

DIFFERENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS IN KERALA

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Youth is the state of readiness in which the individual's total energies and potentialities are unable to find full employment (Singh and Prasad, 1965). But the potentialities of the youth in shaping the future of any country has not been adequately recognised. Both socially and psychologically, Indian youth form a complex group, a potential group which can be mobilized for nation building. The Indian rural scene provides enormous scope for the involvement of youth in rural development activities. But a great majority of rural youth are living in an environment confronted with many problems such as the social and economic insecurity, the rivalry of village faction, illiteracy and limited work opportunities and the dullness due to the respective nature of village life. All these contribute to the mass migration of unskilled youth to the urban centres in search of employment. The present programme of rural youth club work in India, an integral part of the community Development Programme, came into existence to stop this dangerous trend of migration of the youth from rural areas to urban centres and to make them participate in the national efforts for the general prosperity of the rural community. Rural youth clubs aim at developing the personality of their members and inducing in them a feeling of importance and self respect so that they become good citizens and progressive farmers of tomorrow. However, the response shown by the rural youth in Kerala in organising and running youth clubs has been dismal. Thus a majority of the rural youth stayed away from this noble programme of organised youth club work. Hence an exploratory study was undertaken to establish the differential characteristics of youth club members and non-members in Kerala.

Materials and Methods

The age group of respondents to delineate the category of youth for the study was fixed at 16-30 years as suggested by Sinha and Pawar (1973). Pattambi N. E. S. Block of Palghat district in Kerala State was purposively selected as the study area since this Block had the maximum number of registered youth clubs with agricultural orientation. Seventy-five youth club members from the five registered youth clubs in the Block and seventy five non-members from the villages where those youth clubs are located were selected randomly using Tippett's table of random numbers and they constituted the sample for the study.

Ten variables namely education, occupational status, second participation, parental occupation, family economic status, cosmopolitaness, level of aspiration, attitude towards agriculture, role perception in agricultural development and role

performance in agricultural development were selected to study the differences between the youth club members and non-members with reference to these variables.

Education was measured using the scoring system suggested in the socio-economic status scale developed by Trivedi (1963). The respondents' occupational status, social participation, parental occupation and family economic status were determined individually through objective and directed questions to that end, Cosmopolitanism was measured taking into consideration the frequency of visit as suggested by Bhaskaran (1976). Level of aspiration was measured using the "ladder technique" developed by Cantril and Free (1962).

Attitude towards agriculture of the respondents was measured by using the scale product method as proposed by Eysenck and Crown (1949). 'Role perception' and 'role performance' of the respondents were measured using the scales developed for the purpose of this study.

Results and Discussion

The data regarding the mean scores in respect of the selected variables of youth club members and non-members are presented in Table 1.

Table 1
Mean scores, in respect of the selected variables of youth club members and non-members

Sl. No.	Variables	Mean scores	
		Youth club members	Non-members
1.	Education	5.41	4.01
2.	Occupational status	0.65	0.68
3.	Social participation	0.48	0.12
4.	Parental occupation	0.56	0.52
5.	Family economic status	4480.04	3048.93
6.	Cosmopolitanism	5.59	4.63
7.	Level of aspiration	3.57	3.60
8.	Attitude towards agriculture	152.66	142.60
9.	Role perception	24.99	23.93
10.	Role performance	21.33	15.93

Results of the significance test (z) for the mean scores of youth club members and non-members in relation to the quantitative characteristics in the study such as education, family economic status, cosmopolitanism, level of aspiration, attitude, role perception and role performance are furnished in Table 2.

Table 2
Differential characteristics of youth club members and non-members :
Results of normal test of significance

Sl. No.	Variables	Mean score for youth club members	Mean score for non-members	'Z' value
1.	Education	5.41	4.01	8.78"
2.	Family economic status	4480.04	3048.93	4.44"
3.	Cosmopolitaness	5.59	4.63	3.63**
4.	Level of aspiration	3.57	3.60	0.15
5.	Attitude	152.66	142.60	2.59"
6.	Role perception	24.99	23.93	1.97*
7.	Role performance	21.33	15.93	9.47**

* Significant at 0.05 level

** Significant at 0.01 level

Table 3 presents the results of test of significance "of proportions of youth club members and non-members with regard to three qualitative variables in the study viz., occupation, parental occupation and social participation.

Table 3
Differential characteristics of youth club members and non-members :
Results of proportion test of significance

Sl. No.	Variables	Youth club members P1	Non-members P2	't' value
1.	Occupational status	0.65	0.68	0.405 N. S.
2.	Parental occupation	0.52	0.52	0.567 N. S.
3.	Social participation	0.48	0.12	5.550**

** Significant at 0.01 level.

N. S. : Non-significant.

A comparative analysis of the characteristics of youth club members and non-members as shown in Tables 1, 2 and 3 indicates that they differed significantly with respect to their education, family economic status, social participation, cosmopolitaness, attitude towards agriculture, role perception and role performance in agricultural development.

The youth club members had higher education, higher family economic status, more social participation and were more cosmopolite. Rural youths with these

qualities can be expected to show more enthusiasm in joining youth clubs. By virtue of their membership in the youth club and participation in its activities they are prone to have favourable attitude towards agriculture and also better role perception and role performance in agricultural development. However, there was no significant difference between youth club members and non-members in respect of variables such as occupational status, parental occupation and level of aspiration. The first two are situational variables. Therefore much difference cannot be expected between the youth club members and non-members with respect to these variables. On the contrary, level of aspiration being a socio-psychological variable, stood a chance to discriminate the youth club members from non-members. Perhaps, similarity in the age levels of youth club members and non-members and the current trend in rural Kerala with teeming millions of youth who wish to reap a quick fortune in the gulf countries, may be the reasons for the observed similarity in the levels of aspiration of both youth club members and non-members.

Summary

The research study conducted in NES Block, Pattambi in Palghat district of Kerala among youth club members and non-members revealed that they differed significantly with reference to many of the selected variables. The youth club members had significantly higher mean scores than the non-members with respect to education, social participation, family economic status, cosmopolitaness, attitude towards agriculture and rote perception and role performance in agricultural development. However, there was no significant difference between the youth club members and non-members with respect to their occupational status, parental [occupation and level of aspiration. These findings provide a typology or profile feature of the rural youth in Kerala, which has to be considered while launching special programmes of rural areas in Kerala, in general, for the development and rural youth in Kerala, in particular.

സംഗ്രഹം

കേരളത്തിലെ ഗ്രാമീണ യുവജനസമാജങ്ങളിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായിട്ടുള്ളവരുടേയും അല്ലാത്തവരുടേയും വിവിധ സ്വഭാവങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി പാലക്കാടു ജില്ലയിലെ പട്ടാമ്പി ബ്ലോക്കിൽ ഒരു പഠനം നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ പഠനത്തിൽനിന്നും യുവജനസമാജങ്ങളിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായിട്ടുള്ളവർ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, സാമൂഹ്യപങ്കാളിത്തം, സാമ്പത്തികനിലവാരം, സാർവലൗകികത്വം, കൃഷിയോടുള്ള അഭിരുചി, കാർഷിക പുരോഗതിയിലുള്ള പങ്കാളിത്തം തുടങ്ങിയവയിൽ ഗ്രാമീണ യുവജനസമാജങ്ങളിൽ അംഗങ്ങളല്ലാത്തവരേക്കാൾ മെച്ചമാണെന്നു കണ്ടു.

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[M. S. received on 2-7-1981]