

Individual and Household Characteristics of Rural Youth towards Agriculture as Their Career: A Case of Hadoti Region in Rajasthan

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Abstract – Agriculture is undoubtedly the largest livelihood provider currently in India. In the rural areas it is main source of livelihood Indian's population which is predominantly rural has more than 70% employed in agriculture and a national demographic survey shows that the majority of Indian's population is young with the youth and adolescent population alone accounting for around 40.6% the total population in 2015. Youths are now the power for the growth. The overall development of any country depends mostly on their regimented, active and skilled youth. The young people normally show no desire to be farmers or to be employed in farming after receiving vocational training. A very large number of youths feel that farming is a symbol of poverty and backwardness. The broad objective of this study is to understand individual and household characteristics of rural youth towards agriculture as prospective career, with special reference to rural youth of Hadoti region in Rajasthan.

Keyword: Youth, agriculture, interest level, occupation, Media

1. INTRODUCTION

Hadoti is a region of Rajasthan state in western India. Being a part of Rajasthan state, the region of Hadoti is agrarian and the majority of its people work in agriculture. Wheat, Soyabean, Mustard, Rice, Coriander, Sesame, Maize, Barley, Pulses, Garlic and Sugarcane are the main staple crops. The region is enriched with the resources of oil seeds and minerals. Moreover there is negative attitude of the family and the society at large toward agriculture. Informal work in urban areas is therefore preferred by rural youth of Hadoti region who are exposed to school even if it is low paying and as backbreaking as agriculture. The study therefore aims to explore the individual and household characteristics of rural youth towards agriculture and the factors that shape their agricultural attitude.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Most studies conducted recently in India and in foreign countries indicated that individual and household characteristics have direct link with interest levels of rural youth on agriculture as career.

Sharma and Bhaduri (2009) conducted a study in India Characteristics such as gender, age, family size; succession information and attitude towards risk were

found to be playing a role in pursuing agriculture as a means of livelihood. According to them youth who possess non-farm skills are 1.4 times more likely to opt out of agriculture. The younger farmers are more open to taking risk and grab opportunity of moving out and experiment with newer jobs and unfamiliar surroundings, leaving agriculture.

National Sample Survey (2010) conducted study and it was found that over 45 per cent of farmers wanted change and quit farming. Hence, the present day challenge is to persuade educated youth including farm graduates to take up agriculture as a profession. They need to stay to help in rural area and earn a decent living in villages.

This is contrary to the study by Muhammed (2011) who observed that the more matured youths are more likely to take up agriculture as a career as compared to the younger ones. He further reasoned out that the older youths are more likely to be faced with the household issues like food security and income expenditures. This is because they do not have any office paid jobs. They take refuge on the farms to enable them to settle these domestic issues.

Ahaibwe et al. (2014) also noted that the proportion of adults (14 years and more) in the households is higher where the youth are residing. It reduces

likelihood of your undertaking agriculture. This could be explained by the fact that in a typical rural setting, most of the youths inherit agricultural related assets (e.g. farm land) from their ancestors. As the proportion of adults increases, assets like land are divided amongst the many family members and the resulting small farm sizes may not be viable and hence the reduction in the probability of undertaking agriculture.

To my knowledge, there are only few studies that address agriculture as career of rural youth in Rajasthan as well as in our country too. Therefore, this study would help understand important issues with regard to individual and household characteristics of rural youth towards agriculture as their pursuing career with special reference to Hadoti region.

3. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

(a) Objectives

The main objective of the study is to explore a set of individual and household characteristics that determines the likelihood of youth engagement in agriculture.

(b) Methodology

Site. The Hadoti region consists of the districts of Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar and Kota, and borders the Mewar region of Rajasthan as shown in Fig. 1 the biggest cities are [Baran](#) and Kota. The name of the region derives from the [Hada](#) Rajputs, a branch of the Chauhan Rajput clan.



Fig.1 Map of Hadoti Region of Rajasthan

3. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

(a) **Sample.** Participants in the study were a group of 480 youth aged 14-29 years as shown in Table 1 Participants were selected using a multi-stage random sampling technique.

Table 1 Sample of the Study

Sr. No	Data	Sample Size
1	Students aged 14 – 16 who are in upper primary school	120
2	Students aged 17 – 20 who are in high school	120
3	Students who left school (drop outs or graduates) aged 18 – 24	120
4	Young farmers aged 21 - 29	120
Total		480

(b) **Materials.** A semi-structured questionnaire was custom-made for gathering information about the demographic and socio-economic background of the youth and the amount of time youth spent with their parents.

(c) **Data Analysis.** SPSS was used to analyze the data statistically. The data will be collected through Questionnaire are then entered in Statistical Package for social science. It supports many functions such as reports, charts and trends, descriptive statistics and even complex statistical analysis.

4. RESULTS

(a) **Family Agriculture and Children Interest Level.** As shown in table 2 and Fig. 2 most of the respondents, 82.08 %, of them have responded that their families encourage for life success. But, the family's encouragement tends to focus on non-agricultural occupation. Families consider their children are successful if they are able to achieve nonagricultural occupation. This, despite the fact that most (82.08%) of respondents parent have based their current livelihood on agricultural occupation whereas, their preference was nonagricultural career to be their future means of livelihood. As such, 82.08% of rural youth have responded that their parents prefer non-agricultural occupation and remaining 17.92% only prefer agricultural occupation.

