

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE RURAL YOUTH WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN BANASKANTHA DISTRICT

PATEL, B. K.* AND PRAJAPATI, V. V.

VANBANDHU POLYTECHNIC IN AGRICULTURE
SARDARKRUSHINAGAR DANTIWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
AMIRGADH-385 130, DIST: BANASKANTHA, GUJARAT, INDIA

**Email: bkpatel412@yahoo.com*

ABSTRACT

The socio-economic development and prosperity of the country depends to a considerable extent on the type of the youth the country have. Youth are considered as a dynamic force in their thought and actions for the development of the society and country. The Present study was conducted in Palanpur, Deesa and Vadgam taluka of Banaskantha District. Three taluka were selected purposively, as having the higher education of rural youth as compared to other taluka of Banaskantha. Five villages form each taluka and ten youth of age ranging in between 25 to 40 from each village were selected randomly making a total sample of 150 respondents. majority of the rural youth having education up to primary to secondary level, belong to Socially and Economically Backward Class, engaged in farming as main occupation and no membership in organization. The major constraints faced by the rural youth were lack of rural youth club and their activities, lack of support from village institution, lack of proper leadership and financial assistance from the Government. Majority of the rural youth suggested that more rural youth club should be established in rural area. Village institutions should support to the youth club for imparting training to youth club members and local leaders also should guide the youth club. Support from the village institution and imparting proper training on entrepreneurship development and proper guidance from the local leaders.

KEY WORDS: Constraints, respondents, rural Development

INTRODUCTION

The socio-economic development and prosperity of the country depends to a considerable extent on the type of the youth the country have, because the rural youth have abilities and capabilities to orient themselves in the main stream of the development process. Youth are considered as a dynamic force in their thought and actions for the development of the society and country. Rural youth as a group are shy to take part in any rural development process. The primary causes for the wastage of youth power were lack of

appropriate state wide interlinked network for youth organizations and lack of proper training and guidance. The low participation of rural development activities is widely accepted. This fact needs a systematic research study to screen out the major constraints faced by rural youth while participating in the rural development activities with an objectives, 1) to study the socio-economic characteristics of the rural youth, 2) to know the constraints faced by the rural youth while initiating and / or participating in development activities in

the villages, and 3) to seek the suggestions to overcome the constraints.

METHODOLOGY

The Present study was conducted in Palanpur, Deesa and Vadgam taluka of Banaskantha District. Three taluka were selected purposively, as having the higher education of rural youth as compared to other taluka of Banaskantha. Five villages from each taluka and ten youth of age ranging in between 25 to 40 from each village were selected randomly making a total sample of 150 respondents. The data were collected by personal interview through interview schedule, and then the data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Personal, social and economic characteristics of the respondents

Education

Education is the process of developing knowledge, wisdom and other desirable qualities of mind, character and general competencies, especially by a source of formal instruction (Evenson and Mwabu, 1998). It is visualized that more the percentage of educated people, more will be the rate of development (Hussain et al., 2003). Keeping in view the importance of this aspect respondents were asked question about their level of education and the data presented in Table 1 revealed that majority (36.00 %) of respondents were having primary level of education followed by secondary level (32.67 %), higher secondary level (21.33 %) and college level (10.00 %). Hence, it can be concluded that majority (64.00 %) of the rural youth possessed higher education i.e., above primary level, of which 31 per cent were literate up to higher secondary level and above. These results showed that, majority of the respondents have aspired for higher education. The possible reasons for higher educational aspirations might be that, in the recent years it is experienced that, unemployment in rural areas is increasing and

they are migrating to urban areas for want of jobs which requires more and more educational qualifications. In the context of ever increasing needs, demands and comforts, youths want to change their life style by comparing with others. Hence, this might have made them to aspire for higher education. Similar findings were reported by Devi (1970), Nagarajaiah (1978), Joshi (1979), Rajasekhar (1987), Soni and Nandapurkar (1991), Bhanu (2006) and Butt *et al.* (2011).

Caste

Caste too has been considered as an important factor for social stratification (D'Souza, 1973). According to these studies the status and role of the members in Indian society are influenced by their respective castes to which they belong. The caste system is a very deep rooted and mighty institution in the Indian society. It has important impact on all other institutions such as social, economic, political, religious and also educational. As caste system is very powerful in all aspects of life, therefore, it was considered essential to collect information about the caste background of the respondents. This information was necessary because caste background of an individual is likely to influence the rural development activities in aspects. Therefore, the distribution of the respondents in the presented in Table 2 revealed that slightly more than half (50.67 %) of the respondents were belong to Socially and Economically Backward (SEBC) class category followed by General Caste (30.67 per cent), Schedule Caste (18.66 per cent) and none from Scheduled Tribes. The results are close in agreement to the results of Soni and Nandapurkar (1991).

