



## Research Article

# A STUDY ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING ACTIVITIES, WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL YOUTHS TOWARDS FARMING IN JORHAT DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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**Abstract-** The study entitled "A study on relationship between extent of participation in decision making activities, with socio-economic and psychological characteristics of rural youths towards farming in Jorhat district of Assam", following Ex-Post-Facto research design. A total of 200 respondents were selected by using multistage purposive cum random sampling technique. The data were collected by means of personal interview schedule during 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2016 - 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2016. The findings revealed that reveal that age (0.576), size of operational land holding (0.147), annual income of the family (0.068), and attitude towards farming (0.578) of the respondents is positively significant and highly correlated with extent of participation in decision making. However, education level ( $\chi^2 = 45.194^*$ ) and occupation of parents ( $\chi^2 = 134.695^*$ ) had significant association at 5 per cent probability level with extent of participation in decision making. The regression coefficient of age ( $b = 0.931$ ), sources of farm machineries and farm implements ( $b = -0.738$ ) and attitude towards farming ( $b = 1.322$ ) were found to be significant. The co-efficient of multiple determinations ( $R^2=0.555$ ) explain together 55.50 per cent to the total variation on the extent of participation in decision making.

**Keywords-** Rural youth, Farming, Decision making activities.

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## Introduction

Rural youth are expected to be more progressive than old people. The availability of human resources of such magnitude for achieving socio-economic change and technological excellence needs commensurate infrastructure and suitable priorities to maximize its contribution to national development Anonymous (2001)[1]. The participation of rural youth in agriculture and particularly in paddy farming makes more important, because it solves the problems of unemployment and another is that the youth farmers are more innovative and accept new farm technology earlier than the old ones. On the other hand, there are also a few studies stating that youth are encouraged to participate in activities for increasing the rate of adoption of innovations. Because youth served as an effective transmitter to their parents and village elders regarding diffusion of innovations The participation of rural youth in decision making with respect to farm related activities is instrumental for achieving greater success towards economically and ecologically sustainable agriculture. Adeyemis (1991) stated that by increasing rural youths' participation in decision-making, the traditional relationships between adults and youths working together as active members of a team could be enhanced [2]. Rural youth shares abundant responsibilities and perform a wide spectrum of duties towards various farm activities. Considering the constructive role being played by rural youth in farm decision making, the present study showed the relationship between participation of the rural youths in decision making activities with various socio-economic and psychological characteristics towards farming were studied.

## Methodology

The population of the study comprised the rural youths in the study area that were engaged in farm operation during the study. Jorhat district was purposively selected for the present study. Two sub-division viz. Jorhat and Titabor were selected randomly from Jorhat district. Two A.D.O. circles from each sub division were selected randomly. These were - Dhekorgorah and Teok A.D.O. circles under Jorhat sub-division and Madhapur and Baghchung A.D.O. circles under Titabar sub-division were selected randomly. Two villages from each A.D.O. circle was selected randomly for the present study. Thus, altogether there were eight randomly selected villages. Hence a total of 200 rural youths was sampled [3]

Data were collected using structured schedule and open ended questions administered to 200 randomly selected respondents. Data analysis was carried out through the use of frequency counts, percentages [4].

The independent variable age ( $r = 0.576$ ), size of operational land holdings ( $r = 0.147$ ), annual income of the family ( $r = 0.068$ ) and attitude towards farming ( $r = 0.578$ ) of the respondents is positively significant and highly correlated with extent of participation in decision making at 1 per cent probability level where as size of family ( $r = 0.141$ ) is positively significant and moderately correlated at 0.05% probability level. Sources of farm machineries and farm implements ( $r = -0.045$ ), training exposure ( $r = 0.408$ ) and mass media exposure ( $r = 0.424$ ) had non-significant relation with extent of participation in decision making.

**Results and Discussions**

**Table-1** Co-efficient of correlation between extent of participation in decision making and independent variables

Sl. No.	Variable	r value	t value
1	Age	0.576**	4.676
2	Size of family	0.141*	1.980
3	Size of operational land holding (in ha)	0.147**	4.306
4	Annual income of the family	0.068**	8.205
5	Sources of farm machineries and farm implements	- 0.045 <sup>NS</sup>	1.292
6	Training exposure	0.408 <sup>NS</sup>	1.030
7	Attitude towards farming	0.578**	9.414
8	Mass media exposure	0.424 <sup>NS</sup>	1.811

\*\* denotes significant at 0.01 level of probability

\* denotes significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non-significant

d.f. = n-2= 200-2=198 for all case

r= Co-efficient of correlation

t= Calculated t value

**Table-2** Association of selected socio-personal characteristics of the respondents with participation in decision making n=200

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Chi test
1	Education level	45.194*
2	Type of Family	1.362 <sup>NS</sup>
3	Occupation of parents	134.695*

\*denotes significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non-significant

d.f = n-2 = 200-2 = 198

The [Table-2] showed that education level ( $\chi^2 = 45.194^*$ ) and occupation of parents ( $\chi^2 = 134.695^*$ ) had significant association at 5 per cent probability level with extent of participation in decision making and type of family ( $\chi^2 = 1.362^{NS}$ ) showed no association with extent of participation in decision making.

