

CONSCIENTISING THE ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH ON AGRICULTURAL FINANCING AND EDUCATION

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Abstract

Indian economy is an agrarian economy, two third of the population here is dependent on agriculture. Youth are the backbone of the country; youth have ability to understand the new innovation and new practices related to the agriculture. The study was done to understand Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India and the level of awareness among adolescents and youth about different Government programmes and loan schemes for youth in India. The study found that most of adolescents and youth were not aware about the different Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India. So, there is a need to make them aware about the different Government programmes and loan schemes.

Key words: *Adolescents, Youth, Agricultural financing, Awareness, etc.*

Introduction

Global population is projected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and the number of young people (aged 15 to 24) is also expected to increase to 1.3 billion, accounting for almost 14 percent of the projected global population. It is widely documented that education is key to overcoming development challenges in rural areas. Not only is there a direct link between food security and education of rural children, but it has also been shown that basic numeracy and literacy skills help to improve farmers' livelihoods (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2014). Youth's access to knowledge and information is crucial for addressing the main challenges they face in agriculture. In order for rural youth to shape agricultural policies affecting them directly, in terms of access to markets and finance as well as green jobs and land, they need to receive appropriate information and education. While this is true in developed and developing countries alike, it is of particular concern in the latter, where young rural inhabitants may lack access to even the most rudimentary formal education, and where educational institutions are often less developed. Formal primary and secondary education can provide young people with basic numeracy and literacy, managerial and business skills, and introduce youth to agriculture. Meanwhile, non-formal education (including vocational training and extension services) and tertiary agricultural education can offer youth more specific knowledge related to agriculture (Mr. Mohit Kumar, 2019).

Operational definitions

Adolescents

Individuals in the 10-19 years age group.

Youth

Individuals in the 15-24 year age group.

Kottayam District

Kottayam is one of fourteen districts in the state of Kerala, India. Kottayam district comprises six municipal towns: Kottayam, Changanassery, Pala, Erattupetta, Ettumanoor, and Vaikom.

Statement of the Problem

Indian economy is an agrarian economy, two third of the population here is dependent on agriculture. Youth are the backbone of the country, youth have ability to understand the new innovation and new practices related to the agriculture. Present scenario shows that the agriculture needs the involvement of the new generation. The study was done to understand Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India and the level of awareness among adolescents and youth about different Government programmes and loan schemes for youth in India.

Objectives of the Study

1. To understand Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India.
2. To study the level of awareness among youth about different Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India.

Data and Methodology

(i) Research design

The study was descriptive and analytical in nature.

(ii) Source of Data

The study was based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data were collected from reports of RBI, research journals and from websites. The primary data were collected from respondents through a structured interview schedule.

(iii) Coverage of the study and sample design

40 samples were selected by using simple random sampling from Kottayam district.

Government programmes and Loan Schemes for Unemployed Youth in India

There are different programmes/schemes were launched by the government for the Youth / agriculture. Almost all schemes are beneficial for the young generation to improve their farm condition.

1. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

This scheme aims to provide self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth of the country. The scheme has undergone quite a few modifications over the years, including the relaxation of norms in the north-east region.

Benefits/Key highlights

- Loan for the unemployed between the age of 18 and 35 years
- No collateral required for loans up to Rs.1 lakh
- Preference will be given to women and weaker sections of the society, including SC, ST, or OBC applicants.

2. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) Scheme for Women

This is a loan scheme launched by the Government of India in 2015. This scheme allows women to avail a loan so that they can start a business venture of their own. There are various lenders and NBFCs in India who offer this particular loan scheme to its customers (Solanki, R. 2016).

Benefits/Key highlights

- Loans are available under three categories – Shishu, Kishore, and Tarun
- No collateral or security is required
- Rates of interest levied is affordable
- The repayment tenure under this particular loan scheme may go up to 7 years

- A woman entrepreneur may avail this loan for working capital requirements

3. Agriculture loan for the unemployed

The government has collaborated with many banks to provide financial resources for unemployed agriculture graduates. This loan can be utilised for any kind of agricultural projects. Any unemployed agricultural graduate above the age of 22 years old is eligible for this loan.

4. Secured unemployment loans

Secured unemployment loans are sanctioned against a collateral or security. In this loan scheme, the borrower pledges an asset to the lender based on which the lender sanctions the loan. The loan amount depends on the value of the asset pledged (Smriti, 2010).

5. Skill India

Skill India is a campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi on 15 July 2015 which aim to train over 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022. It includes various initiatives of the government like "National Skill Development Mission", "National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015", "Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)" and the "Skill Loan scheme".

6. ARYA

The new scheme ARYA has recently been launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICRA). This program is planned to be implemented through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK-Farm science centres) in 25 states of our country. Each KVK would train about 200 to 300 youth in taking up agriculture's allied and supplementary activities such as poultry farming, dairying, fisheries, goat rearing, mushroom production and other similar activities which keep the rural youth attached to agriculture, either directly or indirectly.

7. Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojna) Programme

The Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojna) programme aims to provide rural entrepreneurship awareness, practical experience in real-life situation in rural agriculture and creating awareness to undergraduate students about practical agriculture and allied sciences. The programme will help in building confidence, skill and acquire Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) of the locality and thereby, preparing the pass-out for self-employment. It also aims to provide opportunities to acquire hands-on-experience and entrepreneurial skill practical training (Mr. Mohit Kumar, 2019).

Table 1

Awareness level of adolescents and youth about different Government programmes and Loan Schemes for Unemployed Youth in India

Sl. No	Programme/ Policy	Known (No.)	Percentage	Rank
1	Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)	7	17.50	V
2	Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) Scheme for Women	4	10.00	VI
3	Agriculture loan for the unemployed	19	47.50	I
4	Secured unemployment loans	12	30.00	III
5	Skill India	8	20.00	IV
6	ARYA	2	05.00	VII
7	Student READY Programme	16	40.00	II

From the table 1 it was clear that most of the adolescents and youth were not aware about the different Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India. Below 50.00 percent of the adolescents and youth were aware about the different Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India.

Conclusion

The study found that most of adolescents and youth were not aware about the different Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth in India. So, there is a need to make them aware about the different Government programmes and loan schemes for unemployed youth through awareness programmes and awareness Camps. On the whole, if the aforesaid lacuna in farming is rectified, then youth involved in farming will possibly contribute to the reshaping and of agriculture in the coming days.

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