

Determinants of Agripreneurship in ELP students

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture students have growing interest towards entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector for financial independence and sustainable agriculture practices. This article seeks to know the profile of experiential learning programme (ELP) students and factors which determine the aspiration for agripreneurship amongst the ELP students in different constituent Agricultural Colleges of MPKV, Rahuri. The study revealed that, most respondents (41.88 %) falls in the age group of 21-22 years, majority were male (56.25 %), most respondents had rural background (60.63 %), most respondents (70.63 %) secured First-Class, nearly one third (32.50 %) of respondents' parents were engaged only in farming, most respondents (44.38 %) fall under the marginal land holding category, majority (75.63 %) belonged to nuclear families, most respondents (56.25 %) reported an annual income up to 1 lakh rupees. Regarding the attitude towards agripreneurship, majority (62.50 %) had medium favorable attitude while, 37.50 per cent of respondents had high favourable attitude towards agripreneurship. In aspiration, majority (83.12 %) had high aspirations and 15.00 per cent had medium aspirations about agri-entrepreneurship. From the correlation it is found that risk orientation, attitude and family type had a significant positive correlation with the aspiration about agripreneurship. This suggests that students who have a higher risk orientation and a more positive attitude towards entrepreneurship are more likely to aspire to be agri-entrepreneurs. While; age, gender, residence, CGPA, father's occupation, land holding, family annual income, innovativeness and economic orientation didn't show a significant correlation with the aspiration about agripreneurship.

Therefore, it is recommended to establish an entrepreneurship cell at the college level and setting up incubation centres at district level for agricultural graduates which serve as a platform to receive guidance and assistance in launching their own agricultural businesses and create networking opportunities to connect with successful entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders.

Keywords: ELP, Correlation, Attitude, Aspirations, Agricultural enterprises, Agripreneurship

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture graduates have growing interest towards entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector for financial independence and sustainable agriculture practices. Financial independence and sustainability are the key factors which attract the agriculture graduates towards the agripreneurship. However, certain obstacle prevents agriculture graduates from choosing

agriculture entrepreneurship as a career.

Students READY Programme is an initiative of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) aimed at providing students deeper understanding of the theories and practices of agriculture. Under Students READY Experiential Learning programme (ELP) helps students to develop practical skills, transferable skills, and a sense of purpose with hands-on learning

experiences, which are essential for success in the agricultural sector. Considering the importance of the subject, this research article entitled, 'Determinants of Agripreneurship in ELP Students' was conducted to know the profile of Experiential Learning Programme (ELP) students and the factors which determine the aspiration for agripreneurship amongst the ELP students.

OBJECTIVES

This study was undertaken in different constituent Agricultural Colleges of MPKV, Rahuri to understand the profile of ELP students and determinants of aspiration for agripreneurship. Therefore, the objectives of study were, to analyze the profile of ELP students, to explore the aspiration of the ELP students about agripreneurship and to find out the relationship between profile of the ELP students and their aspiration about agripreneurship.

METHODOLOGY

The Department of Agricultural Extension & Communication, College of Agriculture Dhule, conducted the study amongst final-year students of the Experiential Learning Programme of B.Sc. (Agri.) in constituent colleges under MPKV, Rahuri

Jurisdiction. A structured questionnaire was developed through a literature review and discussions with academic staff and students. The questionnaire was pre-tested with 10 students and refined based on their feedback. The final questionnaire was administered through Google Forms and shared with the ELP student group through WhatsApp and email. In this way, responses from a total of 160 students were obtained from different constituent Agricultural Colleges. The data were collected on demographic information, aspirations of agripreneurship, and relationship between profile of the ELP students and their aspiration about agripreneurship. The collected data was analyzed using statistical methods such as frequency analysis, percentages, means, and correlation analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Socio-demographic profile and psychological characteristics of ELP students and their relationship along with direct - indirect effect were studied and the results obtained from the study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads and Tables.

