Family Support, Social Skills, and Self Identity: A Study of New Generation Belonging to Farm Families in India

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Abstract

Farm families in India have a highly important and strategic role in the society as agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. With significant changes taking place on the social, economic, and technological front; there lies a huge probability that it must also be affecting the farm families in different aspects. Whether the effect is positive or negative is a matter of research. This paper analyses the effect of the changes taking place in the society on the new generation of farm families. The dimensions under which the effects have been analysed are family support, social skills, and social identity. The dimensions selected are crucial from the future growth and career choice perspective of new generation belonging to farm families and thereby directly impacting the Indian agriculture in future.

Introduction

Family farmers produce over half of the world's food and they have the potential to produce more. The United Nations declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. This is a very important recognition of the multiple social, economic, environmental and cultural functions of family farming. India is the home of some of the best farm families in the world. Farm families in India constitute over two thirds of the population. But over a period time constraints in farming such as declining landholdings and resource flow to the agriculture sector, rising indebtness of small and marginal farm families, technology fatigue, better opportunities in other sectors, and increasing costs of agricultural inputs has been a major worrying issue for farm families. Apart from the farming constraints, young generation of farm families are today exposed to modern information technology, rapid urbanization, job opportunities in non-agricultural sectors, and fast changing rural landscape further making them vulnerable towards adopting farming as their future occupational choice. Dr. Ayyappan, President of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences has recently said that "Agriculture is the largest private enterprise in India, dominated by smallfarmers. Over 59% of male and 75% of female workers in rural areas is engaged in this sector. Seeking non-farming employment is a recent trend and about 13 million workers are reported to have changed from agriculture during 2009 to 2012." Agriculture is crucial for Indian economy and its future largely depends upon the career choices of the young generation belonging to farm families. Further, agriculture remains fundamental to poverty reduction and economic

growth in the 21st century (World Bank, 2008). The World Bank report posits that 75% of the world's poor are from rural areas and most are involved in farming, an activity which requires sustenance especially by the youth who are the leaders of tomorrow.

If we look the scenario of Indian rural areas especially Eastern Uttar Pradesh where the study has been done, better employment opportunities in other areas and lack of opportunities for personal development in rural areas seems quiet prominent factor that could affect the future growth and career choice of adolescents. Cost of social amenities are also on the increase in India and rural incomes are often found wanting for larger proportion of rural families when it comes to having the social amenities.

Renowned agri scientist, M.S.Swaminathan (The Hindu, Nov 29, 2010) is of the opinion that Indian agriculture will receive a big boost if the country takes advantage of its young population and woos them into the farm sector by making it lucrative. He said that India has a big advantage as more than half of its population is below 30 years of age and if we tap this huge demographic dividend by making agriculture exciting for the younger generation a far better result can be achieved," (The Hindu,Nov 29, 2010). But Unless farming becomes both intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding, it will be difficult to attract or retain rural youth in farming.

In the backdrop of growing constraints of farming in India, the three highly significant dimensions which directly or indirectly affect the future growth and career choice of young generation belonging to farm families are the quality of relationship which they have with their family, their social skills, and the self-identity which they possess.

This paper is based on the study conducted in India where family relationship, social skills, and self- identity of 401 male adolescents belonging to farm families have been measured and analysed.

Review of Literature

Adolescent phase of human life is a developmental phase which is challenging. Relationships in this period are important for the following reasons:

- Relationships helps adolescents in handling stress and various diverse situations (Ungar et al., 2007)
- In transition from adolescence stage to adulthood, relationships are important social resource (Larson et al., 2002).
- Relationships play an important role in the identity formation or self-image of adolescents (Erikson, 1974; Compas and Wagner, 1991; Coates, 1999).
- Relationships are important in developing inter-personal skills of adolescents (Compas and Wagner, 1991).

