



## **Perception Of Rural Youth Towards The Agriculture As An Occupation**

**T. A. Bodake<sup>1</sup>, R. G. Nair<sup>2</sup>, S. S. Shende<sup>2</sup> & M. K. Rathod<sup>3</sup>**

1, Department of Extension Education College of Agriculture, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

2, Department of Extension Education College of Agriculture, Parbhani, Maharashtra, India

3, Department of Extension Education College of Agriculture, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

### **ABSTRACT**

*The present study is entitled as of "Perception of rural youth towards agriculture as an occupation in Gadchiroli district" was conducted in Gadchiroli district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State. Total 120 respondent rural youths were selected randomly from four tahsils namely Armori, Gadchiroli, Chamorshi and Etapali in Gadchiroli district. The selected rural youths were then personally interviewed with the help of tabulated structured interview schedule. The collected data were then analyzed and interpreted. The result revealed that about 46.67 per cent of respondents were found in low level of perception towards the agriculture as an occupation, whereas 30.00 and 23.33 per cent of respondents had medium and high level of perception towards the agriculture as an occupation.*

**Keywords:** Perception, rural youth, agriculture, occupation.

Received 19.01.2019

Revised 20.02.2019

Accepted 20.03.2019

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the National Youth Policy-2003, 'youth' was defined a person of age between 13-35 years, but in the current Policy Document, the National Youth Policy-2014, the youth age-group is defined as 15-29 years with a view to have a more focused approach, as far as various policy interventions are concerned [1, 4]. According to 2011 censuses, youth population in India with the age group of 15 to 35 years is around 43,02,28,000 (35.56%) of the total population. Out of this, 70 per cent (301 million) are urban youth. As majority of youth comes from rural area, they are considered as the national builders of tomorrow [3-6].

The 2011 census indicated that the youth population of Maharashtra was 3, 02,97,000. Among them, male were 1,62,55,000 and the female were 1,40,43,000. The total youth population constitutes about 35.2 per cent of the total population, which includes 35.2 per cent and 35.1 per cent of male and female youth population from the total male and female population respectively [2].

Rural youth are the precious human assets who can play an important role in the development activities as well as in agriculture because of their family and community background in agriculture and allied activities. If the talents and abilities of rural youth are properly nurtured and systematically guided agriculture can attain sustained growth and can bring prosperity to the country. It is very important for the rural youth to have a clear understanding and a correct perception about agriculture.

To study the personal, socio-cultural, situational and psychological characteristics of rural youth and perception of rural youth towards the agriculture as an occupation.

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The present study is entitled as of "Perception of rural youth towards agriculture as an occupation in Gadchiroli district" was conducted in Gadchiroli district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State. In Gadchiroli district there are 12 tahsils, hence one third tahsils i.e. four tahsils viz. Armori, Gadchiroli, Chamorshi and Etapali was selected purposively on the basis of maximum youth population. From each of selected tahsils, 3 villages were selected purposively having more youth population, in all 12 villages were selected for present study. From each of selected villages, 10 rural youth (15-29 yrs. age group) were selected randomly who was able to express their views on agriculture as an occupation, which

comprising total sample of 120 respondents. The selected rural youths were then personally interviewed with the help of tabulated structured interview schedule.

