

Entrepreneurial behaviour of tribal crop producers in Saraikela Kharsawan district of Jharkhand

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ABSTRACT

The entrepreneurship is a critical input of socio-economic development of society the entrepreneur not only brings economic change in economy but also socially and culturally. In present study an attempt was made to understand entrepreneurial behavior of tribal farmers in Jharkhand state, this data was collected using pre structure interview schedule from 120 farmers selected randomly from Kharsawan block of Saraikela Kharsawan district of Jharkhand. Respondents were found to possess medium level of decision making ability, risk taking ability, achievement motivation, level of knowledge, leadership ability and cosmopolitaness whereas innovativeness, planning ability and self-confidence were low information sources utilization and level of aspiration were found to influence entrepreneurial behavior of the farmers. Entrepreneurship development programme based on the attributes identified in the study would further boost entrepreneurial interest of the state in future.

Key Words : Crop producer, Entrepreneurial Behaviour, Tribal farmers

INTRODUCTION

The economy of Jharkhand state is primarily agrarian and characterized by high rate of poverty, low income among the farming community. Agriculture in Jharkhand depends largely on rainfall, 82 per cent of which is received during four months from June to September. The State is a mono- cropped region. Farming activities are confined largely during the Kharif season from June to November-December. An entrepreneur is one who undertakes a venture, organizes it, raises capital to finance it and assumes all or a major portion of the risk.

An entrepreneur is one who always searches for change, responds to it and exploits it as an opportunity. Innovation is the specific tool of entrepreneurs, the means by which they exploit changes as an opportunity for a different business or a different service. Entrepreneurs need to search purposefully for the sources of innovation, the changes and their symptoms that indicate opportunities for successful innovation. They need to know and to apply the principles of successful innovation. Systematic innovation, according to him, consists in the purposeful and organized search for changes and in the systematic analysis of the opportunities such changes might offer scope for economic and social innovation (Drucker 1964).

The true entrepreneurs are the one who is endowed with more than average capacities in task of organizing and co-coordinating the various other factors of production. They should be a pioneer, a captain of enterprise. The more efficient entrepreneur receives a surplus reward over and above the managerial wages and this sum constitutes true profit ascribable to superior talent (Desai, 1991).

In Kharsawan block tribal people are mainly dependent on agriculture and its allied activities. The land being limited is unable to absorb the growth of population in tribal family. Most of the tribal people inhabit in undeveloped areas which are remote and lack of basic amenities, education and employment. Due to low literacy most tribal farmers follow the traditional farming. Most

of the tribal farmers confined to crop based enterprises though there is high potential for other enterprises like diary, vegetable cultivation, goat rearing, poultry farming etc. Majority of tribal farmers are marginal farmers with small land holding. Hence modern techniques are not used. The entrepreneurial opportunities in this block are plenty and can be exploited by making concerted efforts. Entrepreneurship as the backbone of economy can be used to develop the standard of tribal people of Kharsawan Block. In view of the above the present study was undertaken with an objective to ascertain the entrepreneurial behavior of tribal farmers and to identify the factors influencing it.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was conducted in purposively selected Kharsawan block of Saraikela Kharsawan district of Jharkhand covering six villages (Narayanbera, Lalbazar, Narayandih, Jojodih, Khijurda, Rajjama) were selected purposively. From the selected each village 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus a total of 120 respondents were constituted the sample size for the investigation based on the agriculture literature and opinion of the experts, 11 selected components of entrepreneurial behaviour viz. innovativeness, achievement motivation, decision making ability, risk taking ability, level of knowledge, coordinating ability planning ability, information seeking behavior leadership quality and cosmopolitaness and self-confidence were measured in the study. The attribute were measured using scale developed by (Chamdramouli, 2005) and scale of (Nagesha, 2006). A pre-structured interview schedule was prepared to collect data by personal interview method. Necessary information was also collected from secondary sources. The collected data were coded, tabulated, classified and analysis of data was done using multidimensional scaling techniques of SPSS besides conventional correlation and regression analysis.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio personal characteristics of farmers play an important role in the shaping and development of entrepreneurial trades is indicated by earlier studies. The study revealed that 50 percent were of middle age, 49.16 per cent of respondents attended primary school, majority (57.5%) of the respondents were having farming as their main occupation. The study reported that majority of the respondents (73.33%) were earning up to Rs.50, 000 per annum, 82.50 per cent have marginal farmer and majority of the respondents had low socio economic status.

Table 1. Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents:
(N=120)

S.N.	Characteristics	Levels	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (<35 years)	44	36.67
		Middle (36-50 years)	60	50.00
		Old (>50 years)	16	13.33
2.	Education	Illiterate	14	11.67
		Literate	20	16.67
		Primary school	59	49.16
		Middle school	18	15.00
		Graduate	9	7.50
3.	Occupation	Farming	69	57.50
		Farming + Labour	15	12.50
		Farming + Caste occupation	15	12.50
		Farming + Business	13	10.83
		Farming + Service	8	6.67
4.	Income	Low (upto Rs.50,000)	88	73.33
		Medium (Rs 50,000 - Rs. 1,00,000)	18	15.00
		High (Above Rs. 100000)	14	12.10
5.	Land holding	1-2 Hectares	99	82.50
		3-4 Hectares	18	15.00
		Above 4 Hectares	3	2.50
6.	Level of aspiration	Low	29	24.16
		Medium	73	60.83
		High	18	15.00

Entrepreneurial behaviour of the respondents:

Entrepreneurial behavior of farmers may be operationally defined as the outcome of different dimensions such as innovativeness, achievement motivation, decision making ability, risk orientation, level of knowledge, coordinating ability, planning ability, information seeking behavior, leadership quality, cosmopolitaness, self-confidence. These all activities performed by individual with respects to entrepreneurial behavior.

The Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents (64.16%) falls in low degree of innovativeness, 41.66 per cent of the respondents fall in medium achievement motivation, 55.83 per cent falls in medium decision making ability. Majority of the respondents (50.83%) falls in medium risk orientation, 49.16 per cent of the respondents falls in medium level of knowledge, 46.66 per cent of the respondents falls in medium degree of coordinating ability, 48.33 per cent of the respondents falls in low degree of planning ability, 45.00 per cent of the respondents falls in high degree of information seeking behaviour, 44.16 per cent of the respondents falls in high leadership, 49.16 per cent of the

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents based on their Entrepreneurial behaviour.

(N=120)				
S.N.	Dimensions of entrepreneurial characteristics	Levels	Frequency	Percentage
1	Innovativeness	Low	77	64.16
		Medium	23	19.17
		High	20	16.67
2	Achievement motivation	Low	40	33.34
		Medium	50	41.66
		High	30	25.00
3	Decision making ability	Low	36	30.00
		Medium	67	55.83
		High	17	14.17
4	Risk taking ability	Low	39	32.50
		Medium	61	50.83
		High	20	16.67
5	Level of knowledge	Low	28	23.34
		Medium	59	49.16
		High	33	27.50
6	Coordinating ability	Low	50	41.67
		Medium	56	46.66
		High	14	11.67
7	Planning ability	Low	58	48.33
		Medium	52	43.33
		High	10	8.34
8	Information seeking behaviour	Low	35	29.16
		Medium	31	25.84
		High	54	45.00
9	Leadership qualities	Low	15	12.50
		Medium	53	44.16
		High	52	43.34
10	Cosmopolitaness	Low	27	22.50
		Medium	59	49.16
		High	34	28.34
11	Self confidence	Low	50	41.66
		Medium	45	37.50
		High	25	20.84

Table 3. Correlation between socio economic characteristics with overall Entrepreneurial behaviour of respondents

S.No.	Variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1.	Age of respondents	0.016 NS
2.	Education	0.143 NS
3.	Land holding	-0.079 NS
4.	Social participation	-0.012 NS
5.	Annual income	0.132 NS
6.	Level of aspiration	0.458**
7.	Mass media participation	0.098 NS
8.	Information sources utilization	0.150**

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability, NS-Non significant

respondents falls in medium degree of cosmopolitaness. It was also observed that 41.66 per cent of the respondents fall in low level of self-confidence, despite the overall entrepreneurial behavior of the respondents was at medium level. The similar finding is also reported by (Sinha & Pandey, 2012).

The correlation analysis of entrepreneurial behaviour and socio-economic variable showed that out of 8 variables tested, two variables such as level of aspiration (r=0.458), and information use utilization (r=0.488) were positively and significantly correlated with entrepreneurial behavior. Hence, it may be inferred that respondents with higher level of aspiration and information sources from far information possessed greater degree of entrepreneurial behaviour.

Table 4. Multiple regression analysis of the predictor variable and response variables - overall entrepreneurial behavior of the respondents.

S.N.	Variables	b	SE(b)	't' values
1.	Age	-0.742	0.862	-0.853NS
2.	Education	0.783	0.649	1.223NS
3.	Land holding	-1.328	1.048	-1.525NS
4.	Social participation	-1.439	1.835	-0.769 NS
5.	Annual income	-0.233	0.763	-0.283 NS
6.	Level of aspiration	0.584	0.192	2.934**
7.	Mass media participation	-0.338	0.237	-1.395
8.	Information sources utilization	0.257	0.113	2.631*

R²=0.388, F=5.646 significant at 0.01 level probability. ** Significant at 0.05 level of probability. NS= Non significant

The regression coefficient of the predictor variable like age, size of landholding and mass media participation were found having an inverse relationship with the response variables. The regression coefficient of other predictor variables like level of aspiration and information use utilization have significant role in determining the level of entrepreneurial traits to the respondents at 0.01 % and 0.05 % respectively.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that as far as entrepreneurial attributes are concerned, majority of the respondents possessed medium level of achievement motivation, decision making ability, risk taking ability, knowledge and information source utilization. It was also observed that the levels of aspiration and information source utilization were found important in influencing the entrepreneurial attributes of the tribal farmers. It was suggested that the entrepreneurship development program may be taken up as selected beneficiary based on the above attributes and the tribal farmers may be further motivated for improved entrepreneurial behaviour, income and employment thereby, ensuring equitable development of the state.

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