

**“A Sociological Study of Rural Youth in Karnataka”  
(Case Study of Hosadurga, Chitradurga Dist.)**

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**ABSTRACT:**

The present study is a sociological research methods to find out the challenging factors of the rural youth socio-economic and cultural background and educational & occupational, political aspiration and understand the perceptions, family compatibility and examine the dilemmas, expectations and attitudes of the rural youth. Research methodology has, thus, come to stay as an integral part of social research.

Today it is accepted that identification as well as solution of all social problems lies in extensive and proper use of social research methods. These methods help in providing theoretical framework and narrowing down the areas to be studied. Research on youth is still one of the less developed fields of sociology. As an area of systematic sociological investigation, it is about six decades old. In India the involvement of sociologists in research on youth is quite recent. This paper attempts as an overview of social research and theoretical approaches to youth. Transitional issues within a single generation vary not only according to time and place but also according to the specific structure of the social institutions in which they are embedded like gender, class, family structure, work place, government, community organizations etc.

The present paper is theoretical paper, which is based on the pilot survey of primary and secondary data. It is collected from the source such as books, journals, articles and primary observations. The study concludes that Karnataka Rural Youth recognizes problem and can solve them.

**Key – Words:** Rural Dalit youth, Culture, Transition, Perception, aspiration, Social change, Unemployment, family compatibility, dilemmas and desires.

**01. Introduction:**

“Youth is the symbol of dynamism, growth and development. The real agents of change are not political or corporate leaders, but the youth”.

- *Swami Vivekananda.*

Man is an important stage in the progress and development of a person in the society, signifying the stages of transition from childhood to adulthood. This stage characterizes physical, psychological and social change in the individual. Youth being enthusiastic, vibrant, innovative and dynamic in nature is the most important section of the population. Youth shows strong passion, motivation and will power which also make them the most valuable human resource for fostering economic, cultural and political development of a nation. A country's ability and potential for growth is determined by the size of its youth population.

India is the youngest country in world with proportion of rural youth about 67% to 68% of the country's total population. Rural youth account for around 55% of the world youth population. They are among the most disadvantaged of groups. Often they have limited access to educational programmes that are geared to their situation and needs – not surprisingly, many rural people drop out of school at an early age.

According to the 2011 census, Karnataka comprises of 30% youth population. Youth constitute 30 per cent of the total population of the country and the state. Globalization and Liberalization have a profound impact on the Economic and Social progress of the country as well as the cultural changes in the youth. In this transitional process, young people face the challenges of social change, and a nation can develop only when its youth are empowered with education and employment.

Affairs of young people, usually in youth, spread out beyond parents and family; the peers and atmosphere of outside world heavily influence them. Their mental development is highly analytical and rational, with good expression and independent ideas. Generally, youth is an age of creativity, activity, passion, and courage, and it is time to take a thorough look at critical issues such as examining everything, taking risks, being stressed out, education, career, physical activity and sexuality. It is natural for youth to be aggressive, attractive minded, egotistical, ignorant, and all manner of attitudes.

Youth is a transitional phase, dependent on the environment and family, school, community, neighborhood, and their personal choices, environmental impact and altered lifestyles, mental illness, ambiguity, confusion, suicidal tendency, injury, etc. have a profound impact on their health and life.

Youth is also the stage of the beginning of problems in Physical and mental health of young people; like blood pressure (Hypertension), diabetes, vision loss, weakness, hair loss, obesity, etc. In addition, it is also responsible for start of the habit of addictions, like smoking, drinking, and eating more often.

## 02. What is youth in Sociology?

Youth, in a very general definition, is a period of life in-between childhood and adulthood. It is described as a time of experimenting with roles and identities, still void of the burden of social norms and obligations, yet slowly preparing the youngsters for their lives as full members of the social collective.

**According to the Oxford Dictionary of Sociology**, youth typically regarded in sociology as an ascribed status, or socially constructed label, rather than simply the biological condition of being young.

Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group. **United Nations** defines ‘youth’ as persons between 15 and 24 years of age with all UN statistics based on this range, the UN states education as a source for these statistics.