## RESULTS

### Personal, socio-cultural, situational and psychological characteristics of rural youth.

**Table 1. Distribution of Personal, socio-cultural, situational and psychological characteristics of rural youth.**

Sr. No.	Profile of the respondents	Category	Respondents (N=120)	
			Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (Years)	15 to 19	44	36.67
		20 to 24	46	38.33
		25 to 29	30	25.00
2.	Education	Illiterate	00	0.00
		Primary school	00	0.00
		Middle school	05	04.16
		Secondary school	28	23.34
		HSSC \ Junior college	39	32.50
		Diploma or Technical education	12	10.00
		U.G Degree	30	25.00
3.	Type of family	Nuclear	78	65.00
		Joint	42	35.00
4.	Size of family	Small (1 to 3)	13	10.83
		Medium (4 to 6)	94	78.34
		Big (7 and above)	13	10.83
5.	Caste	Backward category	77	64.17
		a. Schedule Tribe	64	53.33
		b. Schedule Caste	05	04.17
		c. Vimukta Jati	03	02.50
		d. Nomadic Tribe	05	04.17
		Other Backward Category (OBC/ SBC )	41	34.16
6.	Marital status	Unmarried	98	81.66
		Married	22	18.34
7.	Family income	Below poverty line	37	30.83
		Up to Rs. 50,000	41	34.17
		Rs.50,001 to Rs. 1,00,000	21	17.50
		Rs.1,00,001 to Rs.1,50,000	09	07.50
		Rs1,50,001 to Rs. 2,00,000	04	03.33
8.	Father's occupation	Above Rs. 2,00,000	08	06.67
		Landless labour	16	13.34
		Agriculture	71	59.17
		Agriculture and allied occupation (dairy farming/goat farming/poultry/apiculture/sericulture/forest wok)	09	07.50
		Agriculture and business(professional/non professional)	20	16.66
9.	Family land holding	Agriculture and service (job with monthly salary)	04	03.33
		Marginal	56	46.67
		Small	46	38.33
		Semi-medium	14	11.67
		Medium	04	03.33
10.	Social participation	Large	00	00.00
		Low	100	83.34
		Medium	09	07.50
11.	Extension contact	High	11	09.16
		Low	69	57.50
		Medium	36	30.00
12.	Field of interest	Large	15	12.50
		Farming (Agriculture and allied)	16	13.33
		Agriculture business	29	24.17
		Non-agricultural business (forest/ auto / riksha /grossary / pan shop etc.)	06	05.00

		Service (government or non-government)	69	57.50
		Farming (Agriculture and allied)	16	13.33
13.	Sources of information	Low	31	25.83
		Medium	64	53.34
		High	25	20.83
14.	Extension participation	Low	30	25.00
		Medium	77	64.16
		High	13	10.84
15.	Achievement motivation	Low	13	10.83
		Medium	82	68.34
		High	25	20.83
16.	Economic motivation	Low	24	20.00
		Medium	71	59.16
		High	25	20.84
17.	Attitude	Unfavourable	11	09.17
		Less favourable	71	59.16
		Moderately favourable	38	31.67
		Highly favourable	00	0.00

The findings showed from table 1 that about 38.33 per cent respondents were belonged to age group of 20 to 24 years, followed by 36.67 per cent belonged to age group 15 to 19 years, whereas 25.00 per cent of respondents belonged to age group of 25 to 29 years. Mean age of the respondents was 22 years.

Related to education considerable number 32.50 per cent of the respondents were educated up to higher secondary school, followed by 25.00 per cent who have educated up to U.G. degree level education. Another 23.34 and 10.00 per cent of respondents were educated up to secondary school and Diploma or Technical education, respectively. About 05.00 and 04.16 per cent of the respondents were found to have P.G. degree and middle school education, respectively. There is no number of respondents to be found illiterate and primary school education level, respectively.

It shows that, the most of the respondents (65.00%) were belonged to the nuclear type of family and remaining 35.00 per cent of the respondents were belonged to the joint type of family.

The majority of the respondents (78.34%) were belonged to the medium size of family and remaining were equally (10.83%) distributed among small and big size of family, respectively

Regarding the caste majority of the respondents (64.17%) were found in backward category which contributes Schedule Tribe (53.33%), Schedule Caste (04.17%), Vimukta Jati (02.50%) and Nomadic Tribe (04.17%). More than one third respondents (34.16%) were from other backward category (OBC/SBC). Only 01.67 per cent respondents were of from general (Open) category.

It is observed that great majority of young respondents (81.66%) were unmarried and rest of respondents (18.34%) were married.

