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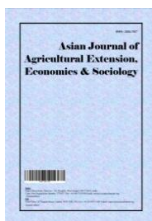
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Assess the Rural Youth Extent of Participation in Rural Developmental Activities Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu - An Overview

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The extent of participation in rural developmental activities of rural youth in the development process is essential in order to bring the changes in socio-economic structure and improving the quality of life. The place of rural youth class is more peculiar and important for the future of country. Rural youth are the precious human assets who can play an important role in the development of agriculture and other allied activities. Youths can make their productive contribution to national development and through which society can benefit from the idealism and the sense of dedication of youth at the same time, they also occasionally involved in extent of participation in rural developmental activities in a village side like village sanitation, construction of youth club building, afforestation activities and natural calamity relief work etc., Since such a kind of rural developmental activities are increases their self-esteem, self-confidence, motivation and aspiration to give them a sense of identity and of being needed by the society. India has rich rural youth potential. The population of rural youth in developmental activities contribute to national development. Hence, the

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above facts revealed that the participation of youth in rural development activities is very significant and essential phenomena. Therefore, this attempt was made in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu with the 200 sample size of rural youth respondents. Cent per cent of the respondents have taken up activities related with adult literacy programme, construction of school building, afforestation activities and other social cultural activities. With regard to the adult literacy programme most of the respondents (93.00 per cent) stated that they have regularly participated in the related activities. Almost a similar percentage of the respondents have also regularly participated in the activities related with social cultural programme (94.50 per cent), construction of school building (89.50 per cent), afforestation activities (87.50 per cent), whereas the other respondents have participated in the above activities either occasionally or rarely.

Keywords: *Extent of participation; rural youth; agriculture; activities; Tamil Nadu.*

1. INTRODUCTION

India has the largest youth population in the world that is poised to increase further in the coming decade. About seventy percentage of India's population is below the age of 18-35 years. Youth have been playing significant role in almost every country of the world as they possess zeal and vigour and they can build their nation [1,2]. Future of a country is determined to a large extent by what the youth learn in their formative years. The emphasis on the youth is just because they are well aware of their strength and challenges. Youth are recognized as effective change agents in this society [3,4]. The youth are the most vital human resource of the nation on whom the present and future of the country depend [5,6]. The youth of today are the hopes of tomorrow and they are the back bone of the country. According to the initial figures of the 2011 census, the youth population in the country including adolescents is around 550 million. India had a total youth population of 460 millions that is 40.00 per cent of the total population [6-8]. Out of this population, about 70.00 per cent were rural youth and the remaining 30.00 per cent were urban youth. This phenomenal increase in the youth population has made India the youngest country with a demographic dividend appearing to be a reality as, majority of the youth comes from rural areas, they are considered as the nation builders of tomorrow. It is indeed vital to utilize this demographic and channelize the youth and their creative energies for building the nations [9-10].

Arvind et al. [11] conducted a study on rural youth in Madhya Pradesh, reported that, 67.00 percentage of the rural youth accepted that capacity building programme is an essential component for transfer of technology and 40.00 percentage were engaged in rural development activities organized by Nehru Yuvak Kendra programme.

Furtado et al. [12] reported that, the rural youth had a relatively low participation in village meetings and with regards to Kurhaddbandhi (prohibition of cutting of forest trees). With Charaibandi (discouraging grazing cattle on public land) and Nashabandi (adoption of family planning measures) their participation was found to be satisfactory. While, participation in Sharmadan (one day voluntary labour force for every 15 days) was largely confined to the activities of their interest.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was taken up in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore district consisting twelve blocks and out of these, Karamadai block was purposively selected based on the maximum rural youth population and various rural development activities being carried out in Karamadai block. By having elaborate discussion made with the planners, administrators, extension eminent scientist and others directly and indirectly concerned with the development of the rural youth and also with selected rural youth members. The sample size is 200 respondents were selected for the study area by employing simple random sampling method. Percentage analysis was done to get meaningful interpretation of the study. Data were collected by using well-structured and standardized interview schedule and questionnaire.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The extent of participation of beneficiaries indicates their extent of involvement and their interest towards rural development activities. The overall participation of the rural youth in the rural development activities was studied and the results are the given in the Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their extent of participation in various rural development activities (n = 200)*

