

A STUDY OF YOUTH PERCEPTION TOWARDS AGRICULTURE IN AURANGABAD CITY POST-COVID-19.

□ Dr. Kunal L Gaikwad*
Dr. Jitendrasinh Jamadar**
Dr. Vijay Kulkarni***
Ms. Ranjana Gautam****

ABSTRACT

“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will, in the end, contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.” – Thomas Jefferson

On 24th Mar 2020, the government of India ordered as nationwide lockdown for 21 days, limiting movement of the entire Indian population as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The lockdown was placed when the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in India was increased to 500 and more.

Amid pandemic, many employees lost their employment the situation of the survival became worst. Therefore, all the migrant who went for employment in the other states and cities were started migrating back to their native place.

The big question stood was ‘Survival’ therefore, many employees from various prestigious industry started working on the farm. Because of the work with the farm, many jobless people got employment back. Moreover, they started changing their perception of agriculture.

This research is a sincere attempt to study the perception of the youth towards agriculture in Aurangabad city post-COVID-19. To conduct this research, primary and secondary data collection methods would be used, with the help of questionnaire primary data will be collected and secondary data from publishing material like newspaper, magazine, brochure, annual report, etc.

Research type would be descriptive, area of research would be Aurangabad city, sample size 250 and convenient sampling method would be used, after the collection of primary and secondary data, analysis of the data and interpretation would be taking place.

Keywords: - COVID-19, Agriculture, Perception, GDP, NPR, Agribusiness.

Introduction: -

“India’s culture is agriculture” we often hear this. That means agriculture is an important part of our livelihood. In India, agriculture is our primary economic activity and 58% population is engaged in agriculture. India is the 2nd largest

producer of agricultural products in the world.

Growth of agriculture sector has been fluctuating: it increased from -0.2% in 2014-15 to 6.3% in 2016-17, and then declined to 2.8% in 2019-20. Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture decreased from 17.7% of Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2013-14 to 15.2% of

*Assistant Professor, MGM- Institute of Management & Research, Aurangabad.

**Assistant Professor, MGM- Institute of Management & Research, Aurangabad.

***Professor & HOD, Centre for Research, Ajinkya D Y Patil, University, Pune

****HR Lead, InfoGird Informatics, Aurangabad.

GVA in 2017-18.

The contribution of agriculture to the GVA has decreased from 18.2% in 2014-15 to 16.5% in 2019-20. The decline was mainly due to a decrease in the share of GVA of crops from 11.2% in 2014-15 to 10% in 2017-18. The share has been declining on account of relatively higher growth performance of non-agricultural sectors.

Source: - <https://www.prsindia.org/report-summaries/economic-survey-2019-20>

Agriculture in Aurangabad

The district of Aurangabad is situated primarily within the Godavari River Basin and partly within the Tapi River Basin. The district is located at latitudes between 19 and 20 degrees north and 74 and 76 degrees east. The district of Aurangabad is spread over a 10.08 lakh ha area. 8.52 Lakh Ha of which land is under cultivation. The district's total population is 40.83 lakh, of which 84.2 percent is dependent on agriculture and the allied business. In the economy of the district, agriculture plays an important role.

The district's total number of farmers is 9.16 lakhs, of which 47% and 31% are marginal farmers and small farmers, respectively. There is an estimated land holding of 1.46 Ha. Agriculture is diversified in the district of Aurangabad, with a wide variety of crops being grown in the district. Jowar, Pearl Millet, Wheat & Gram are the main food grains, Soybean is the main crop among oilseeds, while Cotton is the main cash crop.

Objectives of the study: -

- To know the perception towards agriculture.
- To know whether youth accept agriculture as an occupation.
- To find out a bit of knowledge about farming amongst respondent.
- To find out awareness about available governmental helping agencies amongst the youth of Aurangabad city.

Research Methodology: -

This research is based on primary and secondary data collection. Primary data was collected with the help of an online questionnaire which got filled by respondents and secondary data was collected from various sources. Convenient sampling method was used.

Sample size: - 250 respondents.

Sampling technique: - Convenient Sampling.

Research design- Descriptive research design.

Sample area- Aurangabad city

Sample unit- Youth in Aurangabad city (which were in the age between 18 to 35 years).