It is apparent from the Table 1 that majority of the respondents' (34.17%) family income was up to Rs. 50,000 only, followed by nearly one third of the respondents (30.83%) who belongs to below poverty line, whereas 17.50 per cent of the respondents were earning Rs.1,00,001 to Rs.1,50,000 in a year and small proportion of respondents i.e. 07.50, 06.67 and 03.33 per cent had family income Rs.1,00,001 to Rs.1,50,000, above Rs. 2,00,000 and Rs. 1,50,001 to Rs. 2,00,000, respectively. Average of the family income of all respondents' family was Rs.88366.7.

More than half of respondents (59.17%) father had agriculture as major occupation, followed by 16.66 per cent of respondents' father having agriculture and business i.e. professional/non professional (cycle repairing, panshop, etc) as their occupation, whereas 13.34 per cent of father were landless labour (daily wage earner) and it was their major occupation.

Only 07.50 per cent respondents' father was engaged in agriculture and allied occupation i.e. dairy farming, goat farming/poultry/apiculture/sericulture/forest wok and remaining 03.33 per cent were engaged in agriculture and service i.e. job with monthly salary (Peon, service in private company).

Near about half of the respondents (46.67%) were possessed marginal land holding category, followed by 38.33 per cent of respondents had possessed the small land holding category. The 11.67 per cent of respondents were in semi-medium land holding category and 03.33 per cent of respondents were in medium land holding category. None of the respondents were found to be in large category of land holding.

It was revealed from Table 1 that, large majority of respondents (83.34%) had low level of social participation followed by 09.16 per cent of respondents had high level of social participation, whereas 07.50 per cent of respondents had medium level of social participation.

More than half of respondents (57.50%) were having low level of extension contacts followed by 30.00 per cent of respondents were medium level of extension contacts and the 12.50 per cent of respondents had large level of extension contacts.

From the above Table 1 it was observed that, majority of respondents (57.50%) were interested in doing service whether, it is in government or non-government organization as their major occupation. It was followed by 24.17 per cent respondents who were interested in agricultural business as a major occupation, whereas 13.33 and 05.00 per cent respondents had interest in farming (agriculture and allied) and non-agricultural business (forest/ auto/riksha/grossary/pan shop etc.), respectively.

Majority of the respondents (53.34%) were belonged to medium level of source of information, followed by 25.83 per cent of the respondents who had occupied in low level source of information. The one fifth of the respondents (20.83%) were belonged to high level of sources of information.

It was clear from the Table 1 that, majority of the respondents (64.16%) was belonged to medium level of extension participation, followed by 25.00 per cent of the respondents who had occupied in low level of extension participation. The least of the respondents (10.84%) were belonged to high level of extension participation.

It was clear from the Table 1 that, majority of the respondents (68.34%) were belonged to medium level of achievement motivation, followed by 20.83 per cent of the respondents who had occupied in high level of achievement motivation. The least of the respondents (10.83%) were belonged to low level of achievement motivation.

Apparently it was observed from the Table 1 that, about 59.16 per cent of the respondents were belonged to medium level of economic motivation, followed by 20.84 per cent of the respondents who had occupied in high level of economic motivation. Remaining respondents (20.00%) were belonged to low level of economic motivation.

It shows that majority of respondents (59.16%) has less favourable attitude towards agriculture as an occupation, followed by 31.37 per cent young respondents had moderately favourable attitude towards agriculture as an occupation and 09.17 per cent had unfavourable attitude towards agriculture as an occupation.

#### Perception of rural youth towards agriculture

**Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to perception of rural youth towards the agriculture as an occupation**

