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Factors Associated with Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Farming Sector in Coastal and Tribal Districts of Odisha of India

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ABSTRACT

In India, land-based livelihoods of small and marginal farmers are increasingly becoming unsustainable, since their land has not been able to support the family's basic food requirements. This causes large-scale migration of rural youth from farming to non-farming sector which has caused concern among the country's policy makers as such a trend, if not checked, is likely to affect the future agricultural activities in future. The need for focusing on the welfare of farmers has gained prominence. The study was carried out from July 2016 to March 2018 with a comparative analysis among the respondents of coastal district (Jagatsinghpur) and tribal district (Mayurbhanj) of Odisha state of India with the total sample of 480 respondents out of which 240 each from tribal and coastal district including 120 each from first and second generation, selected through random sampling. The result revealed that the independent variables like size of land holding, average annual income, and cosmopoliteness in tribal area and the variables like education, family size, average annual income and cosmopoliteness in coastal area had contributed the highest variance to the consequent variable intergenerational occupational mobility.

Keywords: Coastal, Farming, Intergenerational, Mobility, Occupational, Tribal

INTRODUCTION

India comes across as a young nation with nearly 65% of its population falling under the rough age bracket of under 35. This young force, which also constitutes nearly 40 per cent of the total population of India, is the most vibrant and dynamic segment and also the country's most valuable human resource. Agriculture as its backbone of economy, India is now losing more than 2,000 farmers every single day with large scale migration of rural youth to urban areas for non-farm occupations for their livelihood rather than adopting parental farming occupation (Sainath, 2016). As per census 2011 data, agriculture alone supports 58 per cent of Indian population as compared to about 75 percent population at the time of independence. In the same period the share of agriculture and allied sector to GDP has fallen from 61 to about 15 percent. Though around 51% of India's geographical area is already under cultivation, but about 86 percent are of less than 2 ha. of land holdings owned by small and marginal farmers. While the country has made a great progress in achieving the all-round agricultural development goals of food security, availability and accessibility, it is still being challenged by many social, political, economic and environment factors such as rise in population, diminishing land holding due to defragmentation of lands, increasing urbanisation, increasing demand of food due to rising income and transition of youth from farming to non-farming sector and global climate change which are ultimately affecting the sustainability of agriculture and had encouraged intergenerational occupational mobility

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in farming sector for urban life. Pradhan *et al.* (2020) reported that more than sixty percent of the small farmers came in the category of having medium Livelihood security. Habitat security was observed with the highest index value of 0.731 while social security had the lowest index value of 0.256. Jena *et al*. (2020) observed that majority of tribal farmers (40.83%) remained at lower level of change while most of the coastal farmers (42.50%) remained in the medium level of change in accessing modern technologies in farming. Mishra *et al.* (2020) found every stakeholders including Government functionaries should focus to spread the worthy technology at grass root level through skilled training programmes, method demonstration and exposure visits on scientific production. This study was attempted to find out the factors affecting the intergenerational occupational mobility in farming sector with a comparison in between tribal and coastal district of Odisha with respect to effect of their varied socioeconomic characteristics on occupational change.

METHODOLOGY

A total of 480 respondents out of which 240 each from tribal district (Mayurbhanj) and coastal district (Jagatsinghpur) of Odisha including 120 each from first generation (Father) and second generation (Son) were chosen from the total population through random sampling. The total sample respondents were taken from 16 villages including 8 each from tribal and coastal district on the basis of 10 per cent proportion from each village. The state Odisha was selected as per the purposive sampling technique and multistage random sampling technique was adopted to select the district, blocks and villages while random sampling technique was followed for selection of the respondents. The study is based on individual and their relationship with the household head. In order to reduce complexity, the present study has studied only the regular occupations of second generation (son) and their fathers (first generation) where sons are in any occupation and father must be in farming occupation as their primary occupation.and it is also as per the availability. The study has excluded women respondents because it doesn't give information about their father but their husband's occupation. The research study followed the ex post facto design by accessing the causes to its presumed effect of intergenerational occupational mobility in the farming sector. For the study, survey research through a structured interview schedule was considered most appropriate to gather information. Here, occupations of respondent were classified into six categories like professional, teacher and managers, farmers, skilled labour tenant and agricultural labours and scored from 6 to 1 respectively as followed by Modified Kuppuswamy scale (Sharma, 2012). The statistical method multiple regression analysis was carried out to find out the effect of socio-economic status of father (first generation) on their son (second generation) in choosing the occupations. 'C' is indicating to coastal whereas 'T' is indicating tribal district.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study was carried out by taking 12 independent variables like age, education, family size etc of first generation and variable occupational mobility as dependent variable. It showed the effect of socio-economic profile of first generation on second generation on choosing their occupations.

