

PERCEPTION OF RURAL YOUTH ABOUT 'ADARSH GAON YOJANA'

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ABSTRACT

Maharashtra State introduced many impressive rural development programmes to ameliorate the socio-economic condition of the rural people. One of the Ideal Village Programmes (Adarsh Gaon Yojana) of the Government of Maharashtra was launched to make the villages self-sufficient and self-reliant by adopting the principles of Kurhadbandi, Charaibandi, Nashabandi, Nasbandi and Shramdan. The present investigation, purposively conducted in Ambadvet village of Pune district revealed that majority of the rural youth have not perceived the importance of Kurhadbandi, Charaibandi and Nasbandi principles, however they had clear perception about Nashabandi and Shramdan. The education, parental occupation, social participation, peer influence, cosmopolitaness and change proneness established positive and highly significant association with perception of rural youth about 'Adarsha Gaon Yojana'.

Introduction

India being an agrarian country, over two-thirds of the population reside in rural areas. Mahatma Gandhi was of the belief that India will make better progress when its villages are self-sufficient and self-reliant in their basic needs. Since Independence, a number of community development programmes were launched. Though these programmes proved to be a big step towards rural development, lack of people's participation hampered the full utilisation of its potential. In Maharashtra, impressive rural development programmes were introduced to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the rural people. On the eve of Golden Jubilee celebration of 'Quit India' movement in 1991, late *Deshbhakt* Shri Achyutrao Patwardhan suggested that Government should develop at least one village in each block of Maharashtra State on the pattern of Ralegan Siddhi village. This suggestion was highly appreciated by all those concerned with rural development and

accordingly the Ideal Village Programme which is also called as 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' (Ideal Village Scheme) of the Government of Maharashtra was launched in the year 1992. The ultimate aim of this programme was to make the villages self-sufficient in terms of basic needs such as water, food, fodder and fuel and self-reliant in terms of a sense of responsibility for decisive action on part of the villagers by adopting the five principles of *Kurhadbandi* (Afforestation), *Charaibandi* (Ban on Animal Grazing on Common Land), *Nashabandi* (Anti-alcoholism), *Nasbandi* (Family Planning) and *Shramdan* (Voluntary Labour). A clear perception of rural youth about the programme is crucial for successful implementation of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'. Therefore, it was felt necessary to elicit the perceptions of rural youth which will ultimately affect their extent of participation in this programme. With this view, the present investigation was conducted with the following specific objectives :

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1. To study the perception of rural youth about the principles viz., *Kurhadbandi*, *Charaibandi*, *Nashabandi*, *Nasbandi* and *Shramdan* of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'.
2. To determine the factors influencing the perception of rural youth about principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'.

Methodology

Locale of Study : The present study was conducted in purposively selected village Ambadvet which is situated in Mulshi taluka of Pune district. An exploratory research design of social research was formulated to conduct the investigation.

Sampling Method and Data Collection

Instrument: The rural youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years from the village were considered for the study. A total of 158 male rural youth were selected by stratified sampling technique. The data regarding the perception of rural youth about the principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' were collected by specially designed and pre-tested interview schedule to get reliable information.

Measurement of Perception: The perception of the rural youth about the principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' was measured by developing teacher made test. A test consisting of total forty statements regarding five principles viz. *Kurhadbandi*, *Charaibandi*, *Nashabandi*, *Nasbandi* and *Shramdan* of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana,' was developed in consultation with experts. The responses from the respondents were rated on a three-point continuum viz., clear, partial and no by assigning a numerical score of 3, 2 and 1, respectively.

Statistical Analysis : The collected primary information was tabulated and analysed with suitable statistical methods viz., frequency and percentage, mean and correlation coefficient.

Results and Discussion

The results of the investigation are presented hereunder in line with the objectives set forth.

