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Research Article

A STUDY ON EXTENT OF ICT FACILITIES USED BY RURAL YOUTHS IN YADGIR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

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Abstract- The importance has been given on transfer of agriculture technology providing little attention on rural youth development and communication requirements. Presently, the high accomplishment on agricultural research has led to a large pool of new agricultural technologies, which are yet to be disseminated to rural youths, particularly those in the core rural areas. A study was carried out during 2014-15 in four villages of Yadgir district on extent of ICT facilities used by rural youths. A sample size of 50 rural youths was selected from each village by simple random method, which constituted a sample size of 200 rural youths. A structured schedule was developed to collect the data. The main objective of the study was to know the extent of Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities used by rural youths in Yadgir district and to know the areas in farming where the information was sought by rural youths. It was found that majority of the rural youths (91.50 %) used mobile phone services for getting information on agriculture. Whereas, land line telephones were used by only 10.50 per cent. The study also revealed that the major areas in farming where the information was sought through ICT facilities were, Land record certificates (100 %), Crop cultivation (44.50%), Agriculture input sources (40.50%), Income generating activities (26.00%) Credit facilities at nationalized bank/co-operative banks (19.50%), New technology in agriculture (17.50%) and Market information (Daily price, marketing news, marketing events) (14.50%) in the order of priority. The problem encountered by rural youths were Operating difficulty (84.50%), Non-cooperation of staff (44.50%), Low computer literacy (34.50%), Too many search engines (25.50%), High rental rates (22.50%) and Computer breakdown due to electricity failure, service problem etc (17.50%).

Keywords- Youths, ICTs, Agriculture, Rural, Community

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Introduction

Youth are the growing force on the international stage. Considering the World's population, youth under the age of 25 are almost half. Out of this, 75 million are out of work as of 2012 [1]. This leads the rural youth facing towards the bigger cities.

Considering the youth and ICTs, the lives of many young people is significantly changed while they access to technology and electronic information or content. Access to ICTs like computers, mobile phones and Internet remains a challenge for youth in the developing world. It is very important that international cooperation in regards to the transfer of technology is promoted.

Looking in to the world, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become a fundamental part of the social life. It is not only provides the communication possibilities but also large number of information sources and reference materials at a global scale. ICT facilitates communication processing, online applications like instant messengers, social networks and games. In the modern era the modern ICT can be re abbreviated as 'Internet and Communication Technologies' instead of 'Information and Communication Technology'.

Use of new information communication technology among farming community improve their standard of living and become stimulating agent through capacity building programs and conversation with others to a level where they make decisions for their own development"[2]". Providing farming people to give their opinion and views on the part of the concluding their decisions. She opened that modern ICTs have played a major role in diffusing information to rural communities [3]. The aim of rural development is "to increase the living standard of rural population, which includes multi stage activity like agriculture, industry and social provisions"[4].

For this reason, information can be regarded as a basic tool for rural youths population, it may be used for increase their living conditions and essential for developmental activities. ICTs not only expand the possibilities of social, political, educational and economic improvement of any nation, but also it facilitates awareness and capacity building of the community. Information is an asset and a resource for development of group of people who lives in an area, government development departments and target rural youth population.

Therefore, this study is carried out for evaluating the extent of ICT facilities used by rural youths and the quality of information obtained is necessary to identify the emerging problems and make necessary improvements. This will meet the necessities of the rural youths. It may also provide ways and means to set up ICTs centers in rural areas. The outcome of this study could also provide insights into the effectiveness of integrating information resource centre model into the state-wide extension service programme.

The objective of the study were as follows.

1. To examine the extent of Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities used by rural youths.
2. To study the socio-economic characteristics of the rural youths.
3. To identify the problems encountered by the farmers while using ICTs

Materials and Methods

A survey method was carried out for the study. The instrument used to collect the data was questionnaire. A structured questionnaire was developed. This questionnaire has many sections such as Socio Economic characteristics, cropping pattern, information seeking and use of ICT facilities. This study was carried out during 2014-15 in four villages such as Sagara, Madrakki, Hattikuni, and Bali chakra of Yadgir district in two taluks of Yadgir and Shahapur on extent of ICT facilities used by rural youths. A sample size of 50 rural youths was selected from each village by simple random method, which constituted a sample size of 200 rural youths for the study. The results were analyzed through frequency and percentages.

Results and Discussion

A glance at [Table-1] showed that 41.50 per cent of rural youths had education upto PUC, followed by SSLC (25.50%), Middle school (17.50%) and graduation (15.50%). In general hundred per cent of the rural youths were educated. This could be due to the existing common social environment and also importance of education in one's life which increases his knowledge and makes him to earn more so as to improve their standard of living. Facilities for eliminatory education exist in the study area. The above finding has got support from the studies conducted by Bhople (1995) and Nagraja (2002) [5]. Regarding distance from head quarters more than three forth of the rural youths were staying in 0-10km distance and remaining 22.00 per cent were between 11-20km. More than three fourth of the rural youths had 3-5 family members size. In case of land holding majority of the rural youths had irrigated land holding (86.00%) and only few had garden land (10.50%). More than fifty per cent of the farmers had 0-5 years farming experience, 5-10 experience by 32.50 per cent and remaining 14.50 per cent had more than 10 years of farming.

