

Serving Nation through Farming: A Scope of Jai Jawan Kisan

ABSTRACT

The armed forces of India are among the largest in the world, with more than a million personnel employed in its various arms and cadres and majority retire as an Ex Service Man (ESM) in the late 30s or early 40s and when released from service, he still has major responsibilities towards his family. Jai Jawan Kisan (JJK) is an opportunity for those ESM to take a new employment opportunities in farming as an agripreneur and by starting their own startup in agri and allied sector. In this context, to understand how the opinion of respondents joining JJK program, impacts on the intention to take agriculture as occupation post retirement and Aspiration towards farming was studied. Descriptive research design was used for the study and data was collected at MANAGE, Hyderabad from 70 respondents by using simple random sample with questionnaire and SPSS software was used to analyse correlation among three variables i.e. Intention, Aspiration and Opinion. The result concluded that the intention to engage in farming was found to be significant with opinion of JJK training at 0.01 level. Whereas, Aspiration was non-significant. Post training most of the respondents were willing to take agriculture to be an agripreneur with application of knowledge gained through training programme. More efforts need to be taken to give a global recognition and include more training programmes and course where these retiring young Jawans can get more exposure to secondary career options available in farming besides just being a farmer and earn subsequently like other profession. The present study paves path for further study scope to develop secondary career options in agriculture for the young defence personnel post retirement.

Keywords: Jai Jawan Kisan, Opinion, Aspiration, Intention and Agripreneurs

1. Introduction

Retirement is like any transition that must be seen in the context of individual life's journey, it is a natural process of self-renewal and a process of disorientation and reorientation that marks the individual turning point in the path of growth (Yusuf and Minai, 2016). In order to keep a youthful profile of the forces, almost 70,000 personnel

of the army, air force and the navy inevitably relinquish their uniform every year. Such personnel who are discharged from the armed forces and thus become Ex-Service Men (ESM), mostly are in the age group of late thirties or early forties (Maharajan K and Subramani B, 2014). At the individual or micro level, since the age of an ex serviceman is in the late 30s or early 40s and when released from service, they still has major responsibilities towards his family (Maharajan and Krishnaveni, 2014). They are well trained, disciplined, motivated, experienced, active, energetic, systematic and exposed to hard and adverse conditions (Iba & Sakamoto, 2013). The privileges and facilities previously availed by the ex-servicemen while in their uniformed service are partially withdrawn. On the one hand, the ex-servicemen need to fulfil enormous responsibilities, and on the other hand, they have limited resources, relying mainly on their pension. (Maharajan and Krishnaveni, 2014). Though they are retiring, they have potential to take up second career. They are also in need of livelihood opportunities as the pension alone cannot meet their families' requirement. It necessitates the need for creating an opportunity for second or subsequent occupations (Bell, 2024). As defence personnel may grapple with these concerns as they contemplate a career change to other employment opportunities, From living a life of serving others to realizing that they now have to focus more on building their personal life puts a lot of pressure on the retired defence personnel (Srivastava, 2022; Hamilton, 2011). Though the Central and State governments in India extend various facilities in the process of resettlement of ex-servicemen (Guide Book, 2011). These facilities range from statutory provisions, assistance in finding suitable employment, medical facilities and welfare for the families of ex-servicemen (Maharajan and Krishnaveni, 2014). Little efforts were studied/seen in encouraging the defence personnel to take up Farming as an job opportunities by providing the proper training. In this context, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) came up with a strategic move to encourage the post retirement opportunities in farming, by launching "Jai Jawan Kisan" program in the year 2023 and the name Jai Jawan taken from the Slogan Jai Jawan Jai Kisan given by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Avery, 1997).

Jai Jawan Kisan Training Programme is sponsored by Directorate General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence, GoI, for a period of four months at MANAGE, Hyderabad. In the year 2023-24 first batch was started at MANAGE, Hyderabad and

about 70 Defence personnel from tri-sector i.e., from Army, Navy and Airforce from all over India, enrol to JJK training program.

