



# Socio-economic status of rural youth and their leisure time

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## ABSTRACT

The present investigation was centered to find out education, caste, family type, family size, occupation and annual income of family and utilization of the leisure time of the rural youth. The assessment of Leisure time of rural youth it may be some time difficult, but if the observed by the youth, it is easily availability and their utilization in their own and rural development. Current decade has witnessed rapid technological changes and advancement through science and technology and attained great strides by enabling the country's head high through defense, food and economic security. Result showed that the education, caste, family type, family size, occupation and annual income of family in which all the parameter shows the value of youth and their correlation between different parameters. In education more than half of the respondents had their educational standard upto Middle or Higher secondary level, maximum number of respondents (44%) belonged to Schedule Caste, maximum number of respondents (98%) are belonged to Joint Family, maximum number of respondent's family size (84.5%) was Above 5 members, (93%) respondents were dependent on Agriculture and allied occupations and the (47.5%) respondents were found in such families whose annual income was in the category of Rs. 75,001-1,00000.

## INTRODUCTION

India is largely an agricultural country and so most of our young people live in villages and they are partially engaged in agricultural activities. Hence needs of rural youth are particularly taken care of rapid urbanization is leading to migration of youth to urban centers and the rural youth who migrate to cities in search of education and employment are sometimes unable to the situation leading to psychological adjustments and risky behaviour (Kulkarni and Murali, 1991). Special efforts are made to help this group of young people. Similarly special programmers have been designed for youth with disabilities, other marginalized youth, including socially and economically backward sections (Pandey *et al.*,

2010). It is necessary to engage the youth for productive activities. Youth is the more enthusiastic and full energetic so youth play the very significant role for the development of rural areas because most of the youth belongs to rural families and live in rural areas (Geest Kees van der, 2010). Some important parameters in research found the status of youth and the value of leisure time is given below. These technological advancements have also created some unfavourable impact on society through enhancing the leisure time especially for rural youths. "Leisure an activity to which the individuals may freely devote himself outside the needs and obligation of his occupation, his family and society for his recreation, diversion and personal development" (Spiers, 2009; Dumazedier, 1960). Current decade has witnessed

**Table A : Selected CD blocks, villages and respondents of Hardoi districts**

Name of the selected C.D. block	Total number of villages	Name of the selected villages	Total no. of families of selected villages	No. of Selected families and respondents (rural youths 10 per cent, only one youth in each selected family) according to their land possession		
				High	Medium	Low
Behandar	160	Hasanapur	513	84(8)	174(17)	245(24)
		Sarehari	436	71(7)	123(12)	215(21)
		Behander Kallan	543	74(7)	114(11)	325(32)
		Gauri Saiyad Talib	371	34(3)	129(13)	195(19)
		Bakui	286	35(3)	65(6)	174(17)
Total	160	05	2149	298(28)	605(59)	1154(113)

Note: The values in the parenthesis are percentages.

rapid technological changes and advancement through science and technology and attained great strides by enabling the country's head high through defense, food and economic security. Therefore the present investigation was centered to find out education, caste, family type, family size, occupation and annual income of family and utilization of the leisure time of the rural youth.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The purpose of this article is to deal with various methods and procedures used with respect to the selection of study area and the locale of study, sampling designs and selection of variables under study, their empirical measurements and statistical methods employed for the analysis of the data. The present investigation was centered to find out the personal and social characteristics, daily routine, range and magnitude and utilization of the leisure time activities and interest pattern of the rural youth. Therefore respondents of the present study are rural youth. Out of 75 districts, only one district *i.e.*, Hardoi was selected purposively for the present study because of convenience and paucity of time of the investigator. The district of Hardoi is administratively divided in 19 CD Blocks. Since the proposed study in depth and comprehensive one block *i.e.*, Behandar were selected randomly and out of 160 villages in the selected block, 5 villages' respondents/ youth were selected randomly. These selected villagers have been presented in the Table A.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

### Education:

Education is a catalyst in grasping the communicated knowledge. It affects the creative and non creative leisure time activities of the rural youth. The selected respondents are categorized according to their educational background and data has been presented accordingly in the Table A.

Table 1 indicates that the maximum number of respondents (57%) had middle or higher secondary followed by Graduate and above (23%), Primary (9.5%), Illiterate (5.5%), Can read and write (3.5%) and Can read only (1.5%). It can be concluded that more than half of the respondents had their educational standard upto Middle or Higher secondary level. Mishra (2009) and Spiers (2009) found similar observation.

**Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their education (n=200)**

Sr. No.	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	11	5.5
2.	Can read only	3	1.5
3.	Can read and write	7	3.5
4.	Primary	19	9.5
5.	Middle or higher secondary	114	57
6.	Graduate and above	46	23
	Total	200	100

### Caste:

Caste status of a person influences pattern of leisure and recreational activities. The distribution of respondents on the basis of their caste has been presented in the Table 1.

Table 2 shows that the maximum number of respondents (44%) belonged to Schedule Caste followed by OBC (34.5%), General Caste (20.5%) and Schedule tribe (1%). Therefore, it is concluded that SC were found

**Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their caste (n=200)**

Sr. No.	Particular	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	General	41	20.5
2.	OBC	69	34.5
3.	SC	88	44
4.	ST	2	1
	Total	200	100

more as for as caste dominance in study area. Kaur, (2010) was also found similar kind of result.

### Family type:

Family plays an important role in leisure time activities. Respondents, on the basis of their family type are presented in the Table 3.