**WHO** defines ‘Adolescents’ as individuals in the 10-19 years age group and Youth as the 15-24 years age group, While Young People ‘covers the age range 10-24 years. In India the youth is defined to include those individuals who are between 15 and 35 years of age.

In the **National Youth Policy -2003**, ‘youth’ was defined a person of age between 13-35 years, but in the current Policy Document, the youth age-group is defined as 15-29 years with a view to have a more focused approach, as far as various policy interventions are concerned.

The **National Youth Policy (NYP-2014)** aims at providing an overview of the state of the youth aged 15-29 years in India. This age group constitute 27.5% of India’s population. The 2011 Census counted 563 million young people from 10-35, according to the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan Vol. Oct 24,2014. It highlights key issues and challenges faced by the youth and elaborates on how all stakeholders can support the youth to ensure that they contribute positively to the development of the society now and in the future. It is further estimated that the average age of the population in India by 2020 will be 29 years as against 40 years in USA, 46 years in Europe and 47 years in Japan.

Sociologically, the term ‘youth’ has cryptic characteristics that include and refer to psychological and biological state of any personality there can not be any firm plinth to lay down the word’s lineage in an endeavor to define youth (Misra,1993:29).

The present research study is a sociological research to find out the socio- economical, socio – political, education and Occupational, socio – physiological and cultural condition and changes of the Case Study of Rural Unemployed Graduate Youth in Hosadurga Taluk of Chitradurga District in Karnataka.

### 03. Objectives of the Research:

The present study is a sociological research to find out the challenging factors of the Dalit graduate unemployed rural youth.

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study the Social background of the graduate unemployed Rural Dalit youth.
- To examine the Economic background of the Rural youth.
- To identify the occupational aspirations of the Rural youth.
- To study the challenges faced by the graduate unemployed Rural youths.

### 04. Hypothesis of the Study:

The current research study seeks to test these assumptions.

- Youth in general and rural youth in particular fortunate generation due to their modern exposure.
- Modern technology poses new challenges to graduate unemployed Rural Dalit youth.
- Youth are more rational in terms of construction for their existence and reality.
- All Rural youths have similarity in humbleness and desires.

### 05. Conceptualizations of Sociological terms:

- **Youth:** Typically regarded in sociology as an ascribed status. Alternatively, socially constructed label, rather than simply the biological condition of being young. The age group selected for the purpose of study is, between 18 and 35.
- **Caste:** A form of social stratification, which involves a system of hierarchically ranked, closed, endogamous strata, the membership of which is ascribed, and between which contact is restricted and mobility theoretically impossible. Although it reflects economic inequalities, by virtue of the occupation typically followed by, or permitted to, members, caste stratification is ultimately rooted in noneconomic criteria. caste is especially important in the lives of Indian Hindus. For whom its basis is the traditional idea of the five varna: Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra and Untouchable. Within each varna there are myriad jati.
- **Youth Culture:** youth cultures are explained either by factors in the experience of adolescence, or by the manipulation of young people's spending and leisure, through advertising and other mass media. The functional separation of home, school, and work supposedly makes teenagers increasingly distinct from adults, more self-aware, and subject to peer-group rather than parental and other adult influences.

- **Youth Unemployment:** unemployment is seen by sociologists as a result of structural and institutional factors, rather than the characteristics of the particular social groups affected by it. Unemployment can be defined as the difference between labour supply and labour demand. Moreover, the ILO defines unemployment as ‘unemployed as those people who have not worked more than one hour during the short reference period but who are available for and actively seeking work’ (O’Higgins, 1997). As per the ILO Convention No. 138, the minimum age for employment is 15 years but variation exists in the youth definition for statistical purpose.

## **06. Research Methodology of the study:**

This study is attempts to sociologically examine, analyze and understand the social life of graduated unemployed youth and challenges in the rural India’s state of Karnataka.

