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Profile and attitude of migrant's rural youth towards agriculture in Amravati district

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Abstract

The present study "Migration Behaviour of Rural Youth" was conducted in Dhamangaon Railway and Chandur Railway tehsil of Amravati district, from the selected tehsils, sixteen villages and 120 rural youths (aged between 16-30 years) were selected purposively as textile and industrial development was prominently noticed in Amravati. The data were collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. The data were tabulated, analysed and interpreted. The findings of the study revealed that more than half (52.50%) of the respondents were observed in the age group of 26-30 years, majority of them (88.33%) were completed their collegiate education, 29.17% of the respondents observed with small land holding (1.01 to 2.00 ha.), 44.17% of the respondents observed with farming plus service as their occupational status, 58.17% of the respondents had their native place in 100 km periphery from the migrated place i.e. Amravati.

The findings with regard to attitude of migrant's youths towards agriculture revealed that majority of the rural youths i.e. 79.17% showed moderate to highly favourable attitude towards agriculture, whereas slightly above one fifth (20.83%) of the rural youths had less favourable attitude towards agriculture.

Keywords: Migration, rural youth, behaviour, attitude, agriculture

Introduction

Youth is the most important section of the population having strong passion, motivation and willpower for the economic, cultural and political development of a nation. India is having its 70% population is below the age of 35 years, making it the youngest nation in the World. The Youth Policy defines youth in India as being in the age group 15-29 years of age. India has a youth population in this age group of about 37.14 Cr. (Projected figures for 2021) which is about 27.3% of the total population. In view of significance of youths in the development of the nation, the United Nations has declared 2011 as the 'International Year of Youth' (World Youth Report, 2012) [9]. Rural youth's account for around 55% of the total world population, still this section was having limited opportunities for educational as well as employment sector. Their active participation in agriculture is possible only if they have requisite skills, information and a positive attitude towards agriculture.

With decrease in per capita land holding and limited opportunities in agricultural sector, rural youths are migrating to nearby places in search of employment for their livelihood. Maharashtra is one of the developing states in our country with massive development in industrial sector is notices, youths from all over the country are reaching in Maharashtra for assured employment. To address these challenges, a greater urgency is needed to fulfil youth aspirations and support sustainable development strategies that focus on the needs of the younger population to ensure a prosperous future for rural youths. If agriculture sector provides employment opportunities it will help to address the issue of migration of rural youths. Development of agricultural sector and retention of youths in this sector will be helpful for solving the programme of rural migration. Youths having huge potential to accept the new technologies, adopt new crop kinds as compare to elder persons; therefore, it is important it is important to know the attitude of rural youths towards agriculture. In view of the above, the present study was aim to find out attitude of rural youths towards agriculture.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Amravati district of Vidarbha region, as the district providing ample employment opportunities due to industrial growth and development of Textile Park in the district. The district lies between 20° 32' and 31° 46' North Latitude and 76° 37' and 78° 27' East Longitude. It was observed that rural youths from the adjoining tahsil's migrating to the district for employment. Two tahsils from the district namely Dhamangaon Railway and Chandur Railway tahsils were selected, after consultation of SAO's office personnels. Eight villages from each tahsil were selected purposively as majority of migration from these

villages were observed after discussion with Takula Agriculture Officer. 120 rural youths aged between 16 to 30 years with agriculture and migration background were selected based on information received from the local leader and key informants of the villages. The study focused on fully or partially migrated youth, in line with the National youth policy of India 2012.

Results and Discussion

The personal characteristics selected for the study were categorized by applying statistical tools, the detail findings were presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their profile

