

PERCEIVED PARENTAL SUPPORT SYSTEM AND RURAL YOUTH



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ABSTRACT

Parents, neighbourhood and peers play a powerful predictor in the life of youth. They not only shape the personality, promote their education, career and family life but also prevent them from disruptive behaviours. The perceived social support system of parents, neighbourhood elders and peer group is measured in this descriptive study from the rural youth selected through systematic random sampling method. Parental and other adults and peer group support system are perceived at a higher level. It has been observed that younger the age; higher the perceived support to youth and support does not vary among the various religious groups but difference is found in caste. Higher the education higher the perceived parental and other adults support. The nuclear family and small family perceive better parental and family support. Only one third are getting high support from their neighbourhood adults. Majority of rural youth depend on their peer members for personal matters; but when it comes to money related consultancy they depend on parents. Similarly, majority of youth consult on risk behaviour such as drugs and alcohol with peer members than their father, mother, adults, leaders and educationist. Youth, for important and crucial issues; consult peers rather than

parents and other adults, is observed as a gap. Better social structure, awareness and strengthen family relationship and for which the role of Government and NGO's are suggested.

KEY WORDS

Perceived, Parental support, Rural youth, Neighbourhood support, Peer support

INTRODUCTION

Integrating youth in developmental process gained importance since the declaration of International Year of Youth in August 2010, by United Nations; which proclaimed that all the sectors of the society is encouraged to work in partnership with youth and youth organizations to better understand their needs and concerns and to recognize their contributions in society. Interestingly; youth demographic trend globally showed a declining of youth population in developed countries and an increase in developing countries (IMF, 2011). It is notably understood that young people are future pillars of a nation and they have the potential to transform the global political landscape.

It was again insisted by UN (2010), that developing countries should invest in youth; make them skilled; since the World is looking at them for its development and prosperity. Unfortunately, often developing countries lack resources to equip youth and to make them productive (UNESCO,2012; James Gribble, 2010). Lack of attention on youth triggers youth not only unproductive; but also force them to adopt risky behaviours such as substance abuse, terrorism and crime in society and create a situation of unrest and turbulence (Nocola Shepherd, 2011, Lyndsay et.al., 2009).

Often, the youth in rural areas are most affected, vulnerable and victims of all challenges and susceptible to erroneous attitude and misbehaviour (Abhay Kumar, 2013; Paul Williams, 1999). When their risky behaviour increases; youth indulge in consumption of substance abuse, alcohol and tobacco; unintentional injuries and violence; premarital sex, sexual risk behaviours, early pregnancy and unprotected sex; unhealthy dietary behaviours and inadequate physical activities; also increases (NCBI, 2001).More over their relationship with parents, family members, peers and neighbourhood deteriorates.

In reality; developing countries are incapable of providing opportunities of education, health, training and jobs to the young people. Lack of opportunities often triggers violence, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and unprecedented rates of rural-urban migration. At this juncture the developing countries are expected to frame policies and programs to equip and mobilise the young resources (World Programme of Action for Youth 2000). The problem of employment for an additional 30 lakh youth, emerge who are presently in educational institutions, may enter the labour sector in the next five years (Abhijit Sen, 2012).

It is very true that the youth of this country who would make things happen and make the dreams of the earlier generation, a reality (Young India, 2012). Investment in youth and adolescent population make them to be healthy and productive citizens (Aarti Dhar, 2011). This effort is to be ensured by providing educational opportunities, health facilities, lowering of the rate of infant mortality, promoting child and maternal care, upholding social justice, enhancing

status of women in the society, transparency and accountability in public life (Youth Policy, 2012).

In the history of the world among the World population 1.3 billion people are youth representing developing countries - is the largest proportion. This growing young population needs to be recognized and their potentials need to be tapped. The failure to provide opportunities will lead to widespread disillusionment and social tension (Chandra Mohan, 2007). Interestingly, the 2010 World population Data Sheet showed that as developed countries undergo Aging and Little Growth in population size developing countries remain young and growing (World Population Data Sheet, 2010). Many efforts are made to provide job for the youth, however employment and under-employment are the two major challenging issues concern the youth population in India. (Sulabha Parasuraman et al., 2009).

