



ISSN (E): 2277-7695  
ISSN (P): 2349-8242  
NAAS Rating: 5.23  
TPI 2023; SP-12(11): 2257-2259  
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[www.thepharmajournal.com](http://www.thepharmajournal.com)  
Received: 06-08-2023  
Accepted: 15-09-2023

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## Study of rural youth and identification of their occupational aspirations

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### Abstract

Today's youth are the future of tomorrow. They are the future elite of the country, with both mental and physical strength and determination. Occupational aspirations are individual's expressed career related goals or choices. The present study was carried out in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state in the tahsils of Latur, Chakur, and Renapur in 2019–20, with the objective to study "Occupational Aspirations of Rural Youth." Ex-post-facto research design has been used in this study. Four randomly chosen villages per tahsil. A random selection of 10 respondents was made from each village, resulting in a sample size of 120 respondents.

The majority of respondents appeared to have medium-level occupational aspirations. Additionally, the majority of respondents had a medium level of Agriculture Aspirations, Professional Occupation, Sales and Business Occupation, Skilled Occupation, Unskilled Occupation and Any Other Occupational Aspirations (Defence service/ Sportsman/ Builder).

**Keywords:** Youth, rural youth, aspirations, agricultural aspirations, occupational aspirations

### Introduction

Youth comprise the largest portion of the population in the nation because they are inherently passionate, inventive, lively, and dynamic. Youth possess a strong sense of passion, motivation, and willpower, making them the most valuable human resource for promoting a country's political, cultural, and economic development. The youth population of a nation determines its capacity and growth potential. In India, a "youth group" is defined by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (1985) as individuals between the ages of 15 and 35. Approximately one-third of India's population is under the age of thirty. Youth in rural areas make up more than 2.5 times as many as youth in urban areas.

The age group between 15 and 35 is regarded as youth in the current study. India is a youngest country. Youths in India (15–24 years old) make up one-fifth (19.10%) of the country's total population, according to the 2011 census. By 2020, youth in India are predicted to make up 34.33 percent of the country's total population. Approximately 70.00 percent of the youth in this population were from rural areas, with the remaining 30.00 percent being from urban areas. It is necessary to incite the youth population in India's mainstream development. This phenomenal rise in the youth population results in India being the youngest nation with a demographic. Aspiration is, "a hope or ambition of achieving something." Aspirations are a person's reflection of a variety of socio-psychological phenomena, including attitude, beliefs, behavior, and customs. One of these crucial elements that directly influences a person's decision-making is an aspiration, which we "never see these aspirations directly, but we know them seem to work for." The needs, goals, aspirations, attitudes, behaviors, and life values of today's youth vary. Youth in rural areas can only develop on a personal, social, economic, and spiritual level if their needs, aspirations, goals, attitudes, habits, and life values are identified early on and properly guided. As a result, some of these factors were taken into account in this study and could be helpful to the agencies involved to develop rural youth.

Occupational aspirations are the ideas, emotions, fantasies, and objectives people have about their work that influence their motivation and choices regarding their careers and subsequent engagement in those careers. Rojewski (2005) [3] defined occupational aspirations as "an individual's expressed career related goals or choices". The importance of occupational aspirations in the development of teenage careers is made apparent by their central place in the majority of career theories and the substantial amount of research done over the past 50 years.

## Objective

To identify the occupational aspirations of rural youth.

## Materials and Methods

The current study was conducted in 2019–2020 in the Latur district of the Marathwada region of the state of Maharashtra. Latur, Chakur, and Renapur tahsils were chosen at random from among the ten tahsils in the Latur district.

Four villages were chosen for the study's purposes from each tahsil. For the study, a total of twelve villages were chosen from three tahsils.

Ten male youths were chosen at random from each of the villages that were chosen. Thus, a total of 120 male youths were taken into consideration as study participants. The selection of respondents was done by using simple random sampling method pertaining to the study's objectives. For estimating the research Ex-post-facto research design was used for the study.