Relationship of adolescents with their parents is important because:

- It affects their general well-being and self-worth (LaBarbera, 2008)
- Helps in enhancing their intimacy skills (Larson et al., 2002).
- Parents provide them social support (Seiffge-Krenke, 1995)

Further, the family plays a vital role in many areas of adolescent development. Parents can be both facilitators and inhibitors of their children's psychological development. An important developmental task of adolescence is the growth and exploration of future aspirations and career goals (Erikson, 1968; Ryan and Deci, 2002; Super, 1957). Because of the reliance upon family during adolescence, parents have an impact on the development of future aspirations and career choices. Much evidence exists that parents influence their children's career development and that the family provides resources that are significant concerning adolescents' ideas about their future. Families provide financial and emotional support, and also transmit values, goals, and expectations to their children, which can impact the career development process. Theories suggest that parents assist in shaping children's self-concept and can serve as role models (Crites, 1962; Super, 1957).

Super's (1957) theory suggests that the family can influence the development of the child's self-concept, which shapes their abilities, interests, values and career choices. Similarly, Crites (1962) suggested that the amount of parental identification will be reflected in the interests of their children and in turn, the careers that they choose to pursue. Parents can have an influence on their child's career development by positively reinforcing or punishing certain behaviors that can encourage or discourage certain interests or abilities (Mitchell and Krumboltz, 1990).

Grotevant and Cooper (1988) propose an interactional perspective to understanding the family's role in the career development process, which focuses on the relationships within the family as contexts for career development. They propose that there are certain societal and family circumstances under which career exploration is more likely to occur and that families facilitate exploration by establishing a balance of both closeness and independence.

By going through literature, it is quite clear that family relationship do affect the future growth and career choice of adolescents. The influence may vary through intervening factors.

The changing rural landscape coupled with the constraints of farming has the ability to affect the family relationships including the relationship of adolescents with the family members. It was found in the study (Sharma and Bhaduri, 2009) that in India farmers who

have unviable land holdings economically and farmers having large farm holdings have more inclination towards quitting farming as occupation. So, it can be postulated that they won't be interested in the adolescents belonging to their families to adopt farming as occupation putting more pressure on adolescents to prepare for acquiring non-farm competencies and thereby putting the burden on adolescent for learning non-traditional competencies. However, there may be families where parents won't like their adolescent to move out of farming occupation. Study by Ball and Wiley (2005) conducted in America revealed that majority (three fourth) of pre-adolescents belonging to farm families are not interested in farming and do not prefer farming as their future occupational choice whereas almost 50% of the parents feel farming is important for their children. So, discrepancy exists in the new generation desire for career choice and the parents aspirations adopt farming as their career choice. Difference in opinion between parents and adolescents could result in adverse impact on the quality of relationship among them. However, study by Esterman and Hedlund (1995) in U.S.A. found that adolescents in farm families have close relationship with their families and they look up to their family for support. Further, they concluded that family relationship of farm adolescents is closer and supportive than non-farm adolescents. So, contrasting views are there in common literature when it comes to family relationship of farm adolescents.

In this study, both support and conflict has been measured in relationship to find out the quality of relationship that exists between male adolescents and their parents in farm families of India.

The term social skills has been specifically defined as learned behaviors that allow an individual to engage in socially acceptable interactions with other individuals such that the interactions lead to positive responses from others and aid in the avoidance of negative responses (Elliott & Gresham, 1993). Social skills represent the ability to perform those behaviours that are important in enabling a person to achieve social competence (McFall, 1982; Spence, 1995). The reason for including social skills in this study is that it is usually assumed that those adolescents who have high social competence do not have behavioural problems such as being disobedient and arguing in nature. However, Raver and Zigler (1997) argue that lack of problems is not necessarily an indicator of high social competence. Thus, the absence of problem behaviors alone would not be considered social competence unless accompanied by the presence of social skills. Acquiring social knowledge and mastering social skills are difficult and comprehensive tasks for young children; once children have learned new social knowledge and skills, they need to know when to use them, where to use them, and how to choose from among them (McCay and Keyes, 2002).

Authors have found that greater social skills and higher education have the capacity to affect the attitude of persons towards farming occupation in negative ways (Sharma and Bhaduri,

2009). The regression results of the study conducted by Sharma and Bhaduri (2009) suggested that youth who possess non-farm skills are 1.4 times more likely to move out of agriculture. It is generally postulated that higher social skills of adolescents are necessary for success in future.

