



Research Article

Attributes affecting the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra in Jaipur district of Rajasthan

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SUMMARY : Need for youths involvement and participation in the socio-economic, cultural and political environment of a country, in its development programmes, as well as in activities based on the youths specific needs, desires and aspirations facilitates the mobilization of the rural youths, in the age group of 13 to 35 years, towards goal of rural development. There are some attributes which affect the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra. This study was conducted by personally interviewing the 118 Nehru Yuva Kendra participating rural youth from randomly selected 9 villages of 3 panchayat samities in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. It was found that the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra was significantly associated with their education level and social participation, whereas their socio-economic status and size of land holding was found non-significantly associated with their extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra.

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KEY WORDS:

Involvement, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Association

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Nehru Yuva Kendra seeks to bring education closer to community life and needs to involve the youth population between the age group of 15 to 35 (now 13 to 35) in constructive activities. The kendras are primarily designed to organize out of school education and provide form at the district level. The emphasis is on the development of a scientific attitude and facilities for creative activities through participation in performing arts including community singing and theatre organizing competitive sports activities and opportunities for the constructive use of leisure time and youth's participation in community work.

The Nehru Yuva Kendra promotes leadership, characters development, community service, self-reliance, secularism, democracy and patriotism as the essential features for national development. The organization conducts various programmes aimed at mobilizing the youth in this

direction, thus building a sense of national identity and integration based on eschewing fear and violence.

For the implementation of different programmes and activities, Nehru Yuva Kendra has a trained cadre of district youth coordinator, National service volunteers, youth leaders and social workers throughout the country. The strength of Nehru Yuva Kendra lies in the vast network of youth clubs and mahila mandals at grass root level. The programmes of Nehru Yuva Kendra have resulted into awareness generation, motivation and promotion of their benefits. These village based organizations have been sensitized to such an extent that they have become pressure groups as well as catalytic agents for social, economic, cultural, political and environmental changes in their respective villages. These youth groups come forward to tackle various local problems which ultimately affect on National development. Rural sustainability and self-reliance

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have become the hallmark of every active youth club and mahila mandal. They have also started playing a very crucial role in the rural areas as social auditors. These youth clubs and mahila mandals have in fact become functional action groups.

Need for youths involvement and participation in the socio-economic, cultural and political environment of a country, in its development programmes, as well as in activities based on the youths specific needs, desires and aspirations facilitates the mobilization of the rural youths, in the age group of 13 to 35 years, towards goal of rural development.

Keeping all these points in mind, the present study entitled attributes affecting the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra in Jaipur District of Rajasthan was undertaken.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

This research study was conducted in jaipur district of Rajasthan which consists of thirteen panchayat samities, out of which three panchayat samities namely; Amber, Govindgarh and Sanganer panchayat samities were selected by simple random sampling technique. From the selected panchayat samities, nine villages were selected randomly and fifty per cent of rural youths were selected from each of the selected villages by simple random sampling technique. Hence, a total sample of 118 rural youths was selected for study purpose. An interview schedule was prepared by the investigator for measuring the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra and for measuring various attributes of the rural youth, which might affect the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra. The data were collected by personal interview method. The data so collected were classified, tabulated and analysed. The interpretations were drawn after subjecting the data to statistical analysis which led to the following major findings.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The association between the selected independent variables namely socio-economic status, education, social participation and size of land holding of rural youths with their attitude towards the different activities of Nehru Yuva

Kendra were measured by computing 'chi-square' and have been presented under following heads:

Association between the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra and their socio-economic status:

The data in Table 1 shows that about 58.83 per cent of rural youth who had medium level of involvement and had medium level of socio-economic status, whereas only 3.16 per cent and 2.60 per cent of the youth having high extent of involvement were having high and low level of socio-economic status, respectively.

Table 1 further indicates that the calculated value of chi square was 3.98 which is less than the tabulated value at 4 degree of freedom at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, the Null hypothesis (H_0) i.e. extent of involvement of rural youths is independent of their socio-economic status was accepted and alternative hypothesis (H_1) i.e. extent of involvement of rural youths is dependent on their socio-economic status was rejected. Thus, the extent of involvement of rural youths is independent on their socio-economic status in NYK activities.

The findings show that the association between extent of involvement and their socio-economic status of rural youths was found non significantly associated. It means that the socio-economic status of rural youths had no impact on their extent of involvement. This might be due to fact that the Nehru Yuva Kendra had given to the equal opportunity of all rural youths to participates in Nehru Yuva Kendra activities.

Association between extent of involvement of rural youths and their education level:

The data in Table 2 show that about 59.58 per cent of rural youth who had medium level of involvement were educated, whereas only 29.42 per cent of rural youth having medium level of involvement were literate. Only 11.38 per cent and 5.62 per cent of the youth having high extent of involvement were educated and literate, respectively.