The Registrar General of India declared that Indian population aged between 15-24 years account for 195 million of the total population of 1,029 million (Census 2001). In other words, every fifth person in India belongs to the age group between 15-24 years. By 2011 this age group is expected to grow up to 240 million. The Steering Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports for the Eleventh Five year plan 2007-2012 stated that 700 million Indians today are those below 35 years of age. Of these again around 400 million are in the age group of 15-35 years and constitute 'Youth Population' in our country of which about 70 percent are in rural areas. According to United Nation (UN), youth can be characterized as a transition from childhood to adulthood; a developmental journey during which one gains independence and begins to participate fully in society. This period is fraught with enormous challenges for young people themselves and for the rest of society.

United Nations (UN) defined the age of youth as 15-24 years. European Union (EU), Common Wealth countries and United Nations Developmental Programs (UNDP) defined it as 15-29 years (Lim Teck Ghee, 2002) and according to Indian youth policy 2012, it is 16-30 years (Draft National Youth Policy, 2012).

Parental Support

A number of studies have proved the importance of parental and other adult members relationship or support has a greater role to play in the life of youth in shaping their personality and ultimately their destiny. Family involvement in education remains a powerful predictor of various adolescent outcomes. (Eccles J. S. & Harold, R.D. 1993). Moreover parental behaviour becomes progressively important as a child gets older, and it has its bearing on a number of positive outcomes for the child (Martin & Colbert, 1997).

Interestingly parenting styles has also been associated with specific child characteristics and outcomes (Maccoby & Martin, 1983). For example, neglectful parenting style is associated with exhibiting anti-social behaviour and has problems with peers, parents, and school (Stoneman et.al., 1989). Positively youth and adolescents who have a close monitoring demonstrate higher levels of self esteem, and are less likely to become implicated in delinquent activities (Hurlock Elizabeth, 1956). Similarly, Adolescents and youth whose parents monitor their social activities are less likely to use tobacco (Melby, Conger, Conger & Lorenz, 1993). There are further more studies evidently proved that; when poor quality child care, children are

significantly more likely to display a feeling of insecurity (NICHD, 1997); a child's well-being could also be affected when the parent's are in a low psychological state (Golombok, 2000).

Peer relationship and support

Youth and peer relationships are inseparable entities in shaping the personality mutually and serve as an important factor in their development. Through peers, youth gain experience in communicating and sharing with others, form attitudes and values, and learn how to resolve conflicts. To some extent, parents also influence the quality of their children's peer relationships; in that wards that have positive relationships with their parents are more likely to be popular with their peers (Golombok, 2000). To be successful in life, undoubtedly youth need trusting and caring relationships (Roeser, R. W., Eccles, J. S., & Sameroff, A. J. 2000).

Peer groups plays a very important role in youth and a healthy peer mates are always a blessing for the growth of youth. Peer relationship is necessary in adolescents to support each other, to have fun and to exchange emotions. It is always the peer group that supports the youngsters next to the parents or sometimes even before the parents. Peer group either can make or destroy the adolescents (Seltzer Vivian, 1982). An Indian study revealed that irrespective of marital status, rural and urban, peer networks found to be larger and stronger among the young men (Usha Ram, et al., 2007).

With this backdrop the present study focus on the 'Perceived Parental Support System and Rural Youth'

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the needs and concern of youth in rural areas,
2. To assess the level of perceived parental, adults and peers support to youth,
3. To better understand the sources of consultation of youth on crucial issues; and
4. To suggest measures to create a conducive environment for development of rural youth.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design

The study was carried out in Dindigul District of Tamilnadu. The district has three revenue divisions namely Dindigul, Palani and Kodaikkanal. The sample for the present study was selected from Dindigul division which has four blocks namely; Dindigul, Nilakkottai, Athoor and Natham. Among these Thottanuthu, Vakkampatti, and Koovanoothu Panchayat in Dindigul block, Shanarpatti, Thavasimadai and Vembarpatti in Natham block and Ambathurai and Athoor Panchayats in Athoor Block are selected at random for the study. In the selected panchayats; 15 villages were selected at random and 20 male youth in the age category of 18-30 years were selected from each of the selected villages using systematic random sampling method.

