur block were selected purposefully for the study. From each of sampled blocks, 5 villages were selected purposefully for the study and from each village 15 farm youth those who are engaged in agriculture were selected randomly for the study (from Rayagada 75 farm youth and from Gunupur 75 farm youth) Thus a total of 150 farm youth were selected for the study. The research design adopted for the study is *ex-post facto* technique, since the phenomenon has already occurred and is continuing. The data was collected from the respondents using structured and standardized personal interview schedule developed for the study. The data collected was tabulated and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation *etc.*

Results and Discussion

Personal characteristics of farm youth in relation to agriculture

Data in Table 1 revealed that in Age category, majority (88.60%) of the farm youth belong to the age group of >25-35 followed by 11.33 Percent belong to the age group of 18-<25 which might be due to the reason that in this age group of >25-35 are having more zeal, enthusiastic

and passionate towards agriculture and have more work efficiency as compared to the other age groups which is in agreement with Shivalingaiah (1995) [18]. Education category, 37.30 percent had education up to primary level followed by 18.60 percent were illiterate and the probable reason behind the findings might be as farmers in the study area want their children to help them in their farming activities and support them in agriculture which is in agreement with Hiremath (2000) [7]. In family size category, most (56.60%) of the farm youth had family size up to five members and the main reason for nuclear families might be because the families in the rural areas are in edge of disintegration due to the influence of fragmentation system being followed in urban areas and also at the same time joint family system is degrading slowly which is in agreement with Raksha and Yadav (2012) [13] and Shailaja *et al.* (1997) [17]. And in farming experience category, majority (44.00%) of the farmers in the study area had moderate farming experience which might be due to the reason that the farmers in the study area belong to the youth category who didn't have much experience in farming which is in line with Sawant (1999) [16].

Table 1: Personal characteristics of farm youth in relation to agriculture (N=150)

Characters	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Age	18-<25	17	11.33
	>25-35	133	88.60
2. Education	Illiterate	28	18.60
	Can read and write	17	11.33
	Primary education	56	37.30
	Middle school education	24	16.00
	High school education	13	8.60
	PUC	6	4.00
	UG	2	1.33
3. Family Size	PG	4	2.66
	Up to 5	58	56.60
	6 to 8	61	40.60
4. Farming Experience	More than 8	4	2.60
	Less	57	38.00
	Moderate	66	44.00
	High	27	18.00

Socio-economic characteristics of farm youth in relation to agriculture

Data in Table 2 revealed that in land holdings category, 72.60 percent of respondents were belong to small land holding followed by 16.60 percent are marginal farmers and 10.60 percent are semi-medium farmers, which reveals that majority of the farmers are small farmers which might be due to the reason that most of the farm families have scattered land which they have inherited from their parents, and majority of the farmers land holdings in India are small and medium size which is in line with Rokonuzzaman (2013) [14]. In family income category, most of the respondents were belong to medium (38.00%) family income level between 50,000-1000,00 and the probable reason behind the findings might be as the farm youth are not practicing any type of allied activities other than agriculture and the findings are in line with Sangamesh (2006) [15]. In case of leisure activities category, majority of the respondents were belong to low (45.33%) leisure activities, the reason behind the findings

might be as majority of the farm youth are spending most of their time in the fields engaging in agricultural activities and when they are back to home from field they felt tired which might be inhibiting them to participate in any type of leisure activities.

Table 2: Socio-economic characteristics of farm youth in relation to agriculture (N=150)

Characters	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Land holdings (area in acres)	Marginal farmers (<2.5)	25	16.60
	Small farmers (2.5-5)	109	72.60
	Semi- medium (5-10)	16	10.60
2. Family Income (in Rs.)	Low (<50,000)	56	37.30
	Medium (50,000-100000)	57	38.00
	High (>100000)	37	24.60
3. Leisure Activities	Low	68	45.33
	Medium	48	32.00
	High	34	22.66

Psychological characteristics of farm youth in relation to agriculture

Data in Table 3 revealed that in Risk orientation category, 41.30 percent of respondents had medium risk orientation followed by 39.30 percent have high orientation and 19.30 percent have low risk orientation, the probable reason behind the medium risk orientation might be as the farm youth in the study area might have strong motive to initiate any type of risk in the job they work as most of the farmers in the study area are small and marginal farmers who work hard for their living by putting their complete effort to improve their socio-economic condition which is in agreement with Lakshmi Narayani (2009) [8]. In case of innovative proneness category, majority of the farm youth had medium (54.60%) innovative proneness and the probable reason behind the findings might be, in general youth are always innovative but in the study area majority of the farm youth had primary education, low cosmopolitanism and less extension contact due to which they were not aware of any type of innovative ideas outside their locality and they always believed in localite source of information which were majorly traditional type of practices and also their parents had never initiated any type of innovative which is in agreement with Ajay Kumar (1989) [1] and Palaniswamy (1984) [10]. In farming commitment category, 56.00 percent had medium farming commitment, whereas 28.00 and 16.00 percent had high and low farming commitment, as commitment of the farmers in the study area had shown moderate followed by high which might be due to their engagement only in farming activities and not practicing any type of allied activities, for them agriculture is the one only source of sustained income and farming is part and parcel of their life which is in agreement with Preethi (2015) [11]. And in economic motivation category, majority of the respondents belong to medium (64.60%) economic motivation and the probable reason behind the findings might be as the respondents in the study area are farm youth who always make their mind of increasing profit in any kind of job they operate, & always want to increase their socio-economic condition and money is the sole motivator for them which is in agreement with Bhanu (2006) [3] and Hanchinal (1999) [5].

