

Relationship Between Extent of Participation of Rural Youths towards Farm Operation with Socio - Economic and Psychological Characteristics in Jorhat District of Assam

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ABSTRACT

The study entitled "Relationship between extent of participation in farm operation, with socio-economic and psychological characteristics of rural youths towards farming in Jorhat district of Assam", following ex-post-facto research design. A total of 200 respondents were selected using multistage purposive cum random sampling technique. The data were collected by means of personal interview schedule during 25th Feb, 2016 - 3rd April, 2016. The findings revealed that age (0.50), size of family (0.042), size of operational land holding (0.043) and attitude towards farming (0.528) of the respondents was positively significant and highly correlated with extent of participation in farm operations. Whereas, educational level ($\chi^2 = 69.206^*$) and occupation of parents ($\chi^2 = 40.92^*$) had significant association at 5 per cent probability level with extent of participation in farm operation. The regression coefficient of age ($b = 0.797$), educational level: higher secondary ($b = -6.420$), diploma/certificate course ($b = -8.449$), graduate ($b = -10.877$), sources of farm machineries and farm implements ($b = -0.573$), training exposure ($b = 1.591$) and attitude towards farming ($b = 0.796$) were found to be significant. The co-efficient of multiple determinations ($R^2 = 0.63$) explain together 63.20 per cent to the total variation on the extent of participation in farm operations.

Key words: Farming, farm operations, participation, relationship, rural youth,

INTRODUCTION

India has the largest youth population in the world that is poised to increase further in the coming decade. 70.00 per cent of India's population is below the age of 35 years. This pool of youth population needs to be engaged in the mainstream development of India. The overall development of a country depends on their regimented, active and skilled youth power. The role of youths is important in making future of a country. According to 2011 census, there are 232 million rural youths who live in rural areas. Therefore rural youths constitute numerically a dominant, potential, resource and adventurous segment of the country's population. Youths represent the most active segment of the population and an engine that do most productive work of the society (Adescope, 1999). They have been identified as constituting the major resource base for any country which wishes to embark on any meaningful agriculture and rural development projects (Oneukwusi, 2005) Youths have the potential to overcome some of the major constraints to expanding animal production in developing countries such as pest control, feeding, genetic improvement and protection

against predators because they are often more open to new ideas and practices than adult farmers.

The state of Assam predominantly has a rice based agricultural system. Sali rice is the main rice crop of Assam. According to 2011 census in Assam, about 86 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. Thus the development of this region depends on the development of agriculture which in turn emphasizes the incorporation of modern technologies. Therefore Singh (1985) said that participation of youths in development process is necessary to bring change in socio-economic structure and improving the quality of life of an individual. The farmers of Assam are characterized by small land holding, less cash inflow and poverty. In the present study extent of participation in farm operation is defined as the frequency at which the rural youth's are taking active part in various farm operations. The participation of rural youths in sali rice cultivation will be motivating factor for developing a sense of work culture for the youths of the non sampled area and also for generating income through such production oriented activities. In this study relationship between participation of the rural youths in farm

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operations with various socio-economic and psychological characteristics towards farming were studied.

METHODOLOGY

The population of the study comprised the rural youths in the study area that were engaged in farm operation during the study. Jorhat district was purposively selected for the present study. Two sub-division viz. Jorhat and Titabor were selected randomly from Jorhat district. Two A.D.O. circles from each sub division were selected randomly. These were - Dhekorgorah and Teok A.D.O. circles under Jorhat sub-division and Madhapur and Baghchung A.D.O. circles under Titabar sub-division were selected randomly. Two villages from each A.D.O. circle were selected randomly for the present study. Thus altogether there were eight randomly selected villages. Hence a total of 200 rural youths were sampled.

Data were collected using structured schedule and open ended questions administered to 200 randomly selected respondents. Variable for analysis included the following: Age, Education, Type of family, Size of family, Operational land holdings, Annual income of family, Occupation of parents, Training exposure, Attitude towards farming, Mass media exposure and level of participation in farm operations, management activities and decision making. Data analysis was carried out through the use of frequency counts, percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Correlation analysis showing the relationship between socio-economic factors and youths level of participation in farm operation

Variable	r value	t value
Age	0.50**	7.184
Size of family	0.042**	5.063
Size of operational land holding (in ha)	0.043**	7.042
Annual income of the family	-0.117**	8.209
Training exposure	0.482 ^{NS}	1.556
Attitude towards farming	0.528**	4.305
Mass media exposure	0.394 ^{NS}	1.197

** denotes significant at 0.01 level of probability

* denotes significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non-significant

d.f. = n-2= 200-2=198 for all case

r= Co-efficient of correlation

t= Calculated t value

The independent variable age ($r = 0.50$), size of family ($r = 0.042$), size of operational land holdings ($r = 0.043$) and attitude towards farming ($r = 0.528$) of the respondents was positively significant and highly correlated with extent of participation in farm operations and there is a negative and significant relationship between annual income of the family ($r = -0.117$) and

sources of farm machineries and farm implements ($r = -0.0278$) of the respondents with extent of participation in farm operations. It was further seen from the analysis that training exposure ($r = 0.482$) and mass media exposure ($r = 0.394$) had non-significant correlation with extent of participation in farm operations.

