

# **STUDY ON LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRI-ALLIED SECTOR BY RURAL YOUTH**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Employment has been a debated topic in the recent times. With more number of reverse migrations occurring daily and lack of employment opportunities for the rural youth, there has been increasing concern about the entrepreneurial activities for the rural youth and their involvement therein. However, for any agri-allied start-up, the opportunities and options available play a major role. Thus, a study was conducted on the livelihood opportunities available in agri-allied sector in Bargarh district of Odisha and to analyze the constraints faced by the respondents therein. The findings of the study revealed that majority of respondents (mean score=1.30) were engaged in vegetable vending business where as oil extraction unit (mean score=1.03) was least preferred. Dairy unit (mean score=1.19) in Animal husbandry based inventories was preferred over others, engagement in forestry based inventories revealed collection of Mahua flower/fruit (mean score=1.09) was ranked 1st while Lac cultivation and processing ranked 4th (mean score=1.02).

Major suggestions put forth by respondents to overcome the constraints included need of agricultural implements and equipments at low price which ranked 1st (72.50%) followed by agriculture credit at proper time, correspondence of right information at right time by extension officer, conduction of extension activities viz, kisanmela, demonstration, exhibition, training, visits, training requirements on improved poultry farming, fish farming and livestock managements, facilitation of crop insurance, recommended information on seed and fertilizer at proper time, herbicides and pesticide in low price and provision of irrigation facility respectively.

*Keywords: Agriculture, Inventories, Rural, Youth*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The National Youth Policy (NYP-2014) launched in February 2014 proposed a holistic Vision for the rural youth of India, which was “to empower the youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find the rightful place in the community of nations”.The NYP-2014 has defined ‘youth’ as people in the age group of 15-29 years. In a country like India where more than 60%of the population resides in the rural, it is obvious that majority of the youth of the country are concentrated there. The total population of Odisha state is 45,596,577 of which male and female are 23,201,678and 22,394,899 respectively. Sex Ratio is 978. Literacy rate in Odisha has seen an upward trend and is 75 per cent. Out of total population ofOdisha 16.69 per cent people live in urban regions and 83.31.per cent people live in the villages of rural areas. The rural of Odisha are an important part of the population and mainly inhabit the districts of south and western Odisha.Today unemployment is a major problem among

the rural youth and now they are trying to come out of this problem by migrating from rural areas to urban areas, as employment opportunities are more in urban areas. However, as more and more demand for jobs increases, it becomes essential for rural youth to engage themselves in entrepreneurial activities in their own villages or lands. Hence occupational aspirations of rural youth have been taken as one of the objectives in the present study. But it is also essential to understand that the rural youth need to be motivated and trained and moreover should be made aware about the opportunities for their livelihood. Thus, proper training and orientation about self-employment programmes like TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment), WYTEP are required. Also, they should be encouraged to take up self-employment activities, thereby adding additional income to their family and improving their standard of living. In this context, it is worthwhile to know the extent of participation of rural youth in the agri-allied activities, their training needs in agriculture, which in turn would help the planners and administrators to develop/modify training programmes and strategies to develop rural youth.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Before actual investigation, efforts were made to conduct a detail survey of all related aspects regarding rural youth in the area of research. As a part of course curriculum it was needed to complete the research project, hence the area of investigation, sample size and method of analysis of data were taken in details keeping a number of limitations in view. Ex-post-facto survey research design was employed in the present study. Both purposive and non probability random sampling methods were adopted for selection of the district, block, village and respondents. The study was conducted in Bargarh district of Odisha state, during the year 2018-19. A total of 120 respondents were selected for the purpose of the investigation. Descriptive statistics (mean, frequency distribution) was used to find the preferences of the respondents towards the varied livelihood enterprises and further they were ranked based on the outcome. The participation of rural youth in the various agri-allied activities can help in predicting their interest and enthusiasm in the establishment of varied agri-allied based entrepreneurial units.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data obtained in the study were processed, analyzed statistically and presented with the help of tables systematically.