Tools for Data Collection

A structured interview schedule was prepared, Pre Tested and finalized. The interview schedule consisted of background characteristic of youth and their perceived parental, family members, peer group and community support for their development.

The data from the youth were collected through personal interview during the period from January – March 2012.

The data collected for the study are edited for correctness, consistency and completeness. The edited data are entered into computer. The data analysis was done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Measurement Procedure

The perceived parental and community support are assessed based on a set of indicators for each category and placed on a three point scale ranging from 0 to 2. The total score obtained by youth on each of the following set of support factors is classified into Low, Medium and high level of support and the X² test is used to examine the association between the perceived support and selected background characteristics of respondents and parents.

- i) Parental and adult support in the family
- ii) Neighbourhood adult support
- iii) Empathetic relationship

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of Respondents

The demographic and socio economic characteristics of the respondents presented in table number 1 show that 75.0 percent of respondents are aged 18-24 years and 25 percent are aged 24-30 years. Religion wise the sample consists of 61.3 percent Hindus, 33.3 percent Christians and 5.3 percent Muslims. Among the respondents 54.3 percent belongs to Backward Community, 25 percent belongs to Scheduled Caste, and 20.7 percent belongs to Most Backward Community.

Table No.1. Percent Distribution of Youth by Selected background characteristics

Background characteristics	Number	Percent
Age (Years)		
18-24	225	75.0
24-30	75	25.0
Religion		
Hindu	184	61.3
Christian	100	33.3
Muslim	16	5.3
Caste		
SC/ST	75	25.0
BC	163	54.3
MBC/OBC/Others	62	20.7
Education		

Illiterate	28	9.3
Primary	15	5.0
Middle	25	8.3
Secondary	33	11.0
Higher secondary	82	27.3
College and Above	117	39.0
Living Arrangement		
Living with Parents	198	66.0
Father alone	16	5.3
Mother alone	25	8.3
Living with others	61	20.5
Type of Family		
Nuclear	189	63.0
Joint	111	37.0
Monthly Family Income		
< 10,000	212	70.6
10,000-20,000	65	21.8
More than 20,000	23	7.6
Occupation (Current Status)		
Student	172	57.3
Unemployed	65	21.7
Employed	63	21.0

It is interesting to note that in the case of educational status, 90 percent of youth in rural areas are literate. The results indicate that Right To Education (RTE) Act (Tamilnadu Census Report, 2011) would help to achieve 100 percent literacy in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu soon.

The results on living arrangement of respondents' show that 66 percent live with both parents, 20.5 percent live with relatives such as grandparents, uncles, aunties, etc., Holistic human growth could take place only when children live with both parents. In this study 34 percent of respondents are not living with both the parents. It is an alarming factor that these youngsters deprived of opportunities for better life and quality of living.

The results on type of family show that 63 percent live in nuclear family and 37 percent live in joint family. The findings indicate the increase in the number of nuclear families in rural areas. The family monthly income is less than Rs. 10,000 for 70.6 percent of respondents, Rs.

10,000-20,000 for 21.8 percent of respondents and more than Rs. 20,000 for 7.6 percent of respondents.

It is found that 57.4 percent of youth are in academic studies, 21.7 percent are unemployed and only 21 percent are employed. The reason for the unemployment may be due to un-employability.

Youth perceived Parental Support by Selected Background Characteristics

Youth perceived parental support in their life is assessed based on a set of statements indicating parental support to youth. The answer to each statement is placed in a three point scale. The score obtained by the youth for each category is normalised to 100 and grouped as low, medium and high level of support. For example there are N number of statements for parental support and the maximum score is S. If the respondent attained a score of ‘n’; then it is normalised as $n/S \times 100$; and the normalised score is converted into Low (< 50); Medium (51 to 80) and High level (81 & above).