The Table 1 showed that independent variables like size of land holding, average annual income, and cosmopoliteness of tribal area respondents have contributed higher variance to the consequent variable intergenerational occupational mobility. From the higher size land holding, the parents are getting better monetary strength which enabled them to provide better education to their children which ultimately lead their children to choose better occupation than the age-old farming. This can be explained as the agriculture-induced growth, wherein the gains from agriculture have enabled their sons to engage in high status non-farm occupations. At the same time with less land holding and tenant farmers were worried about their net return from the farming which creates pressure on them, and the immediate consequences would be the tendency to aspire for alternative occupations like carpenter, painter, and other skilled to semi-skilled occupations. It was found that mostly those who disliked farming had somewhat smaller in land holding. Average annual income indicates status of parents and has greatly influenced the selection of

Table 2: Multiple regression analysis of socioeconomic variables of parents with change in occupation (Tribal District Respondents)

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.417	.255		1.636	.105
Age	-.074	.143	-.046	-.518	.606
Education	.020	.092	.022	.217	.829
Family size	.001	.154	.001	.009	.993
Land Holding	.388	.118	.279	3.283	.001**
Housing type	-.436	.211	-.216	-2.063	.042
Annual Income	.427	.156	.279	2.741	.007**
Credit facility	.000	.081	.000	.004	.997
Communication Network	-.050	.053	-.091	-.945	.347
Institutional Network	-.024	.058	-.037	-.409	.683
Market linkage	-.256	.124	-.258	-2.047	.028**
Cosmopoliteness	.280	.075	.321	3.754	.000**
Extension Participation	-.020	.037	-.048	-.561	.576

Dependent Variable: Occupational mobility; ** indicates significance at 95 % level

occupation for the next generation. The drudgery and poverty attached to farming might have prompted some parents of the participants to abandon farming. Farmers having large size land holdings and better annual income which indicated their stable economic condition, might have decided for higher prestigious job for their next generation. The present generation with good education proceeded for higher occupations. With stability economic background, the young generation had left their fathers' occupation with an intention to gain better income and higher status in the society. Cosmopoliteness made the younger tribal generation attracted towards the better style of living of urban areas by earning higher income, although some choose occupations of skilled labour and unskilled labour which had lower status than the farming occupation. Some from the present generation entered into the occupation of unskilled labour instead of their parental farming occupation for getting regular income. It indicated that better market linkage influenced the income of farmers with a positive direction but uncertainty in climate and price fluctuation had made agriculture riskier. This affected the intention of the present generation to choose other non-farming occupations for better standard of living.

Among the 12 variables land holding, annual income, market linkage and cosmopoliteness had recorded significant regression impact upon intergenerational occupational mobility of the tribal district respondents. The R square value being 0.545, it is revealed that the conglomeration of the causal factors together has attributed to 54.5 per cent. So, it can be concluded that the socio-economic variables had considerable influence in accelerating intergenerational occupational mobility of tribal district respondents. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Susilowati (2015) who reported that the factors that affected the farmers' interest on working in agriculture were mainly due to land tenure, infrastructure and earning prospects from the agricultural sector.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.687[a]	.545	.471	.62986

a.Predictors: (Constant), Independent variable

Table 2: Multiple regression analysis of socioeconomic variables of parents with change in occupation (Coastal District Respondents)

