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Assessment of socio-personal and socio-economic characteristics of agricultural graduates of Odisha

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Abstract

Growth of population is directly related to the increase in importance of agriculture not only in India but also in the whole world. So, agricultural graduates are coming to the focus as of the farmers in India. Their mind-sets are also diverted after the statement given by Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi i.e, Youths should not be job seekers, they should be job providers. As no. of agricultural colleges are increasing in Odisha, no. of agricultural graduates are also increasing regularly. In this context, an assessment of socio-personal and socio-economic characteristics of agricultural graduates of Odisha was undertaken. The research study comes within the purview of survey research mainly "ex-post facto". 80 number of respondents from three different colleges of three different universities were interviewed. Pilot study, Preparation and pre-testing of interview schedule, interviews from farmers and Processing of data had been undergone in this study. The statistical tools used in the study were frequency calculation & percentage. After proper assessment, we concluded that fathers of the respondents were more educated than their mothers. Majority of the agricultural graduate students of the state had less favourable to moderate favourable attitude towards agro-entrepreneurship. Maximum number of the respondent's parents belonged to Govt. Service followed by business. So, The students related to agriculture must be encouraged by the family members and teachers towards agro-entrepreneurship. Agri-allied Skill oriented trainings and exposure visits should be made during undergraduate study & financial support should be provided to the interested students.

Keywords: socio-personal, socio-economic, agriculture, graduates, agro-entrepreneurship

Introduction

In the present context Agriculture is considered to be a primary sector of Indian economy, which determines the viability and sustainability of the country's economy. More than 70percent people directly or indirectly depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The Govt. of India as well as the state Govt. gives more emphasis to boost agriculture in order to increase the production and productivity of the country. In this regard much emphasis is given for quality agricultural education to double the production and to improve the socio economic condition of farmers. The interest of youngsters in agriculture is declining day by day and attracting and retaining youth in this sector is very important for future food security (Kumar and Sengar, 2017) ^[3]. There is a need to formulate new policy to attract and retain the bright brain for agricultural education and research. It is a fact that all the trained graduates cannot be employed in public sector.

On the other hand lot of scopes remain for agricultural graduates to play a key role in improving Indian economy particularly in the field of agro-entrepreneurship for contribution to national income. Every year more than

thousands of students are awarded with bachelor's degree in agriculture by the Govt. and private institutions those who impart agricultural education. It is not possible to give employment to each graduate as Govt. and private jobs are scanty in nature. Therefore the agricultural graduates are to be motivated for not to be the job seekers but to be the job givers through adopting various agri-allied activities. Against this background a study has been undertaken on the subject entitled "Assessment of Socio-personal, Socio-economic Characteristics of Agricultural Graduates of Odisha".

Review of Literature

Ayanda *et al.* (2013) ^[1] reported that 43.20 per cent of the student's fathers and 33.30 per cent of the mothers were civil servants, 7.4 per cent were medical personnel of the father and 43.2 per cent of the mothers were in various private enterprises.

Chidi (2014) ^[6] opined that measuring (57%) of the agricultural graduate respondents were males by females accounted for the rest of 43 per cent.

Dhakre (2014) ^[2] concluded that majority of respondent's

fathers 68.80 per cent were in service sector, 18.80 per cent of them were having business and 12.05 per cent were doing farming majority of the mothers (92.50%) were housewives and only 3.80 per cent of them were having business and doing jobs.

Dhakre (2014) ^[2] found that majority of the respondents (40%) had annual income between 2 lakhs to 3 lakhs followed by 36.3 per cent of them between annual income ranges between 1 lakh to 2 lakhs.

Dhakre (2014) ^[2] in a study observed that majority (66.3%) of the family of agricultural students size had 1 to 4 members followed by 20 per cent of them had family size of 5 to 6 members.

Dhakre (2014) ^[2] revealed that majority (61.3%) of respondents father were college educated and majority (40%) of mother educated up to middle school.

Kumar and *et al.* (2012) in a study revealed that boys were more willing to become livestock entrepreneur (84.85%) than girls.

