

## Participation in Rural Development Activities by Rural youth of Deesa Taluka of Banaskantha District

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### INTRODUCTION

The socio-economic development and prosperity of the country depends, to a considerable extent on the type of the youth the country has, because the rural youth have abilities and capabilities to orient themselves in the main stream of the development process. They represent a bulk of its national strength and also considered as the backbone of the nation.

For rural development the involvement of rural youth in development programmes is very much essential. Without their participation, no rural development activity can be a success. In present investigation, it has been tried to know the extent of participation of rural youth in rural development works and also to digg-out the problems they are facing in doing so. The specific objectives of the present study were :

1. To study the extent of participation of rural youth in rural development activities
2. To findout relationship between some of the selected characteristics of respondents and their participation in rural development activities
3. To find out the constraints faced by the youth while initiating and/or participating any development activity in

the village and their suggestions to overcome the constraints.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was restricted to Disa taluka of Banaskantha district. Nine villages were randomly selected from the taluka for the present investigation. Young male person in the age group of 15 to 29 years formed the population of this study. A list of 20 rural youth has been prepared for each village with the help of local leader. Out of them, on the day of village visit, those who were available at the village were interviewed. In all, 114 respondents had been approached. Role participation of the respondents was measured by as structured schedule developed for the study having three point continuum.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to assess the extent of participation of rural youth in various rural development activities, their response on the questionnaire was considered. The information in this regard is given in Table 1.

It is interesting to note from the data that more than 75 per cent of the respondents could not have participated or had low participation in rural development activities. There were 22.81 per cent respondents who had medium participation in the

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**Table 1. Distribution of Respondents According to Their Participation in Rural Development Activities**

(N = 114)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
No participation (0 Score)	10	8.77
Low participation ( 1 to 14 Score)	77	67.54
Medium participation (15 to 28 Score)	26	22.81
High participation (29 to 42 Score)	1	0.88

rural development activities. Only one respondent indicated high participation.

It was also tried to know whether there is any correlation between rural youth's participation in rural development activities and some of the selected variables. The data in this regard are given in Table 2.

It is clear from Table 2 that social participation and extension contact had positive and significant relationship with rural youth's participation in rural development activities. Education, size of land holding and urban contact too had positive and significant relationship with their participation in village works. The distance of village from taluka headquarters (i.e. Disa) had significant but negative relationship with youth's participation in rural develop-

ment activities.

Thus, it could be concluded that Government machinery (extension agencies) may be directed to increase its contact with rural youth so as their participation in village work can be increased.

Problems faced by rural youth in undertaking rural development activities are summarised in Table 3.

It is clear from Table 3 that slightly more than half (52.63 per cent) of the villagers had no interest in village development work. There were about 30 per cent youth who considered the low level of education as the main problem hurdelling rural development work. Lack of knowledge of rural development activities

**Table 2. Relationship of Independent Variables with Rural Youth's Participation in Rural Development Activities.**

(N = 114)

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation coefficient ('r' value)
1	Distance from taluka headquarters (Disa)	(-) 0.271**
2	Education	0.216*
3	Land holding	0.219*
4	Social participation	0.559**
5	Extension contact	0.526**
6	Urban contact	0.230*

\* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

**Table 3. Distribution of the Respondents According to the Problems Faced by them in undertaking Rural Development Activities.**

(N = 114)

Sr. No.	Problems faced	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lack of interest on the part of villagers in village development work	60	52.63
2	Low level of education among rural people	34	29.82
3	Lack of knowledge of rural development activities	28	24.56
4	Lack of support from Government machinery	22	19.29
5	Lack of coordination amongst villagers.	14	12.28
6	Lack of support from elders to youth for rural development activities	13	11.40
7	Lack of resources with rural youth	5	4.38

and lack of Government support were also reported as important problems in rural development work.

The respondents were also asked to suggest the alternative solution for the problems they are facing in the rural development efforts. The suggestions were in line of the problems such as creating an atmosphere in rural areas for village work, developing rural leadership, creating opportunities for education at rural level, etc. were the important suggestions offered by majority youth. There were as many as 32.46 per cent respondents who found themselves too young to understand problems encountering rural development activities and did not suggested any solution regarding the problems they faced.

### IMPLICATIONS

It is very well accepted that the rural youth have abilities to orient themselves in rural development activities. Since, the participation of rural youth in rural development activities is very low, the variables that are directing their participation should be properly managed to increase their participation. Efforts should also be taken up not only by Government but also by local leaders to arouse the interest of villagers in general and rural youth in particular in the village work. Until everyone of a village does not think for the development of his own village, the rural development would be at a distance.

### REFERENCE

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