

ENTREPRENEURIAL ABILITY OF YOUTH FARMERS

K. D. Gulkari¹ and M. P. Dohat²

1 Senior Scientist & Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, AAU, Arnej, Ahmedabad - 382 230

2 Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture, AAU, Vaso - 387 380

email : kdgulkari@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The study is conducted in 10 villages of 2 talukas of Kheda district of Gujarat with 120 respondents to find out the entrepreneurial ability of youth farmers as entrepreneur ability is a strong indicator to predict whether, they are capable for taking a calculative risk and managing available resources efficiently or not. The study revealed that more than two fifth (42.50 per cent) of the respondents were observed with moderate level of entrepreneurial ability in youth farmers. The moderate level of entrepreneurial ability was observed uniformly amongst the youth farmers with an irrespective level of their type of family, occupation, land holding, annual income, social participation, extension contact, agriculture mass media exposure, and digital media exposure. In contrast, it was observed positive amongst the farmers with a high level of education and negative and significant with farming experience of the youth farmers.

Keywords: *entrepreneur, entrepreneurial ability, youth farmer, skill, relationship*

INTRODUCTION

India is primarily an agricultural country where more than 50 per cent of the population is involved in agricultural activities. However, climatic changes, frequent drought and floods makes agriculture extremely risky (Vinaya and Shivamurthy, 2021). Now a day's rural development is more than ever before linked to entrepreneurship. Many institutions are observing entrepreneurship as a strategic developmental intervention that could accelerate the rural development process. The development of any nation depends primarily on the important role played by entrepreneurs. Developmental agencies observe rural entrepreneurship as an enormous employment potential, politician see it as the key strategy to prevent rural unrest, farmers see it as an instrument for improving farm earning and rural youth see it as an employment opportunity which provide them ensure income. Youth are the primary productive human resource of socio-economic development. Youth minds are creative, and they are capable of handling risk factors such as monsoon management, climatic change adaptation and poverty in an efficient way, using various technologies. But, the majority of the farmers don't want their next generation to continue with their traditional profession, because of low income from agriculture and poor quality of life in rural areas. Policy makers, administrators and other institutions are agreed on the urgent need to promote rural youth to consider farming as an occupation and farm as an enterprise (Vinaya *et al.*,

2019). The entrepreneurial ability is not necessarily doing new things but also doing things in a new way that has been already done. Entrepreneurial ability includes different skills such as managerial skill, planning skill, communication skill etc. which helps the entrepreneurs for running their enterprise successfully. The findings of the study may help the administrators and policy makers to know the entrepreneurial ability of the youth farmers.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the entrepreneurial ability of youth farmers
- (2) To explore the relationship between profile of the youth farmers and their entrepreneurial ability

METHODOLOGY

In the present study ex-post facto research design was used. According to Kerlinger (1973) ex-post facto research is a systematic empirical enquiry in which the scientists do not have direct control of influencing independent variables, because manifestations have already occurred. The present study was carried out in Kheda district of Gujarat state. Nadiad and Vaso talukas of Kheda district were purposively selected for the study. Total 10 villages, from each of the selected talukas were selected for the study. Proper number of young farmers were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus, random sample of 120 farmers were selected for the study. The data were collected through personal

interview using well-structured pretested interview schedule. The collected data were classified, tabulated, analysed and interpreted in order to make the findings meaningful. The statistical measures such as frequency, percentages, mean, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation were used in the study.

SCORING AND CATEGORIZATION

The score of eight components were summed up to arrive at a total score of entrepreneurial ability of each respondent. The respondents were grouped into five categories based on mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Entrepreneurial ability of the youth farmers

The result illustrated in Table 1 revealed that more than two fifth (42.50 per cent) of the respondents were observed with moderate level of entrepreneurial ability in youth farmers, followed by 22.50 per cent and 21.66 per cent were found with high and very low level of entrepreneurial ability. While, 13.34 per cent of the respondents had very high level of entrepreneurial ability, respectively.