The information gathered using a pretested interview schedule. Data analysis was conducted using statistical tests and methods, including frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and correlation coefficient.

The main objective of this study is to study "Occupational aspirations of rural youth".

## Results and Discussion

### The following are the respondents' occupational aspirations findings

From the Table 1 it is revealed that, more than half (53.09%) of rural youth were most interested in agriculture aspirations followed by any other occupational aspirations (Defence service/ Sportsman/ Builder) (38.88%), sales and business occupation (35.91%), professional occupation (34.88%),

skilled occupation (26.21%) and remaining 17.53 percent rural youth were most interested in unskilled occupation. While, 44.44 percent of rural youth were moderately interested in sales and business occupation followed by skilled occupation (28.30%), professional occupation (24.36%), agriculture aspirations (24.36%), unskilled occupation (16.36%) and none of rural youth were moderately interested in any other occupational aspirations category (Defence service/ Sportsman/ Builder). Whereas majority (66.11%) of rural youth were least interested in unskilled occupation followed by any other occupational aspirations (Defence service/ Sportsman/ Builder) (61.11%), skilled occupation (45.49%), professional occupation (40.66%), sales and business occupation (22.65%) and remaining 22.56 percent rural youth were least interested in agricultural aspirations.

The occupational aspiration of most (37.38%) of rural youth belonged to most interested category followed by least interested (35.99%) and 26.63 percent of rural youth belonged to moderately interested category.

From the Table 2 it is noticed that majority (67.50%) of the respondents had medium level of occupational aspirations, followed by high level (17.50%) and 15.00 percent had low level of occupational aspirations.

The probable reasons might be due to rural youth are aware about their future occupation and act according to plan for achieving their goal. This also might be for getting social status and prestige in society. Higher the prestigious occupation higher the social status and prestige in society.

From the Table 2.A it is noticed that more than half (58.33%) of the respondents had medium level of agriculture aspirations, followed by low level (23.34%) and 18.33 percent had high level of agriculture aspirations.

**Table 1:** Distribution of respondents according to their occupational aspirations

| Sl. No. | Occupational aspirations   | Most Interested | Moderately Interested | Least Interested | Score       |
|---------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| I.      | Agriculture aspirations  | 972 (53.09%)    | 446 (24.36%)          | 413 (22.56%)     | 1831        |
| II.     | Professional occupation  | 519 (34.88%)    | 364 (24.46%)          | 605 (40.66%)     | 1488        |
| III.    | Sales and business occupation  | 390 (35.91%)    | 450 (41.44%)          | 245 (22.65%)     | 1085        |
| IV.     | Skilled occupation   | 276 (26.21%)    | 298 (28.30%)          | 479 (45.49%)     | 1053        |
| V.      | Unskilled occupation   | 105 (17.53%)    | 98 (16.36%)           | 396 (66.11%)     | 599         |
| VI.     | Any other occupational aspirations (Defence service/Sportsman/Builder) | 63 (38.88%)     | 00 (00.00%)           | 99 (61.11%)      | 162         |
|         | Occupational aspirations   | 2325 (37.38%)   | 1656 (26.63%)         | 2238 (35.99%)    | 6219 (100%) |

**Table 2:** Distribution of respondents according to their occupational aspirations N=120

| Sl. No. | Category          | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.      | Low (Up to 45)    | 18        | 15.00      |
| 2.      | Medium (46 to 57) | 81        | 67.50      |
| 3.      | High (Above 57)   | 21        | 17.50      |
|         | Total             | 120       | 100.00     |

**Table 2.A:** Distribution of respondents according to their agriculture aspiration category N=120

| Sl. No. | Category          | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.      | Low (Up to 12)    | 28        | 23.34      |
| 2.      | Medium (13 to 18) | 70        | 58.33      |
| 3.      | High (Above 18)   | 22        | 18.33      |
|         | Total             | 120       | 100.00     |

