

STUDY THE CORRELATION AND REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF VARIABLES OF RURAL YOUTH TOWARDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

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ABSTRACT

The youth can make their constructive contribution to nation development and through which society can benefit from the idealism and the sense of dedication of youth at the same time, they also get benefitted from their active involvement and participation in development activities, since such participation increases their self esteem, gives them a sense of identity and of being needed by the society, the youths must be exposed to the social realities and the pressing problems, that the country is confronted with, for being and becoming active partners in national progress and development.

KEYWORDS: Rural youth, Variables, Correlation, Regression, Participation and Rural development activities

I. INTRODUCTION

India has the largest youth population in the world that is poised to increase further in the coming decade. Seventy 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. According to the initial figures of the 2011 census, the youth population in the country including adolescents is around 550 million. India had a total youth population of 460 million that is 40.00 per cent of the total population. Out of this population, about 70.00 per cent were rural youth and the remaining 30.00 per cent were urban youth. This phenomenal rise in the youth population has made India the youngest nation with a demographic dividend appearing to be a reality, as majority of the youth comes from rural areas, they are considered as the nation builders of tomorrow. The place of rural youth class is more important for the future of country. Rural youth are the precious human assets who can play an important role in the development of agriculture and other allied activities. The rural youth male and female, because of their family and community background in farming are active partners in various agriculture allied activities. The participation of rural youth in the development activities is essential in order to bring change in socio-economic structure and improving the quality of life of an individual.

As per the Hiremath (2007) in his study conducted in Dharwad district reported that, a majority of rural youth (50.83%) were involved in farm activities, whereas 36.67 per cent involved in nonfarm activities and 12.50 per cent were involved both in farm and non-farm activities.

According to Radhakrishnan (2013) revealed that more than half of the youth (54.17 per cent) had less favourable attitude towards rural development and agriculture related programmes/activities followed by favourable attitude (33.33 per cent) and more favourable attitude (12.50 per cent) respectively. Less favourable attitude might be due to the lack of interest, inadequate knowledge and more opportunities available in other occupation. However in the study area 12.50 per cent of the youth still depended on farming as their occupation which might be the reason for more favourable attitude towards rural development and agricultural related programmes/activities by the more than one tenth of the respondents.

With regard to Janani (2015) stated that two-third (66.19%) of the rural youth entrepreneurs possessed a moderately favourable attitude towards entrepreneurial ventures followed by highly favourable attitude (18.10%). More than one-fourth (15.71%) of the respondents were found to possess less favourable attitude towards the entrepreneurial ventures.

Karthika (2016) observed that 71.00 per cent of the respondents had medium attitude towards entrepreneurship followed by 17.00 per cent and 12.00 per cent of the respondents were with low and high attitude towards entrepreneurship.

Hence, in this study an attempt has been made to study the correlation and regression analysis of variables of rural youth towards rural development activities.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was taken up in Coimbatore District of Tamil Nadu which consists of twelve blocks and out of these, Karamadai block was purposively selected based on the maximum rural youth population and various rural development activities being carried out in karamadai block. By having brief discussion made with the planners, administrators, extension fundamentals and others directly and indirectly concerned with the development of the rural youth and also with selected rural youth members. Totally 200 respondents were selected for the study area by employing simple random sampling method. Percentage analysis was done to get meaningful interpretation of the study. Personal interview and farmers discussion group techniques was used for data collection after developing a well structured interview schedule and analysis was done by using the SPSS package and MS office excel.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Participation of rural youth towards rural development activities

The respondents are actively involvement of their interest towards rural development activities. The overall participation of the rural youth in the rural development activities was studied and the results are the given in table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their participation in various rural development activities.

(n = 200)*											
S.No	Rural development activities	Taken up in the village				Extent of participation					
		Yes		No		Regular		Occasional		Rarely	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Road repair	124	62.00	76	38.00	95	76.62	20	16.12	9	7.26
2.	Village sanitation	156	78.00	44	22.00	128	82.05	20	12.82	8	5.13
3.	Adult literacy programme	200	100.00	0	0.00	186	93.00	10	5.00	4	2.00
4.	Construction of school building	200	100.00	0	0.00	179	89.50	15	7.50	6	3.00
5.	Construction of temple	183	91.50	17	8.50	160	87.44	15	8.19	8	4.37
6.	Construction of youth club building	139	69.50	61	30.50	121	87.05	13	9.35	5	3.60
7.	Construction of community building	129	64.50	71	35.50	110	85.27	12	9.31	7	5.42
8.	Watershed programmes	119	59.50	81	40.50	98	82.35	12	10.08	9	7.57
9.	Family planning campaign	67	33.50	133	66.50	55	82.08	9	13.44	3	4.48
10.	Tank/ well repair	187	93.50	13	6.50	168	89.84	13	6.96	6	3.20
11.	Afforestation activities	200	100.00	0	0.00	175	87.50	20	10.00	5	2.50
12.	Making drainages	192	96.00	8	4.00	178	92.71	10	5.21	4	2.08
13.	Social and cultural programmes	200	100.00	0	0.00	189	94.50	8	4.00	3	1.50
14.	Health campaign	190	95.00	10	5.00	173	91.05	13	6.85	4	2.10
15.	Natural calamity relief work	188	94.00	12	6.00	166	88.29	17	9.04	5	2.67

Multiple response*

Form the above table 1 it could be understood that the rural youth respondents have participated in multi various activities related with rural development in their village in varying degrees.