Table 2 Respondents' family career preference for children and family encouragement

Family Career Preference for Children	Family Encouragement For Life Success									
	Aged 14 – 16 : Upper Primary School		Aged 17 – 20: High school		Aged 18 – 24: Left School		Aged 21 – 29 : Young farmers		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Non-Agricultural Occupation	111	92.50	105	87.50	101	84.17	77	64.17	394	82.08
Agricultural Occupation	9	7.50	15	12.50	19	15.83	43	35.83	86	17.92
Total	120	100	120	100	120	100	120	100	480	100

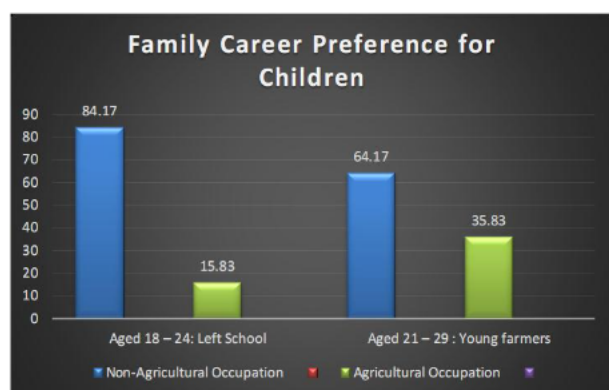


Fig. 2 Family Career Preference for Children

- (b) **Condition of your family's agricultural life.** Despite a high level of interest in non-agricultural occupation both by youth and children, as shown in the table 3 and Fig.3 most of the respondents view their family's agricultural life as successful.

Table 3 Condition of Your Family's Agricultural Life

Family member engaged in agriculture	Family Encouragement For Life Success									
	Primary School		High school		12 th School		Diploma Complete / Graduate		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Successful	109	90.83	99	82.50	81	67.50	68	56.67	357	74.38
Somehow Successful	6	5.00	13	10.83	27	22.50	37	30.83	83	17.29
Unsuccessful	5	4.17	8	6.67	12	10.83	15	12.50	40	8.33
Total	120	100	120	100	120	100	120	100	480	100

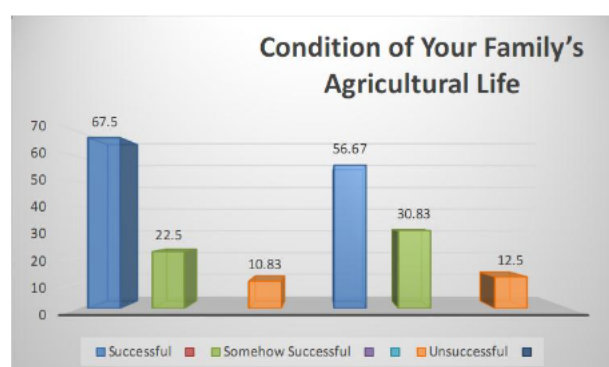


Fig. 3 Condition of Your Family's Agricultural Life

As table 3 and Fig. 3 shown 74.38%, have responded that the condition of family's agricultural life was successful". The remaining 17.29% and 8.33% of surveyed responded that the condition of family's

agricultural life was „somehow successful" and „unsuccessful" respectively.

- (a) **Family member engaged in agriculture and their respective level of education.** The whole surveyed respondents a significant numbers of individuals have close family members who have engaged in agriculture after some kind of formal education. As shown in table 3 from all close family members engaged in agriculture, more than half of them have been completed their high school education. As such from all respondents who have close family members engaged in agriculture the majority of them have the educational levels of high school graduate and above.
- (b) **Impact of Media on Agricultural Aspirations.** The penetration of the mass media is still very low in the study area. As shown in table 4 and Fig. 4 most of the respondents surveyed have no frequent opportunities for media consumption.

Table 4 Impact of Media on Agricultural Aspirations

Level	Types of Media					Percentage
	Newspaper Reading	Radio Listening	Watching TV / Mobile	Magazines	Total	
Regular	11	222	23	3	259	13.49
Occasional	28	123	52	8	211	10.99
Never	441	135	405	469	1450	75.52
Total	480	480	480	480	1920	100

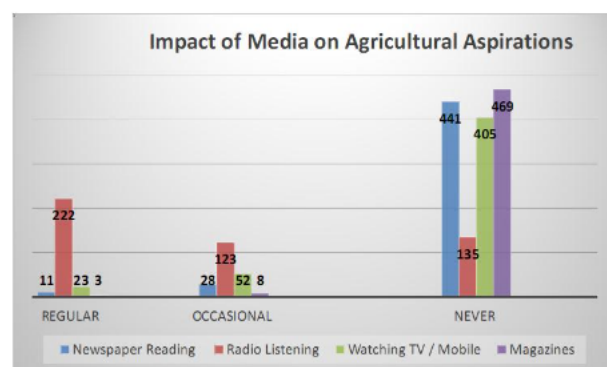


Fig. 4 Condition of Your Family's Agricultural Life

Compared to other media, radio was the most accessed means of gaining information for rural youth in Hadoti region. As such radio was the only media used regularly at least by most of respondents. Only 13.49% of respondents were media regularly. Only 10.99% of respondents have listened to agricultural program occasionally. The remaining 75.52% of respondents are those who have never use any media for agricultural program.

5. CONCLUSION

Various factors discussed in this work indicate that youth are aspired to non-agricultural career. The family members and their role model have influenced youth to aspire beyond agriculture in Rajasthan at Hadoti region. This is further influenced by the media and the strong modernization discourse among the peer group. This has led to the idealization towards urban career and the demeaning of the rural and agricultural career. In spite of the rural youth non-agricultural aspirations, there are many youth who wants to engage in agriculture for livelihood in absence of any other option. Also there are many structural problems that hinder rural youth to take up agriculture for which a some policy decisions and social activation are needed.

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