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Assessment of relationship between profile characteristics of rural youth and their occupational aspirations

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Abstract

The present study was conducted with the specific objective of “To find out the relationship between profile of rural youth and their occupational aspirations”. For the study, Parbhani, Nanded, Hingoli and Jalna districts were selected randomly from Marathwada region. From each districts two talukas were selected randomly. From each taluka three villages were selected randomly and from each village ten rural youth were selected randomly. Thus total sample size 240. According to National Youth Policy India 2014, youths between the age of 15 to 29 were selected. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. From the study it was found that, respondent’s education, family type, family occupation, family annual income, land holding, social participation, social participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation and risk orientation were positively and highly significantly correlated with occupational aspirations of rural youth whereas father’s education, mother’s education and family size were positively and significantly correlated with occupational aspirations and the gender had non-significant relationship with occupational aspirations of rural youth.

These variables influence the occupational aspirations of rural youth, they do so to a moderate extent. The findings highlight the need for targeted interventions to enhance the aspirations of rural youth toward occupations that align with regional and national development goals.

Keywords: Respondents, ex-post facto, education, randomly, significant, non-significant

Introduction

Youths are the power. The overall development of a country depends on the regimented, active and skilled youth power. Youth is the most energetic and productive section of a society. A country’s ability and potential for growth is determined by the size and strength of its youth population. It is believed that developing countries with large youth population could see tremendous growth, provided they invest in young people’s education, health and protect and guarantee their rights. It can undoubtedly be said that today’s young generations are tomorrow’s innovators, creators, builders and leaders. Youth as a concept has been generally defined all over the world as a group of human beings who have reached at the end puberty but have not yet acquired the full rights and duties of adult life. In India, as per National Youth Policy-2003, ‘youth’ was defined as a person of age between 13-35 years but in the current Policy Document i.e. National Youth Policy 2014, the persons between the age group of 15 and 29 years are considered youth.

Aspiration can be defined as a level of possible goals set by an individual. Occupational aspirations are generally defined as a set of preferences regarding future occupational roles and activities. The present research study would reveal some of the facts about occupational aspirations of the rural youth which will help in motivating and influencing in certain aspects of their life. Rural youth are the most important section of the rural society and they play a vital role in development of rural areas. Youth reflect the national potentiality and represent the life blood of a nation. Development of youth determines the development of community and country. Today unemployment is a major problem among the rural youth and now they are

trying to come out this problem by migrating from rural areas to urban areas, as employment opportunities are more in urban areas. This study on rural youth will be useful for the policy makers for better planning and implementation of the schemes in rural areas. This research aims to illuminate the occupational aspirations of rural youth in the Marathwada region, contributing to a deeper understanding of the dynamics at play in shaping their futures. By exploring the interplay of socio-economic and cultural factors, this study hopes to provide actionable insights that can enhance the potential of rural youth, ultimately fostering a more equitable and prosperous society. There is less number of studies about this research in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. Hence, an attempt is taking to study "Occupational aspirations of rural youth in Marathwada region".

Materials and Methods

There are eight districts in Marathwada region. For the study, Parbhani, Nanded, Hingoli and Jalna districts were selected randomly from Marathwada region. From each districts two talukas were selected randomly. From each taluka three villages were selected randomly and from each village ten rural youth were selected randomly. Thus total sample size 240. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. By using statistical techniques like Mean, Frequency and Percentage, Standard Deviation. Mean generally gives average value and is of total 240 sample was calculated by summing all the individual score and dividing it by number of items. Frequency and percentage were used for making simple comparisons of variables and standard deviation is used to measure how spread out data points are from the mean. Scale was constructed to measure the occupational aspirations of rural youth and the interview schedule based on the objectives of the study was prepared for collecting data from the respondents. The schedule was formulated in consultation with the experts in the field of extension education, by reviewing the relevant literature.

Results and Discussion

Relationship between profile characteristics of rural youth and their occupational aspirations

Sr. No.	Independent Variable	Coefficient of Correlation (r)
1.	Gender	0.112 ^{NS}
2.	Respondent's Education	0.326**
3.	Father's Education	0.168*
4.	Mother's Education	0.144*
5.	Family Size	0.153*
6.	Family Type	0.314**
7.	Family Occupation	0.422**
8.	Family Annual Income	0.289**
9.	Land Holding	0.411**
10.	Social Participation	0.383**
11.	Mass media exposure	0.549**
12.	Economic Motivation	0.530**
13.	Risk Orientation	0.503**

(*Significant at 0.05 level of probability)

NS=Non-significant

**Significant at 0.01 level of probability)

From the result it was observed that, the independent variables respondent's education, family type, family occupation, family annual income, land holding, social participation, social participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation and risk orientation were positively and highly significantly correlated with dependent variable occupational aspirations of rural youth at 0.01 level of probability whereas father's

education, mother's education and family size were positively and significantly correlated with occupational aspirations of rural youth at 0.05 level of probability and the independent variable gender had non-significant relationship with dependent variable occupational aspirations of rural youth.

Conclusion

The study revealed a strong and significant relationship between various profile characteristics of rural youth and their occupational aspirations. This indicates that higher levels of education, better economic conditions, and greater social and media exposure play a crucial role in shaping the occupational goals of rural youth. Furthermore, the study also established a positive and significant correlation between some profile characteristics and occupational aspirations. This suggests that parental education and family environment contribute to the career ambitions of rural youth. Interestingly, the study found that the variable gender had a non-significant relationship with the occupational aspirations of rural youth, indicating that both male and female respondents exhibited similar levels of occupational ambition.

These findings emphasize the need for policies and programs that enhance educational opportunities, economic resources, and social exposure for rural youth. Strengthening these factors can help in nurturing higher occupational aspirations and guiding rural youth towards more professional and entrepreneurial careers. Further research could explore the underlying causes of these relationships and the impact of targeted interventions on the occupational choices of rural youth.

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