Perception of Rural Youth about Kurhadbandi :

Data from Table 1 show that most of the rural youth had a clear perception about prevention of unnecessary felling of trees (97.47 per cent) and *Kurhadbandi* facilitating growth of vegetation (79.12 per cent). However, a majority of the rural youth had no perception that trees increase groundwater level (79.12 per cent), increase precipitation (60.76 per cent) and ban on trees felling helps to increase the natural resources (52.53 per cent). Data further show that more than two-thirds of the rural youth had a partial perception of the facts that natural vegetation prevents soil erosion (75.32 per cent) and growth of trees helps in maintaining ecological natural balance (67.72 per cent). This indicated that a majority of the rural youth had no clear perception about the importance of *Kurhadhandi*.

Perception of Rural Youth about Nashabandi :

It is seen from Table 3 that most of the rural youth had a clear perception about the aspects viz., prohibition on sale of alcoholic drinks in the village (96.21 per cent) and *Nashabandi* checking the ill-effects of using intoxicants (89.87 per cent). Majority of them had a clear perception that *Nashabandi* saves the expenditure on intoxicants (72.78 per cent) and it minimises altercations in the family and village (65.19 per cent). The aspect *Nashabandi* making proper use of human efficiency was not perceived by a majority of the rural youth (60.13 per cent). However, a majority of the rural youth had a partial perception regarding *Nashabandi* nursing the social environment (74.05 per cent), establishing a sense of belonging among the people (74.68 per cent) and making one aware about his family responsibility (57.60 per cent). This clearly indicated that the rural youth largely had a better perception about the principle of *Nashabandi*.

Perception of Rural Youth about Nasbandi:

Table 4 shows that most of the rural youth clearly perceived that family planning helps in limiting the size of family (90.51 per cent), use of family planning measures are voluntary (57.09 per cent) and it avoids division of land and property (58.86

Table 1: Perception of rural youth about the principle of Kurhadbandi

S. No.	Particulars	Level of Perception			Mean Score
		Clear	Partial	No	
1	<i>Kurhadbandi</i> prevents unnecessary felling of trees	154 (97.47)	4 (2.53)	-	2.975
2	<i>Kurhadbandi</i> facilitates growth of natural vegetation	125 (79.12)	32 (20.25)	1 (0.63)	2.785
3	Natural vegetation prevents soil erosion	12 (7.59)	119 (75.32)	27 (17.09)	1.905
4	Growth of trees increases the groundwater level	6 (3.79)	27 (17.09)	125 (79.12)	1.247
5	The growth of trees increases precipitation	12 (7.59)	50 (31.65)	96 (60.76)	1.468
6	Growth of trees maintains ecological and natural balance.	11 (6.96)	107 (67.72)	40 (25.32)	1.816
7	<i>Kurhadbandi</i> increases natural resources	3 (1.90)	72 (45.57)	83 (52.53)	1.493

Source : Field study conducted in Feb. 2005.

Table 2: Perception of rural youth about the principle of Charaibandi

S. No.	Particulars	Level of Perception			Mean Score
		Clear	Partial	No	
1	<i>Charaibandi</i> helps in growing a variety of fodder grass	25 (15.82)	56 (35.44)	77 (48.73)	1.671
2	Animals get a variety of fodder to feed upon	20 (12.66)	95 (60.13)	43 (27.22)	1.854
3	Growth of grass prevents soil erosion	12 (7.60)	118 (74.68)	28 (17.72)	1.899
4	<i>Charaibandi</i> prevents damage to natural resources	34 (21.52)	111 (70.25)	13 (8.23)	2.132
5	<i>Charaibandi</i> avoids destruction of crops by stray animals	135 (85.44)	23 (14.56)	-	2.854
6	<i>Charaibandi</i> saves manpower spent on cattle grazing	4 (2.53)	74 (46.84)	80 (50.63)	1.519
7	<i>Charaibandi</i> increases utility of grazing animals	()	29 (18.35)	129 (81.65)	1.183

Source: Field study conducted in Feb. 2005.