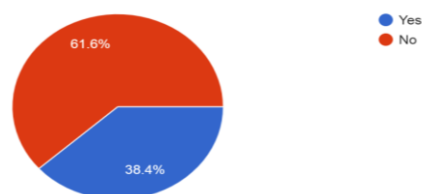
Data Analysis and Interpretation: -

Q.1. Do you feel agriculture is a low-profile occupation?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	96
2.	No	154
3.	Total	250

Table No: 1

Do you feel agriculture as an occupation is low profile?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 1

Interpretation:

We can see from above-mentioned chart no. 1 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 61.6% (154) youth feel that the agriculture as an occupation is not low profile and 38.4% (96) youth have felt that the agriculture as an occupation is low profile.

Conclusion:

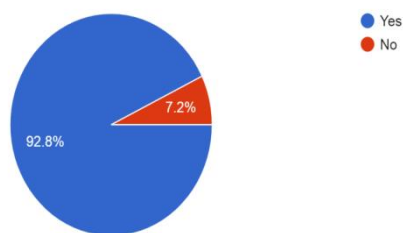
Majority of the youth feel that agriculture as an occupation is not low profile.

Q.2: Kharib and Rabbi are the seasons of farming?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	232
2.	No	18
3.	Total	250

Table No: 2

Kharif and Rabbi are the seasons of farming?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 2

Interpretation:

We can see from above-mentioned chart no. 2 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 92.8% (232) youth know that the Kharif and rabbi are the seasons of farming while 7.2% (18) youth don't know that the Kharif and rabbi are the seasons of farming.

Conclusion:

Majority of the youth are well aware of Kharif and Rabbi seasons.

Q. 3: According to you which are the more beneficial crop(s)?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Fruits	126
2.	Cotton	102
3.	Sugarcane	140
4.	Others	46

Table No: 3

According to you what is the more beneficial crop(s)?
250 responses

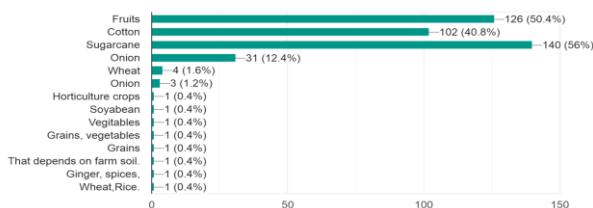


Chart No: 3

Interpretation:

The above graph shows that most of the youth prefers Sugarcane is the more beneficial crop which is 56% (140) out of 100% (250), Fruits are 2nd preferred option which is 50.4% (126) out of 100% (250), Cotton are 3rd preferred option which is 40.8% (102) out of 100% (250). And the 4th preferred option is other crops such as Onion, Wheat, Vegetables, Rice, Grains, Ginger, Spices, Soybean and Horticultural crops which is 18.4 (45) out of 100% (250).

Conclusion:

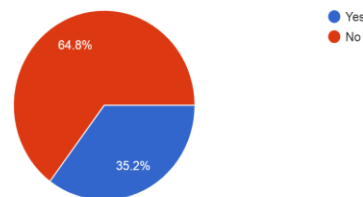
Majority of the youth prefers sugarcane has the more beneficial crop followed by fruits, cotton, onion, wheat and other crops such as vegetables, rice, grains, ginger, spices, soybean & horticultural crops respectively.

Q. 4: Do you know about subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	88
2.	No	162
3.	Total	250

Table No: 4

Do you know about subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 4

Interpretation:

We can see from above-mentioned chart no. 4 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 64.8% (162) youth don't know about subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture while 35.2% (88) youth know about subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture it means they know what is the difference between subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture.

Conclusion:

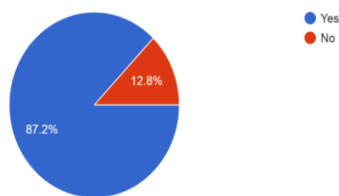
Majority of the youth don't know about subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture.

Q. 5: Do you think climate change is the biggest factor discouraging youth to get into farmers occupation?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	218
2.	No	32
3.	Total	250

Table No: 5

Do you think climate change is the biggest factor discouraging youth to get into farmers occupation?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 5

Interpretation:

We can see from above-mentioned chart no. 5 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 87.2% (218) youth think that climate changes are the biggest factor discouraging them to get into farmers occupation. And 12.8% (32) youth think that a climate change is not the biggest factor discouraging them to get into farmers occupation.

Conclusion:

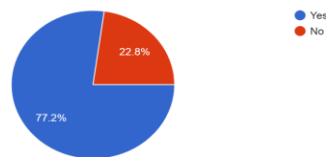
Majority of the youth think that changes in the climate condition are the biggest factor discouraging them to get into farmers occupation.