Kumar and sengar (2017) ^[3] revelled that majority (41.16%) of the students father were educated up to graduation and above and 19.89 per cent mother educated up to middle class.

Nirmala (2001) ^[5] in a study found that majority (96.3%) women college students had very low risk bearing ability for entrepreneurial activity.

Sridevi (2013) ^[4] revealed that 30 per cent of the respondent's parents were in business followed by 23.50 per cent were in government service, 6.50 per cent were unskilled workers and 5.6% were professionals.

Materials & Methods

This topic has been chosen for assessment of socio-personal, socio-economic characteristics of agricultural graduates of odisha. Before actual investigation, efforts were made to conduct a detailed survey of all related aspects of the study as it was a student project. The present research study comes within the purview of survey research mainly "ex-post facto". College of Agriculture, Bhubaneswar among the three colleges of the Govt. undertaking university i.e., Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar and two colleges namely Faculty of Agricultural sciences of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan deemed to be university, Bhubaneswar and M.S. Swaminathan school of Agriculture of Centurion university, Gajapati among four privately running universities were selected randomly for the purpose of the study were purposefully selected for the study. The no. of respondents of the study confined to 80 numbers B.Sc(Ag) graduates pass from the selected colleges during the year 2018 and 2019. 40 respondents are selected from the Government running agriculture college i.e., College of Agriculture of OUAT, Bhubaneswar and 40 respondents, 20 each from the two privately running agriculture colleges purposefully. Pilot study, Preparation and pre- testing of interview schedule, Pretesting of interview schedule, interviews from farmers and Processing of data had been undergone in this study. The statistical tools used in the study were frequency calculation & percentage.

Results and Discussion

Socio personal profile of the agricultural graduates. Gender,

locality, caste, family type, size of family, parent's education were considered as socio personal character of the respondents.

Gender

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to gender. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Male students		Female students	
	f	%	f	%
1	50	62.5	30	37.5

The data given in the above table showed the distribution of respondents according to gender. Out of total 80 respondents majority (62.5%) were male and 37.5 per cent were female. As per gender is concerned the result from the table indicated that now a days more and more numbers of girls are coming forward to enroll for agricultural education and are taking it as career option. Chidi (2014) ^[6] & Kumar *et al.* (2012) noted almost similar findings of their study.

Locality

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to locality. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Rural	24	30
2	Semi urban	35	43.8
3	Urban	21	26.2

As regards to locality of the respondents it was observed from the above table that majority (43.8%) of them were from semi urban area followed by 30 per cent were belonged to rural area and 26.2 per cent were from urban areas. Majority of the semi urban and rural area respondents had opted for agriculture as career option and undergone graduation studies in agriculture. Is might be due to their natural choice or due to higher cost investment in other technical studies like engineering, medical science etc. The findings are contradict with the findings of Mudau & Krugar (2014) and Sridevi (2013) ^[4].

Caste

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to caste. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	General	54	67.5
2	ST	07	8.80
3	SC	06	7.5
4	OBC	13	16.2
5	Others	NIL	NIL

With regard to caste the above table depicted that out of total respondents majority (67.5%) belonged to general category followed by 16.2 per cent OBC, 8.80 per cent ST and 7.5 per-cent belonged to SC category. From the above findings it can be noted that more number of students of general category are enrolling for higher education in the field of agriculture. This might be due to the fact that due to less demand in engineering study and assured employment opportunity in agriculture study might have motivated the general caste students to opt for agriculture study for their career option.

Family type

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to family type. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Nuclear	55	68.8
2	Joint	25	31.2

It is observed from the above table that majority (68.8%) respondents belonged to nuclear family and 31.2 per cent were from joint family system. This joint family system is still existing in rural areas as compared to nuclear family in most of the urban area. This joint family system is normally disintegrated due to economic pressure, better standard of living and for other socio psychological development. The findings of the study are corroborated with Paul *et al.* (2010).

