

# Young Minds of Agricultural Families and their Occupational Aspirations

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## Abstract

India is an agricultural country where majority of its population mainly depends upon agriculture. Indeed agriculture is the main source of income for the people residing in rural India but the growing challenges of modern economy and handling agricultural occupation sustainability are the objectives of growing rural India. Likewise other states of India, Jammu and Kashmir State is also dependent on agriculture and the people residing in rural areas. The Nature has bestowed unique climate to the state for some agricultural products which is not possible in other states of the nation. Agriculture sector is the backbone of state's economy, which provides employment and livelihood to the millions of people associated to it. Though agriculture is the main source of occupation and livelihood but younger generations seems de-motivated towards the sector because of the problems and hitches associated to it. The young people between the age group 18-30 prefer to be in offices rather than working in agricultural farms. The research tries to identify the responses of young-generation and their parental aspirations about their future career. It is found that although majority of the parents of the respondents were associated with agricultural sector but still they preferred their wards to choose other professions. The researcher further analysed that both children and parents showed apathy towards this profession due to its low income, social bindings and many other reasons.

**Keywords:** *Agriculture, Aspiration, Youth, Parents and Apathy*

## 1. Introduction

Jammu and Kashmir is largely an agrarian society with about 70 Percent of its population living in rural areas earning their livelihood from

agriculture. Likewise other states of India; Jammu and Kashmir is an agricultural dependent state where majority of its population mainly depends upon agriculture and its allied sectors (Shafqat, 2017). The agriculture is the main source of income for the people residing in rural areas of the state but the growing challenges of modern economy, political turmoil and unpredicted calamities has brought the sector into dwindling phase where from relying on the sector is full of perils and unproductive for the people associated to the sector. Further, handling agricultural occupation sustainability and promoting employment of the agriculture and allied sectors is challenging for the government because of the low productivity and high requirements of the people. (Kate & Gugerty, 2011). The objective of modern economy is to promote inclusive growth which highly includes agriculture as the main developmental sector and the aim is to see India becoming yardstick of development rather than chasing the footsteps of other nation's economy (Dr. Paul, 2018). Likewise other states of India, the economy of Jammu and Kashmir State are also boosted by agriculture and the people residing in rural are highly dependent on agricultural sector. The Nature has bestowed unique climate to the state for some agricultural products which is not possible in other states of the nation. Agriculture sector is the backbone of state's economy, which provides employment and livelihood to the millions of people associated to it (Madhusudhan, 2015).

The Aspirations of the people are changing with the passage of time. The parents who are associated to the agricultural sector seems demotivated and apathy towards the sector because of the low productivity and tough-work in the sector (Divila & Gigolo 1994). The parents and the students of modern era want to delink themselves from the old type of occupation that is agricultural farming, (Gasiorowsk & Denis, 2017). They prefer to be in administrative jobs and innovative businesses. The

aspirations are supposed as ‘an individual’s wishes to attain a rank, idea or ambitions like particular profession or stratum of education (Morrison & Gutman 2008). Every person in this world lives with certain dreams goals and aspirations about various aspects of his/her life be that a status to achieve, an occupation to choose or regarding any element of the life. But it requires a firm but delicate moment to decide about future. Most commonly, People go through several experiences and suggestions first and then decide about their occupational dreams (Christiaensen, 2017). The people associated to the agricultural farms have high aspirations for their children and they want their younger ones to study and explore the real choices of their inner soul that is the youth and their parents are much determinant about the administrative, official and organizational avenues of livelihood rather than sticking to the unproductive agricultural farming. In addition, the youth tries to invent new means in agricultural businesses and are much interested on the factors which de-motivate the new generation towards choosing of agricultural farming as their future occupation. Further, the dissemination of technical know with the collaboration of educated youth are converting the weakness of agricultural sector into the strength of new business.

## 2. Objectivise of the Study

The objective of this paper is to investigate educational and occupational aspirations of youth residing in rural areas especially the youth of Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. It attempts to provide evidence on why and how parents and children are de-motivated towards the primary sector of agriculture and why the sectors other than farming have better careers options. Further the scope of further analysis will be highlighted for the betterment of youth residing in Jammu and Kashmir with special reference to district Pulwama. The data presented in this paper is purely based on survey conducted by researcher among the age group of 15-18 years i.e. class 9<sup>th</sup> to class 12<sup>th</sup>. In this research self made questionnaire was used to identify the aspiration of school going children, the parental educational and occupation profession of the respondents was also assessed.

