

# **JOB EXPECTATIONS OF RURAL YOUTH - SOME COMMENTS**

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This paper is based on some findings of a survey conducted by the Marga Institute during 1973-74. The survey covered a sample equivalent to one percent of the total rural population (i.e. 87,000 according to Census of 1971) and was conducted in 120 villages selected at random from the 22 administrative districts. The 'village' being a sampling unit takes an important place as the findings of the study reflects the socio-economic characteristics of these villages.

The paper will examine briefly the special features of employment and unemployment in a village context, viz the difficulty of making a correct analysis of the magnitudes of employment and unemployment using the definitions based on Western concepts. It will then go on to the subject of the study namely, the unemployed youth and examine their salient features. This will cover the following findings, that the increasing unemployment among the female youth is a recent phenomenon, the educational achievements of the unemployed youth and the period of waiting are not significantly correlated, the burden of unemployment is shared more by the households in lower income groups. The discussion on job expectations of youth will be confined to the unemployed youth as they form a crucial group in the present society. This discussion will cover among other things the following findings, job aspirations differ significantly between males and females; the type of jobs sought by youths are related significantly to their levels of education (i.e. those who have higher educational qualifications aspire for white-collar wage employment and those who have had primary or middle schooling expect non-white-collar wage employment, the majority of the unemployed aspire for jobs in the areas like crafts, manufacturing and production process work, services, sports and recreation work, agriculture, transport and communication, trade and commerce, and wishes to remain in their own villages. The income expectations of youth vary according to their levels of education and the job expectations of the majority of youth are not unrealistic compared to the occupations of their household heads and employed counterparts.

The paper will also examine briefly the attitudes of youth to self-employment in agriculture, small industry and allied fields. This will cover mode of self-employment preferred by youth, facilities required for self-employment and related aspects.