Before calculating the distribution of rural youth in concerned enterprises, data on participation and non-participation in the respective entrepreneurial units were mapped according to the respective sectors. The participation of rural youth was denoted by 2 and non-participation was denoted by 1 as represented in the tables (table 1-3) below.

**Table 1: Agriculture Based Entrepreneurial Units**

Sl. No	Entrepreneurial Infrastructures	Yes	No
1.	Oil extraction unit	2	1
2.	Vegetable vending unit	2	1
3.	Handloom unit	2	1
4.	Food processing unit	2	1

**Table 2: Animal Husbandry Based Entrepreneurial Units**

Sl. No	Entrepreneurial Infrastructures	Yes	No
1.	Goatery unit	2	1
2.	Poultry unit	2	1
3.	Dairy unit	2	1

**Table 3: Forestry Based Entrepreneurial Activities**

Sl. No	Entrepreneurial Activities	Yes	No
1.	Kendu leaves collection	2	1
2.	Lac collection	2	1
3.	Mahua flower and fruit collection	2	1
4.	Tamarind collection	2	1

The Involvement of Rural Youth in Respective Entrepreneurial Units according to the ranks based on the calculated Mean is shown in Tables 4-6.

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondents according to Entrepreneurial Units in Agriculture (n=120)**

Participation	Yes		No		Mean	Rank
	f	%	f	%		
Oil extraction unit	4	3.33	116	96.67	1.03	IV
Vegetable vending unit	36	30.00	84	70.00	<b>1.30</b>	<b>I</b>
Handloom unit	8	6.67	112	93.33	1.07	II
Food processing unit	7	5.83	113	94.17	1.06	III

Results from table above revealed that majority of respondents (mean score=1.30) were engaged in vegetable vending business which ranked 1<sup>st</sup> followed by handloom unit, food processing unit ranked 2nd, 3rd respectively. Rest in oil extraction unit (mean score=1.03) ranked 4th.

**Table 5: Distribution of Respondents according to Entrepreneurial Units in Animal Husbandry (n=120)**

Participation	Yes		No		Mean	Rank
	f	%	f	%		
Goatery unit	9	7.50	111	92.50	1.08	III
Poultry unit	12	10.00	108	90.00	1.10	II
Dairy unit	23	19.17	97	80.83	<b>1.19</b>	<b>I</b>

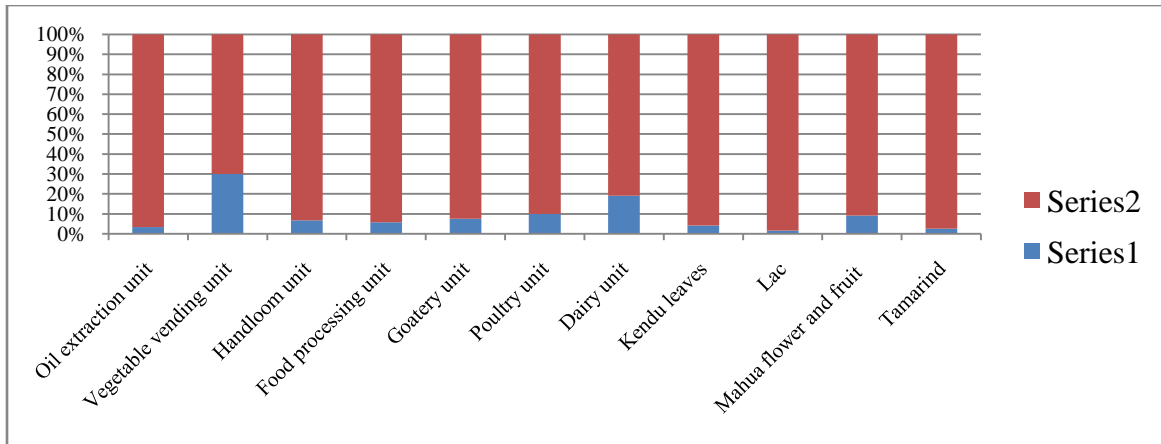
Perusal of data from table above revealed that majority of respondents (mean score=1.19) were engaged in dairy unit which ranked 1st followed by poultry unit ranked 2nd and rest in goat farming (mean score=1.08) ranked 3rd.

