



**Research Article**

## **THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT: AN OVER VIEW**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Most of India's population still lives in the villages. The numbers of youths are also increasing in the villages. The number of youth is increasing faster than the rate of job creation. Youths are considered as the future of any nation. The numbers of youths are also increasing in the villages. The number of youth is increasing faster than the rate of job creation. Youths are considered as the future of any nation. Youths play a crucial and substantial role in the development of the nation. Almost nine out of 10 youths live in the developing countries. Youth make one fourth of world population and in India, the number of youths are the highest. India has earned the distinction of being called as the nation of youths. Growing number of youths in India require the right educational infrastructure to develop skills and adequate opportunities to get employed or become entrepreneurs. Youths play a crucial and substantial role in the development of the nation. Youths are seen as "vital sources of manpower for development". FAO is also playing a major role in sharing a common interest in empowering young people in rural areas to become active partners in food security and sustainable development.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Majority of India's population still lives in the villages. The numbers of youths are also increasing in the villages. The number of youth is increasing faster than the rate of job creation. Youths are considered as the future of any nation. Youths play a crucial and substantial role in the development of the nation. Almost nine out of 10 youths live in the developing countries. Youth make one fourth of world population and in India, the number of youths are the highest. India has earned the distinction of being called as the nation of youths. Growing number of youths in India require the right educational infrastructure to develop skills and adequate opportunities to get employed or become entrepreneurs.

The wide gap between those who have access to education and skill development opportunities and those who do not have is a challenge that needs to be overcome. In India 72.2 per cent of the Indian population lives in the rural areas. 12 per cent of the world population lives in the Indian villages which makes it bigger than the size of Europe. 80 per cent of the rural households are having small and marginal farms. Although share of agriculture in the Indian GDP is declining but still it engages around half of the country's population.

Persons engaged 15-29 years who are considered as the youth accounted for 26 per cent of rural population. Only about 21 per cent of rural males and 12 per cent of rural females are educated at secondary level and above. Indian youths are looking for the employment and the industries are suffering from availability of skilled workers.

The skill mismatch makes the youths unemployable. It is astonishing that literacy rate and educational levels though have increased but about 89 per cent of youths do not take any vocational training. Youth's labor market also faces the problem of organized labor market, lower income and unhygienic conditions of work and lack of social security. Rural youths start working from their childhood. Sometimes they are forced to work as bonded laborers'. Some rural youths are decently educated but they do not get the desired jobs as per their qualifications. Rural youths work in the fields but they lack the innovative ideas that are making agriculture bitter and unattractive for them.

There are various factors which make rural youths unemployable.

### **Rapid increase in population**

It is expected that within 20 years the population of India will be doubled. No country can guarantee employment to its growing population in such a rapid rate. Family programmed in India has not yielded the desired results. Thus, new ways to handle this issue needs to be meticulously planned to

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accommodate the increasing population in the respective works. There is need to create innovative jobs for the youths so that they can be empowered.

#### ***Pressure on Land***

India is having a limited area under cultivation and thus efforts are being made to convert the barren land into agricultural land. There is great pressure on the land due to increasing population. In rural areas most of the people depend on the agriculture for their livelihood and this situation makes them unemployable as they are lacking the modern techniques of agriculture. Providing land to the landless rural youths can open the new gate of employment for them.

#### ***Lack of awareness on modern agriculture***

Rural people lack the awareness on modern methods of agriculture. This makes their task cumbersome and time consuming. Vocational trainings on mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, dairy farming, value addition in fruits and vegetables etc. can create employment in the rural areas.

#### ***Seasonal agriculture***

Agriculture in India is seasonal in nature. Farmers are very busy at sowing and harvesting time. People in rural areas get employment only for few months. This has adverse impact on the earnings of the farmers and their standard of living. During the vacant period, the employment should be provided to the farmers. This will help the farmers to earn more money in free time. During the free time the rural youths can be utilized for the vocational training programmes to start entrepreneurship in agriculture in the rural areas.

#### ***Lack of job oriented courses***

Many rural youths join any course without proper guidelines. Such courses don't bear compatibility to the innate talent of youths that remain as degree for them without any kind of job. They again go to their villages and do agriculture.

#### ***Job creation in a calendar year***

Every year many rural youths come out with flying colors. Out of them some get the jobs but majority remains without jobs. It has been observed that many students are not opting for the professional courses. Many seats in the professional courses remain vacant. Decent jobs require quality education and skill development trainings. Skill development courses can work as a vehicle for a change in the rural areas and can enhance the income and employment for the rural youths. Besides hard skills, the weight age on communication skills, upkeep of the employees, language proficiency, hygiene, punctuality etc. should also be taught to the trainees.

#### ***Solutions of employment in the rural areas***

There is dire need to control the increasing population. Although the government has taken various steps to control the population but still the desired results are awaited. There is need to improve the quality of the Indian education system. Job oriented courses should be emphasized. Government needs to focus on the skill education. The education should be on the basis of the current industrial requirements. With education practical knowledge should be provided. Youths should select the institute where proper education and trainings are imparted. In order to avoid the rural migration government should encourage the rural based industries.

