

Attitude of Vocational Higher Secondary School Students towards Agriculture

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Abstract:- The present study was conducted to find out the attitude of students in Vocational higher secondary schools towards agriculture with a view to compare the students specializing in agriculture with that of students in non-agriculture stream undergoing vocational courses. Data was collected from 500 vocational higher secondary school students of Kerala. The variables were measured using attitude scale towards agriculture. The study indicates that attitude of agriculture specializing students towards agriculture is more than that of other subject students. Attitude towards agriculture between rural urban students of agriculture specialization are alike. Attitude towards agriculture between girls and boys of agriculture specialization are alike.

Keywords:- Agriculture, Attitude, Vocational Higher Secondary.

I. INTRODUCTION

Agricultural development is an important foundation for the economic development of any country and agricultural sector is undoubtedly the prime area of concentration for economic progress. Agriculture is no more a domain of an uneducated farmer. Agriculture and allied sectors is undoubtedly the largest livelihood provider in India, especially in the rural areas.(Yadav,2016)

The National Commission on Farmers (2004) stressed the need for attracting and retaining educated youth in farming. In a similar vein, the National Policy for Farmers (2007) underscored the need “ to introduce measures which can help to attract and retain youth in farming and processing of farm products for higher value addition, by making farming intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding”.

Agriculture is an important driving force for food and nutritional society. Both are complimentary to each other. But the youngsters in our society is not seen interested to do work in the field for augment of production.

Majority of the people in our country depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. Moreover, security is an important factor especially in the third world countries like India. For attaining this goal, the attitude of youngsters towards agriculture is to be changed.

The Education Commission (1964-66) suggested to introduce vocationalisation at secondary level. Commission says, the present education system is not organized to provide industry a product immediately ready to assume full occupational responsibility. Commission pleaded for vocationalization of education is the only remedy for this programme and made many avenues for the same.

In Kerala at present 42 courses are functioning in 389 VHSE Schools. Out of these 125 schools are specifically meant for agricultural courses, which are functioning the area in which agriculture is predominant. But majority of the students are seen admitted from non-agriculture family background and have a negative attitude towards agriculture and allied programmes. Hence the investigator proposed to measure the attitude of students in vocational higher secondary school students towards agriculture with a view to compare the students specializing in agriculture with that of the students in non-agriculture stream undergoing vocational courses.

❖ Objectives

- To construct and validate an attitude scale towards agriculture.
- To compare the attitude of agriculture specializing students with other subject students towards agriculture with respect to
 - Locale
 - Gender
 - Type of School
 - Parental occupation
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II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey method has been used to gather information regarding the present study. The study is confined to a representative sample of 500 hundred vocational higher secondary school students from different districts of Kerala state. For measuring the attitude towards agriculture, the investigator constructed attitude scale towards agriculture. General data sheet was used to collect personal information about he students.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The difference in mean scores of attitudes towards agriculture between agriculture specializing students and other subject students for the total sample was put to the test of significance. The obtained critical ratio is 11.67, which is significant at 0.01 level. This indicates that there is a significant difference in mean scores of attitudes towards agriculture between agriculture specializing students and other subject students. The attitude of agriculture specializing students towards agriculture is more than that of other subject students. While comparing the attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students with respect to locale, the obtained critical ratio is 1.09, which is not significant even at 0.05 level. This indicates that there is no significant difference in mean scores of attitudes towards agriculture between rural urban students of agriculture specialization. By comparing the attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students with respect to gender, the obtained critical ratio is 0.76, which is not significant even at 0.05 level. This indicates that there is no significant difference in mean scores of attitude towards agriculture between boys and girls of agriculture specialization. That is attitude towards agriculture between boys and girls of agriculture specialization are alike. Comparing the attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students with respect to type of management of schools shows that attitude towards agriculture between government and private of agriculture specialization are alike. Comparison of attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students of parents having agriculture related job and industry related job shows that there is no significant difference in the attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students having parents of agriculture related jobs and industry related job even though former shows more agricultural attitude than later. Comparison of attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students of parents having agriculture related job and service related job shows that students having parents of agriculture related job is higher than that of students having parents of other service related job. Comparison of attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students of parents having service related job and industry related job shows that their attitudes are alike.

Comparison of attitude towards agriculture among agriculture specializing students and other subject students in rural and urban area was also done and found that in rural areas their attitudes are alike but in urban areas it shows that students in urban areas shows greater attitude towards agriculture than other subject students in urban areas. While comparison is done with respect to gender, it shows that attitude towards agriculture between agriculture specializing boys and other subject boys are alike but the agriculture specializing girls have higher attitude towards agriculture than other subject girls. Comparison is done on the basis of management, it shows that students of agriculture specialization have greater attitude towards agriculture than

students of other subjects irrespective of government or private. Also comparison is made with respect to agriculture related jobs of parents, it shows that attitude towards agriculture between agriculture specializing students and other subject students are alike.

IV. CONCLUSION

While designing curriculum in science subjects, from primary level onwards activities should be included which can foster a positive attitude towards agriculture among children. Parents can be advise to provide environment for their children to do simple agricultural practices. Teachers can make the parents aware of the importance of agriculture. Curriculum designers can include topics related to agriculture, which make students respectful towards farmers. Development of agriculture depends upon the active participation of the youth in this area. For this it is recommended to include agricultural operation as a compulsory subject from primary level onwards. This helps students to develop a positive attitude towards agriculture. Now a days majority of parents are not seen willing to involve their son/daughter to do agricultural operations and provide any opportunity to mingle them to ordinary people. This leads to develop a negative attitude towards agriculture and the people who are doing agricultural operations. Hence it is recommended to arrange periodic training and orientation programmes to the parents and community to aware the role of agriculture for National Development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above findings, the following recommendations have been made in shaping the young students' attitude towards agriculture as a career to help them find and hold down jobs in the various agricultural fields that bound in the state.

- There is a need to consolidate positive youth attitude towards agriculture and high level of awareness of the agricultural career opportunities among youth in the state through strong and purposive media campaign targeted at youth and aimed at uplifting the face of agriculture from playing the second fiddle to other professions to being the main player of economy.
- Admission selection criteria should give upper hand to youth from farming families for gaining admission to the higher education institutions, since the result of the research showed significant effect of some socio-economic characteristics such as parental occupation on student's attitude towards agriculture.

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