Sr.No.	Statements	SA	A	UD	DA	SDA
<b>I. Economic dimension</b>						
1.	Agriculture is a profitable venture	08 (06.66)	11 (09.17)	09 (07.50)	59 (49.17)	33 (27.50)
2.	Agriculture sector has more influence on overall development of community	10 (08.33)	07 (05.83)	17 (14.17)	57 (47.50)	29 (24.17)
3.	There is scope for upgrading livelihood in agriculture	02 (01.67)	19 (15.83)	14 (11.67)	64 (53.33)	21 (17.50)
4.	Practicing farming facilitate food security	39 (32.50)	65 (54.17)	03 (02.50)	11 (09.17)	02 (01.66)
5.	There is no enough opportunity for career development in agriculture	47 (39.17)	51 (42.50)	13 (10.83)	05 (04.17)	04 (03.33)
6.	Greater economic prosperity could be achieved in agriculture	05 (04.17)	22 (18.33)	13 (10.84)	31 (25.83)	49 (40.83)
7.	Lack of farm youth programs that supports youth to take up agriculture as a career	18 (15.00)	77 (64.17)	04 (03.33)	05 (04.17)	16 (13.33)

#### Economic dimension

Table 2 revealed that, majority of respondents (49.47%) were disagreed, followed by strongly disagree (27.50%), agree (09.17%), undecided (07.50%) and strongly agree (06.66%) that agriculture is a profitable venture. This indicates rural youth thought that agriculture is a not profitable venture/occupation/enterprise to selecting agriculture as career point of view.

About half per cent of respondents (47.50%) were strongly disagree, followed by disagree (24.17%), undecided (14.17%), agree (08.33%) and strongly agree (08.83%) that agriculture sector has more

influence on overall development of community. It means they have negative perception towards the agriculture sector which have more influence on overall development of community.

Out of total 53.33 per cent respondents were disagreed, followed by strongly disagree (17.50%), agree (15.83%), undecided (11.67%) and agree (01.67%) that there is scope for upgrading livelihood in agriculture. This indicates that rural youth believe that there is no any chance in agriculture for enhancing livelihood of farming community by practicing agriculture.

However, 54.17 per cent respondents were agreed, followed by strongly agree (32.50%), disagree (09.17%), undecided (02.50%) and strongly disagree (01.66%) that practicing farming will facilitate food security. It clearly indicated that rural youth believed that only agriculture sector has capacity to provide secured livelihood to the people of country.

On the other hand 42.50 per cent respondents agree, followed by strongly agree (39.17%), undecided (10.83%), disagree (04.17%) and strongly disagree (03.33%) that there is no enough opportunity for career development in agriculture. This show that rural youth believe that practicing agriculture is not an opportunity for career development of rural youth.

Around 40.83 per cent respondents were strongly disagreed, followed by disagree (25.83%), agree (18.33%), undecided (10.84%) and strongly agree (04.17%) that greater economic prosperity could be achieved in agriculture. This indicates that rural youth do not accept that practicing agriculture will achieve greater economic prosperity to farm family.

Majority of respondents (64.17%) were agreed, followed by strongly agree (15.00%), strongly disagree (13.33%), disagree (04.17%) and undecided (03.33%) that lack of farm youth programmes that supports youth to take up agriculture as a career. Government support regarding farm youth programmes is a major limiting factor for youth to accept agriculture as an occupation.

**Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to perception of rural youth towards the agriculture as an occupation**

II. Technology dimension						
1.	Timely operation and required agricultural inputs usage leads to optimum output	69 (57.50)	33 (27.50)	08 (06.67)	06 (05.00)	04 (03.33)
2.	Promoting advanced scientific agriculture do not help for farmers prosperity	09 (07.50)	18 (15.00)	48 (40.00)	21 (17.50)	24 (20.00)
3.	Scope for agricultural growth has to be enlarged in terms of agro-based activities	55 (45.83)	47 (39.17)	12 (10.00)	03 (02.50)	03 (02.50)
4.	Employment status could be improved by opting modern agriculture practices	09 (07.50)	24 (20.00)	25 (20.83)	33 (27.50)	29 (24.17)
5.	Agriculture is not a traditional rather than scientific activity	61 (50.83)	23 (19.17)	12 (10.00)	15 (12.50)	09 (07.50)
6.	Appropriate skill training will improve the participation of youth in agriculture	24 (20.00)	85 (70.83)	06 (05.00)	05 (04.17)	00 (00.00)

From Table 3 it was revealed that, out of total 57.50 per cent respondents were strongly agreed, followed by agree (27.50%), undecided (06.67%), disagree (05.00%) and strongly disagree (03.33%) that timely operation and required agricultural inputs usage leads to optimum output. This indicates that rural youth believe that timely operation, agricultural inputs usage and proper utilization of available resources will be obtained maximum output from practicing farming.