Q. 6: Do you feel nowadays farmer is not willing to get his son/daughter/family member(s) into farming occupation?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	193
2.	No	57
3.	Total	250

Table No: 6

Do you feel now-a-days farmer is not willing to get his son/daughter/family member(s) into farming occupation?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 6

Interpretation:

We can see from above-mentioned chart no. 6 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 77.2% (193) youth feel that nowadays farmers is not willing to get his son, daughter, family members into farming occupation and 22.8% (57) youth don't feel that nowadays farmers is not willing to get his son, daughter, family members into the farming occupation.

Conclusion:

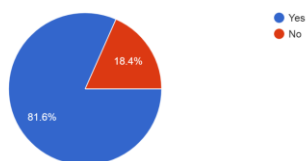
Majority of the youth feel that nowadays farmers are not will to get his son, daughter, family members into the farming occupation.

Q. 7: Do you know agriculture plays a crucial role in the economic development of our country?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	204
2.	No	46
3.	Total	250

Table No: 7

Do you know agriculture plays crucial role in the economic development of our country?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 7

Interpretation:

We can see from above-mentioned chart no. 7 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 81.6% (204) youth think agriculture plays a crucial role in the economic development of a country and 18.4% (46) youth don't think agriculture plays a crucial role in the economic development of a country.

Conclusion:

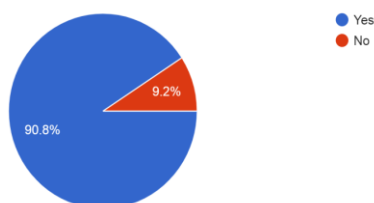
Majority of the youth think that agriculture plays a crucial role in the economic development of a country.

Q. 8: Do you feel scientific farming is more result-oriented than traditional farming?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	227
2.	No	23
3.	Total	250

Table No: 8

Do you feel scientific farming is more result oriented than traditional farming?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 8

Interpretation:

We can see above-mentioned chart no. 8 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 90.8% (227) youth feel that scientific farming is more result-oriented than traditional farming and 9.2% (23)

youth don't think that scientific farming is more result-oriented than traditional farming.

Conclusion:

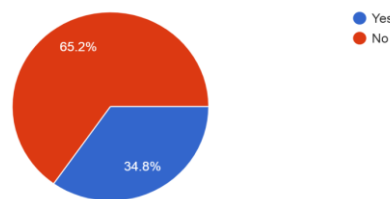
Majority of the youth are well aware of scientific farming.

Q. 9: Would you like to choose agriculture as a full-time occupation?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	87
2.	No	163
3.	Total	250

Table No: 9

Would you like to choose agriculture as a full-time occupation?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 9

Interpretation:

We can see above-mentioned chart no. 9 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 34.8% (87) youth would like to choose agriculture as a full-time occupation while 65.2% (163) youth is not like to choose agriculture as a full-time occupation.

Conclusion:

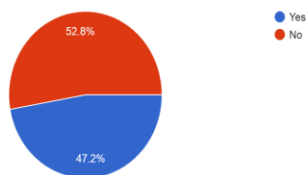
Majority of the youth would not like to go for agriculture as a full-time occupation.

Q. 10: Do you think agriculture as an occupation provides enough opportunity in career development?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	118
2.	No	132
3.	Total	250

Table No: 10

Do you think agriculture as an occupation provides enough opportunity in career development?
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 10

Interpretation:

We can see above-mentioned chart no. 10 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 52.8% (132) youth don't think that agriculture as an occupation provides enough opportunity in career development. And 47.2% (118) youth think that agriculture as an occupation provides enough opportunity in career development.

Conclusion:

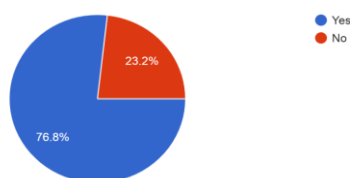
Majority of the youth don't think that agriculture as an occupation provides enough opportunity in career development.

Q. 11: Do you know the government is helping farmers in their growth? (If Yes, please attend the next question).

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	Yes	192
2.	No	58
3.	Total	250

Table No: 11

Do you know government is helping to farmers in their growth? (If Yes, please attend next question).
250 responses



Pie Chart No: 11

Interpretation:

We can see above-mentioned chart no. 11 out of total i.e. 250 respondents, 76.8% (192) youth know the government is helping to farmers in their growth and 23.2% (58) youth

don't know the government is helping to farmers in their growth.

Conclusion:

Majority of the youth knows the government is helping farmers in their growth.

Note: As far as the previous question is concerned only 192 youth know about a government is helping to farmers in their growth that is why 192 respondents attended the below question.