## **07. The Universe under Observation:**

As per census Chitradurga District has a population of 1,659,456 in 2011 out of which 840,843 are male and 818,613 are female. The district has a total area of 8,436 sq km, 140 sq. km is urban and 8296 sq km is rural. Out of total population of 1,841,997 in the district, 329,533 are in urban area and 1,329,923 are in rural area. 73,334 households are in urban, 283,669 are in rural area. 252,973 literate people are in urban, 834,419 are in rural area. Hosadurga Taluka of Chitradurga district has **total population of 235,116** as per the Census 2011. Out of which 119,148 are males while 115,968 are females. In 2011 there were total 53,019 families residing in Hosadurga Taluka. **The Average Sex Ratio of Hosadurga Taluka is 973.** As per Census 2011 out of total population, 12.1% people lives in Urban areas while 87.9% lives in the Rural areas. The average literacy rate in urban areas is 88.1% while that in the rural areas is 71.8%. In addition, the Sex Ratio of Urban areas in Hosadurga Taluka is 951 while that of rural areas is 976. The population of Children of age 0-6 years in Hosadurga Taluka is 25729, which is 11% of the total population. There are 13172 male children and 12557 female children between the age 0-6 years. Thus as per the Census 2011 the **Child Sex Ratio of Hosadurga Taluka is 953** which is less than Average Sex Ratio ( 973 ) of Hosadurga Taluka. **The total literacy rate of Hosadurga Taluka is 73.78%.** The male literacy rate is 72.29% and the female literacy rate is 58.95% in Hosadurga Taluka. As per the Population Census 2011 data, Schedule Caste (SC) constitutes 20.5% of total population in Hosadurga Taluka of total SC population is 48,272 male 24,354 and female 23,918. As per Census 2011, there are total 6,578 families under Hosadurga Taluka living in urban areas while 6,578 families are living within Rural areas. Thus around 12.1% of total population of Hosadurga Taluka lives in Urban areas while 87.9% lives under Rural areas. Population of children (0 - 6 years) in urban region is 3,032 while that in rural region is 22,697. Total rural population of SCs 44,345. Hosadurga consist of 391 villages and 34 Panchayats Dasarahalli, Kudarekanive Forest is the smallest village and Belaguru is the biggest Village. It is in the 765 m elevation (altitude).

The present study is conducted Pilot survey in 50 respondents after the study conducting in 100 (225) (100x04=400) villages in 30 (33) Gram Panchayats of 04 Hoabali (**Kasaba, Madadakere, Mattodu, Srirampura**) Centers of Hosadurga taluk in Chitradurga district is a comprehensive study which involves 400 graduated (Arts, Science, Commerce, etc.) youths aged between 15 - 34 selected from the Stratified Random Sample, using a survey methodology that is part of the Descriptive Research Methodology. Here 400 youths who belong to *Scheduled Castes* are selected from the revenue jurisdiction of the taluk and selected based on caste wise list. Similarly, the selection of the rural Dalit youths has been done particularly from Scheduled castes (400) **Madiga (100), Chalavadi (100), Lambani (100) and Bhovi (100)**. Thus, the caste and culture of the selected sample includes youth from various, gender, caste, culture and age group according to the aims and objectives of the study and the social, economic, political, educational, cultural and psychological aspects of the youth. In today's age of modernization, liberalization and globalization, their influence and social changes are studied in terms sociological aspects.

#### **08. Scope and Limitations of the Study:**

The focus of the present study is on the social life of rural graduated and unemployed Dalit youth and their socio-cultural, health and education, political and occupational, caste and religious aspects which influence their expectations, aspirations, and perceptions. The scope of the study lies in seeking to analyse the life, achievements and aspirations whether they have achieved or not achieved as these youths belong to the marginalized section of the society. The scope of the study also lies in the analysis if these underprivileged castes have come out of their basic menial jobs associated with their castes. The analysis is also taken up to know if these youths have come out of their menial jobs associated with their castes since a long time.

The study will also try to know the influence of corporate sector and its impact over the trade and skills associated with these castes. The study will also try to analyse if these castes are able to come out of the impact in the present socio-political and financial conditions.

