



Research Article

Constraints faced by entrepreneur (farmers) in maintaining their farm enterprise and suggestions

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in Ashti, Shirur, Patoda, Beed and Kaij tahsils of Beed district. The study is about entrepreneurial behaviour of farmers in relation to personal characteristics in selected areas of Beed district. The study was carried out at twenty five villages of Beed district which were selected randomly. From each village five entrepreneurs (farmers) were selected randomly for study and data were collected by direct interview. Thus, total 125 entrepreneurs were selected for the study, viz., majority of the farmers expressed financial problem, lack of exposure to mass media and information and marketing problem as reported by 76.00, 64.80 and 60.80 per cent, respectively followed by lack of knowledge (55.20%), lack of food grain storage facility (52.00%), labour problem (46.40%) and lack of transportation facilities (44.80%), respectively.

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KEY WORDS :

Entrepreneur,
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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Agriculture is extremely important in India as not only it helps to provide food for the rural population but it is also a significant contributor to the economy. The agricultural sector contributes as around 14.2 per cent of the GDP of India (Anonymous, 2011). Agriculture is also significant as the sector provides about 65 per cent population of India with employment and a livelihood. Rural development is more than ever before linked to entrepreneurship.

Development of economy of any nation depends primarily on the important role played by entrepreneurs. The role played by such entrepreneurs is of vital importance in developing country like India, where there are ample opportunities for using innovations to exploit the available resources particularly in the field of agriculture. The entrepreneur is an economic man, who strives to maximize his profits by innovations. He is a man with a will to act, to assume risk and to bring about a change through organization of human efforts. They are

persons who initiate, organize, manage and control the affairs of an enterprise that combine the factors of production to supply goods and services in any sector, as such, the development or under-development of entrepreneurship in the country.

All round development of agriculture is possible with the effective exploitation of human as well as material resources. In our country, where human resources are found to be in plenty, we can identify individuals in all segments of population who have the requisite entrepreneurial skills.

Keeping above fact in view, the present study was designed to analyze the entrepreneurial behaviour of farmers in Marathwada region with following specific objectives:

- Level of entrepreneurial behaviour of farmers.
- Constraints faced by entrepreneurs (farmers) in maintaining their farm enterprise and suggestions.
- Relationship between personal characteristics and entrepreneurial behaviour.

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RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Beed district. Five tahsils and five villages from each selected tahsil were selected randomly *i.e.* total twenty five villages were selected. A list of entrepreneurs possessing two main crops such as cotton and jowar from these twenty five villages was obtained. From this list five respondents from each village were selected randomly for the study comprising the total sample of 125 respondents. In view with above objectives the random sampling was used to select district, tahsil, village and farmers. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to study the personal characteristics and entrepreneurial behaviour.

Interview schedule was prepared in three parts. First personal characteristics of farmers, second level of entrepreneurial behaviour and third constraints faced by farmers in maintaining their farm enterprise and suggestion.

Following the completion of data collection, the collected data were classified, tabulated and analyzed by using statistical methods like frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and correlation co-efficient.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the present study as well as relevant discussions have been presented under following sub heads:

Level of entrepreneurial behaviour :

The data from Table 1 indicates that majority of respondents (68.80%) had medium entrepreneurial behaviour, while (17.60%) of the low and (13.60%) had high entrepreneurial behaviour.

The possible reason for majority of respondents having medium entrepreneurial behaviour might be due to their medium financial condition, medium size of land holding to

Table 1: Level of entrepreneurial behaviour of farmers (n=125)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	22	17.60
2.	Medium	86	68.80
3.	High	17	13.60
Mean=95.464,		S.D.= 6.850	

Table 2 : Constraints faced by entrepreneur in maintaining their farm enterprise

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Lack of knowledge	69	55.20	IV
2.	Financial problem	95	76.00	I
3.	Marketing problem	76	60.80	III
4.	Lack of exposure to mass media and information	81	64.80	II
5.	Lack of transportation facilities	56	44.80	VII
6.	Lack of food grain storage facility	65	52.00	V
7.	Labour problem	58	46.40	VI

take risk and late adoption of new technologies besides medium in innovativeness and medium information seeking behaviour.