Cent per cent of the respondents have taken up activities related with adult literacy programme, construction of school building, afforestation activities and other social cultural activities. With regard to the adult literacy programme, most of the respondents (93.00 per cent) stated that they have regularly participated in the related activities. Almost a similar percentage of the respondents have also regularly participated in the activities related with social cultural programmes (94.50 per cent), construction of school building (89.50 per cent) and afforestation

activities (87.50 per cent). The other respondents have participated in the above activities either occasionally or rarely.

Most of the respondents have taken up the activities related with making drainages (96.00 per cent), health campaign (95.00 per cent), natural calamity relief work (94.00 per cent), tank / well repair (93.50 per cent) and construction of temple (91.50 per cent). Here most of the respondents have regularly participated in the activities related with making drainages (92.71 per cent), participated in the activities related with health campaign (91.05 per cent), tank / well repair (89.84 per cent), natural calamity relief work (88.29 per cent), construction of temple (87.40 per cent) and the remaining respondents were found distributed in the categories of occasional and rare participation.

A vast majority (78.00 per cent) of the respondents have taken up activities related with village sanitation. Majority of the respondents have taken up activities related with construction of youth club building (69.50 per cent), construction of community building (64.50 per cent), road repair (64.00 per cent) and watershed programmes (59.50 per cent). Here most of the respondents have regularly participated in the activities related with construction of youth club building (87.05 per cent), construction of community building (85.27 per cent), watershed programme (82.35 per cent), village sanitation (82.05 per cent) and road repair (76.62 per cent). The remaining respondents were found distributed in the categories of occasional and rare participation. Further, it is observed that one third of the respondents (33.50 per cent) have taken up activities related with family planning campaign. Among them most of the respondents (82.08 per cent) have regularly participated in this campaign.

With respect to above finding it could be understood that most of the respondents have actively participated in different rural development activities in their native village. Already it has been studied that most of them were literates, having education above high school level, possessed with high levels of innovativeness, risk orientation and economic motivation could be the contributing reasons for this type of appreciable participation in the above rural development activities.

It is also found that majority of them have not taken up activities related with family planning (66. 50 per cent) followed by about two third of the respondents have not participated in watershed programmes (40.50 per cent), road repair (38.00 per cent), construction community building (35.50 per cent) and construction of youth club building (30.50 per cent). Only about one fifth of the respondents (22.00 per cent) have not participated in the village sanitation activities.

Even though, the government machineries are promoting measures related with family planning for about three decades majority of the respondents have not participated in this activities. The attributed reasons could be their ignorance, traditional beliefs and family pressure not to participate in such activities, as they are youngsters. Above all most of the rural youth respondents were unmarried individuals and their non participation in other activities could be attributed with the reasons such as their active employment in near by factories and other part time activities within and outside the village.

Contribution of the independent variables with their attitude towards rural development activities presented in table 2.

Table 2. Correlation between the profile characteristics of rural youth with their attitude towards rural development activities.

(n=200)*		
S. No.	Variables	'r' value
1.	Age	0.232**
2.	Gender	0.049 ^{NS}
3.	Education status	0.279**
4.	Occupational status	0.380**
5.	Marital status	0.119 ^{NS}
6.	Farming experience	-0.172*
7.	Annual income	-0.444**
8.	Innovativeness	0.338**
9.	Achievement motivation	0.154*
10.	Economic motivation	0.163*
11.	Risk orientation	0.157*
12.	Leadership ability	0.225**
13.	Self confidence	0.179*
14.	Self motivation	-0.312**
15.	Decision making ability	0.206**
16.	Faith in team work	-0.212**
17.	Information source utilization	-0.148*

S. No.	Variables	'r' value
18.	Time management	-0.309**
19.	Comfort expectancy	0.151*
20.	Communication skill	0.242**

** - Significant at 0.01 level

NS - Non Significant

* - Significant at 0.05 level

From the above table 2, it could be inferred that out of twenty variables seven variables viz., age (X₁), educational status (X₃), occupational status (X₄), innovativeness (X₈), leadership ability (X₁₂), decision making ability (X₁₅) and communication skill (X₂₀) had shown positive and significant association with attitude towards rural development activities at one per cent level of probability.

Annual income (X₇), self motivation (X₁₄), faith in team work (X₁₆) and time management (X₁₈) had shown negatively significant association with attitude towards rural development activities at one per cent level of probability.

Achievement motivation (X₉), economic motivation (X₁₀), risk orientation (X₁₁), self confidence (X₁₃) and comfort expectancy (X₁₉) had shown positive significant association with attitude towards rural development activities at five per cent level of probability.

Farming experience (X₆) and information source utilization (X₁₇) had shown negatively significant association with attitude towards rural development activities at five per cent level of probability.

