

Occupational Preference of Non-school Going Rural Youths

Youths are future citizens of India and they form 50 per cent of the population. Rao (1964) observed that school going youths wanted to be doctors, scientists, engineers, teachers and army officers. Only 1.10 per cent of the youths aspired to be a farmer. Grover (1966) found that rural youths were becoming urban oriented as far as the choice of vocation was concerned. So to mould the youths into an adult citizen, it is essential to identify the occupational preferences and provide facilities in that area. The study conducted in two villages of Avanashi block revealed that 95.00 per cent of the youths (120) interviewed were employed in various vocations like agriculture, business, tending cattle, labourers etc. The occupational preferences are as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Occupational preferences of non-school going rural youths

Occupation	No. (n=77)	Percentage	Rank
Agriculture	6	7.80	IV
Business	30	38.96	I
Social work	3	3.90	V
Supervisory work	24	31.16	II
Politician	2	2.60	VI
Mechanics (skilled)	9	11.68	III
Others	3	3.90	V

Majority of the youths preferred business, supervisory work and mechanical work. Agriculture was ranked only fourth. The reasons attributed for different occupational preferences are given in Table 2.

[Table 2 in page 872]

The main reason for preferring alternative occupations by the youths was to earn more money (76.62 per cent). The non-significant values of chi-square in Table 2 could indicate that the age level, education and village setting of non-school going rural youths were independent in influencing the reasons for preferring alternative jobs. Thus the present study reveals that majority of the youths do not like their present vocations and prefer to change their vocation to some thing which is more remunerative. They preferred business and supervisory work in offices. Necessary promotional facilities should be provided in improving their interest in business and supervisory work.

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Table 2. Differential characteristics in relation to occupational preferences

Characters	Particulars	Reasons		Can earn more money	Total	X ² value
		Relative employed	Gives satisfaction			
Age	12-16 Yrs	4	0	19	23	4.522NS
	17-20	6	1	25	32	
	21-24	4	3	15	22	
		14	4	59	77	
Education	illiterate	5	2	42	49	8.8131NS
	Primary	7	1	15	23	
	High school	2	1	2	5	
		14	4	59	77	
Village setting	Rural	6	4	31	41	4.1266NS
	Nearer to urban	8	0	28	36	
		14	4	59	77	

the findings which formed part of the M. Sc. (Ag.) dissertation.

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