

ROLE OF YOUTH IN DECISION MAKING OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN DEVARAKONDA BLOCK OF NALGONDA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The socio-economic development and prosperity of rural areas depends to a considerable extent on the type of youth living in rural areas. Because the rural youth have abilities to orient themselves to go along the mainstream of the development process. The present study entitled "role of Youth in decision making of the agricultural activities in Devarakonda block of Nalgonda district" "A total of 120 respondents were selected randomly from ten villages for present study. The study revealed that majority of respondents belonged to middle socio-economic status. 40.00% respondents have medium level of role in decision making followed by 35.83% respondents had high level of role in decision making and 24.17% low level of role in decision making. The majority of respondents belonged to middle socio-economic status. They possessed medium level of participation in agricultural activities. The study also revealed that the role of youth in decision making have positive and non-significant correlation with Operational Landholding, positive and significant correlation with occupation rest of all independent variables like age, education, annual income, occupation, type of house, decision making, extension participation, mass media exposure.

KEYWORDS: Socio-Economic, Youth in Farming, Decision Making

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

The resources of any nation are its natural resources and people. The youth of today are the future citizens of the country. They are the hope of tomorrow. They are the backbone of the country. Youth reflect the national potential and represent the life blood of a nation. The youth constitute a vast reservoir of energy especially in a huge country such as India. Out of the total population of India, youth constitute 40 per cent of young people, man and women, are available for handling various tasks of development of local, regional and national level. They are the national cream and the future crown with full possession of physical built and mental tenacity and power (Arowolo *et al.*, 2013). The aim of youth participation in farming is to bring together the effort and energy of youth. Working party on youth and population (1974) rightly recommended that young people be represented at higher level of decision-making process in the field of development, particularly in socio-economic, political and agricultural areas (Kimaro *et al.*, 2015). Participation of rural youths was emphasised with realization of the fact that opportunity must be given to younger generation to function in the process of

decision making which is related with the development of agricultural and rural area. Youth are more receptive to new innovations/techniques in any field of development than the elder ones. The youth, if provided proper training in modern agricultural technologies, they not only come forward to accept changes but also, they can influence and educate the members of farming community about modern agricultural technologies

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design opted for the study is descriptive research design. This type of design is opted generally when the researcher wants to study the current situation in a descriptive manner. The present study was conducted in Nalgonda district of Telangana state, from Nalgonda district Devarakonda Mandal was selected purposively based on considerable number of respondents. From Devarakonda Mandal a total of ten villages i.e., Kacahram, Rathya Thanda, Pedda Thanda, Kamalapur, Kondabeemanapally, Telugupally, Thatikole, Sheripalli, Gottimukkala, and Illegally were selected randomly for the present study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To access the socio-economic profile of the respondents
- To analyse the role of youth in decision making of the agriculture

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1

S. No	Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Low	42	35.00
		Medium	68	56.67
		High	10	8.33
2	Education	Low	16	13.33
		Medium	72	60.00
		High	32	26.66
3	Annual income	Low	57	47.50
		Medium	54	45.00
		High	9	7.50
4	Occupation	Low	48	40.00
		Medium	56	46.66
		High	16	13.33
5	Operational holding	Low	63	52.50
		Medium	45	37.50
		High	15	10.00
6	Type of house	Low	9	7.5
		Medium	53	44.17
		High	58	48.33
7	Decision making	Low	34	28.33
		Medium	68	56.67
		High	18	15.00

Table 1 Contd.,

8	Extension participation	Low	28	23.33
		Medium	64	56.67
		High	24	20.00
9	Social participation	Low	20	16.67
		Medium	72	60.00
		high	28	23.33
10	Mass media exposure	Low	26	21.66
		Medium	68	56.67
		High	26	21.66

Over-All Socio-Economic Status of the Respondents

Based on the data collected through the independent variables and appropriate analysis the respondents are categorized into three levels and are represented in the below table.

