



# IMPACT OF RURAL AGRICULTURAL WORK EXPERIENCE (RAWE) PROGRAMME ON PROFILE OF HOST FARMERS IN MADHYA PRADESH

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## ABSTRACT-----

The influence of the Rural Agricultural Work Experience Program on the host farmers has been the main subject of the study. It was discovered that the majority (63.3%) belonged to the middle age group (46–55 years), followed by the young group (22.5%) (up to 45 years), and the remaining group (14.01%) (above 56 years). It was found that the majority of respondents (39.01%) only completed elementary school, 18.3% completed high school, and 0.83 percent could only read. The study discovered that more than (49.01%) of the respondents were from the other backward class (OBC), with general (30.00%) and scheduled (20.09%) being the highest percentages. The study looked at land holding, finding that most people (53.3%) had semi-medium type land holding (2 to 4 hec.), whereas 15.09 percent had marginal type land holding (less than 1 hec.). It was shown that a higher percentage of respondents (44.2%) belonged to multiple organizations, while 20.0% only belonged to one. The findings showed that 65.0% of respondents fell into the Rs. 45, 000–60,000 income range, while 19.0% of respondents fell into the Rs. 45,000–60,000 income range. It was discovered that the majority of respondents (96.7%) had communication with progressive farmers, friends (86.6%), A.D.O. (52.5%), and government input dealers/semi-government (65.0%). The majority of respondents (88.3%) reported having used the internet, while the second-highest percentage (76.7%) reported using a phone or mobile device.-----

## INTRODUCTION

India has made the most notable strides in the field of agriculture. The age of self-sufficiency was characterized as a shift from a "begging basket to a saturated granary," which was aided by the "indigo revolution." These demands necessitated redesigning agriculture education and the development of new instructional resources. This prepared the way for the future expansion of agriculture. In the Indian context, farmers' socioeconomic status is critical to agriculture. It was shown that socioeconomic, psychological, and situational factors are the primary causes of suicide among Indian farmers.

Research from India revealed that 72% of farmers enjoy their work, and that 60% of them have farming as their primary career. In addition, 36% of farmers believe that their income from farming is inadequate. Farmers' land holdings and their motivation to farm are strongly correlated (Singh et al., 2016). The estimate of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is prepared by the Department of Economic & Statistical Analysis, Madhya Pradesh.

According to preliminary projections for 2018–19, the state's gross state domestic product (GSDP) at current prices is anticipated to be 7,07,126.33 crore. This represents a growth rate of 12.9% in 2018–19 compared to the growth rate of 12.5% in 2017–18 (Madhya Pradesh at glance, 2019). As a result, a demanding field curriculum was created, with a focus on helping farm students become fully used to farm life and the rural agricultural operating system through hands-on training. The Rural Agricultural Work Experience Program (RAWEP) was implemented in our nation's agricultural institutions and is seen to be the greatest way to help agricultural science students orient and equip farmers with the necessary capabilities.

Under the direction of, the Fifth Deans committee recommended the implementation of RAWEP in all State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) in India and established the program's precise goals (Shivaramu, 2018). RAWEP is a



program offered in the final year of the B.Sc. (Agri/Hori) degree program to help agricultural students sharpen their knowledge and skills. It consists of training, practice, observation, demonstration, and purposeful activities. It also prepares our agricultural graduates to take part in various rural development programs. The purpose of this initiative is to give students in rural areas employment experience.

This hands-on approach to agricultural education has great promise for producing highly skilled agricultural technocrats equipped with a contemporary perspective and managerial abilities. Nonetheless, RAWEP is among the greatest at producing agricultural graduates with a comprehensive foundation of knowledge and skills to tackle new issues pertaining to farmers' welfare (IGKVR, 2014).

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The current study was conducted in the villages that students were assigned to during RAWEP. As a result, 120 host farmers were chosen, to whom the students attached themselves in order to study different facets of farming and agriculture. The study was conducted in the state of Madhya Pradesh using a descriptive research design. Additionally, information was gathered through the use of a questionnaire for measuring in-person interactions with farmers. The investigator sought advice and opinion from experts and extension personnel when crafting the query and establishing the details. In the meantime, frequency and percentage were used to analyze and tabulate the data that was gathered.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

According to the data shown in Table 1, the majority of farmers (63.3%) belonged to the medium age group (46–55 years), followed by young farmers (22.5%) (up to 45 years) and old farmers (above 56 years). It was found that the majority of farmers (39.1%) only had a primary education, followed by high school (18.3%) and middle level (08.3%) education (which simply required reading comprehension). Meanwhile, the study found that (06.6%) of people were illiterate.

