

*Full Length Research Paper*

# Effective factors to rural youths attitude to engagement in agriculture: A case study of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province

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The main objective in this causal -correlation field research is to identify effective factors in rural youths attitude to agricultural occupation in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Iran. Rural young people between 15 and 25 in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province are the subjects of this study. The method of data collection is cluster sampling. The technique of data collection is questionnaire. The specialty panel was used to gain assurance of the validity of the questionnaire. Cronbach alpha method was used to gain assurance of the reliability of the questionnaire ( $\alpha = 0.79$ ). In addition to descriptive statistics (such as mean, median, variance and standard deviation), inferential statistics such as, Spearman's coefficient of correlation, Mann-Whitney test, Kruskal Wallis test, multivariate regression and factor analysis technique were used for analyzing data. The consequences of multivariate regression, done with the method of Enter, indicate that the variable of type of farming system, range of acquaintance with corresponsive organizations, participation in extension and education classes, insurance, age and range of rural young peoples income have the main role (51%) in showing the variations of dependent variables (attitude to agricultural occupation). Results of factor analysis showed that five factors: improvement of physical and financial substructures, improvement of information and communication substructures, improvement of new technologies, extension and economic activities, and improvement of desirable lands have the main role (68.8%) in showing the variations of dependent variables (attitude to agricultural occupation).

**Key words:** Rural young's, jobs, attitude, agriculture, Kohgiluyeh province, Boyer-Ahmad province.

## INTRODUCTION

Having been a controversial issue, the occupation of youths in general and rural youths in particular and their immigration to other countries in macro level and from villages to cities in national level, in spite of having economical, social and cultural consequences, cause problems for governors.

Today, in many countries, especially the industrial developmental ones, unemployment is a fundamental issue and its solution has faced the politicians of lots of countries with big challenges. It can be said that the future of some governments is interrelated with the

solution of unemployment crisis. This problem is a more difficult condition in our country, Iran, where formal rate of unemployment had been increased from 9.1% in 1375 to 14.2% in 1380. In fact, lack of a balance between supply and demand of labour can be the basis of this problem. As an example, the increased rate of the supply of labour in 1375 to 1380 is 1.5 times as much as that of the long period of 1345 to 1375 (Management and programming organization, 1381/2003).

The low attitude level of the rural youths in the case of agricultural activities is the basis of their immigration to urban areas and their inclination to pseudo jobs (Ghadiri, 2003). Following their immigration to urban areas, lots of the social and economical issues have been transformed to cities (Eskandari, 1999).

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Since the rural youths are the basic resource of the country, expedient programming and organization of their affairs is of special priority. Today rural youths make a large portion of population labour and play an important role in the economical and social conditions of rural families. Hence, the necessity of paying attention to the needs of rural societies and then, guiding them to increase their technical and social abilities and skills is clear to everyone (Shahbazi, 1996).

Ghadiri (2005) believes that the activities highlighting the role of rural youths in achieving rural development, includes the following:

1. Emphasizing the establishing of local groups, consisting of the rural youths to analyze their real needs and their interests and attitudes toward rural development, to assess the basis for making jobs in rural areas, and to foster the participation interests.
2. Carrying on appropriate trainings to raise the level of knowledge and professional skills of rural youths in different rural fields.
3. Examining social, economical, cultural and professional factors influencing the attitude and motivation of rural youths toward employment in rural areas and reinforcing facilitators and decreasing inhibitions.

The skilled, proficient and trained forces are the most important stimuli in the process of economical development in the society. The informal training, performed by developmental organizations, is not able to solve the problems of proficiency, skill and employment of rural youths (Ebrahimi, 1994).

Swanson et al. (1991) believe that the role of extension and education programs in motivating people for employment in agricultural sector and decreasing the immigration of rural youths and achievement of the rural enduring stability include several factors, of which the most important of them are listed thus:

- i. Providing essential proficiency for appropriate employment.
- ii. Providing and improving the creative sense.
- iii. Fostering the citizenship identification.

Ommani (2006) believes that the essential ways of expanding the employment of youths in rural areas and decreasing their immigration to urban areas, include the following:

- a- Verifying the rural economy.
- b- Emphasizing the grouping of rural youths.
- c- Emphasizing the technical and professional trainings.

The term attitude, means a set of tendencies, views, and beliefs of an individual about his/her environmental factors, and this tendencies and belief will be stabilized based on environmental effect, the gained experiences

and the period of time (Rafiepour, 1993). While need, means a kind of failure and desire causing the release of energy and provoking a force which causes a typical behaviour to achieve a particular goal (Roos, 1994).

