

FACTORS AFFECTING THE FUNCTIONING OF RURAL YOUTH CLUBS IN KERALA

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In mobilizing the potential of the rural youth for India's rural reconstruction, the role of youth clubs is vital. It would be inane to expect the rural youth clubs to accomplish all their set objectives. This is precisely due to a number of problems which are reported to affect the successful functioning of rural youth clubs.

Rao and Samiullah (1966) indicated the following reasons for the failure of youth clubs. Youth club was started as a status symbol to represent only a section of the youth population; motivation was lacking from the leadership for different activities; gramasevak was not in a position to give guidance in developing different groups and individual projects; no dynamic leader was associated with the youth club, etc. One of the reasons stated for the success of youth clubs was the general awakening in the villages with the advent of high yielding variety programme. Anon. (1970) has listed the factors that contributed to the effectiveness of youth clubs. They are: interest on the part of leaders, educational background, material benefit in the form of income and recognition in the form of prizes, certificates, selection to rallies, etc. Like in many other Indian states, in Kerala also the rural youth clubs have been organised on a massive scale. However, it has been often reported that these clubs are not functioning successfully. Hence this research study was undertaken to ascertain the factors which determine the effectiveness of rural youth clubs.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in the NES Block, Pattambi, Palghat district in Kerala. This block was purposely selected for the study since this block had the maximum number of registered rural youth clubs. Seventy five youth club members from the five registered youth clubs in the block, selected randomly using Tippett's table of random numbers formed the respondents for this part of the study.

Nagendraprasad (1978) identified certain factors responsible for the successful-unsuccessful functioning of youth clubs. Since these factors were found to be applicable in this context, the same factors were used for this study also. Altogether, there were ten such factors. At the time of the interview, the respondents were asked to indicate their opinion regarding the relative importance of these factors in determining the successful functioning of

the club. The responses were obtained on a three point continuum. The scoring system was as follows:

<i>Sf. No.</i>	<i>Response category</i>	<i>Score assigned</i>
1	Most important	3
2	Important	2
3	Least important	1

The **total** score for each factor was the summation of the scores of all the respondents for that particular factor. The mean score for each factor was then worked out and based on the mean scores the factors were ranked in a descending order.

For the purpose of an indepth analysis, the ten factors included in the study were ranked based on their relative importance in the successful functioning of youth clubs after classifying the respondents into different categories viz., more favourable and less favourable **attitude** groups, more correct and less correct role perception groups and higher and lower role performance groups. These categorizations were done by adopting standardized scales developed for the study. In order to **find** out the extent of agreement in ranking these factors by the different groups of respondents Kendall's coefficient of concordance was worked out.

Results and Discussion

The ranking of factors based on their relative **importance** in the successful functioning of youth clubs by **all** the respondents is furnished in Table 1.

Table 1

Ranking of factors associated with the successful functioning of youth clubs by all the respondents as a whole

Sl. No.	Factors	Ranking by all the respondent as a whole
1	Member's interest	1
2	Club functioning and personal relations between members	2
3	Financial position of the club	3
4	Physical facilities and material possession	4
5	Sports games and other activities	5
6	Individual and community service projects	6
7	Guidance and supervision	7
8	Organisation and leadership	8
9	Evaluation and maintenance of records	9
10	Recognition and awards	10

The data in Table 1 reveal that member's interest was the most important factor which determines the efficiency of functioning of youth clubs. Personal relations in the clubs, financial position of the clubs, and physical facilities and material possession of the clubs were the other important factors found to influence the functioning of the youth clubs. It is also interesting to note that the factors such as recognition and awards, evaluation and maintenance of records and organisation and leadership in the clubs were found to wield least influence on the functioning of the youth clubs.

A comparison of Table 1 with Tables 2, 3 and 4 reveals that there is only little variation in the ranking of factors when the ranking has been done after classifying the respondents into different categories.