**Table 2.B:** Distribution of respondents according to their professional occupation category N=120

| Sl. No. | Category         | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.      | Low (Up to 8)    | 31        | 25.83      |
| 2.      | Medium (9 to 16) | 65        | 54.17      |
| 3.      | High (Above 16)  | 24        | 20.00      |
|         | Total            | 120       | 100.00     |

**Table 2.C:** Distribution of respondents according to their sales and business occupation category N=120

| Sl. No. | Category         | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.      | Low (Up to 6)    | 22        | 18.34      |
| 2.      | Medium (7 to 11) | 79        | 65.83      |
| 3.      | High (Above 11)  | 19        | 15.83      |
|         | Total            | 120       | 100.00     |

**Table 2.D:** Distribution of respondents according to their skilled occupation category N=120

| Sl. No. | Category         | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.      | Low (Up to 6)    | 23        | 19.17      |
| 2.      | Medium (7 to 11) | 82        | 68.33      |
| 3.      | High (Above 11)  | 15        | 12.50      |
|         | Total            | 120       | 100.00     |

**Table 2.E:** Distribution of respondents according to their unskilled occupation category N=120

| Sl. No. | Category        | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.      | Low (Up to 3)   | 00        | 00.00      |
| 2.      | Medium (4 to 6) | 94        | 78.33      |
| 3.      | High (Above 6)  | 26        | 21.67      |
|         | Total           | 120       | 100.00     |

**Table 2.F:** Distribution of respondents according to their any other occupational aspirations (Defence service/ Sportsman/ Builder) category N=120

| Sl. No. | Category          | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.      | Low (Up to 1)     | 00        | 00.00      |
| 2.      | Medium (1.1 to 2) | 99        | 82.50      |
| 3.      | High (Above 2)    | 21        | 17.50      |
|         | Total             | 120       | 100.00     |

From the Table 2.B it is noticed that more than half (54.17%) of the respondents had medium level of occupational aspirations in professional occupation, followed by low level (25.83%) and 20.00 percent had high level of occupational aspirations in professional occupation.

From the Table 2.C it is noticed that majority (65.83%) of the respondents had medium level of occupational aspirations in sales and business occupation, followed by low level (18.34%) and 15.83 percent had high level of occupational aspirations in sales and business occupation.

From the Table 2.D it is noticed that majority (68.33%) of the respondents had medium level of occupational aspirations in skilled occupation, followed by low level (19.17%) and 12.50 percent had high level of occupational aspirations in skilled occupation.

From the Table 2.E it is noticed that majority (78.33%) of the respondents had medium level of occupational aspirations in unskilled occupation, followed by high level (21.67%) and none of them had low level of occupational aspirations in unskilled occupation.

From the Table 2.F it is noticed that majority (82.50%) of the respondents had medium level of other occupational aspirations, followed by high level (17.50%) and none of them had low level of other occupational aspirations (Defence service/ Sportsman/ Builder).

## Conclusions

According to the observations, the majority of respondents (67.50%) had medium-level occupational aspirations, followed by high-level (17.50%) and low-level (15.00%).

From the above results it may be conclude that, rural youth are aware about their future occupation and act according to plan for achieving their goals. This also might be for getting social status and prestige in society. As we know, "Higher the prestigious occupation higher the social status and prestige in society."

## Implications

1. The majority of young people living in rural areas were

found to have medium to high levels of occupational aspiration, meaning that in order to pursue their future goals and find employment, they must participate in various government and non-governmental programs. There should also be various motivational seminars about career should be taken in rural areas for stimulating youth about their future dreams.

2. Youth, the growing pillars of nation should be encouraged constantly to bring them under the stream of rural development. There is need for organizing intensive educational activities, trainings, demonstrations, seminars and exhibitions for achieving occupational aspirations.

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