Table 3 indicates that the maximum number respondents (98%) are belonged to Joint Family followed by nuclear family (2%). Therefore, it can be said that joint family system prevailed dominantly in the study area. Geest Kees van der (2010) and Kaur (2010) found similar observation.

**Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their family type (n=200)**

Sr. No.	Particular	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Nuclear	4	2
2.	Joint	196	98
	Total	200	100

### Family size:

Family plays an important role in leisure time activities. Respondents, on the basis of their family size are presented in the Table 4.

**Table 4 : Distribution of respondents according to their family size (n=200)**

Sr. No.	Particular	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Upto 5 member	31	15.5
2.	Above 5 member	169	84.5
	Total	200	100

It is evident from the Table 4 that the maximum number of respondent's family size (84.5%) was above 5 members followed by upto 5 members (15.5%). In the study area more than 5 members were more dominant in number according to family size of the respondents. Similar observation was also found by Shona *et al.* (2002).

### Occupation:

The family occupation of the respondents was considered as main component that largely affected the socio-economic status of the respondents.

Table 5 reveals that (93%) respondents were dependent on Agriculture and allied occupation followed by (7%) of the respondents were engaged in subsidiary (Service, Business and caste based) occupation. Most of the respondents' family reported Agriculture as their main occupation. Similar observation was also found by Shona *et al.* (2002).

**Table 5 : Distribution of respondents according to their occupation (n=200)**

Sr. No.	Particular	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Agriculture, agricultural labour	186	93
2.	Service, business, caste based occupation	14	7
	Total	200	100

### Annual income of family:

It is obvious from Table 6 that (47.5%) respondents were found in such families whose annual income was in the category of Rs. 75,001-1,00,000 followed by other categories *viz.*, 34.5 per cent (Rs. 50,001-75,000), 11.5 per cent (Rs. 1,00,001-1,25,000), 5 per cent (Rs. 1,25,001-1,50,000) and 1.5 per cent (Above-1,50,000), respectively. The maximum numbers of respondents' families were observed in Rs. 75,001-1,00,000 annual income category in the study area.

**Table 6 : Distribution of respondents according to their annual income of family (n=200)**

Sr. No.	Particular	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Rs.50001-75000/	69	34.5
2.	Rs.75001-1,00000/	95	47.5
3.	Rs.1,00001-1,25000/	23	11.5
4.	Rs. 1,25001-1,50,000/	10	5
5.	1,50,000 to above	3	1.5
	Total	200	100

### Leisure time:

The leisure is complex phenomenon and open challenging avenues for a sociological study. The very meaning of the word has changed continually. At time it has referred a state of freedom, an absence of obligation,

Sr. No.	Particular (Time in hours)	Rainy	Winter	Summer
1.	Upto 01.00	47(23.5)	92(46)	10(5)
2.	01.00-02.00	143(71.5)	101(50.5)	161(80.5)
3.	02.00 to above	10(5)	7(3.5)	29(14.5)
	Total	200 (100)	200(100)	200(100)

Sr. No.	Variable	Leisure hour
1.	Education	0.008798
2.	Caste	-0.00894
3.	Family type	0.114374
4.	Family size	0.061652
5.	Occupation	0.021724
6.	Annual family income	-0.04015

\* and \*\* indicate significance of value at P=0.05 and 0.01 Significant at probability level = 0.139 and 0.182, respectively

a cluster of activities, at others; it has suggested a mood of contemplation. Leisure time is not simply time not spent at work, personal care, housework, shopping, child care, and sleeping are all essential commitment of time which most people would not regard as leisure. Leisure time and activity generally involve:

- Time free of practical commitment such as work and study.
- Activities, which are self-imposed and freely chosen.
- Activities, which the individual considers to be personally enjoyable.

It is obvious from the Table 7 that the majority of respondents (46%) had leisure time upto 01.00 hours in winter season after that (23.5%) and (5%) respondent had leisure time upto -01.00 hours in rainy and summer season, respectively. The maximum number of respondent (80.5%) had 01.00-02.00 hours leisure time in summer season followed by (71%) and (50.5%) of respondents had the leisure time 01.00-02.00 hours in rainy and winter season, respectively. and the respondents (14.5%) had 02.00- Above 02.00 hours of leisure time in summer season (5%) and (3.5%) respondents had the leisure time 02.00- Above 02.00 hours in rainy and winter, respectively. Thus the above table shows that the leisure time availability is more in rainy and summer season reason behind this the long duration of day, hot weather, minimum agricultural works, close schools, change timing of schools, finished the board exams etc. Mishra (2009) and Spiers (2009) found similar observation.

It is indicates that the time is devoted for leisure

time activities was found positively associated with education, family type, family size, occupation, and Annual family income of the respondents and it may be concluded that the leisure time was not affected. Caste, land holding, income, material possession and social participation were negatively correlated with their leisure time availability. Correlation co-efficient between the communication behaviour and leisure hour was found significant at 5 % level of significance.

### **Conclusion :**

Concluded that the education, caste, family type, family size, occupation and annual income of family in which all the parameter shows the value of youth and their correlation between different parameters. In education more than half of the respondents had their educational standard upto Middle or Higher secondary level, maximum number of respondents (44%) belonged to Schedule Caste, maximum number of respondents (98%) are belonged to Joint Family, maximum number of respondent's family size (84.5%) was Above 5 members, (93%) respondents were dependent on Agriculture and allied occupations and the (47.5%) respondents were found in such families whose annual income was in the category of Rs. 75,001-1,00000. All the above result shows that the youth utilize their leisure time for the doing any kinds of the constructive activities for the development, no doubt rural areas will be well developed because most of the youth belongs or live in rural areas.

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