



Personal, socio economic and psychological profile of rural youth in rainfed and irrigated tracts

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Abstract : The study was conducted in two taluks of Bagalkot district viz., Badami(Rainfed) and Jamakhandi (Irrigated) involving 120 rural youth to know their personal, socio economic and psychological profile and to know the association between profile characteristics of the rural youth and their attitude towards agriculture as well as their aspiration pattern. The study revealed that majority were studied up to P.U.C. in rainfed and irrigated tracts (82.00%) had medium sized family (54.99% and 58.33%) in with medium level of annual income of (58.33 and 54.99 %) were small and marginal land holders(45.00% and 38.33 %) in rainfed and irrigated tracts, respectively. Participation of rural youth in extension activities and local institutions were higher in irrigated tract compared to rainfed tract. Mass media like radio (45%.00) and television (53.22%) were possessed by considerable percentage of rural youth in both in rain and irrigated tracts. Thus, education, land holding and mass media for rural youth had significant relationship with their attitude towards agriculture in both the tracts, participation had significant relationship with their attitude in irrigated tract. However, education, annual income and mass media utilization of rural youth had significant relationship with their aspiration pattern in both the tracts and land holding, local institutional participation had significant relationship with aspiration pattern in irrigated tract.

Key Words : Rural youth, Personal profile, Socio-economic profile, Psychological profile

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INTRODUCTION

The 2001 census indicated that the youth population of India was 35,59,28,000. Among them, male and female were 18,45,78,000 and 17,65,00,000, respectively. The place of rural youth class is more important for the future of the country. The development and harnessing of the talents and energies of youth towards constructive work is of greater importance than any other efforts. Rural youth are the precious human assets who can play an important role in the development activities, agriculture and other allied activities. The rural youth male and female, because of their family and community background in farming are active partners in various agriculture and allied activities.

Youth are the most potent segment of the population of a country. The youth of today are the hopes of tomorrow.

They are the backbone of the country. The socio-economic development and prosperity of rural areas depends to a considerable extent, on the type of youth living in rural areas, because the rural youth have abilities to orient themselves to go along the main stream of the development process. They reflect the national potentiality and represent the life blood of a nation. Development of youth determines the development of community and country as a whole. So, the future of the country lies in their hands, what they will become, what role they will play in a democratic society and what they will do, will be dependent to a greater extent on the period between their childhood to adulthood. Hence, a study was designed to know their personal, socio-economic and psychological profile of rural youth in rainfed and irrigated tracts and to know the association between profile characteristics of the rural youth and their attitude towards agriculture as well as

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their aspiration pattern.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted during the year 2005-06 in Jamakhandi (irrigated and Badami (rainfed) taluks of Bagalkot district. Selection of villages was done by purposive sampling method. Total 120 respondents were selected randomly from the four villages for the study dependent variables were attitude and aspiration. Independent variables were age, education, occupation, family type, family size, land holding, annual income, local institutional participation, extension participation, mass media utilization. The variables were quantified by developing appropriate scoring pattern. An interview schedule was used to collect the data from the respondents by personal contact method. The statistical tools used were percentage, mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results presented in Table 1 reveal that the respondents of the present study were rural youths in the age category of 18-30 years in both rainfed and irrigated tracts. With regard to education level of the respondents, it was observed that majority of the respondents (85.00%) had studied up to P.U.C. level in both rainfed and irrigated tracts. While 15.00 and 11.66 per cent of respondents in rainfed and irrigated tracts studied up to degree level, respectively. This result is in line with the results of Channal (1995).

The data pertaining to family type revealed that more than half of the respondents (51.66%) belonged to nuclear family and nearly half of the respondents (48.33%) in rainfed tract belonged to joint family. Whereas, reverse trend was observed in irrigated tract, wherein 53.33 and 46.66 per cent belonged to joint family and nuclear family, respectively. In India since time immemorial joint family system is existing, rural people are mostly traditional in their value system and have belief in co-operative living.

The information about size of the family showed that majority of the respondents in rainfed and irrigated tracts belonged to medium size family (66.66% and 61.66%). In irrigated tract, one fifth of the respondents (20.00%) were maintaining small families whereas more than one fourth of the respondents (30.00%) were mainlining small families in rainfed tract. This might be due to their awareness about family planning, education and greater exposure to mass media. The study revealed that more than half of the respondents in rainfed and irrigated tract belonged to medium category of annual income (54.99% and 58.33%). Nearly 17.00 per cent of them in rainfed tract belonged to higher category of annual income whereas 23.32 of them in irrigated tract belonged to category of higher annual income. The result is in line with the results of Thangavel *et al.* (1996).