For the better understanding of the present study, it is confined only to graduated unemployed Rural youths from Villages in Hosadurga taluk of Chitradurga district. Therefore, generalization is made based on the findings of the study not directly applicable to other areas.

#### **09. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS:**

The present pilot survey research “A Sociological Study of Rural Youth in Karnataka” (A Case Study of Unemployed Graduate Rural Youth’s in Chitradurga Dist.) Will examine the youth in Four Hoblis of Hosadurga taluk, Chitradurga district. The study is concerned to the sociological study of changing lifestyle and behaviors, fashion pattern of urban village

transformations. The modern world has turned a global village in the sense that today in taking of factors from media and technology influences the youth up to a large extend.

The paper has been divided into three parts. Part I deals with the socio-economic background profile of the respondents. Part II deals with the reasons for the changing aspirations of occupation and part III study of the National youth policy and future goals..

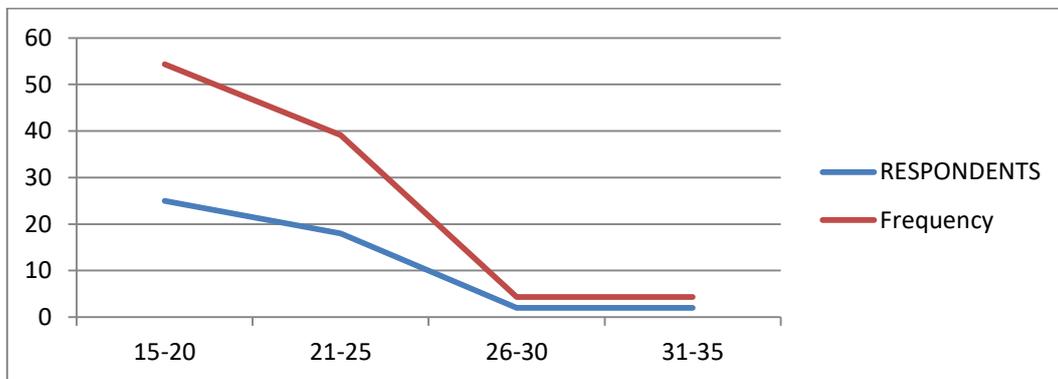
**(I) Socio-economic profile of the Rural youth:**

Socio-economic background of the respondents includes their Age, Caste, Religion and their Family structure, Occupation and Education etc.

Age Group of the Respondents: the following table and figure1 clearly signifies the age group frequency of the respondents;

**Table-01. Age Group of the Respondents**

Age	15-20	21-25	26-30	31-35
Respondents	25	18	2	2
Frequency	54.35	39.13	4.35	4.35



**India Dependency Ratio: (Age Group of Youth and Elderly wise)**

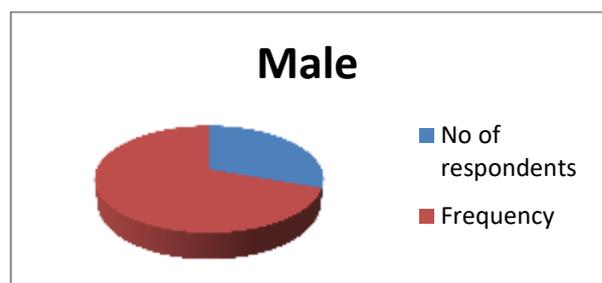
The age dependency ratio expresses the relationship between the "dependent population" (ages 0-15 and 65-plus, referred as "youth" and "elderly") and the "working age population" (ages 16-64). **Higher values indicate a greater level of dependency.**

Age Group	Total Age Group Population	Share of Total Population	Dependency Ratio
Youth (0-14 years old)	361,017,586	26.16%	38.9
Working Age Population (15-64 years)	928,266,847	67.27%	N.A.
Elderly (65+ years old)	90,719,952	6.57%	9.8
<b>Total Dependency Ratio (Youth + Elderly)</b>	<b>451,737,538</b>	<b>32.73%</b>	<b>48.7</b>

(Dependency Ratio does not take into account labor force participation rates by age group. Some portion of the population counted as "working age" may actually be unemployed or not in the labor force whereas some portion of the "dependent" population may be employed and not necessarily economically dependent.)

