

Original Research Article

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Analyzing Different Categories of Constraints Faced by Rural Youth Regarding Participation in Agricultural Activities of Patan Block of Jabalpur District (M.P.)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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The study was aimed to analyze the constraints encountered by rural youth regarding participation in Agricultural activities. The present study was conducted in selected Patan block of Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh state. Patan block comprises of 227 villages. A list of rural youth was prepared with the help of RAEs. Out of which six villages selected i.e. Benikheda, Kheri, Khamod, Udana, Murei and Ganyari based on maximum participation of youth in agricultural activities. From each village 20 respondents were randomly selected thus, making a total sample size of 120. The results revealed that major constraints were expressed by rural youth were social constraints and majority of respondents suggested on eradicating technical constraints among different categories of constraints faced by them in order to enhance the participation of rural youth in agricultural activities.

Introduction

The growing world population and decreasing agricultural productivity in combination with rural exodus, India is losing more than 2000 farmers every single day and that since 1991, the overall number of farmers has dropped by 15 million (Sainath, 2013). This has several implications for the future of Indian agriculture and India's food security. Rural youth can play an important role in ensuring food security if they are encouraged to involve in farming and the challenges they face are addressed. Over the past few years, rural youth have been shying away from agriculture

and globally there is an increasing interest in finding ways of engaging youth in agriculture (IFAD, 2012; Paisley, 2013). Satapathy and Mishra (2013) observed that crop insurances, strong market link, farm mechanization, input facilities and incentives are required to retain youth in agriculture. Satapathy and Panda (2014) reported that lack of farmers support policy was the major constraints to retain youths in farming for livelihood. Anamica and Ravichandran (2013) revealed that the constraints faced by rural youth were lack of capacity building activities related to farm management leads to less participation in agricultural activities. Arun (2010) found that

the major constraints faced by the rural youth were lack of rural youth organizations. Nashi (2011) reported that majority of the rural youth expressed lack of awareness as their major problem faced by them regarding participation in agriculture. Currently, there is a challenge of retaining youngsters in agriculture due to various socio-economic factors, including profitability in agricultural pursuits. *Jehu et al.*, (2010) revealed that youths should be given the necessary orientation/ training on agricultural production. Hence it was considered worthwhile to analyze the problem encountered by rural youth regarding participation in agricultural activities, suggestions to avoid the constraints and enhance the participation of rural youth in agricultural activities.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Patan block of Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh state. Patan block comprises of 227 villages. A list of rural youth was prepared with the help of RAEs. Out of which six villages were selected i.e. Benikheda, Kheri, Khamod, Udana, Murei and Ganyari based on maximum participation of rural youth in agricultural activities. From each village 20 respondents were randomly selected thus, making a total sample size of 120 respondents for the investigation. Ex post facto research design was adopted for the study. The required data was collected through personal interview method using structured and pre-tested interview schedule which was analyzed by using frequency, percentage, mean and rank order.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 revealed that under psychological constraints out of 120 respondents, majority (97.50%) of respondents expressed lack of patience was major problem followed by lack

of enthusiasm (92.50%). Further, 90.83 percentage of respondents expressed lack of agricultural management experience followed by drudgery involved in agriculture (86.67%) and lack of knowledge (66.67%) were also cited as problem faced by rural youth regarding participation in agricultural activities.

The social constraints of rural youth were most of them participated in other social activities (88.33%) followed by lack of inclination towards traditional job (83.33%) and lack of rural youth organization (80.00%).

Further, 68.83 percentage of respondents expressed decreased land holding size due to division of family followed by early marriage (66.67%) as problem.

Regarding technical constraints most of respondents were facing lack of appropriate technology and its use (89.17%) as major problem followed by lack of knowledge on packages and practices (75.00%) and high cost of new technology (70.00%).

Economically rural youth striking lack of agricultural insurance (80.83%) as their most preferred constraint faced by them followed by price fluctuation (75.83%) and high labour cost (68.33%) which make them away from agricultural practices.