**Table 6: Distribution of Respondents according to Entrepreneurial Activities in Forestry (n=120)**

Participation	Yes		No		Mean	Rank
	f	%	f	%		
Kendu leaves collection	5	4.17	115	95.83	1.04	II
Lac collection	2	1.67	118	98.33	1.02	IV
Mahua flower and fruit collection	11	9.17	109	90.83	<b>1.09</b>	<b>I</b>
Tamarind collection	3	2.50	117	97.50	1.03	III

Data from table above revealed that majority of respondents (mean score=1.09) were engaged in mahua flower / fruit collection and selling which ranked 1st followed by kendu leaf collection ranked 2nd, tamarind collection, processing and selling ranked 3rd and rest (mean score=1.02) involved in lac collection and processing.

**Fig 1: Overall Comparison of Involvement of Rural Youth in Livelihood Generating Entrepreneurial Activities**



The figure above represented overall comparison of inventories in agri-allied activities where youth involved in study areas. The blue and brown colour represents the participation and non-participation in respective inventories.

### Constraints faced by the Rural Youth in different Agri-allied Activities

An attempt has been made in this study to identify the constraints which were responsible for the participation of rural youth in different agri allied and off-farm activities. The constraints reported by the respondents were grouped in two categories i.e. agri allied constraints and off-farm constraints. The details about these constraints are given in below.

**Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to constraints (n=120)**

Constraints in Agri allied activities	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Rank
Lack of knowledge about proper land preparation	74	61.67	IV
Lack of irrigation facility	47	39.17	IX
<b>Unavailability of agricultural labor</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>77.50</b>	<b>I</b>
Lack of agricultural implements and high cost	79	65.83	III
Non availability of improved seed at proper time	71	59.17	VI
Lack of crop insurance facility	58	48.33	VIII
Non availability of fertilizer at proper time	83	69.17	II
Lack of land and green fodder for animal	72	60.00	V
Lack of knowledge about improved poultry farming	61	50.83	VII
Lack of training facility for fish farming	34	28.33	X
Lack of pond	31	25.83	XI
High cost of pond construction	25	20.83	XII

The data on above table revealed that the majority (77.50%) of the respondents faced the problem of unavailability of agricultural labour during peak season, followed by non availability of fertilizer at proper time, lack of agricultural implements and high cost, lack of knowledge about proper land preparation, lack of land and green fodder for animal, non availability of improved seed at proper time, lack of knowledge

about improved poultry farming, lack of crop insurance facility, lack of irrigation facility, lack of training facility for fish farming, lack of pond having percentage 69.17%, 65.83%, 61.67%, 60.00%, 59.17%, 50.83%,48.33%,39.17%,28.33%,25.83% and ranked 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th respectively. High cost of pond construction was faced rarely (20.83%) ranked 12th.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Study on livelihood generating entrepreneurial activities performed in the Bargarh district of Odisha revealed majority of respondents (mean score=1.30) were engaged in vegetable vending business, respondents (mean score=1.19) were engaged in dairy unit and respondents (mean score=1.09) were engaged in mahua flower / fruit collection and selling are dominating in the participation in agri-allied activities. Majority of the respondents faced problem by unavailability of agricultural labour during peak season. Moreover the results of the present investigation will help the extension workers and other personal associated with the beneficiaries in performing their function more effectively.

On the basis of the results of the study following implications are drawn. The department of agriculture should promote the marginal and small farmers and the tenants with proper rule and regulation to enable them for proper accessing the credit facilities. The line departments have made very effective efforts and brought the visible impact of the trainings organized for the farmers. However it is also necessary to organize need based training programme with proper written materials for establishing new inventories and be a part of different agri-allied activities. There is need for capacity building of farmers on innovative technologies on agri-allied activities and that will lead towards better income and a improved standard of living.

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