

Aspirations of agricultural undergraduate girl students in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Aspirations play an important role in influencing how young people make life choices, how they think and feel about themselves and ultimately their life outcomes. The present study was undertaken in two colleges under Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra to know the aspirations of girl students and factors influencing them. A total of 120 girl students studying in BSc (Agriculture) were selected for the study. It was found that majority (58.33%) of the girl students belonged to the small size families and two-third (63.30%) girls belonged to nuclear families. Most of the parents (28.35%) of the respondents had completed their higher secondary education. It was revealed that one-fourth (25.00%) of respondents' families had medium size land holdings. 55.00 per cent of the respondents' parents had farming as their main occupation. More than three-fourth (78.33%) of the parents of girl students had total annual income up to Rs 2.0 lakh. Economic aspiration was significantly correlated with occupation and annual income of the parents while social aspiration had significantly positive correlation with type of family. Total aspirations of the students were found to be significantly correlated with annual income of the parents.

Keywords: Agriculture; aspiration; factors;, girl students

INTRODUCTION

The livelihood of majority of the Indian population is dependent on agriculture and allied activities since almost all basic necessities of the farm families are met from the agriculture and agriculture-based activities. In rural areas youth are also playing important role in agriculture by performing some farm activities and helping

their families in different farm operations. However in very few instances the agriculture science graduates are involved in farming with their family members. The major reasons for this scenario may be slow returns, less guarantee of profits, socio-economic reasons etc. Apart from the above reasons aspirations of the agricultural graduates are also one of the criteria to decide the future prospects of

the graduates. Aspirations play an important role in influencing how young people make life choices, how they think and feel about themselves (Schaefer and Meece 2009) and ultimately their life outcomes.

The students of the agricultural colleges can play a major role in changing the scenario of traditional agriculture into a commercial enterprise. For this purpose evaluation of aspiration level of these students is very essential. Agriculture field which was a neglected education stream for girls envisages a positive increase in the number of girl students seeking admission to the various agriculture courses. Girl students form a sizeable folk in different agricultural universities in the country as well as in the state. There is need to focus on aspirations of girl students to know their motive behind seeking admission to agricultural universities. This study highlights the aspiration level of girl students and factors affecting them.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted purposively in selected College of Agriculture, Pune and two affiliated colleges namely College of Agriculture, Baramati (Pune district) and Ratnai College of Agriculture, Akulj (Solapur district) which are under Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. Sixty respondent girl students were selected from BSc

(Agriculture) II and III year each to make the total sample size of 120 for the study. The structured interview schedule served as a tool for collecting the data. Keeping in view the objectives of the study a pre-tested interview schedule was prepared to obtain information with respect to both independent and dependent variables. The collected data were analysed using relevant statistical tools like frequency, percentage and correlation coefficient.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

The aspirations of the girl students were bifurcated into educational, professional, economic and social aspects.

Profile of the students (Table 1)

It was found that majority (58.33%) of the girl students belonged to small while 23.33 per cent belonged to medium and only 18.34 per cent to big size families. Around two-third (63.30%) of the girls belonged to nuclear while 36.70 per cent to the joint families. Most of the parents of the respondents (28.35%) had completed their higher secondary education while 23.33 per cent each completed secondary education and graduation.

One-fourth (25.00%) of the respondents' families had medium while one-sixth (16.66%) each had semi-medium and small land holdings. More than half (55.00%) of the respondents' parents had

Aspirations of girl students

Table 1. Profile of the undergraduate agricultural girl students (n= 120)