Under Extension related constraints maximum number of rural youth facing untimely reaching of message (85.83%) as their major problem followed by demonstration related problem (66.67%) and unavailability of technical literature (62.50%).

Under other constraints maximum number of the respondents facing fluctuation of climate (95.83%) as their most dominating problem regarding participation in agricultural activities.

The reason behind psychological constraints was the lack of patience among the respondents to get involved in agricultural practices. They were not enthusiast for the agricultural activities which turned them into doing other activities rather than agriculture and leads to migration to urban areas. Most of rural youth were not involving themselves in any agricultural management practice as their view is drudgery involved in agriculture which leads to carrying out less knowledge in agriculture and lack of education among the participants leads them to less participation in agriculture.

Besides that under social constraints the biggest challenge is to involve them in agricultural practices as most of them were involved in other social activities. Technically most of the rural youth do not have enough knowledge on appropriate technology and its utilization. Untimely the reaching of message, unavailability of technical literature and fluctuation of climate are the reasons were most of the respondents expressed as their major hurdle in participating agricultural activities. It is evident from the data that the major constraints as expressed by rural youth were social constraints (90.33) followed by psychological constraints (90.00), Economical constraints amounted to (82.33) and extension related constraints were (80.40), other constraints were (80.00) and technical constraints amounted (77.60).

Table 2 revealed that out of 120 respondents, cent percent of rural youth are suggesting being motivated for innovation in agriculture (100%) under psychological suggestion followed by acquiring higher education (95.00%) and having foresightedness towards agriculture (75.00%). It is also suggested by rural youth that they should have practice for updating information through different technologies (70.00%) and must take interest in agriculture (54.17%).

Under social suggestions, most of the rural youth suggested that they need guidance from senior farmers (91.67%) and 75.83 percent of respondents were interested in establishing more rural youth organizations for proper coordination. The technical suggestions by rural youth can be observed that cent percent (100%) were stated on special concerns should be taken on climate change followed by timely availability of farm inputs (78.33%) which will help them in doing better agricultural practice and 75.83 percent of rural youth were asking for training on new and improved technology should be provided once in a month. It was also observed that 75 percent of farmers were suggested on providing low cost technology in agricultural practices.

The rural youth expresses their economic suggestions mostly on prices of crops and its stability. Around 95.83 percent of respondents were suggesting on changing of price of crops according to farmers' convenience. So that it will help in their improvement in socio economic status. 87.50 percent of rural youth said on stability in price of different commodities. 70 and 66.67 percent of rural youth suggested on making easy procedure on crop insurance and loan.

The extension related suggestions will help in better transfer of technology focusing on need-based technology and its adoption among the farmers and rural youth. Out of 120 respondents, majority of them (86.67%) suggested on visit the farm and solve the problems with proper demonstration by the farmers followed by organization of training by the KVK according to farmer needs (85.00%) and 83.33 percent suggested on taking the help of DD Kisan channel, radio and television. 79.16 percent of rural youth suggested on organizing agricultural fair, exhibition, health camps at panchayat level which will help in more adoption of technology at grass root level.

Table.1 Different constraints faced by rural youth regarding participation in Agricultural activities

Psychological constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
Lack of foresight	74	62.50	90.00	II
Lack of knowledge	80	66.67		
Lack of education	77	64.17		
Lack of enthusiasm	111	92.50		
Lack of patience	117	97.50		
Lack of cooperation from peers	48	40.00		
Lack of agricultural management experience	109	90.83		
Drudgery involved in agriculture	104	86.67		
Social constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
Participation in other social activities	106	88.33	90.33	I
Lack of inclination regarding traditional job	100	83.33		
Lack of faith by seniors of the family	78	65.00		
Decreased land holding size due to division of family	82	68.33		
Lack of rural youth organization	96	80.00		
Early marriage	80	66.67		
Technical constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
Lack of appropriate technology and its use	107	89.17	77.60	VI
Non availability of improved farm inputs	64	53.33		
High cost of new technology	84	70.00		
Lack of knowledge of packages and practices	90	75.00		
Lack of knowledge on mandi rate	43	35.83		
Economical constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
High cost of input	78	65.00	82.33	III
Price fluctuation	91	75.83		
Persistence of old debt	66	55.00		
High labour cost	82	68.33		
Lack of agricultural insurance	97	80.83		
Poor return of investment	80	66.67		
Extension related constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
Untimely reaching of message	103	85.83	80.40	IV
Irregular visit of RAEO's	70	58.33		
Demonstration related problem	80	66.67		
Unavailability of technical literature	75	62.50		
RAEO's only contact with large farmers	74	61.67		
Other constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
Migration of youth	78	65.00	80.00	V
Lack of support from government and other organizations	47	39.17		
Fluctuation in climate	115	95.83		