The results on parental support to youth presented in table 2 show that a majority (77%) of the youth received higher level of support from parents. Higher proportion of youth aged between 18 and 24 years are getting higher support from parents (79.1%) compared to 73.3 percent of youth aged 24 - 30 years. However the Chi Square Test of significance shows the association between age of the youth and their perceived parental and other adults support is not significant.

Youth perceived parental support does not vary among the various religious groups. The perceived support is staggering around 75–78 percent among various religious groups.

The perceived parental support to youth is observed to be higher among SC (82.7 percent) compared to BC (76.7 percent) and others (74.2 percent). Though differences are observed in the perceived parental support, the differences are not statistically significant.

TableNo.2 Percent Distribution of Youth by Perceived Parental Support in Family and Selected Background Characteristics

Backgrounds Characteristics	N	Levels of Support			Chi Sq	DF	P-Value
		Low	Moderate	High			
All	300	5.6	16.5	77.9			
Age							
18-24	225	6.7	14.2	79.1	5.057	2	0.080
24-30	75	2.7	24.0	73.3			
Religion							
Hindu	184	5.4	16.8	77.7	0.135	4	0.998
Christian	100	6.0	16.0	78.0			
Muslim	16	5.9	18.8	75.0			
Caste							
SC	75	5.3	12.0	82.7	1.819	4	0.769
BC	163	5.5	17.8	76.7			
MBC/OBC/Others	62	6.5	19.4	74.2			

Education							
Illiterate	28	25.0	35.7	39.3			
Primary	15	13.3	73.3	13.3			
Middle	25	16.0	68.0	16.0			
Secondary	33	12.1	66.7	21.2	26.288	10	0.003
Hr. Secondary	82	22.0	52.4	25.6			
College &	107	11.2	42.1	46.7			
Others	10	-	60.0	40.0			
Living Arrangement							
Both Parents	198	6.1	14.6	79.3			
Either Parents	16	6.3	12.5	81.3	2.701	4	0.609
Grand Parents & others	86	4.7	21.1	73.3			
Occupation							
Students	172	8.1	13.4	78.5			
Unemployed	65	4.6	23.1	72.3	8.833	4	0.065
Employed	63	-	19.0	81.0			
Family Type							
Nuclear	189	6.3	16.4	77.2	0.453	2	0.797
Joint	111	4.5	17.1	78.4			
Siblings							
One	25	8.0	4.0	88.0			
Two	127	1.6	18.1	80.3	16.128	6	0.013
Three	95	7.4	12.6	80.0			
Four & Above	53	11.3	26.4	62.3			

Illiterate and highly educated youth are getting significantly higher support from the parents than others. Higher proportion of youth living with either parent perceived higher parental support (81.3 percent) than those who are living with both parents (79.3 percent). However the differences are not statistically significant.

Youth perceived parental support doesn't vary due to type of family. The proportion of youth perceived parental and other adult support is same at 78 percent for both joint and nuclear families. Youth perceived parental support significantly decreased when there are more number of siblings in the family (four and above). The Chi Square Test of significance shows the association between number of siblings and perceived parental supports are significant. The results show that more the number of siblings lesser the perceived parental and other adults support.

Parental Characteristics and Perceived Support to Youth

Parental characteristics and youth perceived support in life is assessed and the results are presented in table 3. It is observed that higher proportion of adults (86 percent) born to

illiterate fathers perceive higher level of support in family compared to the educated father's (77.4 percent). However the Chi Square test of significance shows the differences are not significant. The support level ranges from 70.4 - 86 percent for different level of education of the fathers and it indicates that children of illiterate fathers enjoy better support.

Higher proportion of youth born to illiterate mothers perceives higher support (78.8 percent) than higher secondary and above educated mothers (73.8 percent). However the Chi Square Test of significance shows no significant association between mothers' education and youth perceived support.