Table-1 *Socio Economic characteristics of the respondents n=200*

Particulars	Frequency	Per cent
Education		
upto SSLC	35	17.50
S.S.LC	51	25.50
PUC	83	41.50
Degree	31	15.50
Distance from head quarters		
0-10 Km	156	78.00
11-20 Km	44	22.00
More than 20 Km		
Family size		
0 - 2	33	16.50
3-5	141	70.50
> 5	26	13.00
Land holding*		
Irrigated	172	86.00
Dry land	102	51.00
Garden land	21	10.50
Farming Experience		
0-5 years	106	53.00
5-10 years	65	32.50
> 10 years	29	14.50

*Multiple responses

Regarding cropping pattern followed by rural youth in the study area was indicated in the [Table-2]. It shows that 86.00 per cent of the respondents following paddy to paddy method of cropping pattern followed by redgram by fifty per cent, cotton - Bengal gram method 29.00 per cent and 10.50 per cent followed cotton rabi jower. This is because the study was carried in the UKP area and the paddy and redgram was the economic crop of the area.

Table-2 *Cropping pattern followed n=200*

Particulars	Frequency*	Per cent
Paddy - Paddy	172	86.00
Cotton – Rabi jower	21	10.50
Cotton – Bengal gram	58	29.00
Redgram only	102	50.00

*Multiple responses

Results show that rural youths receive information at varying intervals from various sources shown in the [Table-3]. Raita Samparka Kendra (RSK) (67.50%) and extension agents (56.00%), constitute major information sources for rural youths. The reason for that the extension agents who personally visit the rural youths in providing information related to distribution of seed, fertilizers etc. These persons will discuss with rural youths about different aspects of farming. Discussions with scientists of the university/college were relatively employed fifty per cent of the respondents. This may be due to the fact that they meet the rural youths regularly and consults them for getting information related to agriculture and other related enterprises. The findings of the study are in consonance with Bhople (1995) and Prameela *et al.* (2002) [6].

Table-3 *Sources of Agricultural information n=200*

Information source	Frequency*	Per cent
Radio	31	15.50
Television	25	12.50
Extension Agents	112	56.00
Newspapers	12	6.00
Neighbour	98	49.00
Relatives	65	32.50
Agriculture college	102	51.00
Raitha Samparka Kendra	135	67.50
Non governmental organizations	11	5.50

*Multiple responses

The [Table-4] indicates that more than ninety per cent of the rural youths used mobile phones (91.50%) for getting information on agriculture and remaining per cent of rural youths get agriculture information through telephone (10.50%), print media (6.00%), internet facility in RSK (3.00%) and personal computer (2.50%). It is due to that mobile phones were easily accessible, they can get information very easily at any time and any place and clarify their droughts immediately.

Table-4 *ICT facilities used by rural youths for getting information on agriculture n=200*

Information	Frequency*	Per cent
Mobile	183	91.50
Telephone	21	10.50
Personal Computer	5	2.50
Internet facility in RSK	6	3.00
Print media (News papers)	12	6.00

*Multiple responses

Table-5 *Youths seeking information on different areas of farming n=200*

Information type	Frequency*	Per cent
Crop cultivation	89	44.50
Agriculture input sources	81	40.50
New technology in agriculture	35	17.50
Marketing information (Daily price, marketing news, marketing events)	29	14.50
Land holding certificates	200	100.00
Credit facilities at Nationalized bank/co-operative banks	39	19.50
Weather forecast	12	6.00
Pest out break information	2	1.00
Training programme	15	7.50
Income generating activities	52	26.00
Rural enterprise development	11	5.50

*Multiple responses

Regarding information seeking on different areas of farming cent percent of the rural youths seek information on land holding certificates/records. Less than percent of the rural youths seek information on crop cultivation (44.50) and agriculture input sources (40.50%). The rural youths also seek information on

income generating activities (26.00%), credit facilities at nationalized banks/ cooperative banks (19.50%), new technologies in agriculture (17.50%) and marketing information 14.50%). It may be due to that land records were very important for getting loan, income certificates, crop insurance and other aspects life.

The major problem often encountered in using the ICT facilities by the rural youths presented in [Table-6]. The main problem usually faced by the rural youths is operating difficulty (84.50%), non co-operation of staff (44.50%), low computer literacy (34.50%), high rental rates (22.50%), the frequent breakdown of the computer facility due electricity failure, service problem etc. (17.50%). This may be attributed to the insufficiency of staff that is well grounded in computer operations. Furthermore, the centre seems not to be able to provide enough facility for to the rural youths.

Table-6 *Problems encountered by the rural youths while using ICTs n=200*

Problems	Frequency*	Per cent
Computer breakdown due to electricity failure, service problem etc.	35	17.50
High rental rates	45	22.50
Operating difficulty	169	84.50
Low computer literacy	69	34.50
Too many search engines	51	25.50
Non-cooperation of staff	89	44.50

***Multiple responses**

Conclusion

By this study, we can conclude that education done by majority of the rural youths up to pre university only but very few of them are completed the graduation. From the findings most of the land holders maintaining the irrigated lands, comparatively more than dry lands. Comparatively red gram and cotton – Bengal gram cropping pattern the paddy is more. Upmost youth respondents were getting agricultural information from Raita Samparka Kendra than extension agents and agricultural colleges, very less by radio and television. But Mobile is the most usable ICT facility to get an agricultural information. The ICT is being used by the more youth of rural areas to get land holding certificates than getting information on crop cultivation and agriculture input sources and other agricultural related information. Though the ICTs are emerging Globally in all the aspects, but our rural area youth are facing some problems in using the ICT facilities, this is because difficulty in operation of ICT tools, non cooperation of staff who having the facilities in their offices and also low computer literacy. The study recommends that rural youth should be encouraged to make the best use of ICTs available to them through provision of rural infrastructure.

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Author Contributions

The first author has made conception or design of the work, data analysis and interpretation, drafting the article, Critical revision of the article and final approval of the version to be published and second author who involved in collection, analysis and interpretation of data.

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