Table.2 Different suggestions given by rural youth regarding participation in Agricultural activities

Psychological suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Rank
Youth must take interest on agriculture	65	54.17	94.60	IV
Youth must have foresightedness	90	75.00		
Youth must acquire higher education	114	95.00		
Be motivated for innovation in agriculture	120	100.00		
Practice for updating information	84	70.00		
Social suggestions				
Youth must have inclination regarding traditional job	74	61.67	85.60	VI
Seniors should guide rural youth	110	91.67		
Establishing rural youth organization	91	75.83		
Farmer should given proper respect in the society	77	64.17		
Experience persons must help rural youth in adopting agriculture as a profession	76	63.33		
Technical suggestions				
Training should given one time in a month	91	75.83	98.75	I
Timely availability of farm inputs	94	78.33		
New technology provided at minimum cost	90	75.00		
Special concerns should be taken on climate change	120	100.00		
Economical suggestions				
Crop insurance should made easy	84	70.00	96.00	II
Stability in price	105	87.50		
Loan procedure made easy	80	66.67		
Prices of crops should be change according to the farmers' convenience	115	95.83		
Extension related suggestions				
Extension officer should motivate farmer for Kisan credit card, Kisan call center and Kisanmobile advisory	90	75.00	95.83	III
Scientists should visit the farm and solve problems with proper demonstrations	104	86.67		
Agriculture fair, exhibition, health camps should be organized at panchayat level	95	79.16		
Farmer should take help of DD KISAN channel, television and radio	100	83.33		
Training should be organized by the KVK according to the farmer needs	102	85.00		
Knowledge about ICTs	84	70.00		
Other suggestions				
Village leadership must improve on ground level basis touching the root problems of the farmers	85	70.83	88.16	V
Establishing Agri-rural youth clubs focusing on agriculture	77	64.16		
Training on skill development should be provided	89	74.16		
Unused land of village should be made available for rural youth on lease for agriculture	74	61.67		
Timely diffusion of adoption process for enhancing agriculture	106	88.33		
Attracting rural youth in agriculture programme should be conducted to discourage rural youth Migration	98	81.67		

It was also observed that 75 percent of respondents suggested that Extension officer should motivate farmer for Kisan credit card, Kisan call center and Kisan mobile advisory and 70 percent of rural youth were suggesting on knowing more about ICTs.

Under other suggestions most of rural youth (88.33%) were suggesting on timely diffusion of adoption process for enhancing agriculture followed by (81.67%) were suggesting on attracting rural youth in agricultural programme should be conducted to discourage rural youth migration. It is evident from the data that the major suggestions as expressed by rural youth were on technical (98.75) and economical (96.00) receiving first and second rank respectively, followed by extension related (95.83), psychological (94.60), other (88.16) and social suggestions (85.60) having third, fourth, fifth and sixth rank. Analysing different categories of constraint faced by rural youth regarding participation in agricultural activities, it is concluded that social constraints was the major constraints expressed by rural youth. Due to lack of rural youth organisation at local level, it results less participating in different social activities related to agricultural practice. It also hampers their motivation towards participating in agricultural activities.

To enhance rural youth participation in agriculture, major suggestions that was observed on technical aspects. They suggested that once in a month training at village should be given by the experts on new technology and innovations. They also stated that training must be need based and given timely. Establishment of Agri-rural youth club and implementation of different agricultural programmes will attract the rural youth in agriculture which discourage rural youth migration.

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