Table No.3.Perceived Parents' Support and Parental Characteristics

Parental Characteristics	N	Level of Support			Chi Sq	DF	P-Value
		Low	Moderate	High			
All	300	5.6	16.5	77.9			
Father Education							
Illiterate	107	3.7	10.3	86.0	10.379	6	0.110
Primary	71	7.0	22.5	70.4			
Middle	69	4.3	23.2	72.5			
Hr. Sec. & Above	53	9.4	13.2	77.4			
Mother Education							
Illiterate	118	3.4	17.8	78.8	5.102	6	0.531
Primary	92	4.3	17.4	78.3			
Middle	48	10.4	12.5	77.1			
Hr. Sec. & above	42	9.5	16.7	73.8			
Father Occupation							
Coolie	154	3.2	16.9	79.9	7.299	6	0.294
Business	39	7.7	7.7	84.6			
Agriculture	67	7.5	17.9	74.6			
Salaried Jobs	40	10.0	22.5	67.5			
Mother Occupation							
House Wife	120	3.3	18.3	78.3	3.143	4	0.534
Coolies	100	6.0	17.0	77.0			
Salaried Jobs	80	8.8	13.8	77.5			
Family Monthly Income							
1000-5000	127	3.1	16.5	80.3	5.898	8	0.659
5000-10000	84	7.1	15.5	77.4			
10000-15000	52	7.7	21.2	71.2			
15000-20000	14	14.3	7.1	78.6			
20000 and above	23	4.3	17.4	78.3			

Youth born to fathers engaged in business perceive higher level of support (84.6 percent) compare to youth born to fathers engage themselves in coolie (79.9 percent). However the differences are not statistically significant.

Similarly, youth perceived support by mother’s occupation does not vary much among house wife, coolies and salaried jobs and it staggered around 78 percent. The Chi Square Test of significance doesn’t show any significant association between youth perceived support and mothers’ occupation.

Youth perceived support from family doesn’t vary much due to difference in the level of family income. The Chi Square Test of significance shows the association between family monthly income and youth perceived parental support are not significant.

Over all, the illiterate parents and low income family extending more support to youth than others.

Perceived Parental and other Adults Support in Family

India’s greater strength lies in the family system and as the basic unit of society it provides orientation and security. Conducive atmosphere in families could help youth to inculcate values and characters. The parents and others in the family provide support for the youth in their upbringing, academic, career, and every walk of life and which need be assessed and measured. Table 4 presents the extent of perceived parental and adults support to youth in the family.

Table No.4.Percent Distribution of Youth by Age and Perceived Parental and other Adults Support

Perceived parental & other adults support	Age (years)		
	18-24 N=225	24-30 N=75	Total N=300
Getting along with Parents & other Adults			
Agree	91.6	85.3	90.0
Unsure	6.2	12.0	7.7
Disagree	2.2	2.7	2.3
Support Extended by Parents & other Adults			
Agree	83.6	73.3	81.0
Unsure	12.9	24.0	15.7
Disagree	3.5	2.7	3.3
Family supports the best			
Agree	82.7	77.3	81.3
Unsure	11.5	14.7	12.3
Disagree	5.8	8.0	6.3
Parents & other Adults care for youth			
Agree	87.5	78.7	85.3
Unsure	8.9	12.0	9.7
Disagree	3.6	9.3	5.0

Parents & others consider Youth as useful & important			
Agree	82.7	70.7	79.7
Unsure	12.9	22.7	15.3
Disagree	4.4	6.6	5.0
Parents & others have cordial relationship with Youth			
Agree	79.5	81.3	80.0
Unsure	14.7	14.7	14.7
Disagree	5.8	4.0	5.3
over all perceived parental & other adults support			
Low	6.7	2.7	5.7
Moderate	14.2	24.0	16.7
High	79.1	73.3	77.7

It is encouraging to note that the youth getting along with their parents and other adults in family is 90 percent and the extended support by parents and other adults in family' is assured by 81 percent of respondents, which is an encouraging trend for youth development.