In this context, the present paper tries to understand how opinion of Defence personnel joining JJK training can influence their aspiration (long term) and intention (short term) to engage in farming as occupation post retirement as opinion means view and judgment formed about something so how the opinion after enrolling for the program can help in changing the view towards agriculture and helps in early adoption and its impacts thier intention (short term) and Aspiration (long term motivation).

Review of Literature

Little study where carried out taking the variables trying to study but some study related to the secondary career option and issues where found to be studied earlier and are presented below:

Sam, et al. (2016) Found in research that Career issues like low salary, lack of exposure to the technology, getting back and habituated to other career options and lastly social issues like lack of social connectedness as they keep on moving from one place to another, and safety and security they have financially as well as physically.

Tripathi (2016) did a study on issues of the ex-servicemen and found that the issues that the ex-servicemen face are exclusive of the factors of retirement and are more focused on the social and work adjustment issues that the person has to face after the retirement.

Norwich University (2020) conducted a survey and found that military services is one of the most demanding careers, and it presents many challenges on the defence personnel who are returning to civilian life. These challenges happen because of the purpose they lack when they join the civilian life back. It was also found that though the unemployment rate of the ex-servicemen is decreasing it still is a large

percentage and it impacts the psychological problems of the retired defence personnel.

2.1 Objective

1. To understand the relationship between opinion of defence personnel joining JJK training influencing the aspiration and intention to engage in farming

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Study Area

The study was carried out at MANAGE, Hyderabad for defence personnel undergone training under name Jai Jawan Kisan programme. Out of 100 defence personnel enrolled, 70 respondents were selected using simple random sample and a descriptive research design was used to understand how Jai Jawan Kisan training can help defence personnel in taking farming as option for income generation post retirement.

2.2.2 Data collection

Data was collected by using well structured questionnaire prepared based on extensive literature review and expert opinion and responses were recorded from 70 defence personnel.

2.2.3 Statistical Methods

To analyse the relationship between the opinion and intention and aspiration to choose farming, correlation test was run using SPSS software. This help in understanding how the opinion towards JJK, influences the intention to take farming as occupation and aspiration towards farming.

Table 1: List of Variables

Sl.No	Variables
	Dependent
1	Opinion
	Independent
2	Aspiration
3	Intention

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2:Level of Opinion, Aspiration and intention

Physiological Variables				
Sl.No	Variable	Description	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Opinion	Below average	1	1.4
		Good	3	4.3
		Very Good	18	25.7
		Excellent	48	68.6
		Total	70	100.0
2	Aspiration	Low	19	27.14
		Medium	33	47.14
		High	18	25.71
		Total	70	100
3	Intention to Take Agriculture as occupation	Not Decided	4	5.71
		Most Likely	6	8.57
		Likely	35	50
		Least Likely	24	34
		Total	70	100

Table 2 reveals that the opinion level was found majority as excellent (68.6%) followed by very good(25%) and in aspiration level was found to be medium (47.18%) followed by low (27.14%) and intention level was that half of the respondents were likely to develop intentions to take farming followed by least likely (34%).

The findings were in line with studies of Maharajan K and Subramani B.2014.

3.2 Relationship between Opinion and Aspiration and Intention

Table 3 Determining the relationships between three variables

Correlations				
Variables		Opinion	Aspiration	Intention

Opinion	Pearson Correlation	1	-.034	.633**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.779	.000
	N	70	70	70
Aspiration	Pearson Correlation	-.034	1	-.036
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.779		.765
	N	70	70	70
Intention	Pearson Correlation	.633**	-.036	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.765	
	N	70	70	70
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).				

Table 3 reveals the Relationship between opinion of Jai Jawan Kisan (JJK) trainee with aspiration and intention to engage in farming post training.