Q. 12: Which government agency(s) do you know?

Sr.no.	Options	Responses
1.	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	166
2.	Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	40
3.	Krushi Vidnyan Kendra (KVK)	116
4.	Agriculture Product Market Committee (APMC)	43
5.	National Research Centre (NRC)	50
6.	National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)	68
7.	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)	22
8.	Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)	16
9.	Rastriya Krushi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	61
10.	Agro Service Centre (ASC)	65

Table No: 12

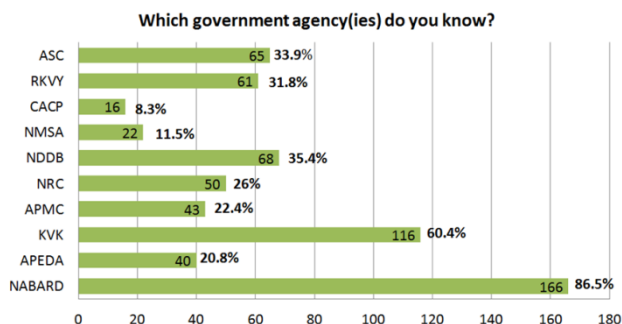


Chart No: 12

Interpretation:

58 youth didn't respond to the previous question and only the remaining 192 youth have attempted to the question no.13. Therefore, we consider 192 respondents for this question as 100% respondent.

86.5% (166) youth knows NABARD, on 2nd position youth knows about KVK which is 60.4% (116), on 3rd position youth knows about NDDDB which is 35.4% (68), on 4th position youth knows about ASC which is 33.9% (65), on 5th position youth knows about RKVY which is 31.8% (61). On 6th position youth knows about NRC which is 26% (50), on 7th position youth knows about APMC which is 22.4% (43), on 8th position youth knows about APEDA which is 20.8% (40), on 9th position youth knows about NMSA which is 11.5% (22) and very few youths know about CACP which is 8.3% (16).

Conclusion:

Majority of the youth knows about NABARD followed by KVK, NDDDB, ASC, RKVY, NRC, APMC, APEDA, NMSA and CACP respectively.

Findings: -

- A research study found that 92.8% of youth very well aware about seasons of farming but 7.2% of youth don't know this is the seasons of farming.
- A research study found that 64.8% of youth don't know about subsistence agriculture and commercial agriculture. It means they

don't have any knowledge about these types of agriculture.

- We have come to know that the majority of youth agreed with that agriculture plays a crucial role in the economic development of our country but 18.4% think that agriculture doesn't play a crucial role in the economic development of our country.
- A research study found that 90.8% of youth think that scientific farming is more result-oriented. Whereas also in today's era 9.2% youth don't think that scientific farming is more result-oriented than traditional farming.
- We have come to know that 27.2%, 16.4% & 9.2% youth said that only one crop is beneficial that is Sugarcane, Fruits & Cotton respectively. And 3.2%, 6.8% & 6% youth said that two crops are beneficial that is Fruits & Sugarcane, Cotton & Sugarcane, Fruits & Cotton respectively. And 12.8% of youth also said that all three are beneficial crops. I've also found out that 13.6% of youth said that Onion is a beneficial crop. And other than this 4.8% of youth preferred other crops as beneficial crop such as Wheat, Vegetables, Rice, Grains, Ginger, Spices, Soybean & Horticultural crops. And also out of total respondents, one respondent said that which is the more beneficial crop is dependent upon every particular farm soil.
- 38.4% youth said that Agriculture as an occupation is low profile while 61.6% of youth feel that Agriculture as an occupation is not low profile.
- 87.2% of youth said that changes in the climate condition are one of the biggest factors discouraging youth to get into the farming occupation.
- A research study found that 77.2% of youth feel that, nowadays farmer is not willing to get his family member(s) into the farming occupation.
- A research study found that 65.2% of youth would not like to choose Agriculture as a full-time occupation. Whereas, 34.8% of

youth would like to go for Agriculture as a full-time occupation.

- 52.8% of youth said that Agriculture as an occupation can't provide enough opportunity in career development.
- A research study found that till date out of 250 respondents 23.2% youth think that the government is not helping the farmer in their growth.
- We have come to know that 76.8% youth know that government is helping to farmers through by governmental agencies but the majority of youth is not aware of many governmental helping agencies which are helping to farmers in their growth. And youth more known about only two agencies i.e. NABARD AND KVK (Krushi Vidnyan Kendra).

Suggestions: -

- In the school and colleges agriculture subject should be made compulsory and common.

- The government should promote the available schemes for farmers effectively.
- Responsible institutions must convince youngsters that agriculture is not allow profile occupation.

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