Furthermore, 40.00 per cent were undecided, followed by strongly disagree (20.00%), disagree (17.50%), agree (15.00%) and strongly agree (07.50%) that promoting advanced scientific agriculture do not help for farmers prosperity. This indicates that rural youths were confused and unable to decide about advanced and scientific agriculture a method that has potential to provide prosperity to the farmers.

Around, 45.83 per cent of respondents were strongly agreed, followed by agree (39.17%), undecided (10.00%), disagree (02.50%) and strongly disagree (02.50%) that scope for agricultural growth has to be enlarged in terms of agro-based activities. This indicates that rural youth believe that promoting agro-based industries or activities should have positive impact on agriculture as well as rural development. This shows that there is need to enlarge the agro-based activities that will helpful to rural youth to choice agriculture as a major occupation.

About 27.50 per cent disagree, followed by strongly disagreed (24.17%), undecided (20.83%), agree (20.00%) and strongly agree (07.50%) that employment status could be improved by opting modern

agriculture practices. This means that rural youth does not believe that employment status could be improved by opting modern agriculture practices.

On the other hand, 50.83 per cent of respondents strongly agreed, followed by agree (19.17%), disagree (12.50%), undecided (10.00%) and strongly disagree (07.50%) that agriculture is not a traditional rather than scientific activity. This indicates that rural youth have perception about doing agriculture in scientific manner rather than traditional way. This shows that rural youth awareness about practicing of farming in scientific way increasing day by day.

Majority of respondents (70.83%) were agreed, followed by strongly agree (20.00%), undecided (05.00%), disagree (04.17%) and strongly disagree (0.00%) that appropriate skill training will improve the participation of youth in agriculture. This indicates that rural youth wants to told that by taking appropriate skill development training related to farming new technologies will motivate them to select or choice agriculture as a their occupation.

**Table 4. Distribution of the respondents according to perception of rural youth towards the agriculture as an occupation**

III. Other dimension						
1.	Practicing agriculture leads to economic upliftment of farmers	08 (06.66)	11 (09.17)	29 (24.17)	30 (25.00)	42 (35.00)
2.	Water resource is highly essential for enhancing farm productivity	93 (77.50)	22 (18.33)	05 (04.17)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
3.	I am proud of being a member of an agriculture family	37 (30.83)	76 (63.33)	04 (03.34)	03 (02.50)	00 (00.00)
4.	Persons with passion towards agriculture can only practice farming	27 (22.50)	19 (15.83)	03 (02.50)	41 (34.17)	30 (25.00)
5.	Agriculture guarantees physical health and mental peace	07 (05.83)	27 (22.50)	46 (38.33)	17 (14.17)	23 (19.17)

From above the Table 4 it is revealed that, 35.00 per cent respondents were strongly disagree, followed by disagree (25.00%), undecided (2.17%), agree (09.17%) and strongly agree (06.66%) that practicing agriculture leads to economic upliftment of farmers. This indicates that by practicing of agriculture there is no chance in economic empowerment of the farmers. This denoted that there is negative approach towards the agriculture as an occupation.

As regards 77.50 per cent of respondents strongly agreed, followed by agree (18.33%), undecided (04.17%) disagree (0.00%) and strongly disagree (00.00%) that water resource is highly essential for enhancing farm productivity. This indicates rural youth knows a water resource is the main sources for enhancing the farm productivity.

Majority of respondents (63.33%) were agreed, followed by (30.83%), undecided (03.34%) disagree (02.50%) and strongly disagree (00.00%) that I am proud of being a member of an agriculture family. This indicates rural youth fill proud to be a member of an agriculture family. It means they have emotional attachment with the agriculture.