Table 3 : Perception of rural youth about the principle of Nashabandi

S. No.	Particulars	Level of Perception			Mean Score
		Clear	Partial	No	
1	Nashabandi prohibits sale of alcoholic drinks	152 (96.21)	6 (3.79)	-	2.962
2	Nashabandi saves expenditure on intoxicants	115 (72.78)	34 (21.52)	9 (5.70)	2.671
3	Nashabandi properly utilises human efficiency	4 (2.53)	59 (37.34)	95 (60.13)	1.424
4	Nashabandi makes one aware of his family responsibilities	42 (26.58)	91 (57.60)	25 (15.82)	2.107
5	Nashabandi checks the ill-effects of using intoxicants	142 (89.97)	11 (6.96)	5 (3.17)	2.867
6	Nashabandi minimises altercations in the family and village	103 (65.19)	46 (29.11)	9 (5.70)	2.595
7	Nashabandi nurses the social environment	31 (19.62)	117 (74.05)	10 (6.33)	2.133
8	Nashabandi establishes a sense of belonging in mutual matters	29 (18.36)	118 (74.68)	11 (6.96)	2.114

Source : Field study conducted in Feb. 2005.

per cent). However, more than two-thirds of the rural youth had no perception that it increases a feeling of love and affection among family members (74.69 per cent) and plays a crucial role in the proper utilisation of efficiency of each family member (68.35 per cent). It is further noticed that a majority of the rural youth had only a partial perception of the aspects viz., *Nasbandi* giving a boost to the national programme of population control (74.68 per cent), helps in judicious use of family financial resources (68.35 per cent) and facilitating development of every family member (58.86 per cent). This clearly indicated that a majority of the rural youth did not clearly understand the principle of *Nasbandi*.

Perception of Rural Youth about Shramdan : Table 5 indicates that almost all the rural youth clearly perceived that no remuneration is paid for *Shramdan* (95.57 per cent) and it involves public sanitation and other developmental activities in the village (96.20 per cent). However, nearly three-fourths (73.42 per cent) of the rural

youth had not perceived that individual gains prestige by contributing in *Shramdan*. A majority of the rural youth had a partial perception about the different aspects of *Shramdan* i.e. it fetches pride to individual (72.15 per cent), gives joy of togetherness (68.35 per cent), instills the spirit of cooperation and unity among the villagers (62.66 per cent), saves expenditure on labour (55.70 per cent) and remuneration saved can be utilised for other developmental activities (52.54 per cent). This clearly shows that the rural youth had a good perception about the principle of *Shramdan*.

Factors Influencing Perception of Rural Youth about 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' : Coefficient of correlation between selected characteristics of the rural youth and their perception about 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' was worked out and data presented in Table 6.

A critical look at Table 6 revealed that selected characteristics viz. education, parental occupation, social participation, peer influence,

Table 4: Perception of rural youth about the principle of *Nasbandi*

S. No.	Particulars	Level of Perception			Mean Score
		Clear	Partial	No	
1	Carrying out family planning is a voluntary effort	106 (67.09)	43 (27.21)	9 (5.70)	2.614
2	People are motivated for family planning	19 (12.02)	75 (47.47)	64 (40.51)	1.715
3	Family planning limits the size of the family	143 (90.51)	11 (6.96)	4 (2.53)	2.879
4	Family planning helps in judicious use of financial resources	29 (18.36)	108 (68.35)	21 (13.29)	2.051
5	Family planning gives a boost to national programme of population control	9 (5.70)	118 (74.68)	31 (19.62)	1.861
6	Limited families develops each and every member of the family	33 (20.89)	93 (58.86)	32 (20.25)	2.006
7	The efficiency of each member is properly utilised by limited families	3 (1.90)	47 (29.75)	108 (68.35)	1.335
8	Limited families avoids division of land and property resources	91 (58.86)	61 (38.61)	4 (2.53)	2.588
9	Small families prevents discords and disputes	74 (46.83)	78 (49.37)	6 (3.80)	2.430
10	A feeling of love and affection is established in small families.	1 (0.63)	39 (24.68)	118 (74.69)	1.259

Source : Field study conducted in Feb. 2005.