These findings are in the line with the results of Nagesha (2005), Pandeti (2005), Nagesh (2006) and Rathod *et al.* (2012).

Constraints faced by farmers in maintaining their farm enterprise and suggestions :

Careful examination of the results presented in Table 2 revealed that, majority of the farmers expressed that financial problem, lack of exposure to mass media and information and marketing problem as reported by 76.00, 64.80 and 60.80 per cent, respectively followed by lack of knowledge (55.20%), lack of food grain storage facility (52.00%), labour problem (46.40%) and lack of transportation facilities (44.80%), respectively.

Farmers faced a lot of problems towards their fullest participation in agricultural and allied activities. The government policies, non-government and voluntary organizations and other agencies should work together to achieve these objectives. To encourage entrepreneurs, the government, banks and financial institutions will have to offer various concessions, incentives and subsidies, however, in the market places they will have to survive and grow. Farmers faced the problems of transportation and storage facility. This is due to problem of roads and problems of birds, rats, rodents and other storage problems. Another problem is high wages of labour. Several field operations require more labour. If sufficient labours are not available in the locality, they have to bring the labours from other villagers and hence the labourers might demand higher wages.

These findings are in accordance with the earlier findings of Chelladurai (2000), Sumangala (2003), Nagesha (2005) and Ravi (2007).

Table 3 revealed that, majority of respondents suggested easy availability of finance (72.80%) be made followed by giving policy support for entrepreneurs (71.20%), organizing effective training programmes (58.40%), promoting co-operatives (55.20%) and improving marketing system (50.40 %), respectively for taking up entrepreneurial activities.

Table 3 : Suggestions offered by entrepreneur for taking up entrepreneurial activities

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)	Rank
1.	Easy availability of finance be made	91	72.80	I
2.	Policy support for entrepreneurs be made	89	71.20	II
3.	Organize effective training programmes	73	58.40	III
4.	Promote co-operatives	69	55.20	IV
5.	Improve marketing system	63	50.40	V

These findings are accordance with the earlier findings of Ravi (2007).

Relationship between personal characteristics and entrepreneurial behaviour of farmers :

Table 4 shows that amongst independent variables of farmers, six independent variables *i.e.* farming experience, education, land holding, annual income, assets and level of aspiration showed positive and significant relationship at 0.05 level of probability, whereas extension contact showed positive and significant relationship at 0.01 level of probability and three independent variables *i.e.* occupation, social participation and mass media use had non- significant relationship with their entrepreneurial behaviour.

Table 4 : Relationship between personal characteristics and entrepreneurial behaviour of farmers

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Correlation co-efficient(r)
1.	Farming experience	0.213*
2.	Education	0.198*
3.	Occupation	0.090 ^{NS}
4.	Land holding	0.233*
5.	Annual income	0.238*
6.	Assets	0.199*
7.	Social participation	0.087 ^{NS}
8.	Mass media use	0.070 ^{NS}
9.	Extension contact	0.390**
10.	Level of aspiration	0.197*

*and ** Indicate significance of value at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively, NS=Non-significant

Conclusion :

The overall findings showed that majority of the respondents were fall under medium level of entrepreneurial behaviour. It is also concluded that, seven variables *viz.*, farming experience, education, land holding, annual income, assets, extension contact and level of aspiration had positive and significant relationship with their entrepreneurial behaviour, while occupation, social participation and mass media use had non-significant relationship with their entrepreneurial behaviour.

During research it was found that, majority of the farmers expressed that financial problem, lack of exposure to mass media and information and marketing problem then another important constraint was lack of knowledge, lack of food grain storage facility, labour problem and lack of transportation facilities, respectively.

Majority of respondents suggested easy availability of finance followed by policy support for entrepreneurs, organizing effective training programmes, promoting co-operatives and improving marketing system, respectively for taking up entrepreneurial activities.

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