Positive self-identity, an intrapersonal category of social competence, includes sense of competence, personal power, sense of self-worth, and sense of purpose (Kostelnik et al., 2002). Children who feel good about themselves in these capacities are more likely to have positive interpersonal relationships, and anticipate success in their encounters with other people (Walsh, 1994). Positive self-identity in adolescents is also assumed to be an indicator of the adolescent leaving the farming occupation. Esterman and Hedlund (1995) have found in their study that farm adolescents especially males have positive self-identity as they take pride in their farming occupation and believe they have strong work ethics and are hardworking. They further concluded that farm adolescents have a high sense of accomplishment.

Purpose and Objectives

Constraints in farming are increasing and new generation of farming community is exposed to multiple career options. Some previous studies have come out with the conclusion that in such a scenario those young people who have high social skills and positive self-identity would not be interested in farming resulting in conflict with the parents especially in case of those families where parents want their children to remain in farming occupation. Then there are studies which have concluded that irrespective of the constraints in farming, farm adolescents have good family relationship possess positive self identity, and take pride in farming occupation. The purpose of the study was to verify the results of the previous studies. For the purpose of the study, following objectives were formulated for those families where parents want their children to remain in the farming occupation:

- To measure the quality of parent- adolescent relationship and the social skills and self- identity possessed by the adolescents of farming families.

- To analyze the relationship between parent- adolescent relationship and the social skills and self- identity possessed by the adolescents of farming families

Methods and Procedures

In this study, first those farm families were identified in the Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh, India where parents want their children who are in the adolescent stage to remain in farming wholly or partially in future. The logic behind selecting the Varanasi district was

that people of this place have been traditionally farmers but with rapid urbanization lot of job opportunities has been created in other professions also. Then 401 male adolescents were selected using purposive sampling from such farm families keeping in view the diversity on the following parameters:

- Caste
- Family Size
- Proximity of Village to the City
- Family dependence on farming
- Family Landholding

The above parameters have been considered to make sample more representative of the population. The conceptual framework of variables used in the study is given below:

Independent Variables	Dependent Variables
Caste	Parent-Male Adolescent relationship in farming families
Family Size	Social Skills of Male Adolescents in Farming Families
Proximity of village to City	Self-Identity of Male Adolescents in Farming Families
Family Dependence on Farming	
Family Landholding	

A self-constructed questionnaire was prepared in which responses of male adolescents were taken on the Likert Scale.

In this study to analyse the quality of parent-male adolescents relationship belonging to farm families, two dimensions have been used and they are:

- Support
- Conflict

Overall 31 questions were asked for analysing the quality of parent-male adolescent relationship. For each of the two dimensions, following number of questions were asked:

Support - 17
Conflict - 14

The Cronbach's Alpha was 0.81 for the 31 questions asked to measure the quality of parent-male adolescent relationship which is indicative of high reliability of the questionnaire.

For analysis following statistical measures have been used:

- Central Tendency

- ANOVA (One Way) using F-Test and then Post hoc Test (Bonferroni)

For mean scores on family support and conflict, social Skills, and self-identity the scale used in the study indicates the following:

Mean Score	Family Relationship	Family Support and Conflict	Social Skills	Self-Identity
1 to less than 2	Poor	Low	Low	Negative
2 to less than 3	Average	Average	Average	Neutral
3 to less than 4	Good	High	High	Positive
More than 4	Very Good	Very High	Very High	Very Positive

Results and Discussions

Results and Discussion for Parent-Adolescent Relationship

Quality of parent-male adolescent relationship has been found to be good irrespective of the caste to which the farming family belongs. Quality has been found to be best in schedules caste group (N=29, mean value=3.53) closely followed by OBC (N=172, mean value=3.52) and general caste (N=200, mean value=3.46).ANOVA results show that there is no significant difference in the response on the basis of caste (F=0.836, p=0.434).

