

Barriers for Choosing Agriculture as a Profession by the Agricultural Graduates

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INTRODUCTION

Education plays an important role for the development of individual, family, community, state and nation too. It is generally felt that agricultural education in India is being under-utilised as most of the agricultural graduates prefer to choose the profession of agriculture only with a view of joining service in any institution and no one decided to utilise such a specialised training at the farm for improving farming.

The question may patiently be asked as to why our agricultural graduates do not prefer to go back to work on their own farm or on land? The question, through, constantly in the minds of all those interested in agricultural development of the country, has, somehow, not received due attention of the social scientists for a deep probe of the reasons. There may be a need to reorganise and reorient our agricultural education. So that our agricultural Universities and colleges produced not only agriculturally trained graduates but agriculturally minded educated graduates who should proudly take to farming as a profession and thus subserve the interest of a modernised progressive agriculture.

Very few studies have been undertaken on such aspect, hence this study was undertaken with the following specific objectives :

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the factors leading the agricultural graduates not to go with agriculture as a profession.
2. To find out the alternatives to overcome the barriers posed by agricultural graduates in accepting agriculture as a profession.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted by the Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar in the jurisdiction of Gujarat State only. The population for the study included all the agricultural graduates (i.e. B.Sc. (Agri.) degree holders) who passed from Agricultural College, Gujarat Agril. University, Sardar Krushinagar since 1985-86 and onward. Thus, the population consisted of 238 agricultural graduates and the whole population was considered purposively for the present study.

The data were collected through mailed questionnaire between the month of November to December 1992. The extent of responses received from the respondents were 117, that constituted nearly 50.00 per cent of the total respondents.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results regarding the reasons of agricultural graduates not going to back on their own farms are summarised as under:

(1) **Present occupation of agricultural graduates :**

It can be seen from the Table 1 that, half of the respondents were engaged in service followed by 15.38 per cent engaged in their study and only 13.68 per cent engaged in agriculture + animal husbandry.

(2) **Satisfaction with present occupation :**

The data presented in Table 2 reveal that, a majority (61.54 per cent) of the respondents were not satisfied with their present occupation whereas 38.46 per cent of the respondents

were satisfied with their present occupation.

(3) **Optimum land required by the agricultural graduates for agricultural profession :**

The data presented in Table 3 indicate that, three-fourth (75.00 per cent) of the respondents opined to have upto 12 hectares of land required as an optimum land for agricultural profession.

(4) **Attitude towards agricultural profession by agricultural graduates :**

It can be observed from Table 4 that, majority (96.58 per cent) of the agricultural graduates had favourable and highly favourable attitude towards agricultural profession.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their present occupation.

N = 117

Sr. No.	Type of Occupation	Number	Per cent
1.	Agriculture	14	11.97
2.	Service	58	49.57
3.	Agriculture + Animal husbandry	16	13.68
4.	Agriculture + Service	05	04.27
5.	Agriculture + Animal Husbandry + Service	06	05.13
6.	Study	18	15.38
	Total	117	100.00

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their Satisfaction with present occupation.

N = 117

Sr. No.	Satisfaction category	Number	Per cent
1.	Satisfied (with their present occupation)	45	38.46
2.	Non-satisfied (with their present occupation)	72	61.54
	Total	117	100.00

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their opinion regarding optimum land required for agricultural profession.

N = 117

Sr. No.	Size of land holding (ha.)	Number	Per cent
1.	0 - 4	36	30.77
2.	4 - 8	28	23.93
3.	8 - 12	24	20.51
4.	12 - 16	04	03.42
5.	16 - 20	16	13.68
6.	Above 20	09	07.69

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to their attitude towards agricultural profession.

N = 117

Sr. No.	Attitude category	Number	Per cent
1.	Unfavourable (below 37 score)	04	03.42
2.	Favourable (38 to 59 score)	81	69.23
3.	Highly favourable (60, and above score)	32	27.35
Total		117	100.00

(5) Aptitude towards agricultural profession by agricultural graduates :

It is evidently clear from Table 5 that, a majority (87.18 per cent) of the respondents possessed favourable and highly favourable aptitude towards agricultural profession.

(6) Barriers for choosing agriculture as a profession by agricultural graduates : The perusal of the data presented in Table 6 reveal that, market rates of agricultural commodities are fixed by merchants than farmers formed the main barrier of 81.19 per cent of the respondents and ranked first. This was followed by less land holding, desire of elders in the

family to see their children in service, agricultural labour problems and agricultural profession is more expensive and ranked second, third, fourth and fifth, position respectively. The land rank occupied by service/job easily available (only 2.56 per cent.)