**Table – 02. Genders of the Respondents:**

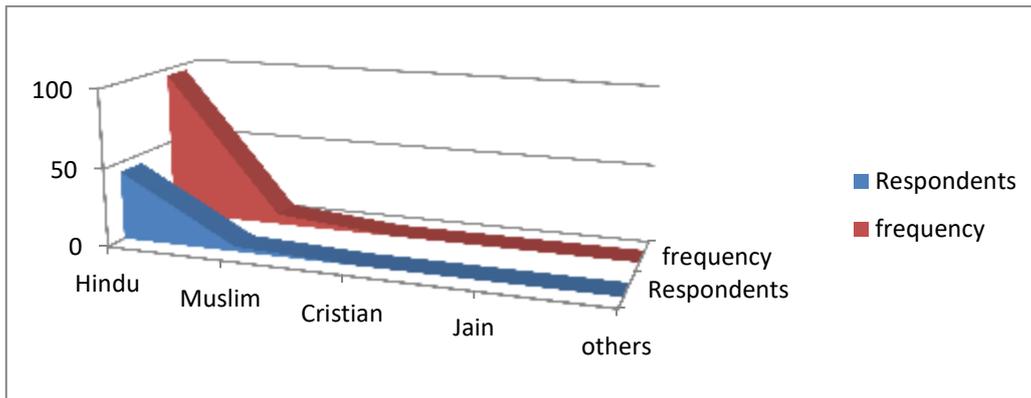
Gender	No of respondents	Frequency
Male	22	50
Female	24	52.17



**Table -03. Religions of the Respondents:**

Religion is one of the integral and crucial parts of Indian society. Youth at their particular age learners about their religion;

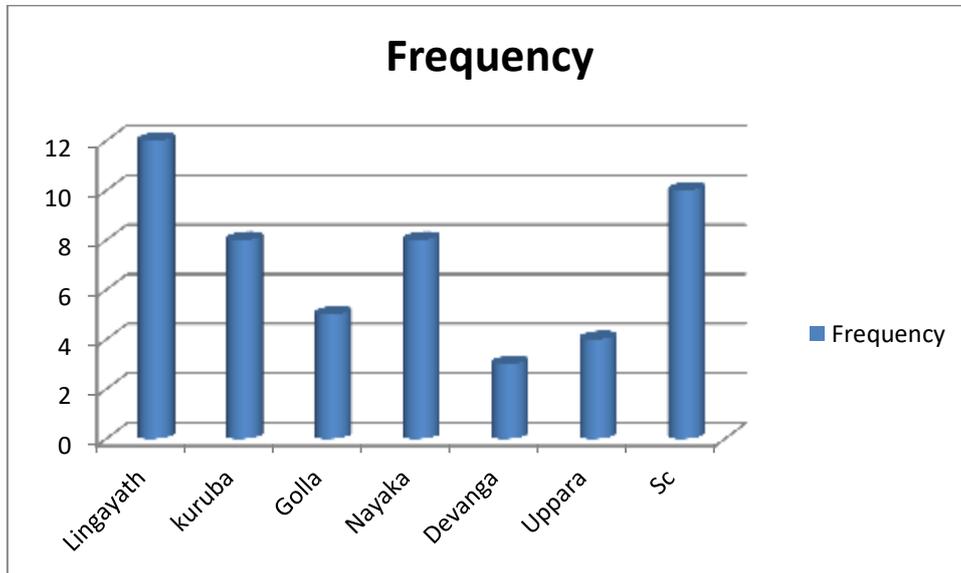
Religions	Respondents	Frequency
Hindu	44	95.65
Muslim	3	6.52
Cristian	0	0
Jain	0	0
others	0	0