The data in Table 2 further indicate that the calculated chi square value was 11.35 which was highly significant at 1 per cent level of significance at 2 degree of freedom. Thus, Null hypothesis (H_0) i.e. extent of involvement of rural youths is independent of their education level was rejected and

Table 1 : Extent of involvement of rural youths and their socio-economic status

Involvement level	Socio-economic status			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Low extent (Below 1.62)	2 (1.83)	7 (7.93)	3 (2.24)	12
Medium extent (From 1.62 to 1.92)	12 (13.57)	63 (58.83)	14 (16.60)	89
High extent (Above 1.92)	4 (2.60)	8 (11.24)	5 (3.16)	17
Total	18	78	22	118

$\chi^2 = 3.98$ NS

NS = Non-significant

χ^2 = Calculated chi square value

Note : Figures in parentheses show expected frequency

Table 2 : Extent of involvement of rural youths and their education level

Involvement level	Education level		Total
	Literate	Educated	
Low extent (Below 1.62)	7 (3.96)	5 (8.04)	12
Medium extent (From 1.62 to 1.92)	22 (29.42)	67 (59.58)	89
High extent (Above 1.92)	10 (5.62)	7 (11.38)	17
Total	39	79	118

$\chi^2 = 11.35^{**}$ C = 0.29
C = Contingency coefficient

** indicates significance of value at P=0.01

χ^2 = Calculated chi square value

Note : Figures in parentheses show expected frequency

alternative hypothesis (H_1) *i.e.* extent of involvement of rural youths is dependent on their education level was accepted.

The findings show that the education level was significantly associated with their extent of involvement of rural youths in Nehru Yuva Kendra activities. It means that higher the education level of rural youths were subjected to more extent of involvement in Nehru Yuva Kendra activities. This may be due to fact that the educated youths can devote more time in reading literature and written materials which are published by Nehru Yuva Kendra.

Association between extent of involvement of rural youths and their social participation:

The data in Table 3 show that about 53.55 per cent of rural youth who had medium level of involvement were having passive participation, whereas only 35.45 per cent of rural youth having medium level of involvement were having active participation. Only 10.23 per cent and 6.77 per cent of the youth having high extent of involvement were having passive and active participation, respectively.

Table 3 further indicates that the calculated value of chi square was 8.20 which is greater than the tabulated value at 2 degree of freedom at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence,

the Null hypothesis (H_0) *i.e.* extent of involvement of rural youths is independent of their social participation was rejected and alternative hypothesis (H_1) *i.e.* Extent of involvement of rural youths is dependent on their social participation was accepted.

The findings shows that the social participation was found to be significantly associated with their extent of involvement of rural youths in Nehru Yuva Kendra activities. This might be due to fact that the social participation gave an opportunity to participate in social activities of rural youths for their scope and helps to rural youths for solution of problems.

Association between extent of involvement of rural youths and their size of land holding:

The data in Table 4 shows that about 39.22 per cent of rural youth who had medium level of involvement and had small size of land holding, whereas only 4.03 per cent and 5.47 per cent of the youth having high extent of involvement were having big and marginal size of land holding, respectively.

Table 4 further reveals that the calculated value of chi square was 1.92 which is less than the tabulated value at 4 degree of freedom at 5 per cent level of significance. Therefore,

Table 3 : Extent of involvement of rural youths and their social participation

Involvement level	Social participation		Total
	Active	Passive	
Low extent (Below 1.62)	7 (4.78)	5 (7.22)	12
Medium extent (From 1.62 to 1.92)	29 (35.45)	60 (53.55)	89
High extent (Above 1.92)	11 (6.77)	6 (10.23)	17
Total	47	71	118

$\chi^2 = 8.20^*$ C = 0.25

* indicates significance of value at P=0.05

χ^2 = Calculated chi square value

C = Contingency coefficient

Note : Figures in parentheses show expected frequency

Table 4 : Extent of involvement of rural youths and their size of land holding

Involvement level	Size of land holding			Total
	Marginal	Small	Big	
Low extent (Below 1.62)	4 (3.87)	5 (5.28)	3 (2.85)	12
Medium extent (From 1.62 to 1.92)	31 (28.66)	38 (39.22)	20 (21.12)	89
High extent (Above 1.92)	3 (5.47)	9 (7.50)	5 (4.03)	17
Total	38	52	28	118

$\chi^2 = 1.92$ NS

NS = Non-significant

χ^2 = Calculated chi square value

Note : Figures in parentheses show expected frequency

the Null hypothesis (H_0) i.e. extent of involvement of rural youths is independent of size of land holding was accepted and alternative hypothesis (H_1) i.e. extent of involvement of rural youths is dependent on size of land holding was rejected. This finding reveals that there was no association between size of land holding and their extent of involvement of rural youths in NYK activities.

The findings show that the extent of involvement of rural youths and their size of land holding was found non-significantly associated. This might be due to fact that the Nehru Yuva Kendra had given to the equal opportunity all rural youths to participates in Nehru Yuva Kendra activities. Thus, it can be said that the size of land holding of rural youths had no impact on their extent of involvement. An investigation on impact of Nehru Yuva Kendra on rural youth was also made by Bana (2002) and Gupta (1989) at different district of Rajasthan.

Conclusion:

From the findings it can be concluded that the extent of involvement of rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra was significantly associated with their their education level and social participation , whereas their socio-economic status and size of land holding was found non-significantly associated with their extent of involvement of

rural youths in different activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra.

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