Table 1 :Entrepreneurial ability of the youth farmers

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1	Very low entrepreneurial ability (less than 68.85 score)	26	21.66
2	Low entrepreneurial ability (between 68.86 to 71.44 score)	00	00.00
3	Moderate entrepreneurial ability (between 71.45 to 76.60 score)	51	42.50
4	High entrepreneurial ability (between 76.61 to 79.19 score)	27	22.50
5	Very high entrepreneurial ability (above 79.19)	16	13.34

The result discloses that majority of the respondents had moderate to high entrepreneurial ability. The reason for this might be the respondents had medium level of achievement motivation, economic motivation and high level of risk orientation, innovation proneness, ability to co-ordinate activities, decision making ability and planning ability. This finding coincides with the findings reported by the Patel *et. Al.* (2022), Patel, (2020), Mande, (2015), Svihacharan *et. Al.* (2015), Patel, (2013), Birajdar *et. Al.* (2012) and Reddy, (2006).

Relationship between profile of the youth farmers and their entrepreneurial ability

Table 2 : Relationship between profile of the youth farmers and their entrepreneurial ability

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation Coefficient
X ₁	Education	0.2082 *
X ₂	Experience of farming	- 0.4485 **
X ₃	Type of family	- 0.1600 NS
X ₄	Occupation	- 0.0310 NS
X ₅	Land holding	0.1483 NS
X ₆	Annual income	0.0153 NS
X ₇	Social participation	- 0.1239 NS
X ₈	Extension contacts	- 0.1523 NS
X ₉	Agriculture mass media exposure	- 0.1121 NS
X ₁₀	Digital media exposure	0.0398 NS

* = significant at 5% level of probability
** = significant at 1% level of probability

It could be inferred from the Table 2 that, calculated 'r' value between entrepreneurial ability of youth farmers and education was greater than table 'r' value at 5 per cent level of probability, whereas experience of farming was related at 1 per cent level of probability. Hence, null hypothesis was rejected and empirical hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was positive and significant relationship between entrepreneurial ability and education and negative and highly significant relationship between entrepreneurial ability and farming experience of the youth farmers. The significant and negative 'r' value indicates that entrepreneurial ability of the youth farmers was observed better among those farmers who were new or freshers in the farming occupation.

On the other hand, the calculated 'r' values between entrepreneurial ability and Type of family, occupation, land holding, annual income, social participation, extension contacts, agriculture mass media exposure and digital media exposure were less than table 'r' value. Hence, null hypothesis accepted and empirical hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was no significant relationship between above characteristics and entrepreneurial ability of youth farmers.

The result reveals that youth farmers with higher education had high risk orientation, innovation proneness, ability to co-ordinate activities, decision making ability and planning ability. The educated youth farmers were more aware and prepared to take calculative risk for starting any new enterprise this might be the reason for positive and significant relationship between education and entrepreneurial ability.

The farming experience of the youth farmers is an important variable for decision making and starting new venture. It helps in learning ability to utilize resources like men, material and money in a better way. Experience also helps in developing maturity and ability to face varied situations which ultimately improve the managerial efficiency of individual. Considering the results of relationship of entrepreneurial ability with low experience of youth farmers were very sharp and active in managing enterprise. The above result also indicated that, the youth farmers were educated even though they were hesitating to take risk for starting new enterprise. This findings is in contrast with the findings of Patel *et. Al.* (2022), Tandel, (2019), Mande, (2015), Birajdar *et. Al.* (2012), Savitha *et. Al.* (2009) and Reddy, (2006).

CONCLUSION

The findings revealed that more than two fifth (42.50 per cent) of the respondents were observed with moderate level of entrepreneurial ability in youth farmers, followed by 22.50 per cent and 21.66 per cent were found with high and very low level of entrepreneurial ability. The result of the study also indicated that there was positive and significant relationship between entrepreneurial ability and education whereas, negative and highly significant relationship between entrepreneurial ability and farming experience of the youth farmers. The study leads us to fact that there is a need to motivate the youth farmers for improving entrepreneurial ability and to boost up their interest in different entrepreneurial activities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The study concluded that majority of the youth farmers had moderate to high level of entrepreneurial ability. There is need to provide some technical skills and financial assistance to the youth farmers and encourage them to start a new enterprise. Extension functionaries should find the ways and means to develop the entrepreneurial skills among the interested farmers it will lead to develop their enterprise as well as future. Youth farmers must recognize the changes in the environment and be able to identify the new opportunities. Policy makers should plan and develop a effective entrepreneurship training program by applying proper knowledge and assignment, it will enhance the entrepreneurial intension among the youth farmers.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors of the paper declare no conflict of interest.

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