The study did find, however, that postgraduates (0.5%) were found to follow graduates (05.8%). Analyzing the influence of RAWEP, a similar study found that farmers had a high school education level, despite the fact that fewer farmers had completed their high school education (Ananthnag et al., 2014).

The majority of farmers (48.1%) belonged to the other backward class, the remainder (30.0%) to the general caste, and 20.9% to the SC category. Research suggests that because of RAWEP, all groups and the weaker segments of society have contributed to closing the gap that still has a big influence on farmers.

The greatest percentage of semi-medium land holders (53.3%) and tiny land holders (19.1%) in the data shown in Table 1 were semi-medium land holders (2 to 4 hec.). Farmers made up 16.7% of the major land holders and 15.9% of the marginal land holders (those with less than one hectare). It is discovered that those with semi-medium land holdings may have been responsible for this outcome since they had more land and attempted to lease it, possibly on the property of their ancestors.

A higher percentage of farmers (20.00%) belonged to many organizations, and a smaller percentage (16.7%) did not belong to any organizations at all. According to the study, the majority of farmers had little interest in joining a farmers club or other agricultural society. showed that farmers needed additional training—other than RAWEP—that could broaden their perspectives.

According to the report, the most percentage of farmers (65.0%) made between Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 45,000, while the lowest percentage (19.1%) made between Rs. 45,000 and Rs. 60,000. The study discovered that the great majority of farmers made ordinary incomes. This may be because farmers get money from a variety of sources in addition to farming, including agribusiness, kirana shops, and house rentals.

According to the statistics in Table 1, the majority of farmers (36.7%) were moderately change-prone, followed by farmers (35.0%) who were lowly change-prone, and farmers (28.3%) who were least change-prone. When a person exhibits change proneness, it means they are inclined or ready to alter their thoughts, feelings, behavior, and attitude by being adaptable rather than forcing themselves to be rigid. Thus, farmers altered their choices and mindsets, feeling that they were adequate for both themselves and the pupils (Verma, 2014).



According to the findings in Table 1, the majority of farmers (55.9%) exhibited high levels of fatalism, followed by low levels of fatalism (25.0%) and medium levels of fatalism (19.1%). According to a study, farmers significantly influenced students' feelings of fatalism at RAWE (Maercker, 2019). According to the study, more than 45.0% of farmers were interested in taking on medium risk, followed by 35.0% in taking on low risk, and 20.0% in taking on high risk.

**Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to impact of RAWEP on socio-economic status of host farmers**

Sr. No.	Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	<b>Age</b>	Young (up to 45 years)	27	22.5
		Medium (46-55 years)	76	63.3
		Old (above56 years)	17	14.1
2	<b>Education</b>	Illiterate	8	6.6
		Can Read Only	10	8.3
		Primary School	47	39.1
		Middle	10	8.3
		High School	22	18.3
		Graduate	7	5.8
		Post Graduate	6	5
3	<b>Caste</b>	General	36	30
		Other backward class (OBC)	59	48.1
		Schedule caste (SC)	25	20.9
4	<b>Landholding</b>	Marginal land holding (below 1 hec.)	19	15.9
		Small land holding (1 to 2 hec.)	23	19.1
		Semi-medium land holding (2 to 4 hec.)	64	53.3
		Medium land holding (4 to 10 hec.)	6	5
		Large land holding (above 10 hec.)	8	6.7
5	<b>Social participation</b>	No membership in any organization	20	16.7
		Membership in one organization	34	20
		Membership in more than one organization	24	20
		Primary agricultural cooperative society	7	5.8
		Office Bearer	12	10
		Public Leader	4	3.3
6	<b>Annual income</b>	Up to Rs. 15,000	5	4.2
		Rs. 30,000 -45,000	78	65
		Rs. 45,000-60,000	23	19.1
		Above 60,000	14	11.7
7	<b>Change proneness</b>	Low	42	35
		Medium	44	36.7
		High	34	28.3
8	<b>Scientism/Fatalism</b>	Low	30	25
		Medium	23	19.1
		High	67	55.9
9	<b>Risk orientation</b>	Low	42	35
		Medium	54	45
		High	24	20

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the majority of respondents (39.1%) were young adults, and 63.3% of farmers were found to have only completed their primary education. The findings indicated that the majority of farmers (53.3%) held semi-medium-sized land (2 to 4 hec.), while 48.1% belonged to the other backward class. Moreover, a significant proportion of farmers (20.00%) belonged to multiple organizations, whereas 16.7% did not belong to any organization. Nonetheless,



65.0% of farmers earned between Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 45,000, while 19.1% of farmers earned between Rs. 45,000 and Rs. 60,000.

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