On other hand 34.17 per cent respondents were disagree, followed by strongly disagree (25.00%), strongly agree (22.50%), agree (15.83%) and undecided (02.50%) that persons with passion towards agriculture can only practice farming. This indicates that some of the rural youth with the interest in agriculture can do it with passion.

As regards 38.33 per cent respondents undecided, followed by agree (22.50%), strongly disagree (19.17%), disagree (14.17%) and strongly agree (05.33%) that agriculture guarantees physical health and mental peace.

**Table 5. Distribution of the respondents according to their level of perception**

Sr. No.	Perception level	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	56	46.66
2	Medium	36	30.00
3	High	28	23.34

Table 5 shows that, nearly half of respondents (46.66%) were found in low level of perception towards the agriculture as an occupation, whereas 30.00 and 23.34 per cent of respondents had medium and high level of perception towards agriculture as an occupation, respectively.

## CONCLUSIONS

About 38.33 per cent respondents were belonged to age group of 20 to 24 years, about 32.50 per cent of the respondents were educated up to higher secondary school, majority of the respondents (65.00%) were belonged to the nuclear type of family, the maximum proportion of the respondents (78.34%) were belonged to the medium size of family, majority of the respondents (64.16%) were found in backward category, majority of the respondents (81.66%) were unmarried, majority of the respondents (34.17%) had their family income Up to Rs. 50,000, about 59.17 per cent respondents' father had agriculture as their major occupation, about half of the respondents (46.67%) were belong to marginal land holding category. Majority of respondents (83.33%) had low level of social participation, majority of respondents (57.50%) were having low level of extension contacts, majority of the respondents (53.34%) were belonged to medium level of source of information. About 64.16 per cent of the respondents were belonged to medium level of extension participation, about 68.34 per cent of the respondents were belonged to medium level of achievement motivation. About 59.16 per cent of the respondents were belonged to medium level of economic motivation. Majority of respondents (59.16%) has less favourable attitude toward agriculture as an occupation. About 46.67 per cent of respondents were found in low level of perception towards the agriculture as an occupation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Author very thankful to Department of Extension Education College of Agriculture, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India India provide all the necessary inputs/information to complete this work.

## REFERENCES

1. Akinola, B. D., (2014). Determination of farmers adoption of agricultural insurance: the case of poultry farmers in Abeokuta metropolis of Ogun State. *British. J. of Poultry Sci.* 3(2): 36-41.
2. Ayinde, J. O., D. O. Torimiro., G. F. Koledoye and O. A. Adepoju. (2015). Assessment of rural youth involvement in the usage of information and communication technologies (ICTs) among farmers' in Osun State, Nigeria. Scientific papers series management, economic engineering in agriculture and rural development. 15: 17- 22.
3. Viswanatha, H., B. N Manjunatha, M. T. Lakshminarayan, (2014). Participation of rural youth in the agriculture and horticulture. *Mysore. J. Agric.* 48 (3): 464-466
4. Bhanu, V. L., (2006). Study on aspiration of rural youth and their attitude towards rural activities in Dharwad district of Karnataka state. *M.sc (Thesis) Dept. of agril. Extn. Edu. Unvi. of Agril. Science, Dharwad.*
5. Bhore, K. S., J. V. Ekale and V. N. Sidam, (2014). Constraint faced by rural youth in participating activities of Adarsh Gaon Yojana. *Agric. Update* 9 (3): 396- 398.
6. Dhakre, D. S., (2014). Aspiration of agriculture students towards agriculture enterprise in West Bengal: A case study *Indian Res. J. Extn. Edu.* 14 (1):12-16
7. Kamran, K., A. A. Maann and K. Asghar, (2008). Biological attitude of youth towards social development: a case study. *Int. J. Agri. Biol.*, 10: 731-732.

## CITATION OF THIS ARTICLE

T. A. Bodake , R. G. Nair, S. S. Shende & M. K. Rathod. Perception Of Rural Youth Towards The Agriculture As An Occupation. *Bull. Env. Pharmacol. Life Sci.*, Vol 8 [7] June 2019: 64-70