More employment should be generated in the rural areas during the off season of the year. Development in rural areas will stop the rural migration and thus reduce the pressure on the urban areas. The National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) has been developed to impart skill development trainings in different states. This mission is making efforts to consolidate and coordinate skilling efforts. This mission is also supported by the National Skill Development Agency, National Skill Development Corporation and Directorate General of Trainings. Upgrading Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme aims at upgrading skills and training of minority communities by preservation of traditional ancestral arts and crafts. Significant emphasis needs to be given to the rural youths and they should be viewed as an investment opportunity and be treated as partners in growth and development. Many rural youths remain unemployed due to lack of knowledge of job oriented courses, lack of technical expertise, lack of knowledge of modern agriculture etc. In order to mitigate the problem of unemployment for the rural youths, policy interventions should promote quality education and jobs oriented trainings. Credit assistance and marketing assistance should be provided to the self-employed youths.

#### ***Reasons for involving youth in community projects include***

1. Increasing young people's understanding of their community,
2. Developing their sense of empowerment,
3. Encouraging their future participation in community affairs,
4. Enhancing school-community relations, and
5. Helping community leaders and citizens address local needs by recognizing and guiding youthful enthusiasm and energy.

Student participant benefits to community development projects are enhanced when opportunities for their meaningful contribution are provided at all stages of the project. By increasing student participation in decision-making, the traditional relationships between adults and youth shift from youth being recipients of directions to adults and youth working together as active members of a team (Kurth-Schai 1988). Adults must view youth as a resource for this process to be carried out affectively.

#### ***The characteristics of successfully involving youth in Community development projects should include***

Commitment of a project coordinator, active community partnership, support from school administrators and teachers including the use of school facilities, the enthusiastic involvement of students, activities to learn about community development, exercises so that students understand the implications of their efforts, adequate material resources, technical support, celebration of accomplishments, use of the information gathered (for example, presentation of results, future community initiatives), and student involvement in actions taken as a result of the project.

It has been observed that if we meet up with the challenge of the rural sector, the youth that constitute part of the population that makes up the rural areas, have certain roles to play in the process of rural development. These include social, economic, political and civil roles, which will aid the development of rural areas and the nation in general. However, these young

people do not know how they can contribute their best to the development of their areas. Those that know the need for them to play significant roles in the socio-economic development of their localities do not know how to go about it.

FAO: Education & Training for strengthening Youth A wealth of practical experience has accumulated over the past 100 years related to working with rural young people through education and training. FAO itself has been a part of this effort for at least the past four decades. Today, youth development, with its strong research/knowledge base, and adequate policy and resource support, can become a powerful force in empowering large numbers of rural young people in developing countries to take an active role in sustainable agriculture and rural development as a major contributor to the overall progress in their respective countries.

The mission of FAO's rural youth development work is to strengthen and expand young people's capacities, knowledge and skills through education and training to enable them to become productive and contributing citizens of their local communities.

Milestones of FAO's work over recent years include two expert consultations; one in 1985 as part of the UN System's International Youth Year and the other in 1995. This last expert consultation laid the foundation for the current rural youth programme. In the national rural youth seminars in Asia, Africa and the Latin America/Caribbean Regions focusing attention on the important role that young people can and do play in food security and sustainable development. The rural youth work of FAO over the years has made significant contributions to making the lives of young people from rural areas more productive and meaningful by strengthening the organizations which serve them.

The needs and challenges of rural young people today are greater than they have ever been in the past. In most developing countries, youth make up well over one-half of the total rural population. Because of their numbers and potential impact, rural youth must be a major part of any equation dealing with immediate and long-term solutions to solving problems of food security and sustainable development.

It is true that young people need education and training to prepare them to become the farmers and community leaders of the future, but even more importantly, they must receive maximum support and access to resources to enable them to become active partners in food security today! The ERP initiative provides the leadership to facilitate this expanded collaboration within FAO and to promote effective partnering with other UN agencies, international development organizations, donor groups, member governments and civil society; sharing a common interest in empowering young people in rural areas to become active partners in food security and sustainable development.

#### ***Recommendation for Development of Youth and Rural Area***

- Promote positive development so youth will be engaged in their communities and more likely to promote the well-being of other young people;
- Provide constructive and encouraging relationships among youth and adults and youth and peers;
- Provide an array of youth development opportunities for youth to build competencies in areas such as mastery, independence, generosity, and sense of belonging;

- Provide access to multiple opportunities for youth to develop assets in the physical, intellectual, psychological, emotional, and/or social domains;
- Engage youth as partners in their own development and the development of their communities;
- Are effectively child and youth focused;
- Build human capital to reverse the "brain drain" caused by capable young people leaving rural communities;
- Build community institutions such as comprehensive community centers;
- Rural children and youth have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary to live productive, contributing, and fulfilling lives; and
- Rural communities have increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life.
- Connect the formal classroom to real-life experience and use the community as context for learning; and
- Have sufficient scope, breadth, duration, frequency and intensity of engagement of young people to reach long-term positive outcomes.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Most of India's population still lives in the villages. The numbers of youths are also increasing in the villages. The number of youth is increasing faster than the rate of job creation. Youths are considered as the future of any nation. Youths play a crucial and substantial role in the development of the nation. Youths are seen as "vital sources of manpower for development". The contribution of the youth is essentially important in the development of rural areas. Youth should facilitate community forums or conduct needs assessments to identify community needs; develop and implement action plans to address community needs and evaluate how community needs can be fulfilled. The nation's progress and growth in a developing economy like India depend to some extent, on the growth, modernization and development of their rural areas. This is so, because in many developing countries, a large proportion of the population lives in the rural areas, such that no national development can succeed without rural development. FAO is also playing a major role in sharing a common interest in empowering young people in rural areas to become active partners in food security and sustainable development.

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