Occupation

It serves as an indicator of socio-economic status and stature of the family. It affects life style behaviour, conduct and even morale as well as one's roles in society. Varying degree of honour and prestige is attached with each occupation. The occupational status of the respondents has

been classified into four categories and the results presented in Table 3 depicted that a great majority (83.33 per cent) of the respondents were dealing with farming as their occupation, only 14.00 per cent and 2.67 per cent had farming + service and farming + Business, respectively. None of them had farming, service and business engagements together. It might be due to the fact that the respondents were selected from rural area and there is no any alternate except farming because majorities were farmer's sons. This finding is in agreement with that of the finding of Pandey (1974), Satapathy and Ganeshwar (1974), Nagarajaiah (1978), Rajasekhar (1987), Soni and Nandapurkar (1991) and Bhanu (2006).

Social participation

It can be seen from the Table 4 that majority (89.33 %) of the respondents had no member in any organization followed by membership in one organization (8.67 %) and membership in more than one organization (2.00 %). None of this membership with holding position in social organization. The probable reason might be that the membership in co-operative societies naturally found in the name of family head instead of youths. The results are close in agreement to the results of Soni and Nandapurkar (1991).

Constraints in participating and / or initiating development activities in the village

It is understandable from the data presented in Table 5 that the major constraints identified in rural development activities were lack of rural youth clubs and their activities (82.00 %) followed by lack of support from the village institution (74.67 %), lack of proper leadership (72.00 %), lack of financial assistance from the Government (68.00 %), lack of co-operation from villagers (58.00 %), and lack of training facilities (42.00 %). Other Constraints like lack of interest on the part of youth in village's development, villagers not showing faith in youth, lack of spare time for development and lack of education facilities

for youth in rural area were expressed by the respondents.

Suggestions to overcome the constraints

Positively constructive suggestions made by majority of the rural youth to overcome these constraints were presented in Table 6. The most important suggestions given by them were establishment of functional rural youth club development in the rural area (83.33 %) followed by support from the village institutions (76.67 %) and imparting proper training on entrepreneurship development and guidance from the local leaders (73.33 %), Adequate financial support from the Government (68.67 %) and co-operation from villagers to rural youth (53.33 %).

CONCLUSION

It is cleared from the results that majority of the rural youth having education up to primary to secondary level, belong to Socially and Economically Backward Class, engaged in farming as main occupation and no membership in organization. The major constraints faced by the rural youth were lack of rural youth club and their activities, lack of support from village institution, lack of proper leadership and financial assistance from the Government. Majority of the rural youth suggested that more rural youth club should be established in rural area. Village institutions should support to the youth club for imparting training to youth club members and local leaders also should guide the youth club. Support from the village institution and imparting proper training on entrepreneurship development and proper guidance from the local leaders.

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Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their level of education (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Education	Number	Per Cent
1	Illiterate	00	00.00
2	Primary level (1-7 th std)	54	36.00
3	Secondary level (8-10 th std)	49	32.67
4	Higher Secondary level (11-12 th std)	32	21.33
5	College level	15	10.00
	Total	150	100.00

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their caste (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Caste	Number	Per Cent
1	General	46	30.67
2	SEBC (Baxi)	76	50.67
3	Schedule Caste(SC)	28	18.66
4	Schedule Tribe (ST)	00	00.00
	Total	150	100.00

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their occupation (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Occupation	Number	Per Cent
1	Farming	125	83.33
2	Farming + Service	21	14.00
3	Farming + Business	04	02.67
4	Farming + Service + Business	00	00.00
	Total	150	100.00

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their social participation (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Per Cent
1	No Membership	134	89.33
2	Membership in one organization	13	8.67
3	Membership in more than one organization	03	2.00
4	Membership with holding Position	00	0.00
	Total	150	100.00

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their constraints in participating and/ or initiating development activities in the village (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Fervency	Per Cent
1	Lack of rural youth clubs and their activities	123	82.00
2	Lack of support from the village institutions	112	74.67
3	Lack of proper leadership	108	72.00
4	Lack of financial assistance from the Government	102	68.00
5	Lack of co –operation from villagers	87	58.00
6	lack of training facilities	63	42.00
7	Lack of interest on the part of youth in village development work	58	38.67
8	Villagers not showing faith in youth	52	34.67
9	Lack of spare time for development	45	30.00
10	Lack of education facilities	39	26.00

Table 6: Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestion to overcome the constraints (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Suggestion	Frequency	Per Cent
1	Establishment of rural youth club in the rural area	125	83.33
2	Village institution should support the youth clubs.	115	76.67
3	Local leaders should properly guide the youths and Govt. should organize training for rural youth.	110	73.33
4	Adequate financial support from the Government	103	68.67
5	Co-operation from villagers to rural youth	80	53.33

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