The youth club members were a single body in ranking the factors. This demonstrates that the factors identified and given as stimuli to be ranked by youth club members are essential pre-requisites for augmenting the effectiveness of youth clubs. The factors and their ranking by the groups with more favourable and less favourable attitude, more correct and less correct role perception and higher and lower role performance are presented in Tables 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

Table 2

Differential ranking of factors associated with the successful functioning of youth clubs by more favourable and less favourable attitude groups

Si. No.	Factors	Ranking by more favourable attitude group	Ranking by less favourable attitude group
1	Members' interest	1	1
2	Financial position of the club	2	3
3	Club functioning and personal relations between members	3	2
4	Physical facilities and material possession	4.5	4
5	Sports, games and other activities	4.5	6
6	Individual and community service projects	6	6
7	Organisation and leadership	7	9.5
8	Guidance and supervision	8	8
9	Evaluation and maintenance of records	9	7
10	Recognition and awards	10	9.5

Kendall's coefficient of concordance $W' = 0.95^{**}$

** Significant at 0.01 level

Table 3

Differential ranking of factors associated with the successful functioning of youth clubs by more correct and less correct role perception groups

Sl. No.	Factors	Ranking by more correct role perception group	Ranking by less correct role perception group
1	Members interest	1	1
2	Financial position of the club	2	3
3	Sports, games and other activities	3	6
4	Club functioning and personal relations between members	4.5	2
5	Physical facilities and material possession	4.5	4
6	Individual and community service projects	6	5
7	Organisation and leadership	7	9
8	Guidance and supervision	8	7.5
9	Evaluation and maintenance of records	9	7.5
10	Recognition and awards	10	10

Kendalls' coefficient of concordance ' $W=0.92^{**}$ '

** Significant at 0,01 level

The youth club members classified on the basis of **attitude**, role perception and role performance were unequivocal in ranking '**members interest**' as the most important factor associated with the successful functioning of youth clubs. This finding testifies the fact that whatever facilities the club may have and however hard the leaders may strive, without interest and enthusiasm on the part of the members no rural youth club can hope to function **successfully**.

Regarding the second most important **factor**, the various groups of youth club members differed only marginally. But **all** of them ranked either '**financial position of the club**' or '**club functioning and personal relations between members**' as the next important factor. Thus, these two factors also emerge as the precursors for the successful functioning of youth clubs. These are primordial **factors** because sound financial background and cordial relations among members carry the youth club through its initial and critical **stages of development**.

Table 4

Differential ranking of factors associated with the successful functioning of youth clubs by higher and lower role performance groups

Sl. No.	Factors	Ranking by higher role performance group	Ranking by lower role performance group
1	Members' interest	1	1
2	Club functioning and personal relations between members	2	2
3	Financial position of the club	3	5
4	Physical facilities and material possession	4	4
5	Sports, games and other activities	5	3
6	Individual and community service projects	6	6
7	Guidance and supervision	7	8
8	Organisation and leadership	8	7
9	Evaluation and maintenance of records	9	9
10	Recognition and awards	10	10

Kendall's coefficient of concordance 'W' = 0.97**

** Significant at 0.01 level

Summary

The research study was conducted among seventy five youth club members in NES Block, Pattambi, Palghat district in Kerala to identify the factors which determine the successful functioning of rural youth clubs. The study revealed that there was more or less perfect agreement among the different categories of youth club members, viz., more favourable and less favourable attitude groups, more correct and less correct role perception groups and higher and lower role performance groups in ranking the identified factors based on their relative importance for the successful functioning of youth clubs. Members' interest was perceived as the most important factor affecting the successful functioning of youth clubs by all the categories of respondents followed by either financial position of the club or club functioning and personal relations between members as next in the order of importance. These findings may be kept in view while organising rural youth clubs as viable voluntary agencies to help in the upheaval of rural areas.

സംഗ്രഹം

കേരളത്തിലെ യുവജനസമാജങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തെ ബാധിക്കുന്ന ഘടകങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി പാലക്കാടു ജില്ലയിലെ പട്ടാമ്പി ബ്ലോക്കിൽ ഒരു പഠനം നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ പഠനത്തിൽ നിന്നും യുവജനസമാജങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ നടത്തിപ്പിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഘടകം അംഗങ്ങളുടെ താൽപ്പര്യം ആണെന്നാണ് മനസ്സിലായത്. മറ്റു പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഘടകങ്ങൾ അവയുടെ പ്രാധാന്യത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ക്ഷേമിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തിക നില ക്ഷേമിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനവും അംഗങ്ങൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധവും എന്നിവ ആണെന്നും മനസ്സിലായി.

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