



FACTORS INFLUENCING YOUTH IN FAMILY FARMING: A STUDY FROM SOUTHERN INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

- World's population is projected to reach **9 billion, by 2050 with youth (aged 15 to 24)** making up roughly **14%** of this total population.
- In India, **68% (0.90 billion)** of the population live in rural areas and **65.51%** of the population are between 15 years and 64 years.
- Proportion of employment in farming is predicted to decrease from 58.2% in 2001 to 25.7% by 2050.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study is aimed to explore the factors which influence youth in agriculture

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- The study followed a qualitative research method using a grounded theory approach.
- The data were collected from 58 farming families in Coimbatore and Erode districts of Southern India in a farmer exhibition, including 30 households below the age group of 40 years and 28 households > 40 years.
- Data collection was done on five dimensions including psychological, socio-cultural, technological, infrastructural, and economic contexts.

Detail of the variable	Youth	Non-Youth	Significance (P-Value)
Land (>4 ha) owned%	43	29	0.06*
Membership in network groups (yes) %	70	50	0.12
Num of farming enterprises (>2) in %	46	42	0.59
% of household income from agriculture (>20%)	80	75	0.42
Met anticipated Returns (yes) in %	46	39	0.57
Irrigation (Modern-Drip, sprinklers) in %	23	7	0.09*
Migration (yes)in %	23	7	0.08*

Detail of the variable	Youth	Non-Youth	Significance (P-Value)
Distance to main road (>5 kms) in %	20	10	0.38
No. of cows owned (>10) in %	13	4	0.19
Importance of formal education (yes) %	66	79	0.31
Source of labour (hired)	37	50	0.31
Info about weather (traditional source)	40	18	0.06*
Internet connectivity (yes)	97	100	0.33
Received benefit from Govt. schemes (yes)	80	75	0.65

RESULTS

- Youth were involved in agriculture where those households who own more than 4 ha of land.
- Youth are getting information about weather conditions using traditional methods.
- Internet connectivity is equal between youth and non-youth
- Modern irrigation methods are followed by youth such as drip and sprinklers.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Data for this study was collected in an exhibition, in future the large data will be collected from rural areas to expand the factors.
- There is largely untapped reservoir of employment opportunities in agriculture especially value addition.