Character	Category	#	Percentage
Size of family (members)	Small (up to 5)	70	58.33
	Medium (6-10)	28	23.33
	Big (11 and above)	22	18.34
Type of Family	Nuclear	76	63.30
	Joint	44	36.70
Family's education status	Illiterate	10	8.33
	Primary	08	6.66
	Secondary	28	23.33
	Higher secondary	34	28.35
	Graduation	28	23.33
	Post-Graduation	12	10.00
Occupation of parents	Labour	01	0.84
	Farming	66	55.00
	Business	04	3.33
	Service	49	40.83
Land holding (ha)	Landless	19	15.83
	Marginal (up to 1.0)	16	13.33
	Small (1.1-2.0)	20	16.66
	Semi-medium (2.1- 4.0)	20	16.66
	Medium (4.1 to 6.0 ha)	30	25.00
	Big (6.1 and above)	15	12.52
Annual income (Rs in lakhs)	Up to 2.00	94	78.33
	2.01-4.00	13	10.46
	4.01-6.00	08	6.66
	6.01-8.00	02	1.86
	8.01-10.00	01	0.83
	10.01-12.00	02	1.86

farming followed by 40.83 per cent having service as major occupation. More than three-fourth (78.33%) of the parents of the students had total annual income up to Rs 2.0 lakh followed by 10.46 per cent having Rs 2.01 to 4.0 lakh. Most of the findings are similar to the findings of the Sarita (2000) and Iswalkar (2001).

Relationship between profile of girl students and their aspirations (Table 2)

The study revealed that size of family and land holding were positively correlated with the educational aspiration of the respondents while type of family, education status, occupation of parents and

Table 2. Relationship between profile of girl students and their aspiration

Variable	Correlation coefficient of aspiration (r)			
	Educational	Professional	Economic	Social
Size of family	0.0639	- 0.0783	0.0524	-0.1626
Type of family	-0.1426	- 0.0068	-0.0091	0.2206*
Education status	-0.0542	- 0.1063	0.0626	-0.0494
Occupation of parents	-0.1651	- 0.0329	0.1800*	0.0082
Land holding (ha)	0.0329	0.0865	0.0141	-0.0604
Annual income (Rs in lakhs)	-0.0563	- 0.0080	0.1971*	-0.0958

*Significant at 5% level of significance

annual income were found to be negatively correlated. It indicates that number of family members under the same roof and their land holding played a significant role in deciding the endeavour of girl students.

With regard to professional aspiration it was found that all the socio-economic variables except land-holding were found to be negatively correlated. This indicated that socio-economic variables were not contributing in leveraging professional aspiration of respondents indicating that the students' professional aspiration was independent without being influenced by the families' socio-economic background.

Economic aspiration showed significant relationship with occupation of parents and annual income indicating that occupation and annual income of parents exerted influence on the economic aspiration of girl students. Higher level of economic aspiration would help girl

students in betterment to achieve their intended aspirations. Social aspiration was significant and positively correlated with type of family which indicates that type of family influenced the students' social aspiration. The study also revealed that size of family, education status of parents, landholding, occupation of parents and annual income were not correlated with the social aspirations. Similar findings were reported by Dhakre (2014), Missal et al (2013), Patel and Supe (2011) and Bothikar et al (2009).

Table 3 depicts the relationship between overall aspirations and profile characteristics of the respondents. All the variables were positively correlated except type of family. Further annual income of family had significantly positive correlation with the overall aspirations portraying that the influence of respondents on their aspiration level was notably high. The higher family income might have provided a strong support to the respondents for

Table 3. Factors affecting aspirations of agricultural girl students

Variable	Total correlation coefficient
Size of family	0.0212
Type of family	-0.0007
Education status	0.0162
Occupation of parents	0.0023
Land holding (ha)	0.1721
Annual income (Rs in lakhs)	0.1779*

*Significant at 5% level of significance

increasing their aspiration level. In other words respondents having high annual family income had higher aspiration level and vice-versa. The findings are supported by the work of Iswalkar (2001). Almost similar findings were reported by Missal et al (2013), Surve (2005), Saini and Singh (2001), Shigwan (2002), Sarita (2000) and Iswalkar (2001).

CONCLUSION

From the above findings it can be concluded that economic aspiration of students were influenced by annual income of family and occupation of parents whereas the type of family in which they lived played a significant role in social aspiration. Overall aspirations of students were found to be significant with annual income of family of the respondents.

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