Quality of family relationship has been found to be good in all family size groups. Quality has been found to be best in medium size families (N=122, mean value= 3.52) followed by small size family (N=183, mean value= 3.49) and large size family (N=96, mean value= 3.46).ANOVA results show that there is no significant difference in the response on the basis of family size (F=0.485, p=0.616).

Results for quality of adolescent's family relationship on the basis of proximity of adolescent's village to the city show that there is negligible difference in the quality of relationship between the two groups and the proximity of adolescent's village to city has no differentiating effect on the quality of relationship. Quality of relationship has been found to be good for the group that resides near to the city (N=182, mean value=3.49) and also for the group that resides far away from city (N=219, mean value=3.50). ANOVA results shows there is no significant difference in the response of two groups (F=0.092, p=0.762).

On the basis of family dependence on agriculture, it has been found that quality of parent-male adolescent relationship is good irrespective of low, medium, or high dependence. Quality of relationship is best for low dependence group (N=98, mean value=3.59) followed by high dependence group (N=191, mean value=3.46) and medium dependence group

(N=112, mean value=3.45).ANOVA result shows that there is significant difference in the response of different groups (p=0.035).

Quality of parent-male adolescent relationship has been found to be good for all the three groups. Relationship is best for marginal landholding group (N=143, mean value=3.64) followed by big landholding group (N=100, mean value=3.44) and small landholding group (N=158, mean value=3.39). ANOVA test results given below show that there is significant difference in the response between the groups (F=13.95, p=0.00). Post hoc (Bonferroni) results given below shows that quality of relationship in marginal landholding group is significantly better than small landholding group (p=0.00) and big landholding group (p=0.001).

Table 1: ANOVA (Post-hoc) for quality of parent-male adolescents relationship on the basis of family landholdng

(I) Landholding	(J) Landholding	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
Marginal	Small	.25130*	0
	Big	.20042*-	0.001
Small	Marginal	.25130*	0
	Big	-0.05087-	1
Big	Marginal	.20042*	0.001
	Small	0.05087	1

**. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.*

According to Dekovic *et al*. (1997), family conflict may increase in adolescent stage. Discrepancy in the expectation from the relationship between adolescents and parents may cause conflict affecting the quality of family relationship (Grotevant and Cooper, 1996). This study does not find any such conflict in family relationship of adolescents and results of this study show that quality of family relationship is good.

Mean scores on family support show that it is high (mean value=3.87) whereas mean score on family conflict show that it is average (neither high nor low, mean value=2.1). Male adolescents of farming families feel that the support from their family is high and the level of conflict is average.

On the basis of caste, mean score of respondents for support is 3.98 for adolescents belonging to OBC followed by SC score 3.83 and General Caste score 3.78. It shows that male adolescents of all the three groups have high support from their family. Results show that support in family relationship is higher for OBC in comparison to SC and General Caste. Mean score of the respondents, belong to all the three caste show that family conflict

is low in the adolescent families belonging to General Caste (mean value=1.94) whereas it is average for OBC (mean value=2.23) and SC (mean value-2.33). Among the three groups, family conflict is maximum in SC group and lowest in General Caste group.

To find the significance of the difference in the response for support and conflict on the basis of caste, ANOVA was done and the results are shown in the table given below.

Table 2: ANOVA for quality of parent-male adolescents relationship on the basis of family caste

Parameters	L	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Support	Between Groups	3.84	2	1.92	5.668	0.004
	Within Groups	134.828	398	0.339		
Conflict	Between Groups	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
		9.47	2	4.735	11.969	0
	Within Groups	157.452	398	0.396		

Significant difference has been found in the response of adolescents on the basis of caste for both support and conflict:

- Support (p=0.004)
- Conflict (p=0.000)

To find that among which castes there has been significant difference for support and conflict, post hoc (Bonferroni) was done. The results are shown below:

Table 3: ANOVA (Post-hoc) for support of farm male adolescents from family on the basis of caste

(I) CASTE	(J) CASTE	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
General	OBC	-.20270*	0.003
	SC	-0.05482	1
OBC	General	.20270*	0.003
	SC	0.14788	0.619
SC	General	0.05482	1
	OBC	-0.14788	0.619

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 4: ANOVA (Post-hoc) for conflict of farm male adolescents with family on the basis of caste

(I) CASTE	(J) CASTE	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
General	OBC	-.28814*	0
	SC	-.39133*	0.006
OBC	General	.28814*	0
	SC	-0.10319	1
SC	General	.39133*	0.006
	OBC	0.10319	1

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

In case of family support, significant difference has been found between the response of general caste and OBC (p=0.003) and in case of conflict in family relationship, significant difference has been found between the response of general caste and OBC (p=0.000), and between general caste and SC (p=0.006).