(7) Suggestions to overcome the barriers for choosing agriculture as a profession by agricultural graduates : The data presented in Table 7 indicated that, the most important suggestion expressed by 84.61 per cent of the respondents was availability of agricultural inputs and ranked first. This was followed by reasonable price of agricultural produce, adequate irrigation facilities,

Table 5. Distribution of respondents according to their aptitude towards agricultural profession.

N = 117

Sr. No.	Aptitude category	Number	Per cent
1.	Unfavourable (below 4 score)	15	12.82
2.	Favourable (5 to 8 score)	59	50.43
3.	Highly favourable (9 to 12 score)	43	36.75
Total		117	100.00

Table 6. Distribution of respondents according to their barriers for choosing agriculture as a profession.

N = 117

Sr. No.	Barriers	Number	Per cent	Rank Order
1.	Market rate of agricultural commodities are fixed by merchants than farmers	95	81.19	I
2.	Less land-holding	90	76.92	II
3.	Desire of elders in the family to see their children in service	88	75.21	III
4.	Agricultural labour problems	87	74.35	IV
5.	Agricultural profession is more expensive	86	73.50	V
6.	Elder's preference for service/job	76	64.95	VI
7.	Inadequate loan facilities in Agricultural profession	75	64.10*	VII
8.	Agricultural profession is more risky	74	63.24	VIII
9.	Higher standard of living in other business than agricultural profession	73	62.39	IX
10.	In Agricultural profession, one cannot provide good educational facilities to their children	72	61.53	X

Sr. No.	Barriers	Number	Per cent	Rank Order
11.	More income and security in other business than agricultural profession	71	60.68	XI
12.	Lack of Irrigation facilities	70	59.82	XII
13.	High social status in other business than agricultural profession	69	58.97	XIII
14.	Restriction to purchase land beyond 8 kms. from native place as per government rules (i.e. 8 kms. Periphery Act of Guj. State)	61	52.13	XIV
15.	Lack of practical knowledge during study period	49	41.88	XV
16.	Damage caused by animals to the standing crops	48	41.02	XVI
17.	One should stay in village for agricultural profession	46	39.31	XVII
18.	No facilities of inherited land	45	38.46	XVIII
19.	Ease, comfort and glamour of city life	44	37.60	XIX
20.	More number of family members working than required	43	36.75	XX
21.	Internal problems of joint family	38	32.47	XXI
22.	Lack of successful agricultural graduates in farming profession	32	27.35	XXII
23.	Lack of self-confidence in agricultural profession	31	26.49	XXIII
24.	Not getting enough co-operation from elders due to traditional nature	28	23.93	XXIV
25.	Lack of social security in village life	25	21.36	XXV
26.	Service/job easily available	03	02.56	XXVI

loan facilities from the bank with low interest and latest technology to be provided to the farmers by extension agencies and ranked second, third, fourth and fifth position respectively.

CONCLUSION

From the above study, it can be con-

cluded that, majority of the agricultural graduates had favourable and highly favourable attitude as well as aptitude towards agricultural profession. But unfortunately, they can't go back to their own farming due to number of barriers encountered by them. Therefore, it is suggested that, the Government of Gujarat,

Table 7. Distribution of respondents according to their suggestions to overcome the barriers.

N = 117

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Number	Per cent	Rank order
1.	Availability of agricultural inputs (viz. Seeds, Pesticides, Fertilizers etc.	99	84.61	I
2.	Reasonable price of agricultural produce	82	70.08	II
3.	Adequate irrigation facilities	68	58.11	III
4.	Loan facilities from the bank with low interest	67	57.26	IV
5.	Latest technology to be provided to the farmers by extension agencies	63	53.84	V
6.	Government should provide agricultural land and other facilities at reasonable rate to agricultural graduates	36	30.76	VI
7.	Facilities for crop insurance	31	26.49	VII
8.	Adequate land holding	29	24.78	VIII
9.	Lack of agricultural labours	24	20.51	IX
10.	Sufficient and continuous electricity facilities for agricultural purpose	22	18.80	X
11.	To remove the periphery Act. of 8 kms.	19	16.23	XI
12.	Damage of standing crops to be prevented	15	12.82	XII
13.	Elders should co-operate to agricultural graduates for agricultural profession	12	10.25	XIII
14.	Consolidation of fragmented land	7	05.98	XIV

Department of Agriculture, Agricultural University and those who are directly or indirectly concerned with this issues should try to overcome/minimize these barriers by making necessary provisions for agricultural graduates as per their suggestions. This will definetely help in increasing agricultural production as well as to overcome the problem of unemployment to some extent.

As a general rule the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information.

— *Benjamin Disrachi*

Chance happens to all but to turn chance to accountant is the gift of few.

— *Butwer Lystten*