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Livelihood security of farm youth practicing family farming in Parbhani, Maharashtra

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Abstract

Fragmentation of land has more serious problem of reduced land holding by the farmers and livelihood of rural people is being affected. Small and marginal farmers along with landless agricultural labourers have to be uplifted through agriculture and allied sectors and hence family farming play a major role in this aspect. Therefore, the study is conducted for systematic measurement of livelihood security of farm youth practicing family farming. The present study was conducted during the year 2022-23 in purposively selected Parbhani district. Two taluks namely, Parbhani and Purna were selected based on the maximum number of farm youth involved in family farming, in consultation with extension personnel of development department. Further, from each taluk, four villages were selected and from each village the twenty-farm youth were randomly selected comprising sample size upto 160. The investigation showed that in livelihood security, among dimensions namely social security, financial security, habitat security, educational security, environmental security, health security and food security the majority of farm youth were distributed medium to high categories. In relation to the personal psychological and socioeconomic characteristics viz., age, annual income, family size, family farming experience, achievement motivation, deferred gratification, scientific orientation, marketing orientation, land holding, credit orientation, mass media use, extension orientation, livestock possession and material possession were significantly and positively related with livelihood security of the farm youth respectively.

Keywords: Livelihood security, farm youth, dimensions, family farming

1. Introduction

India is a mainly dependent on agriculture where almost 65 percent of its population live in rural areas and 47 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture for livelihood. Since the agricultural sector employs the majority of young people in rural areas, many of them pursue high-tech, high-risk and high-return agri-ventures. More than 85 percent of farmers belong to small and marginal farmers, most of them are practicing family farming for their livelihood in India (Anon, 2022) ^[1]. In its simplest form of livelihood security means is the ability of a farm youth to meet its basic needs. These needs include adequate food, health, shelter, water, basic education and community participation. In relation to this, family farming means of organizing all agricultural and allied activities which is managed and operated by a family and is predominantly reliant on family labour, including

men, women and children (Jose Graziano Da Silva., 2014) ^[5]. In rural areas, farm youth have a major stake in how the natural, economic and social resources of their family farming are developed. However, to feel a part of this process they must be given the opportunity to build their livelihoods on their own terms.

Chambers and Conway (1992) ^[3] A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and requirements for a means of subsistence: a sustainable livelihood is one that can withstand stress and shocks, recover from them, maintain or improve its capabilities and assets and offer opportunities for sustainable living to the next generation. It also provides long- and short-term net benefits to other livelihoods at the local, national and international levels. The livelihood of farm youth practicing family farming depends on the work carried out by each

family member. The survival of such family farming is highly dependent on the united effort of both farm youth either male or female.

Livelihood Security of farm youth practicing family farming has become basic framework for analysis, design, monitoring and evaluation. Livelihood security grows of different security perspective i.e. social security, financial security, habitat security, educational security, environmental security, health security and food security are the based on the observation that each and every component are important to secure the livelihood in rural area. The main obstacles to achieving a secure livelihood in rural areas that is lack of resources for agricultural production, including capital, credit, appropriate technology, inputs, training, extension, and markets, poor soils, low and irregular rainfall, poor infrastructure, and unemployment. The lack of options to promote socioeconomic development and change has made securing a livelihood a significant obstacle for young people growing up on farms. Therefore, in order to advance efforts to improve living circumstances in rural regions, it is necessary to elevate the status of farm youth by increasing the visibility of their employment in the rural economy.

2. Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in Parbhani district, Maharashtra state in the year 2022-23. Four villages were selected from each selected taluk i.e. Parbhani and Purna based on the maximum number of farm youth practicing Family Farming. Twenty farm youth from each village were selected from each taluk by using simple random technique. Thus, 160 respondents in total, encompassed the sample for the study. The index developed by Karuna Jeba Mary and Karthikeyan (2013) [6] was used to analyze livelihood security with modification to maintain uniformity in scoring. The index comprising of seven dimensions. Further, the distribution of farm youth on their different dimensions by taking the percentages, mean and standard deviation as measure of check and the relationship of livelihood security with their profile characteristics was measured. With the aid of a pretested interview schedule that was designed, data were collected through personal interviews. Analytical tools and statistical techniques used to measure and examine the data in the research study.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Distribution of respondents based on their levels of Livelihood Security dimensions

Results pertaining to social security are presented in Table 1 indicated that the majority of respondents belonged to medium 68.75 percent and high 20.63 percent categories. Whereas 10.62 percent of the respondents belonged to low category of social security.