Table 1: Overall Distribution of Respondents according to their Various Socio-Economic Statuses

S No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low(11- 15)	24	20.00
2	Medium (16-20)	34	28.34
3	High (21-30)	62	51.66

From the above table 1, it is evident that majority of the respondents (51.66%) have high levels of decision-making ability followed by 28.34 per cent of the respondents have low levels of decision-making ability and 20.00 per cent of the respondents have high levels of decision-making ability. The findings were found to be in line with Mubeena et al., (2020) and Patel et al. (2012)

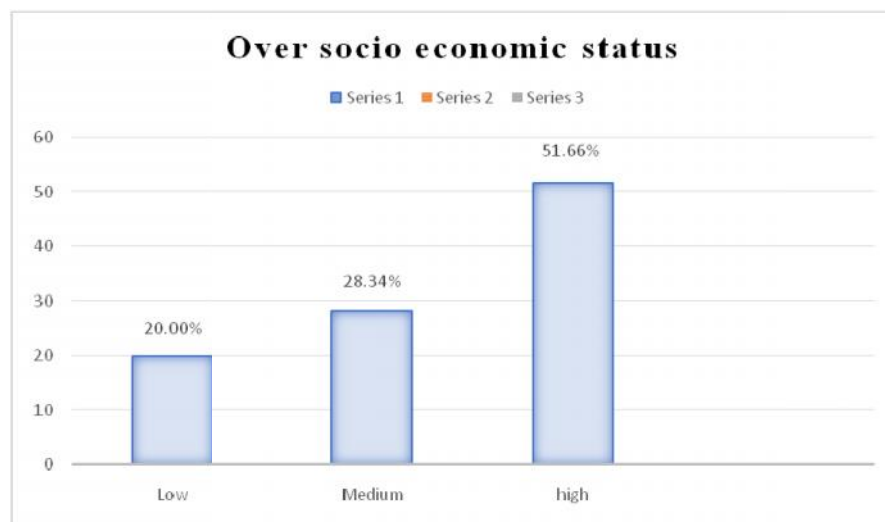


Figure 1: Overall distribution of Respondents according to their Various Socio-Economic Statuses.

1. The Role of Youth in Decision Making of the Agriculture

The role of youth in major decision-making areas related to agriculture was explained. The data collected was grouped, analyzed and presented in the following table.

Table 2

S.No.	Activities	Regular	Occasional	Never
1	Paddy			
a	Selection of variety	43 (35.83)	54 (45.00)	23 (19.17)
b	Seed Sowing	21 (17.50)	48 (40.00)	51 (42.50)
c	Fertilizer Application	56 (46.67)	31 (25.83)	33 (27.50)
d	Weeding	34 (28.33)	52 (43.33)	34 (28.34)
e	Irrigation	29 (24.17)	49 (40.83)	42 (35.00)
f	Disease/Pest Management	37 (30.83)	55 (45.83)	28 (23.33)
g	Harvesting	58 (48.33)	47 (39.17)	15 (12.50)
h	Post-Harvest Activities	35 (29.17)	53 (44.17)	32 (26.67)
i	Storage	32 (26.67)	46 (38.33)	42 (35.00)
j	Marketing	45 (37.50)	57 (47.50)	18 (15.00)
2	Brinjal			
a	Selection of variety	45 (37.50)	56 (46.67)	19 (15.83)
b	Transplanting	43 (35.83)	54 (45.00)	23 (19.17)
c	Irrigation	53 (44.17)	52 (43.33)	15 (12.50)
d	Fertilizer Application	59 (49.17)	32 (26.67)	29 (24.17)
e	Weeding	46 (38.33)	53 (44.17)	21 (17.50)
f	Disease/ Pest Management	44 (36.67)	58 (48.33)	18 (15.00)
g	Post-Harvest Activities	51 (42.50)	57 (47.50)	12 (10.00)
h	Marketing	47 (39.17)	57 (47.50)	16 (13.33)
3	Cotton			
a	Selection of variety	56 (46.67)	42 (35.00)	22 (18.33)
b	Seed Sowing	39 (32.50)	54 (45.00)	27 (22.50)
c	Fertilizer Application	55 (45.83)	41 (34.17)	24 (20.00)