Majority of respondents (81.3 percent) agreed that family life is best, 12.3 percent are unsure and 6.3 percent disagreed. The results on 'parents and other adults in family often told the respondents that they care for them' is agreed by 85.3 percent, unsure by 9.7 percent and disagreed by 5 percent. The results on 'youth are useful and important in family' is agreed by 79.7 percent unsure by 15.3 percent and disagreed by 5 percent.

The statement that 'youth have cordial relationship with parents and other adults in family' is agreed by 80 percent, unsure by 14.7 percent and disagreed by 5.3 percent of youth. The overall youths' perceived parental and other adults support in family is high for 77.7 percent of youth, moderate for 16.7 percent and low for 5.7 percent of youth.

The significance of the results is that majority of youth in rural areas perceived parental and other adults' support in the family is high. Youth in rural areas get along with parents and other adults in family. Whenever the youth are in need of support, the parents and family members come forward to support them. Youth acknowledge that their life is best in family with parents and enjoyed the parental love. Rural youth felt that they are recognised and made an important person in their family and are having good terms with parents and other adults in the family.

Neighbourhood Adults Support

Apart from the parents, there are adults such as relatives, persons living around their home, influential persons and friends of parents do contribute to the development of youth. As village is a small community and extends possible assistance to others is quite natural. The perceived neighbourhood supports to youth are presented in table 5.

Table No.5. Percent Distribution of Youth by Age and Neighbourhood Support

Neighbourhood support	Age (Years)		
	18-24	24-30	Total

	N=225	N=75	N=300
Encourage youth			
None	10.7	6.7	9.6
Few	38.9	36.0	45.7
Many	40.4	57.3	44.7
Spend time with youth			
None	17.8	13.3	16.7
Few	54.2	58.7	55.3
Many	25.0	28.0	28.0
Converse & Relate with youth			
None	16.9	12.0	15.7
Few	49.3	38.7	46.7
Many	33.8	49.3	37.6
Over all levels of neighbourhood support			
Low	48.0	53.3	49.3
Moderate	16.4	14.7	16.0
High	35.6	32.0	34.7

In response to the statement on ‘neighbourhood encouragement’ 44.7 percent of respondents agreed that they are encouraged by many and 45.7 percent of respondents reported that only a few people encourage them. There are 9.7 percent respondents who have no one to encourage them. The significance is that nearly 90 percent of the respondents acknowledge that they are encouraged by the adults.

The results on ‘neighbourhood adults spent time with youth’ found that 55.3 percent of the respondent to have few, 28 percent respondents have many and 16.7 percent of respondents have none. The significance is that nearly 83 percent of respondents acknowledge that their neighbourhood spent time with them.

The results on neighbourhood adults converse and relate with youth show that 46.7 percent respondents have few, 37.6 percent respondents have many and 15.7 percent respondents have none. The significance is nearly 85 percent of respondents acknowledge that the neighbourhood adults talk to them.

The over all level of youth perceived neighbourhood adults’ support shows that 49.3 percent of respondents have low, 34.7 percent of respondents have high and 16 percent of respondents have moderate level of neighbourhood support. The significance is that nearly 50 percent are getting lower support from the neighbourhood.

Consultation on Important Issues and Personal Matters

Growing into youth-hood from childhood is a natural process and no one is pushed into forcefully. All these changes take place in every one and no one is exempted. At this point life-style and focus to life changes better to worst depend upon the kind of youth relationship with parents, sibling and others. Those who get good guidance grow better and others are not.

The percent distribution of youth by their age and persons consulted on important issues are presented in table 6.

Table No.6.Percent Distribution of Youth by Age and Person Consulted on important issues