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.129	.384		.335	.738
Age	-.241	.163	-.117	-1.478	.142
Education	.278	.187	.209	2.185	.028**
Family size	-.439	.166	-.221	-2.646	.009**
Land Holding	.030	.150	.019	.198	.844
Housing type	-.152	.220	-.058	-.694	.489
Annual Income	.527	.176	.299	2.988	.003**
Credit facility	-.045	.109	-.035	-.414	.680
Communication Network	-.087	.086	-.090	-1.006	.317
Institutional Network	-.016	.079	-.021	-.202	.840
Market linkage	.173	.125	.141	1.384	.169
Cosmopoliteness	.169	.078	.235	2.170	.032**
Extension Participation	-.055	.046	-.114	-1.192	.236

Dependent Variable: Occupational mobility; ** indicates significance at 95% level

The Table 2 showed that the independent variables like education, family size, annual income and cosmopoliteness have contributed the highest variance to the consequent variable intergenerational occupational mobility among coastal district respondents. From the results, it was found that level of education had determined the type and range of occupations. With higher education of first generation in the coastal areas, the greater is the change in the occupation of the second generation. Better education provided the second generation to access alternative occupations and mobility to non-farm occupations. The lower education status of father has exerted delayed effect on son's choice of occupation. Being educated one can enhance his farm income with adoption of modern technologies and better market linkages. The family size also showed the effect on the occupation transition from farming to non-farming sectors. Parents with higher average annual income made them able to provide their children higher education in better institutions with the aspiration of getting higher occupation. This accelerated intergenerational occupational transition from farming to non-farming sector which would provide them a higher social status than the age-old farming occupation in the society. The unequal distributions of income in the society motivated the poor farmers to support their children to select other alternative occupations for obtaining regular income. The cosmopolitans that refers to orientation towards urban outlook and better communication with the urban areas, made serious implications on the next generation for the livelihood choices in agrarian households and encouraged them to leave their parental traditional occupation and switchover to other occupations in the urban areas in order to get better facilities, income, prestige and higher standard of living. The family enriched with better economic standard and educational status played more supportive roles for their children to leave farming occupation by choosing non- farming occupations. The major influence of socio-economic variables like education, land holding,

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.644[a]	.495	.418	.703

a. Predictors: (Constant), Independent variables

income, family size, cosmopolitans determined occupational change leading to social mobility. The findings of the study are in conformity with Bernard Barber's theory of social mobility. Finding ways to make farming more profitable might inspire farmers to encourage their children to pursue farming as a source of livelihood.

Among the 12 variables, education, family size, average annual income and cosmopoliteness had recorded significant regression impact upon intergenerational occupational mobility of the coastal district respondents. The R square value being 0.644, it is concluded that the conglomeration of the causal factors together has attributed to 64.4 per cent. So, it can be concluded that the socio-economic variables had considerable influence in accelerating intergenerational occupational mobility among the respondents of coastal district. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Tiwari (2016); Kimaro *et al.* (2015) also reported that educational level, family background of respondents positively and significantly associated with intergenerational occupational mobility of youth.

CONCLUSION

The process of economic development, modernisation and industrialisation has broken traditional hierarchies and caste and class barriers to occupational choice. There are major influences of socio-economic variables like education, land holding, income, family size, cosmopoliteness on intergenerational occupational change from farming to non-farming sector leading to social mobility. Cosmopoliteness made the younger tribal generation attracted towards the better style of living of urban areas by earning higher income, although some choose occupations of skilled labour and unskilled labour which had lower status than the farming occupation. This should be a cause of concern among policymakers as future food production may be in jeopardy. Inclusion of agriculture from secondary education system will create interest in the youth for agriculture occupation. Issues regarding land rights and land tenure system in tribal district may be checked and awareness and better market opportunities may be facilitated to the tribal farmers for their reorientation. The policy makers should focus on awareness of innovations, capacity building, family-based extension approach for additional income and converting farming into agri-enterprise through group approaches and better market opportunities, will give a better annual income to the farmers for their produce which will attract the youth towards parental farming occupation in both coastal and tribal districts.

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