**Table – 04 Caste structures of the Respondents:**

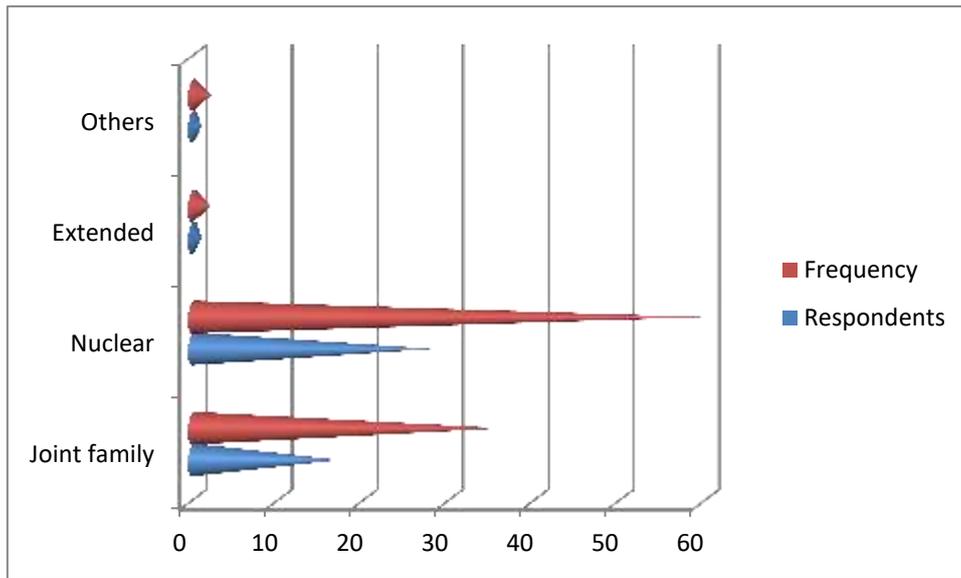
Cast	Frequency
Lingayath	12
kuruba	8
Golla	5
Nayaka	8
Devanga	3
Uppara	4

Sc	10
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**Table : 05. Family**

<b>Types of family</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Joint family	17	36.17
Nuclear	28	59.57
Extended	1	2.13
Others	1	2.13



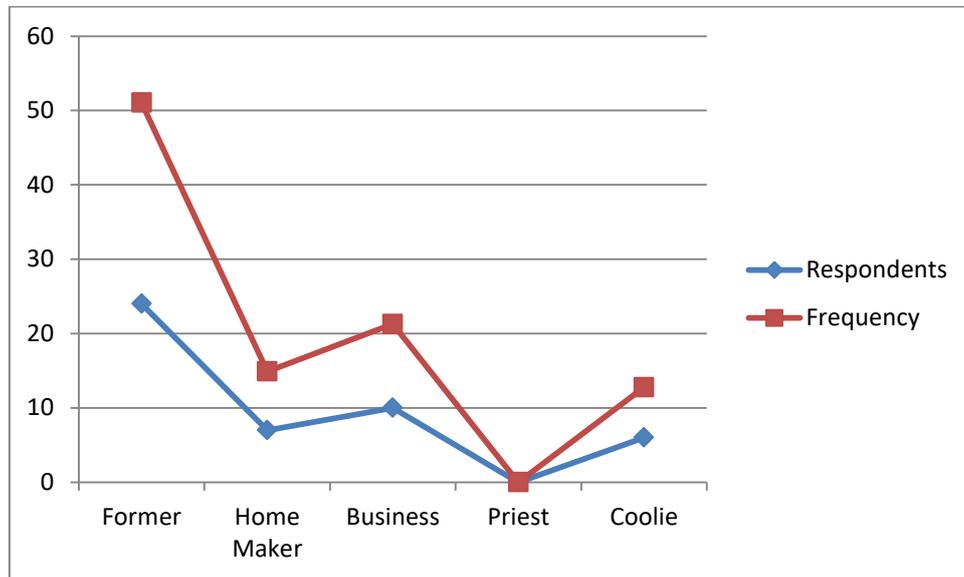
Above charts indicates, that the majority of the youth aged range between 15-20 years and 21-25 years. The religion wise scenario indicates 93.48 percent of the respondents were belonging Hindu and 6.52 percent of the respondents Muslim. This is mainly due to the fact that Hindu is dominant in the state. The majority of the rural youth (60.87%) is residing in nuclear families, only 34.78% are still living in joint families. The family occupation of the youth shows that 52.17% of rural youth’s families were working in agriculture sector, and 21.74% are business, 10.87% are working as a labourers. It has been seen that in rural areas modern changes happened within family, it is due to the impact of globalization, urbanization and faschionization.