The possible reason that could be contributed were their

large size land holdings and non farm occupations to support their income. The number of earning members engaged in different occupations other than agriculture also might have contributed to higher income.

In case of land holding, nearly half of the respondents were small farmers (45.00%). The reason might be fragmentation of ancestral land from generation to generation which might have resulted to smaller size of land holdings. In irrigated tract, nearly one third of the respondents (31.66%) had more than 10 acres of land holding. The possible reason that could be attributed to this may be that agriculture was found to be the main occupation of the family have inherited it from their ancestors and irrigation facilities might have influenced them to maintain their lands and continue farming occupation.

It was found that more than one fourth of the respondent's families (31.66%) possessed bullock pairs in irrigated tract and only 11.66 per cent of them possessed bullock pairs in rainfed tract. This is due to subsistence farming and also smaller size of land holdings of respondents families. About 15.00 and 30.00 per cent of the respondents families possessed thresher in rainfed and irrigated tracts, respectively. While, 13.33 and 41.66 per cent of them possessed farm power implements and machineries like tractors and pumpsets in irrigated tract. None of them possessed these farm power in rainfed tract. The result is in agreement with the results of Hiremath (2000).

It was revealed that 30.00 per cent possessed buffaloes, followed by goats (23.32%), poultry birds (18.33%). Whereas one fifth of the respondents (20.00%) possessed cows in rainfed tract. More than one third of the respondents possessed buffaloes and cows (46.66% and 45.00%, respectively) whereas, more than one fourth of the respondents (28.33%) possessed goats, and more than one fifth of the respondents (21.66%) possessed poultry birds in irrigated tract. It was noticed that in irrigated tract nearly 23.33 and 5.00 per cent of them participated occasionally and regularly in agricultural exhibitions while more than one fourth (26.66%) and only (8.33%) of them participated occasionally and regularly in Krishi Mela.

This might have resulted in findings of the study where it is observed that extension participation of irrigated tract youths was relatively high has compared to dry land tracts. The result is in agreement with the results of Shivalingaiah *et al.* (1996).

Only 13.33 per cent of the respondents and 3.33 per cent of the respondents participated occasionally and regularly in agricultural exhibition in rainfed tract. Whereas, only 16.66 per cent and 5.00 per cent of the respondents participated occasionally and regularly, respectively, extension participation helps individuals to gather information on technological development, innovations in field of agriculture. It helps individuals to get exposed to recent development and use them on their fields. As the technological developments

have been focused more on irrigated tracts than dry land tracts they have resulted in higher adoption of technologies in these tracts further, the dry land nature of agriculture might results in low participation.

It was found from the study that in rainfed tract more than one fourth of the respondents (36.66%) participated in local institutions like youth club while, only 13.33 and 23.33 of the respondents participated regularly and occasionally. In irrigated tract more than one third of respondents (43.33%) were members of youth club whereas, more than one fourth of the respondents (26.66%) and (16.66%) participated regularly and occasionally, meagre 3.33 per cent of the respondents

were members of cooperative societies and also attending occasionally in meetings of co-operative societies. This is due to exposure obtained by youth and due to their participation in different organizations.

From the contents of Table 1, it could be observed that relatively higher participation was observed in youths of irrigated tract compared to dry land tract. This could be due to the factors like their exposure to these local institutions, their membership and benefits derived from them. Generally a person is actively involved in areas or organizations where he gets higher satisfaction and reaps higher benefits from his participation. In rainfed tract, low participation due to lack of