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to their parent's education. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)		Percentage (%)	
		Father	Mother	Father	Mother
1	Up to H.S.C.	Nil	13	Nil	12.5
2	Higher secondary	5	23	6.2	28.8
3	Graduation	54	33	67.5	41.2
4	Post graduate & above	21	14	26.2	17.5

The above table indicated that fathers of the respondents were more educated than their mothers. Majority (67.5%) of the respondents fathers were educated up to graduation followed by 26.2 and 6.2 per-cent educated up to post graduate and higher secondary levels respectively. As regards to the educational level of mother of the respondents majority 41.2 percent educated up to graduation. The findings are corroborated with the findings of Kumar & Sengar (2017) ^[3] and Dhakre (2014) ^[2].

Socio economic profile of the agricultural graduates. Parent's occupation, size of land holdings and annual family income were considered as socio economic characteristics of the respondents.

Parent's occupation

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to their parent's occupation. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Farming	01	1.2
2	Govt. Service	60	75
3	Pvt. Service	06	7.5
4	Business	10	12.5
5	Small industry	03	3.8
6	other	Nil	Nil

The data in the above table indicated that maximum number of the respondent's parents (75.00%) belonged to Govt. Service followed by business 12.5 per cent, private service 7.5 per cent, industrial service 3.8 per cent and only 1.2 per cent farming as the parent's occupation. From the above results it may be concluded that majority of the respondents parent were Govt. Servants. The above findings are tally with the findings of Ayanda *et al.* (2014) and partly corroborated with the findings of Dhakre (2014) ^[2].

Size of family

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to size of family. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Small family	67	83.8
2	Large family	13	16.2

Regarding size of family, it was found from the above table that majority (83.8%) respondents were from small (less than 5) family where as only 16.2 per-cent belonged to large (more than 5 members). Dhakre (2014) ^[2] noted similar findings in his study.

Parent's education

Size of land holding

Table 8: Distribution of respondents according to size of land holding. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Landless	4	5
2	Up to 1 hectare	25	31.2
3	1.1 to 2 hectare	28	35
4	2.1 to 4 hectare	18	22.5
5	Above 4 hectare	5	6.2

The data given in the above table demonstrate the distribution of respondents according to their family land holding. Out of the total no. of parents of the respondents, majority (35.0%) had land holding between 1.1- 2 hectares followed by 31.2 per cent, 22.5 per cent, 6.2 per cent and 5 per cent had land holdings up to 1 hectare, 2.1- 4 hectares and above 4 hectares respectively. Only 5 per cent of respondents parents belong to landless category. This might be the reason that due to the fragmentation of the family members and population growth the family land holding decreases accordingly.

Annual family income

Table 9: Distribution of respondents according to their family annual income. (N=80)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Up to 5 lakhs	19	23.8
2	5.1 to 7 lakhs	43	53.8
3	7.1 to 10 lakhs	13	16.2
4	Above 10 lakhs	5	6.2

The above table depicted that out of total respondents majority (53.8%) had annual family income 5.1 to 7 lakhs followed by 23.8 per-cent up to 5 lakhs, 16.2 per-cent 7.1 to

10 lakh and 6.2 per-cent had above 10 lakhs annual family income respectively. It can be assessed from the above findings that those parents have annual income up to 5 lakhs and more can afford to send their children for higher education in agriculture. The findings are corroborated with the findings of Dhakre (2014) ^[2].

Summary and Conclusion

The above findings indicated that fathers of the respondents were more educated than their mothers. Majority of the agricultural graduate students of the state had less favourable to moderate favourable attitude towards agri-entrepreneurship. Maximum number of the respondent's parents belonged to Govt. Service followed by business. Out of the total no. of parents of the respondents, majority had land holding between 1.1- 2 hectares. From the study it was observed that majority respondents had moderately favourable attitude for agri-allied activities can be very easily converted in to favourable attitude by organizing interactive session with successful entrepreneurs, exposure visit to nearby enterprises which should be given much emphasis by the institutions providing under graduate agricultural education to students.

Recommendations

- The students must be encouraged by the family members and teachers towards agri-entrepreneurship.
- Study related issues should be discussed more with father.
- Skill oriented trainings and exposure visits should be made during undergraduate study.
- Financial support should be provided to the interested students.

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