Table 2 Contd.,

d	Irrigation	39 (32.50)	53 (44.17)	28 (23.33)
e	Weeding	39 (32.50)	57 (47.50)	24 (20.00)
f	Disease/ Pest Management	51 (42.50)	50 (41.67)	19 (15.83)
g	Harvesting	41 (34.17)	58 (48.33)	21 (17.50)
h	Storage	44 (36.67)	50 (41.67)	26 (21.67)
i	Marketing	45 (37.50)	52 (43.33)	23 (19.17)
4	Red Chilli			
a	Selection of variety	45 (37.50)	54 (45.00)	21 (17.50)
b	Transplanting	53 (44.17)	43 (35.83)	24 (20.00)
c	Irrigation	35 (29.17)	57 (47.50)	28 (23.33)
d	Fertilizer Application	52 (43.33)	49 (40.83)	19 (15.83)
e	Weeding	38 (31.67)	55 (45.83)	27 (22.50)
f	Disease/ Pest Management	59 (49.17)	35 (29.16)	26 (21.67)
g	Harvesting	33 (27.50)	58 (48.33)	29 (24.17)
h	Post-Harvest Activities	47 (39.17)	51 (42.50)	22 (18.34)
i	Storage	41 (34.17)	56 (46.67)	23 (19.17)
j	Marketing	59 (49.17)	43 (35.83)	18 (15.00)

From the data obtained from the above table 1. The role of youth in major decision-making areas related to agriculture was explained. the participation of the agricultural youth in various farm activities like selection of variety, transplanting, disease/pest management, irrigation, fertilization management, weeding, harvesting, post-harvesting management, storage and marketing of major crops i.e., paddy, cotton, brinjal and red chillies grown in the study area is recorded. The majority percentages of involvement of the youth in decision-making related to agriculture was recorded. Based on the data collected and analysed the respondents were grouped in to three categories on their level of decision making and are presented in the below table

Table 3: Distribution of The Respondents based on their Role in Decision Making

S.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (25-38)	29	24.17
2	Medium (39-50)	48	40.00
3	High (51-65)	43	35.83
	Total	120	100.00

It is evident that most of the respondents (40.00%) had medium level of role in decision making followed by 35.83 per cent of the respondents had high level of role in decision making and 24.17 per cent of the respondents had low level of role in decision making. This concludes that most of the rural youth have medium levels of decision making.

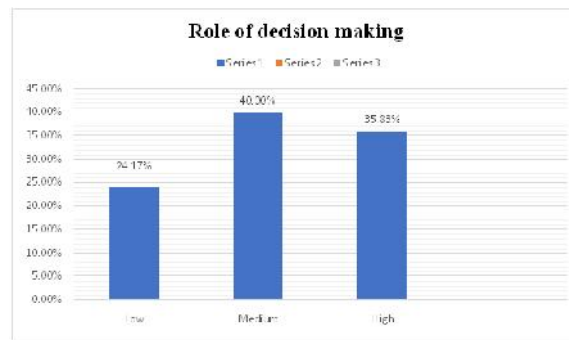


Figure 2: Distribution of the respondents based on their Role in Decision Making

Table 4: Relationship Between the Socio-Economic Status and the Role of Youth in Decision Making

S.No.	Independent Variable	Co-efficient correlation (r)
1	Age	0.2278*
2	Education	0.3664**
3	Annual Income	0.6393*
4	Occupation	0.4171**
5	Operational Landholding	0.0952(NS)
6	Type of House	0.5583*
7	Decision Making	0.3465**
8	Extension Participation	0.3036**
9	Social Participation	0.4682**
10	Mass Media Exposure	0.3607**

* = Significant at 0.05 level of probability,

** = Significant at 0.01 level of probability,

N.S = non-significant

The co-efficient of co-relation between the age (0.2278), education (0.3664), occupation (0.4171), type of house (0.5583), extension participation (0.3036), decision making (0.3465), social participation (0.4682) and mass media exposure (0.3607) and the role of youth in decision making was more than the table value “r” at 1 per cent level of significance. While the co-efficient of co-relation between operational land holding (0.0952) and annual income (0.6393) was more than the table value “r” at 5 per cent level of significance. It can be inferred that there is a positive and significant relationship between the age, education, annual income, occupation, extension participation, social participation, operational land holding, decision making, mass media exposure and the role of youth in decision making. Similar findings are also reported by **Savita (2011)**.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that majority of the youth have belonged to middle age group, this shows that youth is interested in agriculture. Most of the youth have received formal education and completed primary school, have low levels of annual income, have agriculture as their main occupation and live in cemented house. Majority of the youth had no land and are working as agriculture labour at present, medium levels of decision making, medium levels of extension participation, medium levels of social participation and medium levels of mass media exposure. Most of the agriculture youth have medium levels of socio-economic status. Most of the youth play medium role in decision making of agriculture. The role of youth in decision making have positive and non-significant correlation with operational landholding, positive and significant correlation with occupation rest of all independent variables like age, education, annual income, occupation, type of house, decision making, extension participation, mass media exposure.

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