On the basis of family size, mean score of respondents show that family support is high for all the three groups. Family support is highest in medium size family group (mean value=3.94) followed by small size (mean value=3.89) and large family size group (mean value=3.75). Mean scores for family conflict on the basis of family size show that conflict is low in large family size (mean score=2) whereas it is average for small and medium size family group (mean scores 2.1 and 2.17 respectively). Family conflict among the group has been found to be highest in medium size family group.

No significant difference in the response was found on the basis of family size for both support (p=0.07) and conflict (p=0.14).

Mean score of respondents show that family support is high irrespective of whether the adolescents reside near to the city (mean value=3.86) or far from the city (mean value=3.88). Mean scores for family conflict show that it is low for the group that resides far from the city (mean value=1.86) whereas it is average for the group that resides near to the city (mean value=2.38). Results show that adolescents belonging to those villages which are near to the city have more conflict with their parents in comparison to those whose villages are far from the city.No significant difference in the response has been found for family support (p=0.077) but significant difference has been found for family conflict (p=0.00)

Mean score of respondents on the basis of family dependence on agriculture shows that family support is high in all the three groups and is highest (mean value= 3.93) for adolescent group who belongs to families having low dependence on agriculture, followed

by adolescents belonging to families having high dependence on agriculture (mean value= 3.88) and medium dependence on agriculture (mean value=3.81).Further, mean scores for family conflict show that it is low for the medium dependence group (mean score=1.87) and is comparatively higher in high dependence (mean value=2.16) and low dependence group (mean value=2.24).ANOVA results show that no significant difference in the response is there between the groups for family support (p=0.34). However, significant difference is there between the groups for family conflict (p=0.00).Post hoc (Bonferroni) results are given below.

Table 5: ANOVA (Post-hoc) for conflict of farm male adolescents with family on the basis of dependence of family on agriculture

(I) Dependence on agriculture	(J) Dependence on agriculture	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
Low	Medium	.36680*	0
	High	0.07897	0.944
Medium	Low	.36680*	0
	High	.28783*	0
High	Low	0.079	0.944
	Medium	.28783*	0

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Result show that there is significant difference in the response between the adolescent group whose families have low dependence on agriculture and group whose families have medium dependence on agriculture (p=0.00). Similarly, significant difference has been found between high dependence and medium dependence group (p=0.00).

Mean scores on the basis of adolescents family landholding show that for the adolescent group belonging to marginal landholding, family support is very high (mean value=4.07). For small landholding group and big landholding group, family support is high (mean value 3.78 and 3.74 respectively). Result for family support shows that it is highest for marginal landholding group followed by small landholding and big landholding group. For family conflict, results say that it is lowest for big landholding group (mean value=1.86) closely followed by small landholding group (mean value=1.87) and highest for marginal landholding group (mean value=2.52). Mean value for family conflict show that it is low for small and big landholding group and average for marginal landholding group.significance of difference in the response on the basis of adolescent family landholding is given below in the table.

Table 6: ANOVA for family support and conflict of male adolescents on the basis of family landholdng

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Support	Between Groups	8.479	2	4.24	12.9	0
	Within Groups	130.189	398	0.327	61	
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Conflict	Between Groups	39.211	2	19.605	61.0	0
	Within Groups	127.711	398	0.321	98	

Result shows that there is significant difference in the response for both family support and conflict on the basis of family landholding (p=0.00 for both family support and conflict).To find the groups between which significant difference is there, post hoc (Bonferroni) has been done and results are given below.

