

Leisure Time Activities of Non-School Going Rural Youths

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ABSTRACT

In the present study, it was found that youths had leisure during nights. They spend their leisure hours by taking rest at home, gossip with friends, listen to radio, visit movies, talk with elders and read books. In order to utilize the leisure hours effectively, the youths should have facilities to hear radio, read books and discuss topics of interest with elders.

INTRODUCTION

Rural youths are the future farmers who have an important role to play in transforming the society from the traditional to the modern. If the youth programmes are to function properly, the basic fundamental information such as rural youths' needs, interests, aspirations, leisure time activities should be known and accordingly programmes are to be chalked out. Salvi and Rade (1967) found that reading and listening to radio programmes are among the main leisure time activities of a large number of youths. In order to help the planning of future youth programmes this study was undertaken.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two villages in Avanashi block, one located within three miles of Ava-

nashi town and other situated three miles away, were selected. Sixty respondents were studied in each of the villages, at the rate of twenty farmers for each age group of 12-16, 17-20 and 21-24 years respectively. They were interviewed by a well structured interview schedule. The rural youths were asked to furnish their preferences relating leisure time activities. The raking of the different leisure time activities were studied with relation to the socio-economic factors of the youth to find out the influence of such factors

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Of the 120 respondents interviewed 95 per cent were employed and the rest had occasional supervisory work. Based on the data, youths with occupation were alone considered. When they were asked to state whether they

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Table 1. Age in relation to leisure-time activities of youths

Leisure time activities	Age categories in years							
	(12—16)		(17—20)		(21—24)		Total	
	(n=40)		(n=39)		(n=135)		(n=114)	
	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank
Take rest	29	2	28	1	23	2	80	1
Read books	4	8	9	6	14	5	27	6
Talk with elders	14	5	14	4	20	3	50	5
Listen to radio	26	4	10	5	26	1	62	3
Visit movies	27	3	16	3	15	4	58	4
Play games	6	7	0	9.5	1	9.5	7	8
Village improvement work	0	9.5	0	9.5	1	9.5	1	10
Gossip with friends	35	1	25	2	12	6	72	2
Do no specific work	7	6	5	7	5	7	17	7
Calf rearing	0	9.5	1	8	2	8	3	9

Multiple responses: do not add upto 114

had any time at their disposal to do what they like after the work, all the 114 respondents replied 'yes'. Of these 3.51 per cent reported that they had only less than an hour, 44.74 per cent about an hour and 51.75 per cent more than an hour at their disposal. All of them had stated that their leisure time was only during night.

All the non-school going rural youths ranked taking rest as the first leisure time activity irrespective of their age. The findings of this study agree with those of Singh (1971). Twelve to sixteen years old youths ranked gossip-

ing with friends as the first leisure time activity while 17-20 years old youths ranked taking rest and 21-24 year old youths ranked listening to radio as the first leisure time activity.

Thus the illiterates utilize their leisure-time in taking rest, gossiping with friends; primary educated youths visit movies or take rest; high school educated youths read books or listen to radio. So if youth clubs are organised for educated youths there should be facilities to provide books to promote knowledge during their leisure time.

Table 2. Education in relation to leisure- time activities

Leisure-time activities	Illiterate (n=59)		Primary (n=46)		High School (n=9)		Total (n=114)	
	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank
Take rest	47	1	28	2	5	4	80	1
Read books	0	9.5	20	6	7	1.5	27	6
Talk with elders	21	5	26	3	3	6	50	5
Listen to radio	30	3	25	4.5	7	1.5	62	3
Go to movies	24	4	29	1	5	4	58	4
Play games	3	7	4	7	0	9	7	8
Village improvement work	0	9.5	1	9.5	0	9	1	10
Gossip with friends	42	2	25	4.5	5	4	72	2
Calf rearing	2	8	1	9.5	0	9	3	9

Multiple responses : do not add upto 114

Table 3. Village setting in relation to leisure time activities

Leisure time activities	Rural village (n=58)		Nearer urban village (n=56)		Total (n=114)	
	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank
Take rest	34	2	46	1	80	1
Read books	15	6	12	6	27	6
Talk with elders	23	5	27	5	50	5
Listen to Radio	31	3	31	2	62	3
Visit to movies	29	4	29	3.5	58	4
Play games	2	8.5	5	8	7	8
Village improvement work	1	10	0	10	1	10
Gossip with friends	43	1	29	3.5	72	2
Do no specific work	6	7	11	7	17	7
Calf rearing	2	8.5	1	9	3	9

The rural village boys spend their leisure time in gossiping with friends, taking rest, listening radio, visiting movies, talking with elders and reading books in the order of preference whereas nearer urban village boys spend their time taking rest, listening radio, visiting movies, gossiping with friends, talking with elders and reading books. Thus the leisure time activities of most of the non-school going boys are only during night time and as most of the boys had more than one hour leisure time during nights, a well organised youth programme during nights, based on the needs and interests would be beneficial to them.

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Table 1. Village setting in relation to leisure time activities

Leisure time activities	Rural village (n=58)	Urban village (n=58)	Total (n=116)
Take rest	34	46	80
Read books	19	12	31
Talk with elders	23	8	31
Listen to Radio	37	31	68
Visit to movies	4	5	9
Play games	10	0	10
Village improvement work	1	0	1
Gossip with friends	43	33	76
Do no specific work	5	11	16
Other	5.8	3	8.8