



## **Assessment of Problems Faced by Rural Youth in Farm Production**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The youths are a potential source of labour and skill that can effectively be used in the field of agriculture. The farming sector yields vast opportunity for employment of a sizeable proportion of this section, which in turn, can contribute towards the improvement of the house hold economy. The youth have their individual interests, potentials and limitations. Rural youth form vital human resources and it is a time of life full of potential and problems. A face-to-face survey research was conducted with a random sample of 110 rural youth respondents to assess the problems faced by them informing in Meerut district of UP India. The results were indicated that the most of the rural youth faced the problems like economic problems which ranked first followed by social, psychological, and general problems respectively. The youths need to be given more opportunity to delimit their social activity only to the field of agriculture as practicable.*

**Keywords:** Youth, Employments, farming problems, economic, social and psychological problems.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

According to the United Nations people who are aged between 14 to 25 years are referred as "youth". The farming sector yields vast opportunity for employment of a sizeable proportion of this section, which in turn, can contribute to world the improvement of the house hold economy. The youth have their individual interest, potential and limitations. Then total participations in agriculture should not be viewed without taking into consideration these factors in addition to social and cultural factors prevailing the situation. Youth participation in farming is related to educational level, family size, land holding, mass media exposure and social participation. The progress and prosperity of an agricultural country like India largely depends upon how effectively and efficiently the human resource potential of rural youth is developed and fruitfully utilized in farming activity. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that rural youth can play the key role in agricultural development both in past and present, the person responsible for formulating strategies, service and public policies for rural India have often tended to neglect the productive role of youth. Thus, young population have faced several problems, when they were taken up their ancestral occupation and get involved in farming. Under these circumstances it is necessary to assess and identify the problems faced by rural youth in farming so that the policy makers and development organization could take appropriate steps in solving their problems.

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

A descriptive face to face survey research was conducted in Machhra block in Meerut district to Uttar Pradesh India. Rural youth in this study consisted of people belonging to the age between 14 to 25 years. Two villages were selected by from Machhra block, which was also selected by random method from the 12 block of Meerut district. Then, at the final stage, 55 respondents were randomly selected from each village to have a total of 110 rural youths' respondents. Information was collected with the help of a pre tested and well-structured interview schedule. Problems faced by rural youth respondents in farming were measured with the help of a three-point continuum scale i.e., "very serious", "serious" and "not so serious" with corresponding score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively analysis was done by summing the score of each individual problem statement and then by averaging the scores for general, economic, psychological and social problems.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The major areas of problems of rural youth in farming along with their scores and ranks are presented in table-1. The table evinces that the major problems in farming perceived by the rural youth are economic problems, which ranked first followed by social problems, psychological and general problems respectively.

**Table- 1: Problems faced by rural youth in farm production**

S. No.	Problems	Mean Score	Rank
1	General Problems	191.40	□
2	Economic Problems	205.30	□
3	Psychological Problems	194.67	□
4	Social Problems	196.28	□

There were 14 sub areas under this category. It was found that “lack of interest of ADO/VDO” successively followed by “lack of necessary training in crop and dairy farming” and “lack of timely and regular extension support ”were the major sever problems experienced by the rural youth in farming. The other important problems were perceived by rural youth in descending order of their significance include “non-availability of dairy staff and veterinary medicines”, “unemployment and under employment”, “lack o guidance of participation in development training programmes”, “lack of proper leadership in the area”, “non-availability of necessary inputs”, “untimely message”, “non-availability of plant protection equipment”, “latharginess”, “non-adoptability of crossbred buffalo’s and cows in the local conditions”, respectively.