Table 2: Association of selected socio-personal characteristics of the respondents with participation in farm operations

Independent variable	Chi test
Education level	69.206*
Type of Family	2.052 ^{NS}
Occupation of parents	40.920*

* denotes significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non-significant

d.f = n-2 = 200-2 = 198

It was also found that educational level ($\chi^2 = 69.206$) and occupation of parents ($\chi^2 = 40.92$) of the respondents had significant association with extent participation in farm operations whereas type of family ($\chi^2 = 2.052$) had non-significant association with extent of participation in farm operation

Table 3: Multiple regression analysis of extent of participation in farm operations with independent variables

Variable	Regression coefficient	Standard Error	't' Value	Co-efficient of multiple determination
	(b)	(bi)		(R ²)
Age	0.797**	0.142	5.629	0.632
Edu 1 (literate without formal schooling)	7.407 ^{NS}	3.777	1.961	
Edu 2 (literate but below primary level)	2.295 ^{NS}	2.764	0.830	
Edu 3 (primary school)	-2.497 ^{NS}	2.623	-0.952	
Edu 4 (middle school)	-3.319 ^{NS}	2.301	-1.443	
Edu 5 (high school)	-4.301 ^{NS}	2.436	-1.766	
Edu 6 (higher secondary)	-6.420*	2.354	-2.727	
Edu 7 (Diploma/Certificate course)	-8.449*	3.122	-2.706	
Edu 8 (Graduate)	-10.877**	2.513	-4.328	
Edu 9 (Post graduate and above)	-8.312 ^{NS}	4.406	-1.887	
Type of family	1.183 ^{NS}	1.557	0.759	
Size of family	0.065 ^{NS}	0.941	0.07	
Size of operational land holding	1.061 ^{NS}	1.028	1.032	
Annual income of family	-1.109 ^{NS}	0.000	-1.764	
Occupation of parents (Farming + Business)	0.272 ^{NS}	2.103	0.129	
Occupation of parents (Farming + service)	0.164 ^{NS}	2.206	0.074	
Occupation of parents (Farming + Business + service)	-2.572 ^{NS}	2.137	-1.204	
Training exposure	1.591*	0.762	2.086	
Attitude towards farming	0.796**	0.218	3.650	
Mass media exposure	0.352 ^{NS}	0.222	1.582	

R² = 0.632

** denotes significant at 0.01 level of probability

* denotes significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non-significant

d.f. = n-2=200-2=198 for all cases of 't' values

It was observed that that out of eleven (11) variables, the regression coefficient of age ($b = 0.797$), educational level: higher secondary ($b = -6.420$), diploma/certificate course ($b = -8.449$), graduate ($b = -10.877$), sources of farm machineries and farm implements ($b = -0.573$), training exposure ($b = 1.591$) and attitude towards farming ($b = 0.796$) are significant. These five variables could, therefore, be termed as good predictors of rural youth's extent of participation in farm operations. The co-efficient of multiple determinations (R^2) with eleven independent variables was found to be 0.632. It indicated that the set of eleven variables could explain together 63.20 per cent to the total variation on the extent of participation in farm operations.

CONCLUSION

The relationship of selected characteristics of rural youth with participation in farming operation in rural areas of Jorhat district revealed that age, size of family, size of operational land holding and attitude towards farming of the respondents were positively significant and highly correlated with extent of participation in farm operations. Educational level and occupation of parents showed significant association at 5 per cent probability level with extent of participation in farm operation where as family type showed no association with extent of participation in farm operation. The regression coefficient of age, educational level: higher secondary, diploma/certificate course, graduate, sources of farm machineries

and farm implements, training exposure and attitude towards farming were found to be significant. Government and extension personnel should target and encourage the rural youths to play more active role in agricultural production activities. Therefore, to achieve a broad-based agricultural development, extension and other agricultural administrators should focus on the technological and socio-economic needs of all categories of farmers, especially the youths.

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