Person Consulted	Age (years)		Total N=300
	18-24 N=225	24-30 N=75	
Consultation on Academic & employment Issues			
Father	21.3	10.7	18.7
Mother	8.0	4.0	7.0
Adults	4.0	2.7	3.7
Village Leaders	0	1.2	0.3
Educationist	20.4	46.7	27.0
Peer Group members	46.3	34.7	43.3
Consultation on Risk Behaviour (Drugs/Alcohol)			
Father	10.7	4.0	9.0
Mother	4.0	1.3	3.3
Adults	2.2	8.0	3.7
Village Leaders	0	2.7	0.7
Educationist	2.7	4.0	3.0
Peer Group members	80.4	80.0	80.3
Consultation on Health Problems			
Father	36.9	34.7	36.3
Mother	22.7	13.3	20.3
Adults	2.7	5.3	3.3
Village Leaders	0.4	4.0	1.4
Educationist	1.3	2.7	1.7
Peer Group members	36.0	40.0	37.0
Consultation on Sex related Issues			
Father	18.7	26.7	20.7
Mother	5.3	0	4.0
Adults	1.8	6.7	3.0
Village Leaders	0	4.0	1.0
Educationist	2.2	0	1.6
Peer Group members	72.0	62.6	69.7

In response to the statement on youth academic and employment consultation; 43.3 percent of respondents consulted peers; 27 percent of respondents reported that they consulted educationist; 18.7 percent of respondents seek advise from their father and 7

percent of respondents get guidance from their mother. The significance is that more than two fifth of the respondents consult peer group members.

The results on youth consultation on risk behaviour such as drugs and alcohol found that 80.3 percent of respondents consult peer members, 9 percent of respondents consult their father, 3.7 percent of respondents consult other adults, 3.3 percent of respondents consult their mother, 3 percent respondents consult their educationist and the rest 0.7 percent consult their village leaders. The significance is that more than 80 percent of the youth consult their peer group members than anyone else.

In response to youth consultation on health problems; it is observed that 37 percent of respondents consult their peer group members, 36.3 percent of respondents consult their fathers, 20.3 percent consult their mothers and the rest 3.3 percent, 1.7 percent, 1.3 percent consult their adults, educationist and village leaders respectively. The significance is that peer group members and fathers are consulted more.

The results on youth consultation on sex related issues found that 69.7 percent of respondents consult peer members, 20.7 percent of respondents consult their father, 4 percent of respondents consult mother and others consult adults, educationist, and village leaders. The significance is that nearly 70 percent of the youth relied on peer members and 20.7 percent on fathers for sex related consultation.

Over all, youth consultation on important issues show that the peer group members are their priority, followed by respondents' father, mother, educationist and leaders. Peer pressure and influence is greater among rural youth.

CONCLUSION

Globalized economy has severely affected rural areas and especially the youth in rural areas. The youth in rural areas are left with no other option than basing their future carrier on academics. This has let rural youth for jobs migration and brought life style change. It causes decline of young agricultural labourers in the villages, breaking of joint families, abandoned parents and elders in the rural areas. All these and more affect the youngsters who are adolescence and aspiring. There is panic, uncertainty and risk behaviours like substance abuse and premarital sex among rural youth.

Rural population involvement in agriculture is minimum and reducing. It is proposed that good number of rural youth to be attracted and retained to agriculture sector. Giving more subsidies to agriculture sector, introducing and training youth in modern, bio and green house farming is of more importance for youth development in villages. It is observed that most of the youth opt for academic studies and very few for ITI and polytechnics. Efforts could be made to give carrier guidance for rural youth and the possibilities of different studies and job opportunities are explained. Unemployment and underemployment are the two areas of concern. It is proposed that government is to create more job opportunities for the youth and to prevent youth from underemployment and brain drain. It is observed that political participation of rural youth is a minimum; therefore efforts could be taken by government and NGOs to promote youth involvement in politics. In line with this all political parties promote youth in politics.

It is suggested that life skill learning programs for rural youth are introduced so that rural youth understand the realities and specially their emotional intelligence. It is to cope with the situation and to take part in developmental process. Counselling for those who are in need could be provided. It is proposed that parents and elders in the rural areas are given awareness on family and social support to youth. The importance of parental role and support are insisted and youth risk behaviours are explained. The social control mechanism of rural areas are recognized and energized. It is suggested that focus to rural youth to be given in larger scale by the government and NGOs. More fund need to be allotted for the rural youth training programs, job placement and entrepreneurships. Real development in India can be achieved only when rural youth take part in developmental process.

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