**Table 2: General problems faced by rural youth in farms production**

S. No.	General Problems	Mean Score	Rank
1	Letharginess	169	□
2	Unemployment and under employment	215	□
3	Non-availability of plant protection	171	□
4	Lack of irrigation facilities	136	□
5	Complexity involved in maintenance of cross bred buffalos/cow	104	□□
6	Lack of proper leadership in the area	203	□
7	Non availability of necessary input (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc.)	203	□
8	Non availability of veterinary staff and medicines	218	□
9	Lack of timely and regular extension support	252	□
10	Lack of necessary training in crop and dairy farming	257	□
11	Lack of interest of ADO/VDO	258	□
12	Untimely message	188	□
13	Lack of interest on the part of parents/guardians in farming	124	□
14	Lack of guidance for participation in development	212	□

The above findings clearly points out for the need of tailor made, regular and timely extension support and training in farm related activities especially suited to the requirement of the future needs of the farmers. Extension works serving the rural areas should take special care and interest in involving and facilitating the rural youth in all development activities.

The government should ensure regularity of the extension staff at the village. The private players and NGO should come forward effectively and efficiently to shoulder the responsibility of extension activities along with government in this new era of privatization.

**Table 3: Economic problems faced by rural youth in farm production**

S. No.	Economic Problems	Mean Score	Rank
1	High cost of farm inputs (fertilizers)	250	□
2	High cost of production	252	□
3	Lack of subsidies	213	□
4	Lack of credit facilities	209	□
5	Complication as well as time consuming loaning procedure	248	□
6	Exploitation by the middle man in the market	170	□
7	Lack of marketing facilities	154	□
8	Low economic returns	190	□
9	Low annual income of parents	167	□

Table 3 revealed that economic problems include “high cost of production” was perceived as the severe most problem by the rural youth, this was closely followed by problems like “high cost of inputs”, “complication as well as time consuming loaning procedure” respectively.

Thus, the government and institutions dealing with rural credit should work out plans and procedure to create more credit facilities for the farmers and the process should be simple and fast.

Provisions for providing loans to young farmers should also be made available. In this era of liberalization, the farmers should be helped out with indirect subsidies, as provided by even industrially developed nations.

### Social and psychological problems

**Table 4: Social and psychological problems faced by rural youth in farm production**

S. No.	Social and psychological problems	Mean Score	Rank
1	Poor economic conditions of rural people	228	□
2	Hesitance in adoption of other cast-oriented work	118	□
3	Low educational status of rural people	250	□
4	Lack of transport facilities	150	□
5	Lack of cultural and recreational programmes in the area	161	□
6	Lack of rural youth organization in the area	264	□
7	Lack of adequate knowledge and skill in farming	228	□
8	Lack of innovativeness	189	□
9	Low decision-making ability	165	□
10	Negative attitude of others to farming world	148	□
11	Higher risk involving in farming	264	□
12	Farming is very laborious	208	□

Table 4 presents the social and psychological problems faced by rural youths in the study area. The respondents reported jointly “lack of rural youth organization in the area” and “higher risk involving in farming” as the major problems. They also felt that “low educational status of rural people” followed by “poor economic conditions of rural people” and “lack of adequate knowledge and skill in farming” respectively were the other important problems faced by them in the farming.

The other social and psychological problems faced by rural youth were “farming is very laborious”, “lack of innovativeness”, “low decision-making ability”, lack of cultural and recreational programmes in the area”, “negative attitude of others towards farming”, “hesitance in adoption of other cast-oriented work” were also found as important social and psychological problems being faced by the youth in the rural areas.

### CONCLUSION

The problems that are faced by today’s youth are many and varied. There is a need for them to be fruitfully employs and there is an equally important need to solve their economic, social, and psychological problems. Thus, rural youth development programmes should be formulated and implemented keeping in mind the needs and requirements of the young farming community in the area. Leadership development programmes for rural youth should be initiated. Location specific and training programmes should be organized for the farm youth such that this potential mass is motivated to remain in the rural areas. Extension workers should take special care to listen and solve the problems of this section of society. Special care should be taken to enhance the participation level of illiterate youths as this section can provide the stable back bone for future agriculture. The youth need to be given more opportunity to delimit their social activity only to the field of agriculture as far as practicable.

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