Sr. No.	Category	Partially Migrated		Fully Migrated		Total (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
A	Age						
1	First sub group (16 to 20)	4	5.97	0	0	4	3.33
2	Second sub group (21 to 25)	29	43.28	24	45.28	53	44.17
3	Third sub group (26 to 30)	34	50.75	29	54.72	63	52.50
B	Education						
1	Higher secondary	14	20.89	0	0	14	11.67
2	Collegiate	53	79.10	53	100.00	106	88.33
C	Land Holding						
1	Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha)	10	14.93	22	41.51	32	26.67
2	Small (1.01 to 2.00)	9	13.43	26	49.05	35	29.17
3	Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	24	35.82	3	5.67	27	20.00
4	Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha)	23	34.33	2	3.77	25	23.33
5	Large (Above 10.00 ha)	1	1.49	0	0.00	1	0.83
D	Occupational Status						
1	Wage Earner	25	37.32	0	0.00	25	20.83
2	Wage + Farming	42	62.68	0	0.00	42	35.00
3	Farming + Service	0	0.00	53	100.00	53	44.17
E	Proximity to Towns						
1	Up to 25 Km	26	30.82	0	0	26	21.66
2	25 – 50 km	27	40.29	0	0	27	22.50
3	More than 100 km	14	20.89	53	100.00	67	58.84
F	Achievement motivation						
1	Low	12	17.90	5	9.43	17	14.17
2	Medium	35	52.20	41	77.36	76	63.33
3	High	20	29.90	7	13.21	27	22.50
F	Risk Orientation						
1	Low	12	17.91	9	16.98	21	17.50
2	Medium	35	52.24	36	67.93	71	59.17
3	High	20	29.85	8	15.09	28	23.33
G	Self-Reliance						
1	Fully	67	100.00	53	100.00	120	100.00
H	Self Confidence						
1	Low	10	14.92	5	9.43	17	14.67
2	Medium	42	62.69	40	75.47	82	68.33
3	High	15	22.39	8	15.00	21	17.00
I	Income Expectancy						
1	Low	13	19.40	32	60.38	45	37.50
2	Medium	24	35.83	14	26.42	38	31.66
3	High	30	44.77	7	13.20	37	30.84
J	Comfort Expectancy						
1	Low	12	17.91	20	37.74	32	26.67
2	Medium	40	59.70	27	50.94	67	55.83
3	High	15	22.39	6	11.32	21	17.50
K	Affiliation Expectancy						
1	Low	16	23.90	30	56.60	46	38.33
2	Medium	21	31.30	10	18.87	31	25.83
3	High	30	44.80	13	24.53	43	35.84

From the Table 1, it was observed that slightly more than half of the respondents i.e. 52.20% were belong to the to age category of 26-30 years, followed by 44.17% were observed in the age category of 21-25 years, while meagre number of

the rural youths i.e. 3.33% of the respondents represented the age category of 16-20 years. The findings are in accordance with the study conducted by Anamica (2013) ^[1] who reported that the rate of migration was found significantly higher for

the people who belonged to the age groups of 20-24 and 25-29 years.

With regard to educational status of the respondents, it was observed that majority of the migrated youths i.e. 88.33% had completed their collegiate level of education while more than one tenth of the respondents (11.67%) were acquired higher secondary level of education. The findings of the study are in line with the results of Gomase (2021) [4] stated that maximum number of the respondents had college /university level of education.

The data with regard to land holding revealed that 29.17% of the respondents had small size of land holding (1.01 to 2.00 ha), slightly above one fourth of the respondents (26.67%) had marginal land holding (Below 1.00 ha) followed by 23.33% and 20.00% of the respondents were observed with semi-medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha) and medium size (4.01 to 10.00 ha) land holding respectively, while only 0.83% of the respondents were observed with large size of land holding i.e. above 10.00 ha. The findings are in accordance with the study conducted by Gomase (2021) [4] that nearly two fifth respondents belonged to small land holdings (38.00%).

With regard to the occupational status of the respondents it was observed that 44.17% of the respondents engaged in farming along with service followed by slightly above one third (35.00%) of the respondents had perusing farming along with wage earnings and little more than one fifth (20.83%) were wage earner. The findings derive support from the study of Ramasubramaniam (2003).

With regard to proximity of town, it was observed that 58.84% of the respondents had migrated to more than 100 km from their native place, while 22.50% of the respondents had their native place in the periphery of 25-50 km, whereas remaining 21.66% of the respondents reported they had located 25 km to the migrated place from their native. The findings are contradicted with the from the research study conducted by Sharma (2007) [7].

The findings with regard to achievement motivation of the respondents revealed that 63.33% of the rural youths possessed medium level of achievement motivation followed by little more than one fifth (22.50%) observed under high

achievement motivation category, whereas more than one tenth (14.17%) recorded under low level of achievement motivation. The findings are in accordance with the study of Tekale *et al.* (2015) [8].

The data regard to risk orientation among the respondents revealed that 59.17% of migrated rural youth had medium level of risk orientation followed by 23.33% respondents with high level of risk orientation. The remaining 17.50% of the respondents had a low level of risk orientation. The findings are consistent with the results of research study conducted by Anamica (2010) [2]. It was further noticed that cent percent of the respondents observed under fully self-reliant category.

The findings with regard to self confidence level among the respondents revealed that, majority of the migrated rural youths i.e. 68.33% observed with medium level of self-confidence followed by 17.00% of them were having high level of self-confidence rest of 14.67 percent possessed low level of self-confidence.

Slightly above one third (37.50%) of the migrated youth observed with low level income expectancy, while almost equal number of the migrated youths i.e. 31.66% and 30.84 recorded with high and low level of income expectancy respectively. The findings are in accordance with the study conducted by Anamica (2013) [1].