1. Socio-demographic profile of Respondents

*Table 1
Distribution of the respondents according to their Socio - demographic profile*

Sl. No.	Variables	Details	Frequency (n = 160)	Per cent
A.	Age (Years)	20	13	8.12
		21	67	41.88
		22	63	39.38
		23	14	8.75
		24	02	1.25
		Above 24	01	0.62
B.	Gender	Male (Boys)	90	56.25
		Female (Girls)	70	43.75
C.	Class (CGPA)	Second Class (6.0 to 7.49)	23	14.38
		First Class (7.50 to 8.49)	113	70.63
		Distinction (8.5 & above)	24	15.00
D.	Residence	Rural	97	60.63
		Urban	27	16.88
		Semi-urban	36	22.50
E.	Family type	Nuclear	121	75.63
		Joint	39	24.38

F.	Parent's occupation	Only farming	52	32.50
		Farming and Animal Husbandry	25	15.63
		Farming and service	24	15.00
		Farming and business	11	6.88
		Labour	09	5.63
		Only Business	06	3.75
		Only Service	33	20.63
G.	Land Holding	Up to 1 hectare (Marginal)	71	44.38
		1.01 to 2.0 hectare (Small)	46	28.75
		2.01 to 4.0 hectare (Semi-Medium)	29	18.13
		4.01 to 10.0 hectare (Medium)	14	8.75
H.	Family annual income (Rs.)	Up to 1 Lakh	90	56.25
		1.01 to 3.0 Lakh	16	10.00
		3.01 to 5 Lakh	13	8.13
		5.01 to 7.0 Lakh	19	11.88
		7.01 to 10.00 Lakh	18	11.26
		More than 10.00 Lakh	04	2.50

Table 1 shows that the largest group of respondents falls in the age range of 21 years (41.88 %), most respondents in the study were boys (male), according to Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) up to the VI semester most respondents (70.63 %) secured First Class (i.e. CGPA 7.50 to 8.49), most respondents (60.63 %) lived in rural areas, most respondents (75.63 %) belonged to nuclear families, nearly one-third (32.50%) of respondents' parents were engaged only in farming, slightly more than

two fifth of the respondents (44.38%) fall under the category of land holding up to 1 hectare (Marginal), most respondents (56.25%) reported an annual income of up to 1 lakh rupees followed by 5.01 to 7.0 lakh (11.88 %).

These results are in line with to those obtained by Ansari and Ansari (2019) about family type, family background, academic performance and parent's annual income.

2. Psychological characteristics of Respondents

Table 2
Distribution of the respondents according to their Psychological characteristics

Sl. No.	Psychological characteristics	Details	Frequency (n = 160)	Per cent
A.	Innovativeness	Low (up to 14)	0	0.00
		Medium (15 to 22)	121	75.63
		High (23 to 30)	39	24.37
B.	Risk orientation	Low (up to 23.33)	0	0.00
		Medium (23.34 to 36.66)	94	58.75
		High (36.67 to 50)	66	41.25
C.	Economic orientation	Low (up to 25.66)	00	0.00
		Medium (25.67 to 40.32)	112	70.00
		High (40.33 to 55)	48	30.00
D.	Attitude	Low (up to 37.33)	00	0.00
		Medium (37.34 to 58.66)	100	62.50
		High (58.67 to 80)	60	37.50

Table 2 depicts that, majority respondents (75.63%) fall under the medium innovativeness category, majority of the respondents had a medium risk orientation (58.75%), 70.00 per cent of the respondents had a medium economic orientation, and 30.00 per cent of the respondents had a high

economic orientation and majority of the respondents (62.50%) fell in the medium favourable attitude towards agriprenurship. These results are similar to those of Manivannan and Natarajan (2020).

3. Respondents level of aspiration about agripreneurship

Table 3
Distribution of the respondents according to their aspiration about agripreneurship

Sl. No.	Aspiration Category	Frequency (n = 160)	Percent
1	Low (up to 4.33)	03	1.88
2	Medium (4.34 to 8.66)	24	15.00
3	High (8.67 to 13.00)	133	83.12
	Total	160	100.00

Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents according to their aspiration category for agripreneurship. The table shows that a large majority (83.12%) of respondents had high aspirations, and 15.00 per cent had medium

aspirations about agripreneurship. These results are similar to those of Misal *et al.* (2013) and Chinchmalpure and Tekale (2019).

4. Respondents according to their career aspirations

Table 4
Distribution of the respondents according to their career aspirations

Sl. No.	Career aspirations	Preference					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1	Government Jobs (Agriculture Department)	77 (48.13)	43 (26.88)	21 (13.13)	6 (3.75)	7 (4.38)	6 (3.75)
2	Government Jobs (Civil services MPSC/UPSC and others)	39 (24.38)	60 (37.50)	17 (10.63)	18 (11.25)	10 (6.25)	16 (10.00)
3	Entrepreneurship	22 (13.75)	21 (13.13)	15 (9.38)	23 (14.38)	28 (17.50)	51 (31.87)
4	Banking	8 (5.00)	15 (9.38)	24 (15.00)	32 (20.00)	54 (33.75)	27 (16.88)
5	ICAR/SAU's Jobs (Teaching/Research)	7 (4.38)	12 (7.50)	54 (33.75)	42 (26.25)	25 (15.63)	20 (12.50)
6	Private Sector	7 (4.38)	9 (5.63)	29 (18.13)	39 (24.38)	36 (22.50)	40 (25.00)

Note: I preference refers to the first choice of career aspiration, II Preference refers to the second choice of career aspiration and so on.