S.No	Rural development activities	Taken up in the village				Extent of participation					
		Yes		No		Regular		Occasional		Rarely	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Road repair	124	62.00	76	38.00	95	76.62	20	16.12	9	7.26
2.	Village sanitation	156	78.00	44	22.00	128	82.05	20	12.82	8	5.13
3.	Adult literacy programme	200	100.00	0	0.00	186	93.00	10	5.00	4	2.00
4.	Construction of school building	200	100.00	0	0.00	179	89.50	15	7.50	6	3.00
5.	Construction of temple	183	91.50	17	8.50	160	87.44	15	8.19	8	4.37
6.	Construction of youth club building	139	69.50	61	30.50	121	87.05	13	9.35	5	3.60
7.	Construction of community building	129	64.50	71	35.50	110	85.27	12	9.31	7	5.42
8.	Watershed programmes	119	59.50	81	40.50	98	82.35	12	10.08	9	7.57
9.	Family planning campaign	67	33.50	133	66.50	55	82.08	9	13.44	3	4.48
10.	Tank/ well repair	187	93.50	13	6.50	168	89.84	13	6.96	6	3.20
11.	Afforestation activities	200	100.00	0	0.00	175	87.50	20	10.00	5	2.50
12.	Making drainages	192	96.00	8	4.00	178	92.71	10	5.21	4	2.08
13.	Social and cultural programmes	200	100.00	0	0.00	189	94.50	8	4.00	3	1.50
14.	Health campaign	190	95.00	10	5.00	173	91.05	13	6.85	4	2.10
15.	Natural calamity relief work	188	94.00	12	6.00	166	88.29	17	9.04	5	2.67

Form the above table it could be understood that the rural youth respondents have participated in multi various activities related with rural development in their village in varying degrees.

Cent per cent of the respondents have taken up activities related with adult literacy programme in order to development of rural youth in agriculture, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) followed by construction of school building, afforestation activities and other social cultural activities. With regard to the adult literacy programme, most of the respondents (93.00 per cent) stated that they have regularly participated in the related activities. Almost a similar percentage of the respondents have also regularly participated in the activities related with social cultural programmes (94.50 per cent), construction of school building (89.50 per cent) and afforestation activities (87.50 per cent). The other respondents have participated in the above activities either occasionally or rarely.

Most of the respondents have taken up the activities related with making drainages (96.00 per cent), health campaign (95.00 per cent), natural calamity relief work (94.00 per cent), tank / bore well repair (93.50 per cent) and construction of temple (91.50 per cent). Here most of the respondents have regularly participated in the activities related with making drainages (92.71 per cent), participated in the activities related with health campaign (91.05 per cent), tank / bore well repair (89.84 per cent), natural calamity relief work (88.29 per cent), construction of temple (87.40 per cent) and the remaining respondents were found distributed in the categories of occasional and rare participation.

A vast majority (78.00 per cent) of the respondents have been taken up activities related with village sanitation activities. Majority of the respondents have taken up activities related with construction of youth club building (69.50 per cent), construction of community building (64.50 per cent), road repair (64.00 per cent) and watershed programmes (59.50 per cent). Here most of the respondents have regularly participated in the activities related with construction of youth club building (87.05 per cent), construction of community building (85.27 per cent), watershed programme (82.35 per cent), village sanitation (82.05 per cent) and road repair (76.62 per cent). The remaining respondents were found distributed in the categories of occasional and rare participation.

Further, it is observed that one third of the respondents (33.50 per cent) have taken up activities related with family planning campaign. Among them most of the respondents (82.08 per cent) have regularly participated in this campaign.

From the above finding it could be understood that most of the respondents have actively participated in different rural development activities in their native village. Already it has been studied that most of them were literates, having education above high school level, possessed with high levels of innovativeness, risk orientation and economic motivation could be the contributing reasons for this type of appreciable participation in the above rural development activities.

It is also found that majority of them have not taken up activities related with family planning (66. 50 per cent) followed by about two third of the respondents have not participated in watershed programmes (40.50 per cent), road repair (38.00 per cent), construction community building (35.50 per cent) and construction of youth club building (30.50 per cent). Only about one fifth of the respondents (22.00 per cent) have not participated in the village sanitation activities.

Even though, the government machineries are promoting measures related with family planning for about three decades majority of the respondents have not participated in this activities. The attributed reasons could be their ignorance, traditional beliefs and family pressure not to participate in such activities, as they are youngsters. Above all most of the rural youth respondents were unmarried individuals. Their non participation in other activities could be attributed with the reasons such as their active employment in nearby factories and other part time activities within and outside the village.

4. CONCLUSION

Youth are the most potent segment of the population of a 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 for their future. Development of youth determines the development of community and country as a whole. Access to information about

training and development opportunities for adult volunteers and staff working within voluntary organizations, institutions, including first aid, food hygiene, conflict resolution, rural developmental activities and youth work training etc., are most needed. Access to resources and information developing young people are most preferred by the rural young communities and hence adequate policy measures are required.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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