## 3. Research Methodology

The study scrutinizes the aspirations of the youth towards the agricultural farming through the responses collected by questionnaire. The questionnaire was self administrated and responses were collected by the researcher. To explore the factors which reduce their positive approach towards agricultural farming in Jammu and Kashmir mainly in the district Pulwama, the researcher selected the sample size of 100 students (respondents) randomly

based on the convenience and proximity of the respondents. The researcher selected the particular district based on the history of highest education rate in district and highest number of candidate in civil serve exams.

## 4. Research Instrument

Questionnaire is used as a research instrument in the survey to get the real information to a large extent. The multiple-choice based questions related to occupational aspirations of the age group 18-20 years were framed to know the changing job desires among educated youth. Table 1.1 shows the detailed questions selected for the study. It includes the questions related to the aim, family background and career oriented aspirations in young minds.

Table 1.1 *Questions related to occupational aspirations in age group between 15-20 years*

What is parental occupation	Govt. Job	Private Job	Agricultural Farming	Other
Which class you are studying	Up to 10 <sup>th</sup>	10-12 <sup>th</sup>	College	Other
What is your occupation Aim	Govt Job	Private Job	Agricultural farming	Other
Why are you de-motivated towards agricultural farming	Low Income	Labour work	Low Status	Other
What the aspirations (ambition ) of your parents	Govt. Job	Private Job	Agricultural Farming	Other

Table 1.1 shows the questions framed in the questionnaire, which were meant to know the parental aim, and occupation of the respondents and at the same time identification of the educational qualification of the respondents and their aim and apathy towards agricultural farming.

## 5. Analysis and interpretation

### 5.1 Gender profile

The researcher has taken sample from district Pulwama where two groups of respondents based on gender have been selected randomly. The gender profile helps us to know the response of two categories based on their gender varies or not. Further it stands as testament that both the Male and Female participants are fairly and randomly given chance to be part of the sample. The gender profile is shown in the table 1.1.

Table 1.2. Show the gender profile of respondents.

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	75	75.0	75.0
Female	25	25.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

The above table reveals that 75 Percent of the respondents were from male respondents, while as 25% respondents were females. This states that female respondents were also part of the sample size and their proposition is fair enough to be part of any survey. The proposition of male respondents is high due to the availability of high number of school going male candidates.

### 5.2 Occupation of Parents

The occupation of the parents has been often an influential, decisive and prominent factor behind the selections of occupations of their children. But in the sector of agricultural farming, the mentality of both parents and children towards occupational desires has proved out to be changing gradually. They no more find any kind of fantasy and benefit in this field. The researcher tries to explore the parental professions of the parents of respondents which is divided into four categories i.e. government job, private job, agricultural farming and other occupations like business and skilled labour.

Table 1.3 Occupation of parental of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Govt. Job	30	30	30
Private Job	15	15	45
Farming	45	45	90
Other	10	10	100.0
Total	7	100.0	

The above table depicts that 45% parents of the respondents were related with agricultural farming, 30% were government servants while as 15% parents were affiliated with the private sector and 7% parents of the respondents were associated with other occupations like business, trade etc.

### 5.3 Academic Class of study (Respondents)

The researcher further divided the educational qualification into three categories viz secondary, higher secondary and higher qualification level i.e. under graduate. The finding based on the educational achievement of the respondents gives the actual situation and ideas about his/her aspirations related to occupation.

Table 1.4 Educational status of the respondents

		Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Upto 10th	34	34	34
10-12 <sup>th</sup>	60	60	94
College	6	6	100
Total	100	100	

In this table 60% respondents were studying in higher secondary level while as 34% of the respondents had studied up to 10th standard and 6% respondents were pursuing their education at college level.

### 5.4 Aim of Respondents with respect to Occupation

The researcher tried to know the occupational aspiration of the respondents broadly divided into four categories like government, private, agricultural farming and the last one is any other professions like business and jobs related to skill. As this part of the questionnaire definitely is the primary and authentic source to get the actual comparison and need of other occupations apart from the agricultural farming.