The findings with regard to comfort expectancy, the data quoted in Table 1 revealed that more than half (55.83%) of the migrated rural youths recorded with medium comfort expectancy followed by 26.67% of the respondents observed with low comfort expectancy and little less than one fifth (17.50%) possessed high level of comfort expectancy. The results were similar with the study accompanied by Maurya (2021) [5].

Almost equal number of the migrated rural youth recorded with low level affiliation expectancy (38.33%) and high level of affiliation expectancy (35.84%), whereas remaining one forth (25.83%) of the migrated rural youth observed with medium level of affiliation expectancy. The findings derived support from the study conducted by De Jong (2000) where majority of the migrants had moderate to low levels of affiliation expectancy.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their statement wise attitude of rural youth towards agriculture.

Sr. No.	Statements	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	Rural youth have awareness on agricultural practices	35 (29.17)	70 (58.33)	15 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
2	Rural youth will feel more professional if they are involved in modern agricultural technologies	32 (26.67)	35 (25.00)	15 (12.50)	14 (11.67)	24 (20.00)
3	Agriculture is the best venture for rural youth as it makes them self-employed	25 (20.83)	30 (25.00)	38 (31.67)	27 (22.5)	0 (0.00)
4	Promoting scientific agriculture is the best way for India's prosperity	42 (35.00)	61 (50.83)	17 (14.67)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
5	Agricultural sector has more influence on the overall growth of the State economy when compared to other sectors	26 (21.67)	21 (17.50)	12 (10.00)	20 (16.67)	41 (34.66)
6	The current need is to focus more on agriculture than industrial sector	81 (67.50)	39 (32.50)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
7	The Government should give top priority for agricultural development	80 (66.66)	40 (38.34)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
8	Agriculture is a profession with unstable and variable income	77 (64.17)	43 (35.83)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
9	Agriculture is a profession which involves high risk.	73 (60.83)	47 (39.17)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
10	More effort and less profit are today's agricultural formula	48 (40.00)	62 (51.67)	10 (8.33)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
11	Rural youth are unable to go for any other work and will practice agriculture	48 (40.00)	72 (60.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
12	Adequate credit access to rural youth will increase their participation in agriculture	35 (29.17)	70 (58.33)	15 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
13	The profession of agriculture is purely gambling with environmental factors	47 (39.17)	39 (32.50)	34 (28.33)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
14	Rural youth can be attracted towards agriculture if farming becomes economically rewarding	46 (38.33)	74 (61.67)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
15	One should be proud of being a member of an agricultural family	44 (36.67)	76 (63.33)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
16	Agriculture is not a creative profession for rural youth	12 (10.00)	51 (42.50)	33 (27.50)	24 (20.00)	0
17	Practicing agriculture affects the prestige of rural youth	24 (20.00)	32 (26.67)	25 (20.83)	29 (24.17)	10 (8.33)
18	Rural youth with higher aspirations does not practice agriculture	27 (22.50)	39 (32.50)	29 (24.17)	07 (5.83)	18 (15.00)
19	Agricultural skill training to rural youth will increase their participation in agriculture	19 (15.83)	17 (14.67)	27 (22.50)	33 (27.50)	24 (20.00)

20	The carrier objects of the rural youth will not be achieved if they involve in agriculture	0 (0.00)	65 (54.17)	55 (45.83)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
21	A large income is obtained from non- agricultural sources it decreasing the interest of rural youth towards agriculture	46 (38.33)	74 (61.67)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
22	Rural youth are not interested in agriculture because they have other means of earning their livelihood	45 (37.50)	41 (34.17)	34 (28.33)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
23	It is better for a family to hold diversified occupation rather to be dependent on agriculture	48 (40.00)	72 (60.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
24	Globalization of agriculture is a boon to rural youth	0 (0.00)	65 (54.17)	55 (45.83)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
25	For the rural youth, the popular recourse to mitigate the risks of agriculture is to migrate	49 (40.83)	42 (35.00)	29 (24.17)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)

SA: Strongly Agree, A: Agree U: Undecided, D: Disagree, SD: Strongly disagree

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

The attitude of the rural youths towards agriculture were assessed with help of their response on the different statements framed to judge the attitude of the rural youths. Total 25 statements were framed in the questionnaire and the responses quoted in Table 2. More than half (58.33%) of the rural youths agreed that rural youths were about the different agricultural practices, with regard to the professional approach of the rural youths towards agriculture, more than half (51.67%) of the rural youths were strongly agree to agree on the same.