cosmopolitanism and change proneness established positive and highly significant association with the perception of rural youth about the principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'. It is natural that those individuals have more social participation, and exchange of ideas, thoughts and experiences helps to get wider insight into a variety of subjects and modifies their thinking ability. Higher peer influence increases the contacts with outside world and as such more prone to change. Thus, individuals more prone to change are innovative and quick in perusing scientific principles and philosophy. These findings collaborate the observations of Kale (1976), Ratnakar and Reddy (1991) and Tawade *et.al.* (1998). Further, it was observed that caste,

own occupation, size of landholding and annual income had significant influence on perception of rural youth about the principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' at 0.05 level of probability. Individuals with more annual income have better socio-economic status, possess larger landholding, are socially active and more prone to change. Thus, these factors made significant influence on rural youth perception about the principle of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'. However, age, marital status and family size of rural youth had no influence on their perception about the principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'. Similar findings were reported by Godse (1974), Ratnakar and Reddy (1991), Rao and Mishra (1997) and Tawade *et.al.* (1998).

Table 5 : Perception of rural youth about the principle of *Shramdan*

S. No.	Particulars	Level of Perception			Mean Score
		Clear	Partial	No	
1	<i>Shramdan</i> involves public sanitation and other development activities	152 (96.20)	6 (3.80)	-	2.962
2	No remuneration is paid for <i>Shramdan</i>	151 (95.67)	7 (4.43)	-	2.955
3	Remuneration saved is utilised for other developmental activities	60 (37.97)	83 (52.64)	15 (9.49)	2.284
4	<i>Shramdan</i> helps to save the expenditure on labour	12 (7.59)	88 (55.70)	58 (36.71)	1.708
5	Any contribution through <i>Shramdan</i> gains prestige	3 (1.90)	39 (24.68)	116 (73.42)	1.284
6	<i>Shramdan</i> fetches utmost pride to an individual	27 (17.09)	114 (72.15)	17 (10.76)	2.063
7	<i>Shramdan</i> instills a spirit of cooperation and utility among the villagers	50 (31.64)	99 (62.66)	9 (5.70)	2.259
8	<i>Shramdan</i> gives the joy of togetherness	29 (18.36)	108 (68.35)	21 (13.29)	2.050

Source : Field study conducted in Feb. 2005.

Table 6 : Factors influencing perception of rural youth about '*Adarsh Gaon Yojana*'

S.No.	Characteristics	Coefficient of correlation 'r'
1	Age	0.091 ^{NS}
2	Education	0.650 **
3	Caste	0.190*
4	Marital status	0.050 ^{NS}
5	Size of family	0.058 ^{NS}
6	Parental occupation	0.288 **
7	Own occupation	0.184*
8	Size of landholding	0.176*
9	Annual total income	0.281*
10	Social participation	0.279**
11	Peer influence	0.353**
12	Cosmopolitaness	0.391**
13	Change proneness	0.435**

** Significant at one per cent level.

NS - Non-significant.

* Significant at five per cent level.

Conclusion

The findings conclude that most of the rural youth did not clearly perceive the importance of *Kurhadbandi*, *Charaibandi* and *Nasbandi* principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'. However, they had better perception about *Nashabandi* and *Shramdan*. The perception of rural youth about principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' was significantly influenced by their education, parental occupation, social participation, peer influence, cosmopolitaness, change proneness, caste, own occupation, size of landholding and annual income.

Implications

- * The programme implementation agencies in association with various environmental groups should undertake the campaign by organising street play and stage dramas to create awareness and understanding among the rural youth about the benefits of *Kurhadbandi* and *Charaibandi* principles.
- * The programme implementation agencies with close cooperation of rural youth should arrange lectures of those persons, who

freed themselves from the clutches of addiction. The technical staff of health department should develop clear perception about harmful effect of addiction and motivate them to follow the principle of *Nashabandi*.

- * The technical staff from primary health centre should organise door-to-door campaigns and street - plays to explain the various benefits of small families and should train the villagers to use the various family planning measures for effective implementation of *Nasbadi* principle.
- * The programme implementation agencies and Gram Panchayat may jointly organise slide shows, film shows by such people who significantly contributed during *Shramdan* in other Ideal villages. This inculcates a sense of dignity, values of cooperation, unity and team work among rural youth and villagers.

The village level coordination committee should secure the cooperation of active youth to form a vigilance committee in the village so as to identify the violations of principles of 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana'.

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