Table 1.5 Occupational aspirations of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Govt Job	70	70.0	70.0
Private job	25	25.0	95.0
Agricultural farming	2	2.0	97.0
Other	3	3.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

The above table highlights that about 70% of the respondents had their occupational ambitions toward government jobs, 25% respondents were having their occupational aspirations towards the private sector while as 3% respondents were aiming for other occupations like business, trade, skilled labours etc. and only 2% of the respondents had agricultural farming as their occupational aspiration.

### 5.5 Reason behind de-motivation towards agricultural farming

The Researcher further tries to identify the factors which led to the apathy of the respondents towards agricultural farming.

Table 1.6 depicts the de-motivational factors towards agricultural farming

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Low Income	45	45.0	45.0
Laborious Job	15	15.0	60.0
Low status	25	25.0	85
Other	15	15.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

The above table depicts that 45% respondents were against and de-motivated towards the agricultural farming due to its low income where as 25% respondents revealed low status in the society as their de-motivating factor towards farming, 15 % respondents were taking it much laborious job hence were not motivated about it and 15% of respondents had other reasons like less land possession etc.

### 5.6 Parents Aspiration (ambition)

The researcher concluded by exploring out the parental aspirations for their wards. The researcher further has categorized this variable into four parts i.e. government jobs, private jobs, business sector and agricultural farming. As the parents play a prominent and qualitative role for choosing the occupational part of their wards

Table 1.7: Parental aspirations

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Govt. Job	76	76.0	76.0
Private Job	20	20.0	96.0
Business	2	2.0	98.0
Agricultural farming	2	2.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

The table shows that 76% parents of the respondents were aspiring for government jobs about their children while as 20% parents aiming the private sector for the future of their wards, 2% parents of the respondents were aspiring the business field as their children's future occupations and only 2% parents were motivated towards agricultural farming about the occupation of their children.

## 6. Discussion and findings

1. It is found that highest number of parental occupation is agricultural farming. This is due to the non availability of employment avenues, customs,

traditions and stubborn thinking of old generation. The people were thinking that agriculture is the only source of livelihood and their parents thought that it is better to train their children in agricultural farming rather to send them to the schools for education and let their children move to other places for the job. This perspective and stereotyped thinking went a drastic change among the parents of this era seems to be de-motivated and apathy towards agricultural sector. They want their children to be in schools for good education and better occupational future.

2. The second finding of this research was that the occupational aspirations of the respondents showed much attention towards government sector because it gives them high status and helps them to earn adequate income from this sector. On the other hand their second most preferred choice was private sector as it also benefits from the socio economic point of view. Private sector may have overcome the govt sector but in Jammu and Kashmir mainly district Pulwama is devoid of sufficient private sector in comparison to rest of Indian states. Further few respondents showed little bit interest in business mainly due to availability of saffron, apple and walnut orchards.

3. The researcher further found that both respondents and their parents showed apathy towards agricultural farming mainly it gives them low income, low status and they believe it is laborious task.

4. The fourth finding in this paper is that the parents of the respondents wished that their children should first go for government job, because they know agricultural sector yields less income, low status and it is tiresome job. Further twenty parents of the respondents wished to see their wards in private sector because it helps them to earn the livelihood for him as well as for his family mainly some respondents left the school after passing higher secondary level and then joined the private sector. The study also reveals parents of the few respondents showed least interest in the business sector because few respondents left school after secondary level had no other avenues but to choose business. Finally two Percent parents of the respondents wished to choose agricultural farming as their occupational because some students left school before the completion of secondary level education. And also they preferred agricultural farming for their wards due to immense availability of agricultural lands.

5. It is found that young minds of the pulwama district show more apathy towards agricultural farming and the reason behind this de-motivation is the low productivity from agricultural farms, marginal land possession, hard toil work, natural calamities and highly digitalized and new technological world.

## 7. Conclusion

The above findings quite comprehensively and vividly reveal that the occupational aspirations and the factors which force them not to choose the agricultural farming as their profession. Although maximum parents of the respondents were associated with agriculture but once data was analysed it proved not only their parents showed apathy towards agricultural farming but also their foremost choice for their children was to opt government jobs, private jobs and other occupations like business etc. At the same time this apathy was also found among the respondents respectively. Thus the reason for parents as well as among the respondents was agricultural farming gives them low income, low status in the society and the most important one was that it was a laborious occupation. Some of the respondents went against the agricultural farming due to their less land possession, no land, and high educational aspirations.

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