The variables namely gender(X₂) and marital status(X₅) had exhibited a non significant association with extent of participation.

This findings are in line with the findings of Persis (2007).

Table 3. Multiple regression analysis between the profile characteristics of rural youth and their attitude towards rural development activities

(n= 200)*

S. No.	Variables	Partial Regression Coefficient (b)	SE	't' value
1.	Age	0.033	0.209	0.159 ^{NS}
2.	Gender	0.593	0.264	2.245*
3.	Education status	0.335	0.101	3.321**
4.	Occupational status	0.299	0.095	3.146**
5.	Marital status	0.108	0.169	0.639 ^{NS}
6.	Farming experience	-0.001	0.020	-0.060 ^{NS}
7.	Annual income	-0.559	0.120	-4.673**
8.	Innovativeness	0.269	0.088	3.045**
9.	Achievement motivation	-0.006	0.068	-0.087 ^{NS}
10.	Economic motivation	-0.040	0.055	-0.725 ^{NS}
11.	Risk orientation	0.037	0.031	1.211 ^{NS}
12.	Leadership ability	0.053	0.024	2.202*
13.	Self confidence	0.028	0.044	0.634 ^{NS}
14.	Self motivation	-0.279	0.157	-1.770 ^{NS}
15.	Decision making ability	0.089	0.035	2.509**
16.	Faith in team work	-0.037	0.018	2.078 ^{NS}
17.	Information source utilization	-0.015	0.010	-1.482 ^{NS}
18.	Time management	-0.057	0.017	-3.281**
19.	Comfort expectancy	0.040	0.031	1.298*
20.	Communication skill	0.033	0.030	1.093*

R² = 0.559

F = 11.350

** - Significant at 0.01 level

* - Significant at 0.05 level

NS - Non Significant

It is observed that the R² value was 0.559 which revealed that 55.00 per cent variation in the attitude of rural youth was explained by twenty independent variables selected for the study. The 'F' value was significant at one per cent level of probability.

Since the 'F' value was significant, the prediction equation was fitted for the attitude of rural youth and the same is given below.

$$Y = 0.929 + 0.033 + 0.593 + 0.335 + 0.299 + 0.108 - 0.001 - 0.559 + 0.269 - 0.006 - 0.040 + 0.037 + 0.053 + 0.028 - 0.279 + 0.089 - 0.037 - 0.037 - 0.015 - 0.057 + 0.040 + 0.033$$

It could be seen from the above equation that the variables viz., Educational status (X_3), occupational status (X_4) innovativeness (X_8) and decision making ability (X_{15}) had shown positively significant contribution at one per cent level of probability.

Gender (X_2), leadership ability (X_{12}), comfort expectancy (X_{19}) and communication skill (X_{20}) had shown positively significant contribution at five per cent level of probability.

Annual income (X_7) and time management (X_{18}) had shown negatively significant contribution at one per cent level of probability.

The results infer that an unit increase in decision making ability, innovativeness, occupational status and educational status, ceteris paribus, would result in 2.509, 3.045, 3.146 and 3.321 unit increase in the attitude of rural youth respectively.

It could be understood that the variables, educational status, occupational status, innovativeness and decision making ability have exhibited a positive significant contribution with their attitude at one percent level. It is natural that individuals having higher levels of educational status, occupational status, innovativeness and decision making ability will be having higher level of attitude towards development projects and the same has resulted in this study. Further,

the variables gender, leadership ability, comfort expectancy and communication skills have also exhibited a positive contribution with their attitude. Here the variable 'gender' was studied by assigning a score of 'two' for male respondents and 'one' for female respondents. In the present study more than 90.00 per cent of the respondents were male members and it showed that male respondents have positive attitude towards the rural development activities.

Further, it is natural that individuals with good leadership ability and good communication skills are more inclined towards developmental projects and the same has resulted with the present study also.

Further, an individual with more comfort expectancy will move towards projects / technologies which yield more comfort / income. This could be the reason the variable 'comfort expectancy' has shown a positive contribution with their attitude towards rural development activities.

The study revealed that about half of the respondents were with higher levels of annual income which means they are already well settled in good jobs and earning a higher income and hence they may not consider to participate in rural development activities and hence the variable 'annual income' could have exhibited a negative contribution with their attitude towards rural development activities. The same reasons could be well explained for the negative contribution of the variable 'time management' with their attitude.

Further, most of the respondents were seen with varied levels of aspirations and they are aspiring to settle in professional activities providing constant income. Hence they are taking their own hard efforts in this regard. These findings are in line with the findings of Meenakshi (2011)

IV. CONCLUSION

From the above observation it could be concluded that youth are the most potent segment of the population of a country. 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 main stream of the development process for their future. Development of youth determines the development of community and country as a whole. Access to information about training and development opportunities for adult volunteers and staff working within voluntary organizations, institutions, including rural developmental activities and youth work training etc., are most needed. Access to resources and information developing young people are most preferred by the rural young communities and hence adequate policy measures are required. Inspite of their problems the youth in agriculture are striving hard and smart to overcome the problems in agriculture in India.

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