Table 7: ANOVA (Post-hoc) for support of farm male adolescents from family on the basis of family landholdng

(I) Landholdings	(J) Landholdings	Mean Difference (I -J)	Sig.
Marginal	Small	.28849*	0
	Big	.32387*	0
Small	Marginal	-.28849*	0
	Big	0.03538	1
Big	Marginal	-.32387*	0
	Small	-0.03538	1

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 8: ANOVA (Post-hoc) for conflict of farm male adolescents with family on the basis of family landholdng

(I) Landholdings	(J) Landholdings	Mean Difference (I -J)	Sig.
Marginal	Small	.65113*	0
	Big	.65548*	0
Small	Marginal	-.65113*	0
	Big	0.00435	1
Big	Marginal	-.65548*	0
	Small	-0.0044	1

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Post hoc results show that for family support, there is significant difference in the response between marginal and small landholding group (p=0.00) and between marginal and big landholding group (p=0.00). For family conflict, significant difference has been found between marginal landholding group and small landholding group (p=0.00) and similarly between marginal and big landholding group (p=0.00).

The overall results regarding the family relationship for farm adolescents show good relationship and results are in agreement with the findings of Esterman and Hedlund (1995).

Results and Discussions for Social Skills and Self-Identity of Adolescents

Results show that overall adolescents have high social skills (mean value=3.65) and high positive self- identity (mean value=3.67)

On the basis of caste, mean score of respondents for social skills show that it is high for all the caste groups. Within the caste groups, social skills isfound to be highest for adolescents' belonging to OBC (mean score=3.72) followed by general caste group (mean score= 3.61) and Schedule caste group (mean score=3.46). Further, no significant difference has been found in the response on the basis of caste.

Social skills on the basis of family size of adolescents show that it is high for all the three groups. It has been found to be slightly higher in medium size family group (mean value=3.67), followed by small family size (mean value=3.66) and large family size group (mean value=3.60).For family size, there is no significant difference in the response on the basis of family size.

Adolescent's village proximity to the city also does not have a differentiating effect on their social skills as it has been found to be high for both the groups. Those who reside far from the city have higher social skills (mean value=3.69) as compared to those who live near to the city (mean value=3.60).For proximity of adolescents village to city, there is no significant difference in the response.

On the basis of family dependence on agriculture, it has been found that social skills of adolescents is high whether the dependence is low, high, or medium. Results show that social skills for low and high dependence group is same (mean value=3.66) and is slightly higher than the medium dependence group (mean value=3.62) and there is no significant difference in the response among different groups.

Social skills have been found to be high for all the three groups on the basis of family landholding. Social skills have been found to be highest in marginal landholding group (mean value=3.75), followed by small landholding group (mean value= 3.61) and big

landholding group (mean value=3.56). There is no significant difference in the response between any of the groups based on landholding.

Mean score of respondents for self- identity is 3.78 for adolescents belonging to OBC followed by Schedule Caste group score of 3.69 and general caste group score of 3.58. Results show that self- identity is positive in all the groups and is higher in OBC in comparison to SC and general caste group.

For self- identity on the basis of family size of adolescent's show that it is positive for all the three groups. It has been found to be more positive in small size family group (mean value=3.76), followed by medium family size (mean value=3.70) and large family size group (mean value=3.49). Significant difference has been found in the response for self-identity between small family size and large family size group (p=0.002).

On the basis proximity of village to city, it has been found that self-identity of adolescents is positive whether the location of their village is near to the city or far from the city. Results show that self-identityis same (mean value=3.67) for both the groups of adolescent based on proximity of village to city.

On the basis of family dependence on agriculture, it has been found that self- identity of adolescents is high whether the dependence is low, high, or medium. Results show that adolescents whose family have low dependence on agriculture possess more positive self-identity (mean value= 3.74) in comparison to high dependence group (mean value=3.67) and medium dependence group (mean value=3.62).

Self-identity has been found to be positive for all the three groups on the basis of family landholding. Self-identity has been found to be most positive in marginal landholding group (mean value=3.80), followed by big landholding group (mean value= 3.66) and small landholding group (mean value=3.57).

