

Research Note

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26725/JEE.2019.1.31.6245-6248>**Problems Faced by Rural youth in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu****P. Radhakrishnan¹ and P.P.Murugan²****ABSTRACT**

To achieve the evergreen revolution in agriculture sector, retaining rural youth in agriculture is one of the important tasks of the government and other stakeholders in India. But there are less number of studies with conclusive evidence on the problems rural youth face while practicing agriculture. Hence, a study on problems and suggestions for retaining rural youth in agriculture was taken up. It was found that most the respondents expressed lack of irrigation facilities, price fluctuations, involvement of intermediaries in marketing, inadequate crop insurance and insufficient inputs as the constraints. Regarding suggestions, it was found that rejuvenation of rural youth clubs, timely input supply, creation of infrastructure facilities in the village and ICT based transfer of technology would retain the rural youth in agriculture.

Keywords: Agriculture; problems; rural youth; Coimbatore; Tamil Nadu

The population of the state of Tamil Nadu according to the 2011 Census is about 7.2 crore. More than half of them live in villages, although Tamil Nadu is fast becoming a urban state. More than half of the state population is below the age of 30. The younger generation will be interested in taking to agriculture as a profession only if agriculture becomes both economically and intellectually attractive. The future of food security in our country will depend on attracting the educated rural youth to agriculture and allied activities such as animal husbandry, inland and marine fisheries, agro-forestry, agro-processing and agri-business.

Rural youth are migrating from rural to urban areas due to unemployment

opportunities and non remunerative income from rural areas. To achieve the evergreen revolution in agriculture sector, retaining of rural youth in agriculture is one of the important tasks. Hence a study was undertaken to know the problems for rural youth in agriculture and to offer suggestions to retain rural youth in agriculture.

METHODOLOGY

The study was taken up in Annur, Karamadai, Thondamuthur and Pollachi blocks of Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu, with a sample size of 200 respondents. Coimbatore district consists of twelve blocks and out of these, Annur, Karamadai, Thondamuthur and Pollachi blocks were purposively selected based on the maximum area under agricultural

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crops. The list of rural youth was obtained from various possible sources including State Department of Agriculture, NGOs operating in the jurisdiction and Nehru Yuva Kendra. The final list of rural youth was arranged alphabetically for each village. A sample of 50 youth from each block were selected by employing simple random sampling method. Thus the total sample of 200 was arrived and included in the study as the sample. By having elaborate discussion with the planners, administrators, extensionists and others directly and indirectly concerned with the development of the rural

youth, important suggestions were finalized. The responses were dichotomous, where 'Yes' carried a score of two and 'No' carried a score of one. Percentage analysis was done to get meaningful interpretation of the study. Data were collected using well structured and standardized interview schedule.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Problems of Rural Youth

The results are presented based on the responses of the rural youth on the problems faced by them while practising agriculture.

Table 1.
Problems of Rural Youth in Agriculture

n=200*

Sl.No	Problems	Respondents	Percentage	Rank
1	Uncertainty in nature of job	180	90.00	VIII
2	Long working hours	160	80.00	XII
3	Travelling distance and huge expenses in marketing farm produce	142	71.00	XIV
4	Expensive farm machineries	200	100	III
5	Discrimination due to language/ community	173	86.50	IX
6	Lack of irrigation facilities	200	100	I
7	Insufficient required inputs	190	95.00	VI
8	Price fluctuations	200	100	IV
9	Lack of extension agency contact	129	64.50	XV
10	More involvement of intermediaries in marketing	200	100	II
11	Inadequate crop insurance	200	100	V

Problems Faced by Rural youth in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu

Sl.No	Problems	Respondents	Percentage	Rank
12	Lack of village information centers	168	84.00	XI
13	Lack of knowledge about ICT	143	71.50	XIII
14	Scarcity of labour	181	90.50	VII
15	Lack of awareness about government schemes	171	85.50	X

*Multiple responses**

The table shows that, 100% of the rural youth had reported lack of irrigation facilities in the village, extensive involvement of intermediaries in marketing, expensive farm machineries, price fluctuations and inadequate crop insurance as the constraints while practising agriculture.

A big gap between the farm gate price and the consumer price might be the major reason for the felt problems. On the other side, fake and poor quality of inputs supply associated with lack of required inputs as well as lack of timely availability also hinders the agricultural related activities. The rural youth in agriculture would have been frustrated that their hard work did not bring in profits in comparison with traders involved in marketing of farm produce. Venkatesan et al., (2018) too had reported that lack of proper marketing facility is one of the major problems faced by the rural youth. Most of the migrants in the study are temporary migrants who migrate during off-farm seasons to seek their fortune in urban centers.

The lack of irrigation facilities, may be due to the shrinking of available irrigation

water and failure of monsoon. This might have forced them to seek alternate job in rural or urban areas. Imparting training on water management and use of improved water management practices could help the rural youth sustain profits in farming.

Intervention of intermediaries in market is also one of the major problems expressed by the rural youth. It is an accepted reality that the middle men always get more benefits than the producers. The farmers are forced to go for farm mechanization due to non availability of skilled labours in the village. In spite of the exorbitant cost of equipment (or) hire charges of farm implements is failing the rural youth.

Suggestions for Retaining Rural youth in Agriculture.

The suggestions obtained from the respondents to overcome the constraints for retaining rural youth in agriculture are given in Table 2.

Majority of the respondents (97.50 per cent) suggested the need for improved water management practices in agriculture for their

Table 2.
Suggestions for Retaining Rural Youth in Agriculture

(n=200)*

Sl. No	Suggestions	No	Percentage
1	Rejuvenation of rural youth clubs	190	95.00
2	Timely input supply	166	83.00
3	Making rural youth as successful agricultural entrepreneurs	182	91.00
4	Creation of better infrastructure facilities in the village	174	87.00
5	ICT based transfer of technology in agriculture	162	81.00
6	Establishment of farm machinery hub	158	79.00
7	Need for improved irrigation water management practices	195	97.50
8	Regular visit of extension official on fixed dates	138	69.00
9	Developing climate resilient technologies in Agriculture	130	65.00
10	Regulation of prices and distribution of inputs	122	61.00
11	Strengthening of ICT in agriculture development (e-governance)	114	57.00
12	Training on current trends in agriculture	103	51.50
13	Remunerative price for farm produce	183	91.50
14	Bank loans on subsidy basis	190	95.00

* Multiple responses

income generating activities, 95.00 per cent of the respondents revealed that formation of rural youth clubs will develop their skill, knowledge, and act as motivation.

From the above observations, it could be concluded that rural youth in agriculture are facing multifaceted problems with no viable solutions. Despite their problems, the youth in agriculture are striving hard to overcome their problems. The problems of

rural youth should be addressed through appropriate extension methods, policy, schemes and services so that rural youth can be retained in agriculture.

REFERENCES

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