The possible reason for the observed findings is that the participation in social activities, village development activities and maintaining better harmony in the neighborhood. Further, holding membership in Milk Producers Co-operative Societies and Gram Panchayat, participating in activates organized by these social organizations. However, the results are in consonance with findings of Binkadakatti (2013) [2] and Harshitha (2018) [4].

It is observed from the Table 2 that more than half of the respondents i.e., 60.63 percent belonged to medium category of financial security. Whereas 23.75 percent and 15.62 percent of the respondents belonged to low and high categories of financial security respectively.

Farm youth have wise saving habits in financial institutions or co-operative societies. Further, practicing subsidiary occupations like backyard poultry and animal husbandry contributes more to family’s income through the sale of milk, milk products, egg and manures etc. regularly. The results are in line with the findings of Sanzidur and Akter (2010) [12] and Harshitha (2018) [4].

From the Table 3, it is evident that 49.38 percent of the respondents belonged to medium category of habitat security. Whereas 30.62 and 20.00 percent of the respondents belonged to high and low categories of habitat security, respectively.

With the benefits availed from government schemes and the savings of the respondents were able to construct their own houses with all the basic facilities. The results are in line with the findings of Karuna Jeba Mary and Karthikeyan (2013) [6] Sampraja (2022) [11].

It is clear from the table 4 results that the respondents belonged to medium 66.25 percent and high 24.38 percent categories of educational security. Whereas 09.37 percent of the respondents belonged to low category of educational security.

In rural areas education facilities available from primary to high school. The educational development programmes like ‘Mid-Day Meal Scheme’, ‘Free Book Distributions’. The respondents were able to access and afford the higher school education due to the various government scholarships and education promotional facilities through online. The results of the study are corroborated with the findings of Sanzidur and Akter (2010) [12].

The findings from Table 5 revealed that 65.62 percent of the respondents belonged to medium category of environmental security. Whereas high 24.38 percent and low 10.00 percent categories of environmental security.

The availability and accessibility to good natural resources and pollution free environment due to indigenouse technical knowledge and traditional way of living in rural areas and establishment of water filter units/ plants in all most all villages through government schemes as well as the Yeldari dam built on the Purna river is a major tributary of Godavari might be the reason for above findings. Similar findings were reported by Mamathalakshmi (2013) [10], Binkadakatti (2013) [2] and Harshitha (2018) [4].

The results in table 6 indicated that the results pertaining to health security dimension indicated that 53.13 percent of the respondents belonged to medium category. Whereas 35.62 percent and 11.25 percent of the respondents belonged to high and low categories of health security respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their Social Security dimension (n=160)

Sl. No.	Dimension	Category	f	%
1.	Social Security	Low (<18.48)	17	10.62
		Medium (18.48 -20.09)	110	68.75
		High (>20.09)	33	20.63

f- Frequency; % - Percentage

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on their Financial/ Occupational Security dimension (n=160)

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	f	%
1.	Financial/ Occupational Security	Low (<24.58)	38	23.75
		Medium (24.58-26.04)	97	60.63
		High (>26.04)	25	15.62

f- Frequency; %- Percentage

Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on their Habitat Security dimension (n=160)

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	f	%
1.	Habitat Security	Low (<12.80)	32	20.00
		Medium (12.80 -14.22)	79	49.38
		High (>14.22)	49	30.62

f- Frequency; %- Percentage

Table 4: Distribution of respondents based on their Educational Security dimension (n=160)

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	f	%
1.	Educational Security	Low (<11.14)	15	09.37
		Medium (11.14 -12.49)	106	66.25
		High (>12.49)	39	24.38

f- Frequency; %- Percentage

Table 5: Distribution of respondents based on their Environmental Security dimension (n=160)

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	f	%
1.	Environmental Security	Low (<12.16)	16	10.00
		Medium (12.16 -13.38)	105	65.62
		High (>13.38)	39	24.38

f- Frequency; %- Percentage

Table 6: Distribution of respondents based on their Health Security dimension (n=160)