It seems that the existing need that is as a kind of failure and desire provokes some tension and drive which causes some behaviour. This behaviour is in accord with beliefs, opinions, knowledge, and affections which is the outcome of an attitude. This attitude directed the individual to a purposeful activity or an activity which has a purpose and causes the goal achievement and satisfaction or dissatisfaction. The occurrence of this cycle causes the process of attitude, both in high and low levels of need, to have pro or anti orientation. Pro orientation helps the individual achieve his/her goals, and anti orientations are obstacles (Arthor, 1995).

Swanson et al. (1991) believes that the goals of influential and efficient plans for rural youths which include providing of essential proficiency for employment, providing and increasing of leadership sense, fostering the citizenship identification, and the development of their attitude in the field of employment in rural areas, is very important.

Sinha (1993), in a study of the economical development and the expansion of employment of rural youths in rural areas, believes that the following items are important in changing the attitude of rural youths toward employment in rural areas:

- The expansion of peripheral activities in rural areas.
- The emphasis on the testing of benefits and optimal exploitation systems.
- The emphasis on the development of handicrafts in rural areas.

According to Radhakrishna and Ingram (2005), there is a need to create adult-youth partnerships to help youths participate in the development of policies that affect the lives and welfare youths. As they explained, collaborative efforts between developed and developing countries should focus on programs such as leadership and communication, building positive relationship and solving programs, becoming lifelong, self-directed learners, preparing for careers, healthy lifestyles, environmental awareness and human diversity.

Rural youths are currently living or have lived in urban communities, relocated to large cities to pursue post secondary education, find employment, or accompany family (Malatest and Associates Ltd, 2002).

Suitable condition instruction, favourable economical situation and expanding of social activates are necessary for increased motivation of rural youths to remain in rural areas and be employed in agricultural sector (Bajema et al., 2002)

Ferry (2006) believes that the interdependence of family, school and community played a critical role in shaping the youth's occupation selection.

Vissaria (1998) believes that non formal education (extension) and social activities played a critical role in professional activity development and preventing immigration of rural youths to other areas.

Ulojid (2008), in a study on rural youths attitude to development projects, states that the role of rural youths is very important. Result of this study is a significant relation between attitude and rural youths participation in the rural development projects.

Sedighi (2006), in a study, concluded that there is significant relation between economical situation, range of arable land, mechanization and attitude of rural youths to agricultural activities. Based on the result of this study, we say that economical characteristics are necessary and critical factors affect the attitude of rural youths to working in these areas.

Lindley (1989) programming on the rural youths states that rural improvement and development are the following:

1. Formal education for rural youths should be in the direction of developing rural areas.
2. For improvement of rural areas, non formal education for rural youths should be given attention in rural level.
3. Rural development programming should assimilate rural youths, and not reject them.
4. For development of youths, professional skills should be established in rural youths club.

Ommani and Chizari (2006) believe rural youths in undeveloped countries face some challenges such as unsuitable employment and limited educational opportunity. Thus, education needs assessment and the provision of suitable condition in these cases can inhibit rural youths immigration.

## Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

1. To determine the effective factors in rural youth's attitude to agricultural occupation in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Iran.
2. Describing of rural youths in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province by demographics characteristics
3. Describing of attitude level of rural youths for employment in agricultural activities (Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province).
4. Describing of effective economical characteristics in rural youths attitude to employment in agricultural activities
5. Describing of effective social characteristics in rural youths attitude to employment in agricultural activities.
6. Describing of effective arable characteristics in rural youths attitude to employment in agricultural activities.
7. Describing of effective factors in rural youths origination interest to employment in agricultural activities.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research method employed was correlative descriptive and causal- correlation field. The population consisted of rural youths in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province in Iran. A random sample of rural youths (330) was selected. The questionnaire was developed to collect data and it consists of five sections: personal characteristics, social characteristics, arable characteristics, economical characteristics, and attitude to employment in agricultural activities. A panel of experts of faculty members at Shooshtar University established content and face validity. A pilot test was conducted with 30 rural youth of in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province. Questionnaire reliability was established by calculating Cronbachs alpha. Reliability for the overall instrument was established at 0.79, which showed the reliability of questionnaire. 310 questionnaires were answered out of the total questionnaires (n = 330). Data collected were analyzed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS). Appropriate statistical procedures for description (frequencies, percent, means and standard deviations) and inferential statistical (Spearman's coefficient of correlation, Mann –Whitney test, Kruskal Wallis test, multivariate regression) were used.