Table 9: ANOVA (Post-hoc) for self-identity of farm male adolescents on the basis of family landholdng

(I) Landholdings	(J) Landholdings	Mean Difference (I -J)	Sig.
Marginal	Small	.23458*	0.03
	Big	0.1462	0.50
Small	Marginal	-.23458*	0.03
	Big	-0.08838	1
Big	Marginal	-0.1462	0.50
	Small	0.08838	1

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

On the basis of landholding, significant difference has been found for self-identity among marginal and small landholding group (p=0.03) as shown in the table above.

Social skills and Self-identity of farm adolescents have been found to be high and positive respectively and similar findings were reported by Esterman and Hedlund (1995).

Relationship between parent- adolescent relationship and the social skills and self- identity possessed by the adolescents of farming families

Significant positive correlation has been found between family support and social skills of adolescents belonging to farm families (r=0.66). This means that higher social skills of adolescents also results in better family support.
Similarly, between family support and self-identity of adolescents, a significant positive correlation exists (r=0.61) which could be interpreted as positive self-identity of adolescents is directly linked with higher family support.
Quality of relationship plays an important role in positive self identity of adolescents (Erikson, 1974; Compas and Wagner, 1991). Similar results have been found in this study. Adolescents who have positive self identity they also have good family relationship. Klienberg *et al.* (2006) have found that high social support is associated with good mental health. This study also has similar results.

Table 10: Correlation between Family Support and Conflict, Social Skills and Self-Identity of Adolescents

	Pearson Correlation Value (r)
Family Support and Social Skills	0.66
Family Support and Self Identity	0.61
Family Conflict and Social Skills	-.01
Family Conflict and Self Identity	0.07

However, no correlation has been found between family conflict and social skills of adolescents (r=-0.01) and also between family conflict and self-identity of adolescents belonging to farm families (r=0.07)

LaBarbera (2008) had found that good relation of adolescents with parents results in positive self worth and similar results have been found in this study. The significant positive correlation between family support and social skills and also between family support and self-identity is also in alignment with the findings and views of Erickson (1974), Compas and Wagner (1991), and Coates (1999).

CONCLUSION

Quality of family relationship of adolescents has been found to be good. There is not a single group in which quality of family relationship has not been good. Generally, it is believed and also mentioned in common literature that adolescent period is critical for family relationship as maturity level increases and independence in decision making increases often leading to deterioration in quality of family relationship. But this study does not find quality of relationship being bad or passive for any group. Quality of relationship has not been found to be very good either in any of the group.

One of the reasons that quality of family relationship of adolescents has been good is that their family support has been found to be high in all the adolescent groups and in case of marginal landholding group family support has been found to be very high.

Family conflict has been found to be average overall. However, for adolescents belonging to general caste, family conflict is low. Family conflict is also low for those who live far from city and whose family dependence on agriculture is medium. For marginal landholding group also family conflict is low. Generally, adolescents do not feel that family conflict is high. Further, adolescents' social skills have been found to be high in all the groups. Self identity which is associated with sense of competence and self worth (Kostelnik *et al*., 2002) has been found to be positive in adolescents in this study.

Significant correlation has been found between family support and social skills and also self-identity. It indicates that those who have high social skills and positive self-identity also have good quality of family relationship.

Good family relationship, high social skills, and positive self-identity of adolescents belonging to farm families is a positive sign for families where parents want their children to remain in the farming occupation wholly or partially in future. High social skills and positive self-identity are indicators that adolescents could move to other professions being competent as mentioned in earlier studies (Sharma and Bhaduri, 2009) but it depends on the trade off between farming and other professions in future in socio-economic terms. So it is suggested to the policy makers that the high social skills of new generation has to be utilized judiciously by providing them opportunities to utilize their social skills so that they contribute in the development of India and also live a comfortable life in future. One solution could be to provide opportunities of extra earning in rural areas using the other competencies of adolescents. That would lure adolescents in future to stay in villages doing farming and also utilizing their competencies in other professional areas resulting in extra income.

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