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	f	%
1.	Health Security	Low (<12.05)	18	11.25
		Medium (12.05 -13.37)	85	53.13
		High (>13.37)	57	35.62

f- Frequency; %- Percentage

Table 7: Distribution of respondents based on their Food Security dimension (n=160)

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	f	%
1.	Food Security	Low (<12.99)	35	21.88
		Medium (12.99 -14.12)	77	48.12
		High (>14.12)	48	30.00

f- Frequency; %- Percentage

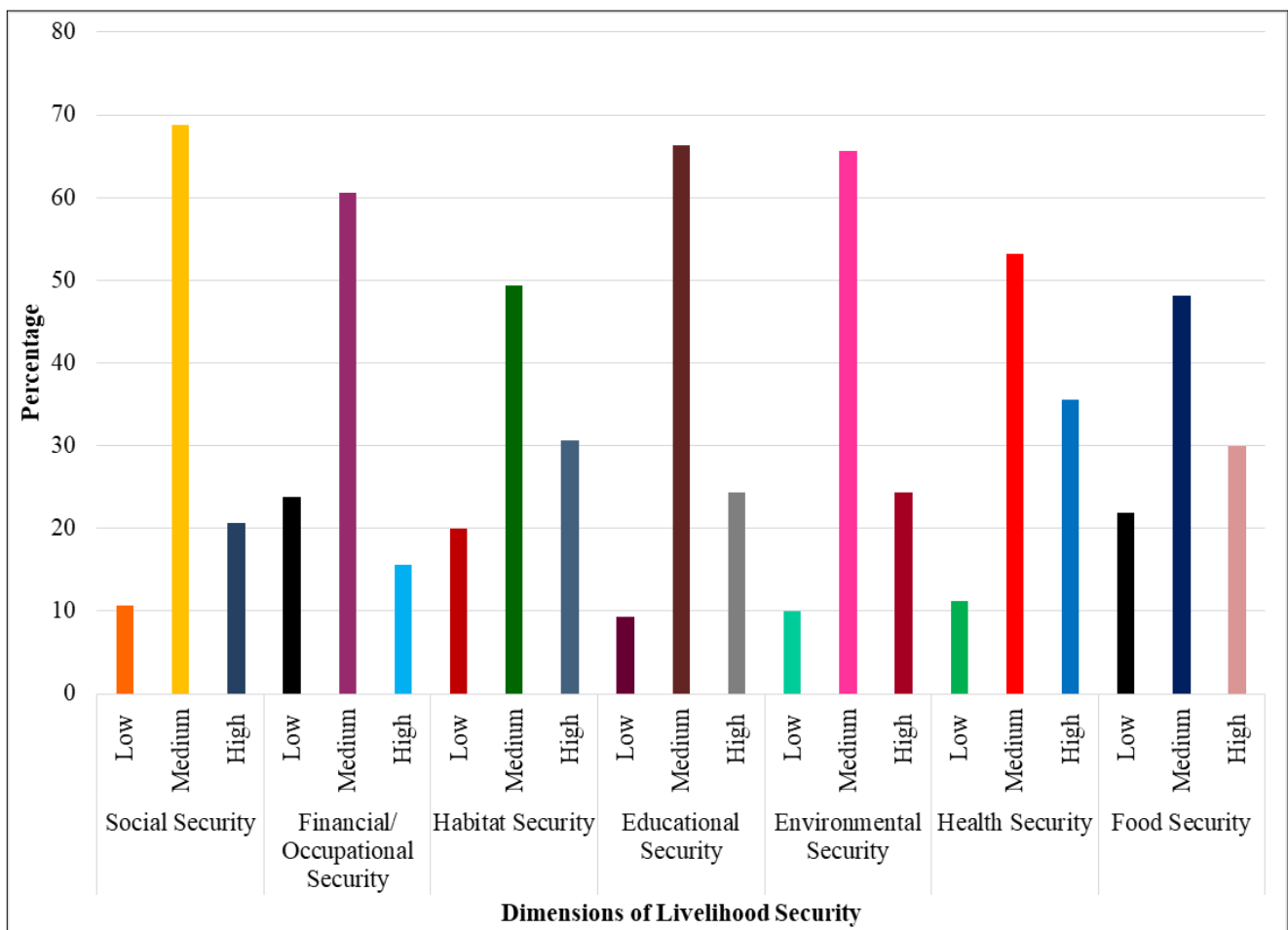


Fig 1: Dimension-wise Distribution of Livelihood Security of Farm Youth

The possible reasons for this trend might be due to health service rendered through primary health centers in rural areas along with few private clinics helped respondents to access for better health services. In some severe cases villagers had travel to get better health services in the

hospitals of urban areas due to limited staff, equipment and advanced medical facilities in rural areas. The results are in line with the findings of Lakshminarayani *et al.* (2011) [8], Sanzidur and Akter (2010) [12], Karuna Jeba Mary and Karthikeyan (2013) [6].

