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# Relationship between profile characteristics and participation of youth in agriculture and allied sectors

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**Abstract**
Youth are the most potent segment of the population of a country. Today's youth are the hope of the future. They are the real spirit of future agriculture. Young people look not only for their own livelihood, but also for the dignity and purpose in life. It is a well-known fact that only few young people engage in agriculture, although the majority of rural youth have the energy and enthusiasm to do well in agriculture and allied jobs. In this context, it is worthwhile to know the factors determining youth participation in agriculture and allied activities. Keeping this in view, a study was conducted in Warangal district of Telangana state with a total sample of 120 youth who are selected using simple random sampling technique. The data was collected from primary sources with structured interview schedule. The study employed descriptive statistics and rank order method to analyse the data. The study indicated that the variables such as farm size, farming experience, involvement in decision making, attitude towards agriculture, level of aspiration, scientific orientation, perceived role of youth had positive and significant relationship with participation at one per cent level. The variables education, Socio political participation, extension contact, mass media exposure, risk orientation had positive and significant relationship with participation at five per cent level. The remaining variables *viz.*, age, sex, caste, family type, marital status had non-significant relationship with participation.

**Keywords:** Youth, agriculture, rural areas, participation, percieved role, Telangana

## Introduction
Agriculture remains critical to the economic development of most if not all developing countries across the globe. The agricultural future of most developing countries may be bleak if the bulk of the production efforts are left in the hands of aged subsistent farmers who presently constitute the major farming population. This is because the productive level of older farmers are not able to meet the nutritional needs and demands of fast-growing people. Therefore, encouraging youth participation in agriculture is important. The youth are an important category of human resource who can take the responsibility for development including agriculture It is need of the hour for the nation to not only produce food to feed its one billion plus humans but also for livestock of equal number. At this point young minds with creative thoughts and motivation can manage impossible tasks such as climate change adaptation, mitigation and enduring malnutrition. Generally, young minds are enthusiastic in adopting new ideas and technologies. Therefore the present status of farming can be easily transformed by them. The youth could play a vital role in changing the poor status of persons involved in farming especially in the rural areas by adapting new ideas, concepts and technologies which are important to change how the way of farming is practiced and perceived. In order to stop youth from leaving the villages, the best way is to ensure better economic profits for them in farming and improving the quality of life in the rural community.
Generally the term youth is defined as the period from adolescence to middle age. Age is considered as an important element in defining youth by various agencies. UN considered the age group of 15 to 24 to define youth. The National Youth Policy (2003) initially defined the age group 13-35 as youth. However, the new National Youth Policy (2014), modified and defined the age group of 15-29 years as youth.
In accordance to 'World Population Prospects: The 2015 revision' India ranks first in world's youth population with 242 millions inspite of having a lesser population compared to China, which is having 185 million youth population. According to India's Census 2011, Youth (15-29 years) constitutes one-fifth (19.1 per cent) of total population in India.

**Review of literature**

Hiremath (2000) [11] reported that the Participation of farm youth in agriculture had significant relationship with the education, mass media utilization and extension contact of farm youth and non-significant relationship with the land holding.

Prasad (2002) [14] in his study on Youth development education aims and scope reported that there is positive relation between the extension contact and the extent of participation of rural youth in agriculture.

Hadagali Vishwanath (2013) [10] in his study on aspirations and participation of rural youth practising agriculture and allied activities revealed that Variables such as education, land holding, extension contact, extension participation and innovativeness had significant relationship with the participation of rural youth in agriculture, horticulture, sericulture and dairy.

**Materials and Methods**

The research design adopted for the study was ex-post-facto. Warangal district of Telangana state was selected. Four mandals in the district and 3 villages from each mandal were selected using simple random sampling method. Thus a total of 12 villages were selected. Ten respondents from each village were selected using simple random sampling method thus constituting a total of 120 respondents for the study.

Before giving a final shape to the interview schedule the schedule was pretested with 30 youth who were actively participating in agricultural operations in non sample area with identical situation.

The field investigation was carried out during the year 2019. The data was collected by administering the structured interview schedule to the respondents. The questions were asked in local language *i.e.* Telugu. The youth were personally interviewed by the investigator which helped in getting first hand information and gave an opportunity to observe the respondents personally. The response of each respondent was recorded in the interview schedule with due care. Every effort was made to check and cross check the data collected from all the sample respondents. Friendly atmosphere was maintained during the interview to see that the respondents were at ease and expressed their opinions freely, fairly and frankly.

**Results and Discussions**

In order to study the nature of relationship between the selected profile characteristics of youth and participation of youth in agriculture and allied activities correlation coefficient (r) were computed and the values were presented in table 1. The relationship between the selected profile characteristics of youth and their participation in various agriculture and allied activities were tested by null hypothesis and empirical hypothesis.

The variables such as farm size (r=0.300), farming experience (r=0.240), involvement in decision making (r=0.481), attitude towards agriculture (r=0.319), level of aspiration (0.280), scientific orientation (0.298), perceived role of youth (r=0.265) had positive and significant relationship with participation at one per cent level. The variables education (r=0.212), Socio political participation (r=0.208), extension contact (r=0.200), mass media exposure (r=0.227), risk orientation (r=0.206) had positive and significant relationship with participation at five per cent.

level. The remaining variables *viz.*, age (r=0.071), sex (r=-0.168), caste (r=-0.174), family type (r=-0.051), marital status (r=-0.095) had non-significant relationship with participation.