Whereas, majority of respondents (31.67%) were undecided to the statement as agriculture is the best venture for rural youth as it makes them self-employed. With regards to the statement as promoting scientific agriculture is the best way for India’s prosperity, half of respondents (50.83%) were agreed to the statement. Agricultural sector has more influence on the overall growth of the State economy when compared to other sectors, maximum number of respondents (34.66%) were strongly disagreed to the statement. Whereas, majority of respondents (67.50%) were strongly agreed to the statement as the current need is to focus more on agriculture than industrial sector.

With regards to the statement as the government should give top most priority for agricultural development, majority of respondents (66.66%) were strongly agreed to the statement. Whereas, majority of respondents (64.17%) were strongly agreed to the statement as agriculture is a profession with unstable and variable income. Agriculture is a profession which involves high risk, maximum number of respondents (60.83%) were strongly agree to the statement. Whereas, majority of respondents (51.67%) were agreed to the statement as more effort and less profit is today’s agricultural formula. With regards to the statement as rural youth who are unable to go for any other work will practice agriculture, majority of respondents (60.00%) were agree to the statement. Adequate credit access to rural youth will increase their participation in agriculture, maximum number of respondents (58.33%) were agreed to the statement. Whereas, majority of

respondents (39.17%) were strongly agreed to the statement as the profession of agriculture is purely gambling with rain and other environmental factors. Rural youth can be attracted towards agriculture if farming, majority of respondents (61.67%) were strongly agreed to the statement. Whereas, majority of respondents (63.33%) were agreed to the statement as one should be proud of being a member of an agricultural family. Agriculture is not a creative profession for rural youth, majority of respondents (42.50%) were agreed to the statement. With regards to the statement as practicing agriculture affects the prestige of rural youth, maximum number of respondents (26.67%) were agreed to the statement. Rural youth with higher aspirations does not practice agriculture, majority of respondents (32.50%) were agreed to the statement. Whereas, majority of respondents (27.50%) were disagreed to the statement as agricultural skill training to rural youth will increase their participation in agriculture. The carrier objects of the rural youth will not be achieved if they involve in agriculture, majority of respondents (54.17%) were agreed to the statement. A large share of income is obtained from non- agricultural sources thus decreasing the interest of rural youth towards agriculture, maximum number of respondents (61.67%) were agreed to the statement.

Whereas, majority of respondents (37.50%) were strongly agreed to the statement as rural youth are not interested in agriculture because they have other means of earning their livelihood. Rural youth are not interested in agriculture because they have other means of earning their livelihood, maximum number of respondents (37.50%) were strongly agreed to the statement. Whereas, majority of respondents (60.00%) were agreed to the statement as it is better for a family to hold diversified occupation rather to be dependent on agriculture. Globalization of agriculture is a boon to rural youth, majority of respondents (54.17%) were agreed to the statement. With regards to the statement as for the rural youth the popular recourse to mitigate the risks of agriculture is to migrate, majority of respondents (40.83%) were strongly agreed to the statement.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their frequency of attitude of migrant’s youth towards agriculture

Sr. No.	Category	Partially Migrated (n=67)		Fully Migrated (n=53)		Total n=120	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Less Favourable (up to 58.25)	10	14.93	15	28.30	25	20.83
2.	Moderately Favorable (58.26 to 64.09)	46	68.66	35	66.04	81	67.50
3.	Highly Favourable (above 64.09)	11	16.41	3	5.66	14	11.67
	Total	67	100.00	53	100.00	120	100.00

Mean = 61.17 SD = 2.92

The data presented in table 3 with regard to the attitude of the migrated youths towards agriculture revealed that 67.50% of the rural youth had recorded with moderately favourable attitude towards agriculture and followed by little more than

one fifth of them (20.83) had less favourable attitude towards agriculture and remaining slightly above one tenth (11.67%) of the migrated youths had shown their highly favourable attitude towards agriculture.

The finding was in line with the results of research study conducted by Maurya (2021) ^[5] who observed majority of rural youth had low to moderately favourable attitude towards agriculture.

Conclusion

A large number of rural youths observed with moderately favourable to less favourable attitude towards agriculture. Study revealed that majority of respondents had expressed uncertainty of income from the agriculture sector was the prime reason for the migration of the rural youths, different training programmes need to be planned for the rural youths to retain their interest towards agricultural sector, these youths need to be motivated and encouraged for practicing agriculture and allied sectors. Emphasizing agriculture to young people is crucial, as it includes setting up a business, setting their own hours, and handling various responsibilities throughout the day. This might occur if appropriate growth tactics are put into place. The appropriate method is to establish 'Rural Youth Clubs' in rural regions to increase awareness and encourage positive attitudes towards rural life and agriculture among rural youth

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