Table 3: Psychological characteristics of farm youth in relation to agriculture (N=150)

Characters	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Risk orientation	Low	59	24.66
	Medium	62	48.00
	High	29	27.33
2. Innovative proneness	Low	39	26.00
	Medium	82	54.60
	High	29	19.33
3. Farming commitment	Low	24	16.00
	Medium	84	56.00
	High	42	28.00
4. Economic motivation	Low	49	11.33
	Medium	97	64.60
	High	4	24.00

Communication characteristics of farm youth in relation to agriculture

Data in Fig. 1 revealed that in extension contact category, which shows that more than average number of farmers have low (60.60%) extension contact which might be due to the reason that majority of the farm youth believe in localite source of information rather than exposing towards information from outside their locality and even their parents from generations believed that localite source of information as credible information which is in agreement with Hardikar (1998) [6].

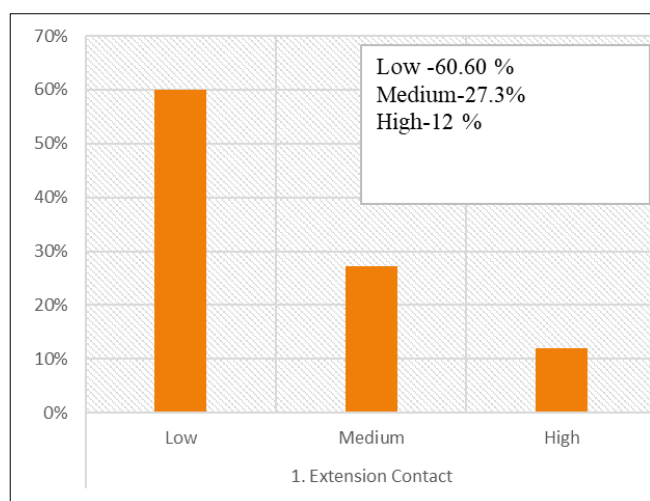


Fig 1: Extension contact of farm youth in relation to agriculture

Data in Fig. 2 revealed that in mass media use category, 56 percent have low mass media use followed by 28 percent have medium and 16 percent had high mass media use, and the probable reason behind the findings might be as most of the farm youth in the study area had education up to primary level, hence they were very rarely exposed to newspapers and magazines and used to gather information from only television, the results are in agreement with Vinayaka Reddy (1991) [19] and Puthirapraphat (1999) [12].

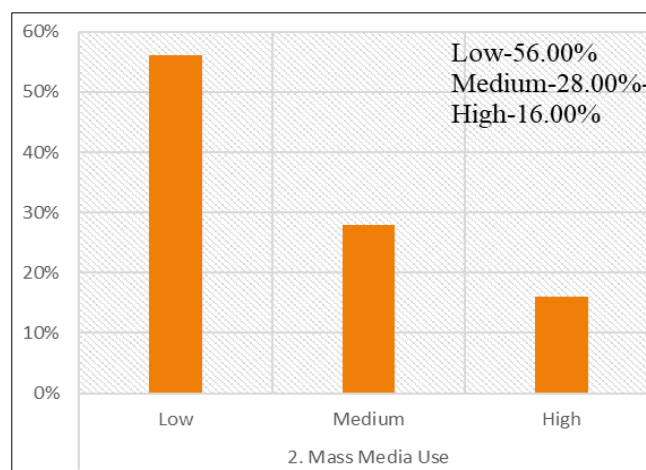


Fig 2: Mass Media Use of farm youth in relation to agriculture

Data in Fig. 3 revealed that in cosmopolitaness category, which shows that majority of the farm youth have low (35%) cosmopolitaness and the reason behind the findings might be as majority of the farm youth in the study area preferred their interpersonal relations within the locality rather than exposing outside their community, they felt that localite source of information is the trustworthy which is in agreement with Rokonuzzaman (2013) [14].

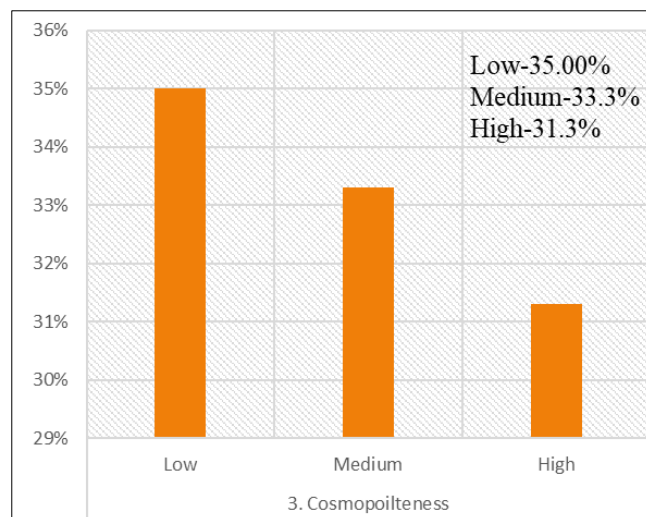


Fig 3: Cosmopolitaness of farm youth in relation to agriculture

Conclusion

Study can be concluded from the results, majority of the respondents practicing agriculture were in the 25-35 age group, having moderate farming experience. Majority of them had low exposure towards mass media, extension contact and cosmopolitaness. Hence awareness should be made among the farm youth towards the importance of exposing information outside their locality, and at the same time the organizations involved in implementing the extension programmes and

services should conduct more awareness on the importance of participation in extension activities and mass media which would eventually lead to development of farming community. With respect to farm youth responses, it was found that most of the farm youth had education up to primary level having small land holdings with moderate income, hence proper education facilities should be provided so that farm youth in the study area will have quality of education.

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