Among male youth involvement in decision making (r=0.412), attitude towards agriculture (r=0.479), scientific orientation (r=0.372) had positive and significant relationship with participation at one per cent level. The variables education (r=0.315), farm size (r=0.308), farming experience (r=0.214), Socio political participation (r=0.329), mass media exposure (r=0.259), level of aspiration (0.243), risk orientation (r=0.264), perceived role (r=0.259) had positive and significant relationship with participation at five per cent level.

Among female youth involvement in decision making (r=0.504), level of aspiration (r=0.348) had positive and significant relationship with participation at one per cent level. The variables farm size (r=0.255), farming experience (r=0.222), extension contact (r=0.234), attitude towards agriculture (r=0.252), scientific orientation (r=0.243), perceived role (r=0.227) had positive and significant relationship with participation at five per cent level.

The probable reasons for the existence of such relationship between independent variables with participation are discussed in following paragraphs.

**Table 1:** Relationship of profile characteristics of youth with participation of youth n=120

| S. No. | Profile characteristics | 'r' value Male | 'r' value Female | 'r' value Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Age | 0.117 NS | 0.010 NS | 0.071 NS |
| 2. | Sex# | - | - | -0.168 NS |
| 3. | Caste | -0.177 NS | -0.165 NS | -0.174 NS |
| 4. | Education | 0.315* | 0.171 NS | 0.212* |
| 5. | Family type | -0.131 NS | 0.049 NS | -0.051 NS |
| 6. | Marital status | -0.173 NS | 0.182 NS | -0.095 NS |
| 7. | Farm size | 0.308* | 0.255* | 0.300** |
| 8. | Farming experience | 0.214* | 0.222* | 0.240** |
| 9. | Involvement in decision making | 0.412** | 0.504** | 0.481** |
| 10. | Socio political participation | 0.329* | 0.012 NS | 0.208* |
| 11. | Extension Contact | 0.082 NS | 0.234 * | 0.200* |
| 12. | Mass media exposure | 0.259* | 0.074 NS | 0.227* |
| 13. | Attitude towards agriculture | 0.479** | 0.252* | 0.319** |
| 14. | Level of aspiration | 0.243* | 0.348** | 0.280** |
| 15. | Scientific orientation | 0.372** | 0.243* | 0.298** |
| 16. | Risk orientation | 0.264* | 0.149 NS | 0.206* |
| 17. | Perceived role | 0.259* | 0.227* | 0.265** |

**Significant at 0.01 level *Significant at 0.05 level NS- Non-significant

# Cannot be computed because at least one of the variables is constant.

**1.1 Age Vs Participation**

It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.117 (male), r=0.010 (female), r= 0.071 (total) for age found non-significant relationship with participation of youth.

The possible reason is that youth of all the age groups have more or less equal age between 15-24 years might have similar ways of thinking and might be perceiving farming in reasonably uniform magnitude and dimension thus no effect on their participation.

**1.2 Sex Vs Participation**

It could be inferred from the table 1. that r= -0.168 (total) for sex found negative and non-significant relationship with

participation of youth.
The possible reason is that sex of youth will not be a constraint for participation of youth in agriculture and allied activities and this was proved in many studies in many areas of profession.

**1.3 Caste Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=-0.177 (male), r=-0.165 (female), r=-0.174 (total) for caste found negative and non-significant relationship with participation of youth.
The possible reason is that caste of youth will not be a constraint for participation of youth in agriculture and allied activities. Further, it was observed by the researcher during the study that majority of youth of higher castes were involved in Agri entrepreneurship, where as other caste youth are participating actively in the activities of agriculture and allied sectors along with their parents.

**1.4 Education Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.315 (male), r= 0.212 (total) for education found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability. For female youth education had non-significant relationship with participation.
Formal schooling has been valued as means of increasing knowledge about farm technology and marketing of produce. Education provides an opportunity for youth to expose themselves to mass media which carry messages on production and marketing aspects of farming, thus motivating farm youth to participate in agriculture and allied activities. Further education motivates youth to start agri business and ventures like organic farming, millet cultivation etc. For female youth non-significant relationship of education with participation might be due to fact that as agriculture is an gamble on monsoon, uncertain and involve drudgery inspite of education their participation might not be effected.

**1.5 Family type Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=-0.131 (male), r=0.049 (female), r= -0.051 (total) for family type found negative and non-significant relationship with participation of youth.
The possible reason might be whatever may be the type of family, the youth might have same level of participation in agriculture and allied activities. It is the individual character and attitude towards farming that effect participation of youth.

**1.6 Marital status Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=-0.173 (male), r=0.182 (female), r= -0.095 (total) for marital status found negative and non-significant relationship with participation of youth.
The possible reason might be marital status of youth will not be a constraint for participation of youth in agriculture and allied activities.

