

Interests of Non-School Going Rural Youths*

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ABSTRACT

It was noted that the interests of the non-school going rural youths were music and fine arts, mechanics, social service, travelling and agriculture. While providing situations to youths, the above should be considered so that they can get full satisfaction from such work situations.

INTRODUCTION

Desirable interest in an individual is a basic pre-requisite which leads to his personal and professional growth and achievements. Singh and Haque (1967) found that social service had been ranked first by all non-school going rural youth followed by interest in agriculture, new experience, reading, music and playing. They also found that youths of different age and occupational levels had more or less similar interests but education was not associated with the preference of interests. These interests influence their behaviour and actions. An attempt has been made to identify the interests of rural youths and their association with three characteristics viz. age level, educational level and village setting of rural youths and the results presented.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in two villages of Avanashi block in the year 1971-72. One village located within three miles and another beyond three miles to Avanashi were selected. Among non-school going rural youths 20 respondents were selected at random from each age category of 12 - 16 years, 17-20 years and 21 -24 years. Thus 60 respondents from each village were selected and interviewed personally. The areas of interest for this study were social service, agriculture, animal husbandry, machinery, adventure, travel, sports and games, music and fine arts and politics. A three point attitude scale was used to identify the attitude towards the selected interests and related with the characteristics of youths.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The attitude for various interests relating to non-school going rural youths are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Interests of non-school going rural youths

Areas of interests	Attitude (n=120)				Score value	Rank
	Quite a lot	Some what	Not at all			
Music and fine arts	87	33	—	207	I	
Mechanics	82	37	1	201	II	
Social service	75	44	1	194	III	
Travelling	77	34	9	188	IV	
Agriculture	62	51	7	175	V	
Animal husbandry	50	65	5	165	IV	
Politics	54	51	15	159	VII	
Sports and games	40	50	30	130	VIII	
Adventures	25	77	18	127	IX	
Reading	39	24	57	102	X	

The rural youths do not like reading but they have quite a lot of interest in music and fine arts, mechanics, social service, travelling, agriculture and animal husbandry in the order of preference. This attitude for the varied interests may be due to the influence of certain inherent and environmental factors of the youths. Influence of the characters such as age, education and village setting were studied in relation to the first five interest areas. The influence of age for varied interests are presented in Table 2.

There is no significant relationship between age and attitude towards different areas of interest studied and in general all age groups had similar interests (Table 2).

The influence of education for varied interests are presented in Table 3.

Though agriculture ranked fifth, the factor education was found to influence the interest significantly. On the whole there was a favourable attitude for agriculture among the illiterates as compared to the higher educated groups. Their attitude towards other areas of interests was similar irrespective of their education (Table 3).

The influence of village setting over the attitude towards varied interests studied are presented in Table 4.

Travelling was preferred more by youths nearer to urban village as compared to rural village. The non-school going rural youths had a similar attitude towards the other areas of interests irrespective of their village setting (Table 4).

Since the interests of the non-school going youths are not influenced by their age, education and village setting, their interests could be satisfied through various programmes like involving them in conducting dramas, folk songs, repairs and maintenance of

Table 2. Age Vs. Varied interests

Interest	Age	Attitude (n=120)			Total	X ² value
		Quite a lot	Some what	Not at all		
Music and fine arts	12-16 years	25	15	—	40	3.30 N.S.
	17-20 years	32	8	—	40	
	21-24 years	30	10	—	40	
		87	33	—		
Mechanics	12-16 years	32	8	—	40	5.94 N.S.
	17-20 years	24	15	1	40	
	21-24 years	26	14	—	40	
		82	37	1		
Social service	12-16 years	28	11	1	40	5.19 N.S.
	17-20 years	21	19	—	40	
	21-24 years	26	14	—	40	
		75	44	1		
Travelling	12-16 years	31	8	1	40	5.60 N.S.
	17-20 years	23	14	3	40	
	21-24 years	23	12	5	40	
		77	34	9		
Agriculture	12-16 years	22	16	2	40	3.66 N.S.
	17-20 years	20	19	1	40	
	21-24 years	20	16	4	40	
		62	51	8		

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	21-24 years	30	10	—	40	
		87	33	—		
Mechanics	12-16 years	32	8	—	40	5.94 N.S.
	17-20 years	24	15	1	40	
	21-24 years	26	14	—	40	
		82	37	1		
Social service	12-16 years	28	11	1	40	5.19 N.S.
	17-20 years	21	19	—	40	
	21-24 years	26	14	—	40	
		75	44	1		
Travelling	12-16 years	31	8	1	40	5.60 N.S.
	17-20 years	23	14	3	40	
	21-24 years	23	12	5	40	
		77	34	9		
Agriculture	12-16 years	22	16	2	40	3.66 N.S.
	17-20 years	20	19	1	40	
	21-24 years	20	16	4	40	
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Table 3. Education Vs. Varied interests

Interest	Education	Attitude (n=120)			Total	X ² value
		Quite a lot	Some what	Not at all		
Music and fine arts	Illiterate	42	17	—	59	0.60 N.S.
	Primary	35	11	—	46	
	High school	10	5	—	15	
		87	33	—		
Mechanics	Illiterate	43	16	—	59	2.81 N.S.
	Primary	29	17	—	46	
	High school	10	4	1	16	
		82	37	1		
Social service	Illiterate	36	22	1	59	1.78 N.S.
	Primary	28	18	—	46	
	High school	11	4	—	15	
		75	44	1		
Travelling	Illiterate	40	16	3	59	2.57 N.S.
	Primary	29	13	4	46	
	High school	8	5	2	15	
		77	34	9		
Agriculture	Illiterate	23	35	1	59	15.55**
	Primary	30	11	5	46	
	High school	9	5	1	15	
		62	51	7		

Table 4 Village setting Vs. Varied interests.

Interest	Village setting	Attitude (n=120)			Total	X ² value
		Quite a lot	Some-what	Not at all		
Music and fine arts	Rural village	48	12	—	60	3.38 N.S.
	Nearer urban village	39	21	—	60	
		87	33	—		
Mechanics	Rural village	42	17	1	60	1.51 N.S.
	Nearer urban village	40	20	—	60	
		82	37	1		
Social Service	Rural village	35	24	1	60	1.73 N.S.
	Nearer urban village	40	20	—	60	
		75	44	1		
Travelling	Rural village	36	15	9	60	9.86**
	Nearer urban village	41	19	0	60	
		77	34	9		
Agriculture	Rural village	26	30	4	60	2.718 N.S.
	Nearer urban village	36	21	3	60	
		62	51	7		

power sprayers and agricultural implements, maintenance and upkeep of roads in villages and visiting various youth clubs which are working effectively.

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