From Table 7, it is recorded that that 48.12 percent of the respondents belonged to medium category of food security. Whereas the respondents arrived high 30.00 percent and low 21.88 percent categories of food security respectively. Due to the family farming, respondents were able to afford the food throughout the year along with the some of the items supplied through public distribution system. Similar findings were reported by Lavanya (2010) ^[9], Binkadkatti (2013) and Harshitha (2018) ^[4].

3.2 Relationship between profile characteristics of Farm Youth and their Livelihood Security

The correlation coefficient was carried out to know the relationship between livelihood security and profile characteristics of farm youth. It could be observed from the results that personal, psychological and socio-economic characteristics were found to have significant relation with livelihood security. Results are presented in the following paragraphs and in Table 8, 9 and 10. Some of the personal characteristics viz., age, family size, family farming experience and psychological characteristics namely achievement motivation, deferred gratification, scientific orientation, marketing orientation as well as socio-economic characteristics viz., annual income, land holding, credit orientation, mass media use, extension orientation and livestock possession, material possession were significantly and positively related with livelihood security of the farm youth practicing family farming and found education as non-significant.

Table 8: Relationship between Personal characteristics of Farm Youth with their Livelihood Security (n=160)

Sl. No.	Personal Characteristics	Correlation Coefficient
1.	Age	0.160*
2.	Education	0.064 ^{NS}
3.	Family size	0.489**
4.	Family Farming Experience	0.273**

NS- Non-Significant; *- Significant at 5%; **- Significant at 1%

Table 9: Relationship between Psychological characteristics of Farm Youth with their Livelihood Security (n=160)

Sl. No.	Psychological Characteristics	Correlation Coefficient
1.	Achievement motivation	0.198*
2.	Deferred gratification	0.242**
3.	Scientific Orientation	0.106*
4.	Marketing orientation	0.179*

NS- Non-Significant; *- Significant at 5%; **- Significant at 1%

Youth are the one with full of enthusiasm, interest and curiosity to learn and try new things in farming and keeping trust on practices and experiences regardless of their education level. The support of medium sized family, assets like material and land holdings possession and their capability to make long term profiting decisions made them to gain sufficient annual income to invest in the technologies and increase their confidence level to take risk by updating themselves through use of mass media, extension contacts and participating in various extension activities. The majority of the respondents belonged to young age category of farm youth with 7 to 9 years family farming experience with inter level of education and regularly farming operations helped them build their

knowledge and contributed towards securing their livelihood security to some extent. However, there are no studies available either to support or contradict the above findings as no much studies are conducted on livelihood security of farm youth practicing family farming.

Table 10: Relationship between Socio-economic characteristics of Farm Youth with their Livelihood Security (n=160)

Sl. No.	Socio-economic Characteristics	Correlation Coefficient
1.	Annual income	0.351**
2.	Land holding	0.339**
3.	Credit orientation	0.180*
4.	Mass media use	0.209**
5.	Extension orientation	0.471**
6.	Livestock possession	0.506**
7.	Material possession	0.239**

NS- Non-Significant; *- Significant at 5%; **- Significant at 1%

4. Conclusion

It can be concluded from the study, the farm youth were able to uplift their livelihood security through increase in their socio-economic status and dimensions of livelihood security namely social, financial, habitat, educational, environmental, health and food security as the majority of farm youth were belonged to medium to high level category. The profile characteristics viz., age, family size, family farming experience, achievement motivation, deferred gratification, scientific orientation, marketing orientation, annual income, land holding, credit orientation, mass media use, extension orientation, livestock possession and material possession were positively, significantly related and contributing to livelihood security of farm youth. Hence, concerned departments and organizations should focus on these characteristics to improve their livelihood security of farm youth practicing family farming.

5. Conflict of Interest

"The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to research, authorship and/or publication of this articles".

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