**1.7 Farm size Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r= 0.300 (total) for farm size found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at one per cent level of probability. For male (r=0.308) and female (r=0.255) for farm size found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.
The possible reason might be youth with larger holdings will have more opportunities and potentialities to try and adopt large number of technological innovations resulting in higher productivity and income. Hence, youth with larger holdings will have more scope to participate in agriculture and allied activities for increased income.

**1.8 Farming experience Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r= 0.240 for farming experience found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at one per cent level of probability. For male (r=0.214) and female (r=0.222) for farming experience found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.
The possible reason might be there will be improved knowledge and skill as the experience in farming increases thus inturn increases the participation.

**1.9 Involvement in decision making Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.412 (male), r=0.504 (female), r= 0.481 (total) for Involvement in decision making found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at one per cent level of probability.
The possible reason might be 'gross root principle' i.e., when youth are involved directly in decision making in various activities of agriculture and allied activities, they will gain more interest to participate in agriculture and allied activities.

**1.10 Socio political participation Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.329 (male), r= 0.208 (total) for Socio political participation found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.
The possible reason might be that increased social participation of youth provides more chances of getting exposed to different sources and ideas related to agriculture also provide better opportunity to have inter personal interactions which will help in gaining more information about new ways of cultivation and also develop knowledge level that enhances their participation.

**1.11 Extension Contact Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.234 (female), r= 0.200 (total) for extension Contact found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.
The possible reason might be extension contact would help the youth to expose them to farm technologies promoted by the extension workers. Frequent contact with the extension workers might have helped them to hear about the success stories of youth in agriculture and allied sectors, thus might have motivated youth to participate in agriculture and allied activities.

**1.12 Mass media exposure Vs Participation**
It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.259 (male), r= 0.227 (total) for mass media exposure found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.
The possible reason might be mass media will expose and develop modern orientation among the youth and make them more efficient in acquiring, retaining and evaluating the effectiveness of farm innovations. The exposure to different mass media such as television, radio, newspaper and magazines might have helped them to look for change in their

life. The expected change in their life is accomplished by participating in agricultural activities. Hence, mass media exposure has motivated the youth to participate in agricultural activities.

**1.13 Attitude towards agriculture Vs Participation**

It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.479 (male), r= 0.319 (total) for attitude towards agriculture found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at one per cent level of probability. For female youth (r=0.252) found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.

The possible reason might be, attitude is a positive or negative feeling one has towards agriculture. Increase in attitude towards favourableness increases youths participation in agriculture because for a physical change (Participation) to occur, it is the mental change (attitude) that needs to occur first.

**1.14 Level of aspiration Vs Participation**

It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.348 (female), r= 0.280 (total) for level of aspiration found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at one per cent level of probability. For male youth (r=0.243) found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability. The probable reason might be that high level of aspiration aimed for better goal. The youth who are having a strong desire for excellence to achieve goals in life will participate more. So as the aspiration increases their participation also increases.

**1.15 Scientific orientation Vs Participation**

It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.372 (male), r= 0.298 (total) for scientific orientation found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at one per cent level of probability. For female youth (r=0.243) found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.

Science is the base for any act. One has to see the root cause of any operation. Comprehension and reasoning will help in developing the quality of high scientific orientation. Educated and dynamic youth in farming might be rigorously analysed their activities for achieving success in their farming. The youth in farming with more scientific orientation might be more logical, reasonable and optimistic in adopting new technologies which have resulted in high participation and high success percentage. The education, knowledge and skills might have directly contributed for youth participation in agriculture and activities.

**1.16 Risk orientation Vs Participation**

It could be inferred from the table 1. that r=0.264 (male), r= 0.206 (total) for risk orientation found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.

The probable reason might be that if the youth is oriented to overcome the different risks associated with agriculture such as production risks and marketing risks they will have the confidence to take up agriculture. Hence, there is significant relationship between risk orientation and participation.

**1.17 Perceived role of youth Vs Participation**

It could be inferred from the table 1. that r= 0.265 (total) for perceived role found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at one per cent level of probability. For male youth (r=0.259) and male youth (r=0.227) found positive and significant relationship with participation of youth at five per cent level of probability.

The possible reason might be that if youth perceive their role as high in agriculture allied activities it means that they are interested more in agriculture allied activities. With increase in interest of youth in agriculture allied activities youth participation in it also increases.

**Conclusion**

The results of the study clearly indicated that youth are prone to desire and ready to carry out their desires into action. Young people, who have urge to be an vital part of rural community life, are eager to learn new ideas. They have open minds and further they have advantage of education and better capacity of understanding new techniques and skills. The youth is thus the best medium of our community-life on the technological as well as human plane by carrying new ideas and messages to their families.

The result reported that the participation of rural youth in agriculture and allied activities was found to be medium. To make rural youth participate more in agriculture and allied activities, it is implied that creation of basic infrastructures like processing and value addition facilities at village level with relevant technical support will make agriculture and allied sectors as profitable ventures.

Keeping in view of the above results, efforts should be made to provide required resources, capacity-building programmes by extension agencies, policy makers and administrators towards change in perception of rural youth towards agriculture as an occupation and improve their participation.

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