It was found that out of the eleven (11) variables, the regression coefficient of age (b = 0.931), sources of farm machineries and farm implements (b = -0.738) and attitude towards farming (b = 1.322) were found to be significant. These three variables could, therefore, be termed as good predictors of rural youth's extent of participation in decision making.

The co-efficient of multiple determinations (R<sup>2</sup>) with eleven independent variables was found to be 0.555. It indicates that the set of eleven variables could explain together 55.50 per cent to the total variation on the extent of participation in decision making.

**Conclusion**

The relationship of selected characteristics of rural youth with participation in decision making activities in rural areas of Jorhat district revealed that age, size of operational land holding, annual income of the family, and attitude towards farming of the respondents is positively significant and highly correlated with extent of participation in decision making. However, education level and occupation of parents had significant association at 5 per cent probability level with extent of participation in decision making. The regression coefficient of age, sources of farm machineries and farm implements and attitude towards farming were found to be significant. The co-efficient of multiple determinations (R<sup>2</sup>=0.555) explain together 55.50 per cent to the total variation on the extent of participation in decision making. So, more efforts should be made by the extension agencies to establish in-depth extension contact with the rural youth as well as their background factors which influence the participation of the rural youth in decision making about paddy farming.

**Application of research:** The study will be helpful for identifying decision making areas relating to farming and their relationship with the socio-economic variables in which the rural youth participate.

**Research Category:** Rural youth, Farming

**Table-3** Multiple regression analysis of extent of participation in decision making with some selected independent variables

Sl. No.	Variable	Regression coefficient	Standard Error	't' Value	Co-efficient of multiple determination
		(b)	(bi)		( R <sup>2</sup> )
1	Age	0.931**	0.166	5.603	0.555
2	Edu 1 (literate without formal schooling)	4.656 <sup>NS</sup>	4.434	1.050	
	Edu 2 (literate but below primary level)	0.987 <sup>NS</sup>	3.245	0.304	
	Edu 3 (primary school)	-2.055 <sup>NS</sup>	3.080	- 0.667	
	Edu 4 (middle school)	-4.412 <sup>NS</sup>	2.701	- 1.634	
	Edu 5 (high school)	-4.736 <sup>NS</sup>	2.860	- 1.656	
	Edu 6 (higher secondary)	-4.723 <sup>NS</sup>	2.763	- 1.709	
	Edu 7 (Diploma/Certificate course)	-6.668 <sup>NS</sup>	3.665	- 1.819	
	Edu 8 (Graduate)	-3.703 <sup>NS</sup>	2.951	- 1.255	
	Edu 9 (Post graduate and above)	-3.166 <sup>NS</sup>	5.172	- 0.612	
3	Type of family	-0.317 <sup>NS</sup>	1.828	- 0.173	
4	Size of family	0.172 <sup>NS</sup>	1.105	0.155	
5	Size of operational land holding (in ha)	0.626 <sup>NS</sup>	1.207	0.518	
6	Annual income of family	-7.873 <sup>NS</sup>	0.000	- 0.107	
7	Occupation of parents (Farming + Business)	-0.737 <sup>NS</sup>	2.468	- 0.298	
	Occupation of parents (Farming + service)	0.010 <sup>NS</sup>	2.590	0.004	
	Occupation of parents (Farming + Business + service)	-1.999 <sup>NS</sup>	2.509	- 0.797	
8	Sources of farm machineries and farm implements	-0.738*	0.295	- 2.503	
9	Training exposure	0.533 <sup>NS</sup>	0.895	0.596	
10	Attitude towards farming	1.322**	0.256	5.160	
11	Mass media exposure	0.294 <sup>NS</sup>	0.261	1.124	

R<sup>2</sup> = 0.555

\*\*denotes significant at 0.01 level of probability

\*denotes significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non-significant

d.f. = n-2=200-2=198 for all cases of 't' values

**Abbreviations:**

NS- Non Significant

d.f.- Degrees of freedom

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