**(II) Changing Education & Occupational Aspirations:**

Occupation is basically the activity that serves as one’s regular source of livelihood. The following table and Pie chart clearly indicates that the youths’ parents are doing agriculture, business or job or anything else.

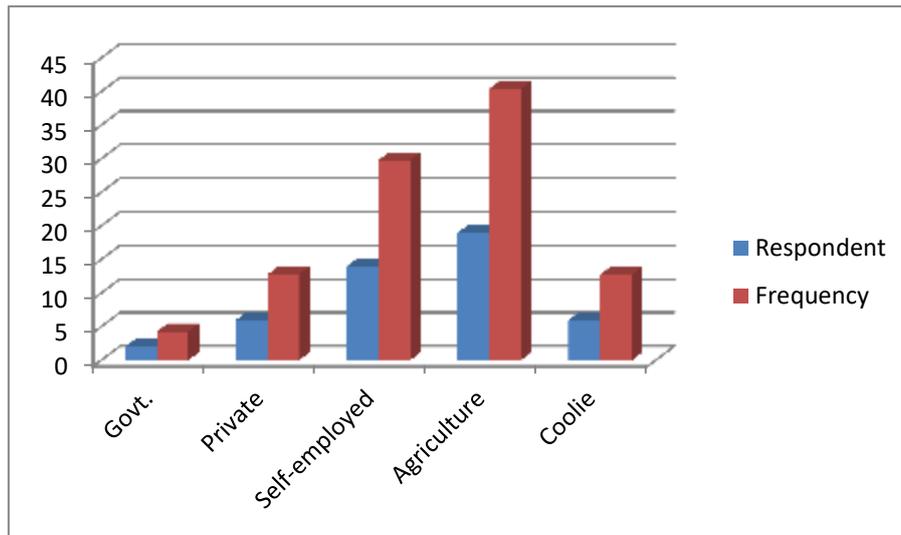
**Table: 06. Occupation**

Occupation	Respondents	Frequency
Former	24	51.06
Home Maker	7	14.89
Business	10	21.28
Priest	0	0
Coolie	6	12.77



**Table : 07. Employment**

<b>Employment</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Govt.	2	4.26
Private	6	12.77
Self-employed	14	29.79
Agriculture	19	40.43
Coolie	6	12.77



**(III) National Youth Policy and Vision for the Future Goals:**

The objectives of the National Youth Policy are:

1. To instill in the youth, at large, an abiding awareness of, and adherence to, the secular principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India, with unswerving commitment to Patriotism, National Security, National Integration, Non-violence and Social Justice;
2. To develop Qualities of Citizenship and dedication to Community Service amongst all sections of the youth;
3. To promote awareness, amongst the youth, in the fields of Indian history and heritage, arts and culture;
4. To provide the youth with proper educational and training opportunities and to facilitate access to information in respect of employment opportunities and to other services, including entrepreneurial guidance and financial credit;
5. To facilitate access, for all sections of the youth, to health information and services and to promote a social environment which strongly inhibits the use of drugs and other forms of substance abuse, wards off disease (like HIV/AIDS), ensures measures for de-addiction and mainstreaming of the affected persons and enhances the availability of sports and recreational facilities as constructive outlets for the abundant energy of the youth;
6. To sustain and reinforce the spirit of volunteerism amongst the youth in order to build up individual character and generate a sense of commitment to the goals of developmental programmes;

7 To create an international perspective in the youth and to involve them in promoting peace and understanding and the establishment of a just global economic order;

8. To develop youth leadership in various socio-economic and cultural spheres and to encourage the involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations, Co-operatives and Non-formal groups of young people; and

9. To promote a major participatory role for the youth in the protection and preservation of nature, including natural resources, to channelise their abundant energies in community service so as to improve the environment and foster a scientific, inquisitive reasoning and rational attitude in the younger generation and to encourage the youth to undertake such travel excursions as would better acquaint them with cultural harmony, amidst diversity, in India, and overseas.

