



Aspirations of students of open agriculture education centres towards Agri - entrepreneurship in Nandurbar district

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ABSTRACT

At present so many rural youth are students of open and distance education and are living in rural areas having different aspirations, habits and values of life. The development of personal, social, economical and spiritual aspects of these students are possible, only when their aspirations, habits and values of life are recognized early and guided properly. Therefore, in this study, aspirations regarding agri- entrepreneurship of the rural students were considered and conducted in open agriculture education centres located in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra which would be useful to the agencies involved in the development of them. The exploratory design was used and the data from 120 open agriculture education centres students were collected with the help of interview schedule. The findings emerged out of the present investigation was that the half of the respondents had high level of aspiration about agri-entrepreneurship and it has been revealed that majority of the respondents were aspired as "Yes" with the statements that, to start own agribusiness.

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INTRODUCTION

Learning is a the process by which a person changes his behaviour through his own efforts and abilities (self activity). The educational system in India over the past few thousand years been changed from time to time because of the socio-political changes. Mass education and democratization of education are of relatively recent origin. This need based mass education cannot be managed by the conventional system of education due to its limited resources and constraints. This has generated an alternate mode for managing need based mass education through some non-formal approach. This approach was known earlier as correspondence education. Later on, it was named as 'Distance education'. Finally, it was given a flavour of 'Openness and is now renamed as 'Open and Distance Education System.' At present so many rural youth are student of Open and distance education system who are living in rural areas having different needs, aspirations, habits and values of life. The development of personal, social, economical and spiritual aspects of these students are possible, only when their needs,

aspirations, habits and values of life are recognized early and guided properly. Therefore, in this study, aspirations regarding agri- entrepreneurship of the rural students were considered and which would be useful to the agencies involved in the development of them.

There are less number of studies in this area of research in Maharashtra. Hence, an attempt has been made in this study to know the aspirations of the students of open agriculture education centre towards agri-entrepreneurship in Nandurbar district.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted during the year of 2010-2011 at open agriculture education centre affiliated to Yeshwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik and located in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra state. In Nandurbar district there are two open agriculture centres, one at Shahada and another is at Nandurbar Tahsil.

The exploratory research design of social research was used for the present study. For selection of population of study, only the total

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students admitted in the Diploma programme during year 2010 of both open agricultural education centres in Nandurbar district were considered. To select the respondents, Diploma programme wise list of the student admitted during the year 2010 was obtained from centre head and centre coordinator of both open agriculture education centres in Nandurbar district. Among the lists, ten students from each Diploma programme of both open agriculture centres were selected by simple random sampling. Therefore, 60 respondent students were selected from each open agriculture centre in Nandurbar district. Thus, total 120 respondent students comprised the sample size of the study. An interview schedule, keeping in view the objectives of the study, was developed. The data were collected through face to face interview method by contacting the selected students.

OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained pertaining to aspiration of agriculture students about agri-entrepreneurship are mentioned below.

It is revealed from Table 1 that half of the respondents (50.83 per cent) had high level of aspiration about agri-entrepreneurship while 34.17 per cent and 15.00 per cent of the respondents had low and medium level of aspiration about agri-entrepreneurship, respectively.

Sr. No.	Aspiration about agri - entrepreneurship	Respondents (n=120)	
		Number	Per cent
1.	Low	41	34.17
2.	Medium	18	15.00
3.	High	61	50.83
	Total	120	100

Thus, it can be concluded that the half of the respondents had high level of aspiration about agri-entrepreneurship.

From Table 2, it has been revealed that majority of the respondents were inspired as 'Yes' with the statements that, to start own agribusiness (66.67 per cent), to become a successful agri-entrepreneur (57.5 per cent), to work for social development of community through agri-entrepreneurship (60 per cent), to work for economic development of community through agri-entrepreneurship (60.83 per cent), to increase employment opportunities in agricultural sectors through agri-entrepreneurship (54.17 per cent), to become an idol for other agri-entrepreneur (50.83 per cent), to earn more income through agri-entrepreneurship than service or job (51.67 per cent),

Table 2 : Statement wise distribution of the respondents according to their aspiration about agri-entrepreneurship

Sr.No.	Aspirations	Yes	No
1.	To start own agri-business.	80 (66.67)	40 (33.33)
2.	To become a successful agri-entrepreneur	69 (57.5)	51 (42.5)
3.	To work for social development of community through agri-entrepreneurship	72 (60)	48 (40)
4.	To work for economic development of community through agri-entrepreneurship	73 (60.83)	47 (39.16)
5.	To increase employment opportunities in agricultural sectors through agri-entrepreneurship	65 (54.17)	55 (45.83)
6.	To become an idol for other agri-entrepreneur	61 (50.83)	59 (49.17)
7.	To start agri-entrepreneurship with or without Government assistance	52 (43.33)	68 (56.67)
8.	To start own consultancy services through agri-entrepreneurship	58 (48.33)	62 (51.67)
9.	To earn more income through agri-entrepreneurship than service or job	62 (51.67)	58 (48.33)
10.	To eradicate poverty in rural area by creating employment opportunity through agri-enterprises	80 (66.67)	40 (33.33)
11.	To work for development of farmers	91 (75.83)	29 (24.17)
12.	To make efforts to remove traditionalism in business	85 (70.83)	35 (29.16)

to eradicate poverty in rural area by creating employment opportunity through agri-enterprises (66.67 per cent), to work for development of farmers (75.83 per cent), to make efforts to remove traditionalism in business (70.83 per cent).

Whereas, majority of them respondents were inspired as 'No' with the statements that, to start agri-entrepreneurship with or without Government assistance (56.67 per cent), to start own consultancy services through

Table 3 : Coefficient of correlation of selected characteristics of the respondents with their aspiration about agri – entrepreneurship

Sr.No	Variables	'r' values
1.	Family education	0.006NS
2.	Family annual income	0.160NS
3.	Family type	0.109NS
4.	Family background	0.040NS
5.	Attitude towards agri - entrepreneurship	0.019NS
6.	Father's occupation	0.068NS
7.	Economic orientation	0.388**
8.	Land holding	0.092NS
9.	Resource availability	0.349**

**and *indicate significance of valus at 0.01 and P=0.05, Respectively, NS - Non-significant

agri-entrepreneurship (51.67 per cent).

From Table 3 it can concluded that among selected charecteristics, economic orientation and resource availability were found to be highly significant at 0.01 level of probability whereas, family education, family annual income, family type, family background, attitude towards agri- enterprenership, father's occupation and land holding were found to be non-significant with aspiration of agriculture student about agri- enterprenership. Ingle *et al.* (1997) made some contributions on aspiration and employment of agricultural graduates and Similary Deshmukh (2005) studied the aspiration of higher secondary students attending agriculture as vocational subject. Kadiri *et al.* (2007) worked on job perception of agricultural graduates.

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