Table 1: Personal socio-economic and psychological profile of rural youth in rainfed and irrigated tracts (n=60)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Rainfed		Irrigated	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (18-30 years) young				
2.	Education				
	Illiterate	06	10.00	04	06.66
	Primary school (1-4 th Std.)	05	08.33	06	10.00
	Middle school (5-9 th Std.)	08	13.33	11	18.33
	S.S.L.C.	19	31.66	20	33.33
	P.U.C.	13	21.66	12	20.00
	Degree.	09	15.00	07	11.66
3.	Family type				
	Nuclear	31	51.66	28	46.66
	Joint	29	48.33	32	53.33
4.	Family size				
	Small (Less than 5-members.)	18	30.00	12	20.00
	Medium (5-8 members.)	40	66.66	37	61.66
	Large (More than 8 members)	02	03.33	11	18.33
5.	Annual income				
	Low	17	28.33	11	18.33
	Medium	33	54.99	35	58.33
	High	10	16.66	14	23.32
6.	Land holding				
	Marginal (up to 2.5 acres)	12	20.00	04	06.66
	Small (2.5-5 acres)	27	45.00	12	20.00
	Semi medium (5-10 acres)	12	20.00	23	38.33
	Medium (10.1-25 acres)	09	15.00	19	31.66
7.	Farm power possession				
	Bullock pair	07	11.66	19	31.66
	Tractor	00	00.00	08	13.33
	Pumpset	00	00.00	25	41.66
	Thresher	09	15.00	18	30.00
8.	Live stock possession				
	Buffaloes	18	30.00	28	46.66
	Cows	12	20.00	27	45.00
	Goats	14	23.32	17	28.33
	Poultry birds	11	18.33	13	21.66

motivation, lack of knowledge, intimate social restrictions and lack of social interaction. The result is in line with the results of Perumathiyalagan and Sudramanaian (1998).

The results on mass media revealed that the radio was the most common mass media, which had possessed by majority (61.22%) of respondents in rainfed and irrigated tracts, respectively. This might be due to the fact that a common man can easily afford to possess radio in these days. Television is the other most popular mass media was possessed by half (51.66%) of the respondents even though the cost of television is high, when the radio listening and television viewing behaviour was analysed listeners and viewers were more than possessors of radio and television, respectively because few of them view and listen at relatives or friends house. It was clearly indicated that mass media like radio, television, news paper would help to acquire knowledge about improved agriculture and had influence on the feelings of an individual towards agriculture. Most of youth clubs were possessing television sets, both these mass media were used mainly as a source of entrainment, the habit of listening radio mostly depends on the individuals interest but not on the availability of leisure time as one can listen to it even while working. The finding is confirmed by the results of Singh and Kunzaroo (1985).

The data from Table 2 revealed that education, land holding and mass media utilization of rural youth had significant relationship with their attitude towards agriculture in rainfed tract. Whereas, other characteristics *viz.*, age, annual income, local institutional participation did not establish any significant relationship. However, education, annual income, land holding, local institutional participation, extension participation and mass media utilization of rural youth showed significant relationship with their attitude towards agriculture in irrigated tract and only age did not show any significant relationship with their attitude towards agriculture.

The possible reasons might be that agriculture is the main occupation of the youth families and they have been participating in agricultural operations since from many years and their commonness in exposure to agriculture, residing in rural areas and viewing the agriculture in a similar way much

variation was not found in their attitude. The finding was confirmed by the results of Singh and Kunzaroo (1985). The formal education of the respondents might have helped them to a greater extent in understanding the importance of improved agriculture in influencing their feelings towards agriculture. The results is in consonance with the results of Singh *et al.* (1999).

In case of irrigated tract, increased income level with help to possess more materials which are necessary to carry out some of improved agricultural practices which in turn leads to development of favourable attitude. Lower land holding, non-availability of irrigated facilities and dryland nature of farming leads to low income level, which inturn leads to unfavourable attitude towards agriculture in rainfed tract. The results are in agreement with the findings of Meti (1998). The high income from big land holding might have influenced the feeling of an individual. The results are in agreement with the results of Gautam *et al.* (2000).

Rural youth had contact with progressive farmers, agricultural officers, extension coordinators through which youth get information about various improved practices, subsidies and schemes of agriculture departments. This in turn helps to develop a favourable attitude towards agriculture.

Rural youth had non-significant relationship with attitude towards agriculture in rainfed condition. This could be due to lack of interest, less exposure of the youths and less contact with progressive farmers and extension persons. Whereas, significant relationship was found in irrigated tract. The result is in conformity with Patel and Patel (1993).