## RESULTS

Approximately 35% of respondent between 21 and 24 years old (Table1) rural youths were asked to report their highest education: 15.2% of youths had an elementary education, 18.1% had high school diploma, 10% had post school education, and 19.4% were university students. Rural youths were asked to report their exploitation (harvest) system: 69.4% of rural youths had personal agrarian, 25% of rural youths had composite system, 15.2% rural youths had division system and 7.4% rural youths had rental system.

### Correlation between variables

For describing the relation between independent variable and dependent variable (rural youths attitude for employment in agricultural activities), Spearman's coefficient of correlation was used, which is shown in Table 2. Table 3 represents the rural youth's attitude to employment in agricultural sector, according to participation in extension and education courses. Mann –Whitney test was used. The results of the test indicate that between means of rural youths attitude that participate in extension and education courses and those that do not, have no significant difference.

Table 4 represents the rural youth's attitude for employment in agricultural sector according to explanation (harvest) system. Kruskal Wallis test was used. The results of the test indicate that between explanation (harvest) systems of different groups, there is significant difference.

### Regression study

To describe the role of dependent variable in multivariate

**Table 1.** The age, education and exploitation (harvest) system of respondents.

Variable	f	f (%)	Cum (%)
<b>Age</b>			
15 to 18	64	20.7	20.7
18 to 21	70	22.7	43.4
21 to 24	107	34.5	77.9
>24	69	22.1	100
<b>Education</b>			
Elementary	47	15.2	15.2
Middle school	60	19.4	34.5
High school	56	18.1	52.6
Diploma	56	18.1	70.6
Associate	31	10	80.6
University student	60	19.4	100
<b>Exploitation (harvest) system</b>			
Personal agrarian	215	69.4	69.4
Division	46	15	84.4
Rental	23	7.4	91.8
Composite	26	8.1	100

**Table 2.** Coefficient of correlation and significant levels.

S/N	First variable	Second variable	r	p
1	Age	Rural youth attitude	0.025	0.665
2	Education	Rural youth attitude	-0.276	0.183
3	Agricultural background	Rural youth attitude	0.017	0.767
4	Arable land	Rural youth attitude	0.130	0.023
5	Income	Rural youth attitude	0.270	0.000
6	Social participation	Rural youth attitude	0.158	0.005
7	Range of Acquaintant with corresponive organizations	Rural youth attitude	-0.199	0.000

**Table 3.** Comparison of means of rural youth's attitude for employment in agricultural sector, according to participation in extension and education courses.

Participate in extension and education courses	n	Ordinal	Mann and Whitney	Sig.
Yes	62	162.21	8015	0.396
No	235	152.11		

regression, the method of Enter, was used. The consequences of multivariate regression, done with the method of Enter indicate that the variable of type of farming system, range of acquaintance with corres-ponive organizations, participation in extension and education classes, insurance, age and range of rural young people income have the main role (51%) in showing the variations of dependent variables (attitude to agricultural occupation).

## DISCUSSION

The consequences of this research indicate that between income and rural youths, attitude to agricultural occupation is of significant relation (Bajema et al., 2002; Malatest, 2002). The consequences of this research indicate that between social participation and rural youths, attitude to agricultural occupation is of significant relation (Uoljild, 2008; Visaria, 1990; Shafiezadh, 1996).

**Table 4.** The rural youth's attitude for employment in agricultural section, according explanation (harvest) system.

Explanation system	n	Ordinal mean	Chi square	Sig.
Personal agrarian	215	84/57	209	0/000
Division	46	102/29		
Rental	23	57/80		
Composite	26	46/66		

The consequences of this research indicate that difference between arable land and rural youths attitude to agricultural occupation is different (Sedighi, 2006; Eskandari, 1999). The consequences of this research indicate that there is a significant different relation between rural youths' attitude to agricultural occupation and exploitation (harvest) system (Sinha, 1994).

## RECOMMENDATION

With attention to the consequences of this research, the following recommendations are represented:

1. Expansion of different education and cultural programmes for increasing rural social participation ability and the improvement of the situation and people's role in the community.
2. Delivery of the suitable agricultural lands to rural youths from low interest side rate.
3. Implementation of extension and education courses, corresponding with rural community situation and needs.
4. Expansion of necessary activities for improvement of economical situation.
5. Development and expansion of factors that affect the role of rural youths' attitude to employment in rural areas and immigration loss.

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