The Policy recognizes the following areas as key sectors of concern for the youth: Education; Training and Employment; Health and Family welfare; Preservation of Environment, Ecology and Wild life; Recreation and Sports; Arts and Culture; Science and Technology; and Civics and good Citizenship.

The areas of focus of this Policy, in so far as health of the youth is concerned, are: General Health; Mental Health; Spiritual Health; AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Substance Abuse; and Population Education.

This Policy will accord priority to the following groups of young people:

Rural and Tribal Youth; Out-of-school Youth; Adolescents' particularly female adolescents; Youth with disabilities; Youth under especially difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking; orphans and street children

The Policy envisions the following implementation mechanism:

All Ministries/Departments of the Union Government and the State Governments, particularly in the social sector will strive to make identifiable allocations in their budgets for youth development programmes. A broad based National Committee on Youth Policy and Programmes is contemplated to review and assess various programmes and schemes focusing on youth. It will also advise the Government on measures for implementation of the Plan of Action. A National Youth Development Fund will be created through contributions, including from Non-Governmental Organisations, which would be utilised for youth development activities. Income Tax exemption would be sought for contribution to the Fundraisers for implementation of the Plan of Action of the National Youth Policy

### **National Programs;**

The Working Group has recommended that the restructured scheme should be more focused in terms of emerging needs and requirements as also with reference to the capabilities of

implementing organization, program content and methodology of training. Following these and in the context of zero-based budgeting during 11th Five Year Plan all the four schemes have been merged into a single umbrella scheme. The revised umbrella scheme will be operated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as a 100% central sector scheme during 11th Five Year Plan.

1. Youth Leadership and Personality Development, .2. Promotion of National Integration: — National Integration Camp, Inter-State Youth Exchange Program Multi-Cultural Activities, National Youth Festival, State Youth Festival, National Youth Awards 3. Promotion of Adventure:- Promotion of adventure at basic and intermediate level in India; Promotion of adventure at advance level including expeditions in India, Grants to Recognised Institutions, Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards. 4. Development and Empowerment of Adolescents: – Life Skills Education, Counseling, Career Guidance, Residential Camps. 5. Technical and Resource Development:- Environment Building, Research & Studies on youth issues, Documentation & Publication, Seminars, Conferences, Exhibitions and Workshops on youth or adolescent issues, national integration and adventure.

#### **Programs for Rural youth and Rural development:**

- Integrated Rural Development.
- Rural , Landless Employment Guarantee scheme.
- Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment.
- Tribal Area Development.
- N.S.S
- Youth Services in Rural Area.

#### **Youth Welfare Services:**

- Bharat Scouts and Guides.
- National Cadet Corps.
- Youth Red Cross Society.
- Youth tour programs.
- Youth hostel services.
- Youth health services.

Statistical Analysis: To test the hypothesis one way ANOVA is used in the above data of opinions about frequency of using other media by respondents.

#### **10. CONCLUSION:**

Rural youth challenges and new aspirations is one of the most critical issues facing the global world today. It has underplayed itself in the field of politics. It should become aspiring entrepreneur rather than mere workers. The implementation of the MGNREGA on a plan India basis with assured employment on individual and community based programs has

resulted in significant employment and asset generation in rural areas. The National Rurban Mission was launched in February 2016 as a new initiative for development cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature. The Deen Dayal Upadya Grameena Kausalya Yojana essentially focused on youth between 15 years and 35 years from poor families, is tasked with the objective of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and caters to the career aspirations of the rural youth. At last it can be concluded that youths are very much influenced by the media and technology and they inhale psychological and cultural changes along with the drastic changes in fashion ate lifestyle, behavior and so on.

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