This may be due to the exposure obtained by the youths and their active participation in different organizations like co-operatives, youth clubs where they come in contact with progressive farmers and also which influence their attitude towards agriculture. The extent of exposure to mass media like radio, television, newspaper would help to acquire knowledge about improved agriculture and had influence on the feelings of an individual towards agriculture. The above results are inline with the results of Singh and Kunzroo (1985) and Meti (1998).

It could be seen from Table 3 that education, annual

Table 2 : Relationship between selected independent variables with attitude of rural youth towards agriculture in rainfed and irrigated tracts (n=60)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Rainfed	Irrigated
		'r' values	'r' values
1.	Age	-0.318 ^{NS}	-0.460 ^{NS}
2.	Education	0.528*	0.643**
3.	Annual income	0.376 ^{NS}	0.732**
4.	Land holding	0.820**	0.764**
5.	Local institutional participation	0.017 ^{NS}	0.352*
6.	Extension participation	-0.160 ^{NS}	0.291*
7.	Mass media utilization	0.426**	0.349**

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01 (2 tailed), respectively

NS=Non-significant

Table 3 : Relationship between selected independent variables with aspiration pattern of rural youth in rainfed and irrigated tracts (n=60)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Rainfed	Irrigated
		'r' values	'r' values
1.	Age	-0.313 ^{NS}	-0.395 ^{NS}
2.	Education	0.430*	0.524**
3.	Annual income	0.506**	0.671**
4.	Land holding	0.057 ^{NS}	0.718**
5.	Local institutional participation	0.016 ^{NS}	0.510**
6.	Extension participation	-0.206 ^{NS}	0.203 ^{NS}
7.	Mass media utilization	0.424**	0.338**

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01 (2 tailed), respectively NS=Non-significant

income, mass media utilization of rural youth found to have significant relationship with their aspiration pattern in rainfed tract. Whereas, age, land holding, local institutional participation did not show any significant relationship with aspiration pattern. Thus, education, annual income, land holding, local institutional participation, mass media utilization of rural youth was found to have positive and significant relationship with their aspiration pattern in irrigated tract. Whereas, other characteristics such as age and extension participation did not show any significant relationship with their aspiration pattern.

Number of college educate rural youth expressed high aspirations. Whereas, illiterate expressed lower aspirations. Illiterate rural youths had favourable attitude for agriculture as compared to more educate rural youth with high educational levels and higher educational aspirations. These results are in conformity with Nagarajaih (1978).

The youths in the high education group might have been exposed to the benefits of higher educational levels like professional education and college education in contrast to the youths belonging to low education group. Hence, there was positive association between education and aspiration level of youths. The result is in line with Nagarajaih (1978). The good financial condition, higher income of respondents had higher aspiration levels, motivates an individual not only to lead better life but also to strive towards reaching next level and stages of need satisfaction. The result is in consonance with the results of Singh and Kumar (1977).

The youth with small and large farm size differed significantly with respect to their aspiration levels. The reason that ought to be given for this finding could be that the result youth with large farm size have mostly aspired for high social status *i.e.*, independent professional like agriculture, as the families with high land holding can better face the situations concerned with agriculture than with lower size of the land holding. Thus, it was observed that the farm size of the family of rural youth was associated with their aspiration level.

The local institutional participation influenced the aspiration level of rural youth in irrigated tract. The possible reason for the findings was due to their exposure to different

situations such as youth club and other programmes, to new ideas and interactions with the outsiders etc. The result is in line with the result of Baldock (1971).

Mass media utilization also influenced the aspiration level of rural youth in both rainfed and irrigated tracts. The possible reason for the findings with respect to the aspiration level might be that as the youth gets exposed to the outside world through different mass media especially printed media like newspaper. Mass media are the psychological thinking processes of an individual and have direct bearing on them. Therefore, they developed higher aspiration like participation in developmental activities, agricultural improvement on their farm and earning more money etc. The research conducted in Karnataka state by Joshi (1979) is in conformity with the findings of the present study.

Conclusion:

It could be concluded that education, mass media utilization were the influencing factors for attitude of rural youth in rainfed tract. Whereas, education, annual income, land holding, local institutional participation, extension participation and mass media utilization influenced the attitude of rural youth towards agriculture in irrigated tract. However, education, annual income and mass media utilization influenced aspiration pattern of rural youth in rainfed tract. Whereas, education, annual income, land holding, local institutional participation and mass media utilization influenced aspiration pattern of rural youth in irrigated tract.

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