Table 4 shows the percentage of respondents who chose a particular career option as their first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth preferences. The table revealed that nearly half (48.13 %) of respondents preferred government jobs in the State Agriculture Department as their first choice. The second most preferred career option was government jobs in civil services (24.38 %), followed by entrepreneurship (13.75 %). On the other hand, the least preferred option was jobs in Private Sector and ICAR/SAU's jobs (4.38 %).

Interestingly, while government jobs in civil services were the second most preferred option overall, it was the top choice for 37.50 per cent of respondents as their second preference, followed by

Government Jobs in the State Agriculture Department (26.88%). Similarly, entrepreneurship was the third most preferred choice for 13.13 per cent of respondents as their second preference.

These results are similar to those obtained by Arunachalam *et al.* (2022), who revealed that most (70%) of the respondents aspired to settle themselves in suitable positions in government departments. But results contradict those obtained by Ansari and Ansari (2019), who revealed that 20.63 per cent of respondents aspired to become a scientist at ICAR Institutes and was ranked second.

5. Correlation between characteristics of the respondents and their aspiration to agripreneurship

Table 5
Relation between characteristics of the respondents and their aspiration about agripreneurship

Sl. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient
1	Age	-0.006 NS
2	Gender	-0.054 NS
3	CGPA	-0.013 NS
4	Residence	0.010 NS
5	Family Type	0.157*
6	Parent's occupation	-0.040 NS
7	Land Holding	0.095 NS
8	Family Annual Income	0.015 NS
9	Innovativeness	0.060 NS
10	Risk orientation	0.291**
11	Economic Orientation	0.071NS
12	Attitude	0.267**

Note: NS=Non-significant, *= Significant at 5 % level & ** = Significant at 1 % level of probability

Table 5 presents the correlation coefficients between the characteristics of the respondents and their aspiration about agripreneurship. The independent variables include age, gender, CGPA, residence, family type, parent's occupation, land holding, family annual income, innovativeness, risk orientation, economic orientation, and attitude. The results indicate that family type had a significant positive correlation with the aspiration about agripreneurship, with correlation coefficients of 0.157 at 5 per cent significance level. This suggests that students who come from families with an entrepreneurial background or have more family members involved in agriculture are more likely to aspire to be agri-entrepreneurs. Additionally, risk orientation and attitude have a significant positive correlation with the aspiration about agripreneurship, with correlation coefficients of 0.291 and 0.267, respectively, at a significance level of 1 per cent. This suggests that students who have a higher risk orientation and a more positive attitude towards entrepreneurship are more likely to aspire to be agri-entrepreneurs. The other independent variables, including age, gender, residence, CGPA, parent's occupation, land holding, family annual income, innovativeness, and economic orientation, did not show a significant correlation with the aspiration about agripreneurship.

These results are similar to those obtained by Misal *et al.* (2013), who revealed that family annual income, family type, academic performance,

father's occupation and land holding had a non-significant relationship with the aspirations of agriculture students about agri-entrepreneurship. But results contradict those obtained by Chinchmalatpure and Tekale (2019), who revealed that land holding, economic motivation and innovativeness were found significantly correlated with the aspiration of the rural youth.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that most respondents were from rural areas, belonged to nuclear families engaged in farming, had an annual income of up to 1 lakh rupees. Majority fall under the innovativeness category, had a medium risk orientation, a medium economic orientation and majority fell in the medium favourable attitude towards agripreneurship. Majority of respondents had high aspirations about agripreneurship.

Correlation coefficients showed that, risk orientation, attitude and family type had a significant positive correlation with the aspiration about agripreneurship. This suggests that students who come from families with an entrepreneurial background and or have more family members involved in agriculture are more likely to aspire to be agripreneurs. Students who have a higher risk orientation and a more positive attitude towards entrepreneurship are more likely to aspire to be agripreneurs.

Therefore, it is recommended to establish an

entrepreneurship cell at the college level and setting up incubation centres at district level for agricultural graduates which serve as a platform to receive guidance and assistance in launching their own agricultural businesses and create networking opportunities to connect with successful

entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders. Entrepreneurship cell and incubation centres will help in promoting agripreneurship through marketing and branding campaigns, events, and workshops could help change attitudes towards entrepreneurship in the sector.

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