When carried out correlation test run among the three variables it was found that intention (short term motivation) to engage in farming was found to be significant with opinion of JJK training at 0.01 level. Probably reason might be that with attending of the JJK training program, trainee received adequate amount of information regarding agriculture practices, techniques and latest information, how farming can have a scope for income generation sources to other service sectors.

Whereas Aspiration was found to be non-significant with opinion of JJK. Probably reason might be that the participants of Jai Jawan Kisan training programme would like to establish enterprises but their financial stability is not supporting to establish their ventures in long term motivation. If participants are supported by giving subsidies or recognizing Jai Jawan Kisan training program certificate to provide support with ongoing schemes like ACABC, SHG, STRY etc will help them to establish enterprises through provision of subsidy and more awareness regarding activities/opportunities from production to post harvest management activities can be brought to their awareness rather than just limiting farming as production to production.

CONCLUSION

Ex Service Men are the one who retire to early in late 30s and early 40s and they often face second option stress when they retire as relatively young not only bring mental stress but also financially, as the pension amount alone can not meet the requirement of the family. Jai Jawan Kisan programme can bring in little ray of hope for those young Ex Service Men by engaging in job opportunities within their place after retirement. As this give them a career option in farming where they can stay with there family and carry out occupation without moving/ staying away from their places. The decision to engage in farming after retirement from the military is influenced by factors such as prior agricultural experience, attitudes towards farming, and the availability of agricultural resources within the household. In this content, Jai Jawan Kisan program can help in developing a secondary career by shaping their prior knowledge and attitude that they have towards farming with the complete structured program including hands on experiences and experiential learning during the course, the prior knowledge with proper understanding from the expert experience can help in developing more cognitive understanding and persuasion towards it. This paper just tries to understand the role of defence young personnel in the farming and how we can help them in developing the secondary career to those who have rural background. More projects beneficiary as Young defence personnel who are about to retire or retired can be framed, to retain from travelling to urban places in search of career opportunities by developing entrepreneurial skills, start micro-enterprises and increase the income using various activities, guide them in understanding potential scope in agriculture as career options.

DISCLAIMER(Artificial intelligence):

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

References

Maharajan, K. and Subramani, B. (2014). A Critical Study on the Resettlement Problems of Air Force Ex-Servicemen in India: Evolving Management Strategies. *International Journal of Research in Management Sciences*, 2(1):13-23.

Sam, A., and Trupti Poduval. (2016). Exploration of Problems Faced by Ex-Servicemen of The Indian Armed Forces in Adjusting to Civilian Life. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304452477_Exploration_Of_Problems_Faced_by_Exservicemen_of_The_Indian_Armed_Forces_in_Adjusting_to_Civilian_Life_Post-Retirement

Tripathi Prasad Shastri. (2016). Retirement Adjustment among the Ex-Servicemen. *WorldWide Journals (WWJ), IJAR, IJSR, GJRA, PARIPEX*. [https://www.worldwidejournals.com/indian-journal-of-applied-research\(IJAR\)/recent_issues_pdf/2016/January/January_2016_1451652442__146.pdf](https://www.worldwidejournals.com/indian-journal-of-applied-research(IJAR)/recent_issues_pdf/2016/January/January_2016_1451652442__146.pdf)

Saloni Srivastava. (2022). An Exploration of the Life of Retired Defence Personnel. *The International Journal of Indian Psychology*. 10(4):1885-1893. ISSN 2348-5396.

Mahajan Kari and Krishnaveni R. (2014). Inclusive management of ex-servicemen in India: Satisfaction of air force veterans from resettlement facilities with special reference to Tamil Nadu. *IIMB Management Review, Science Direct*, 29:5(7).

Yusufa, L., and Minai, M. S. (2016). Entrepreneurial Training and Career Path of Retired Military Personnel as Entrepreneurs in Nigeria. *International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research*, 28(3):217-23.

Iba H, Sakamoto K. Beyond farming: Cases of revitalization of rural communities through social service provision by community farming enterprises. In *The Neoliberal Regime in the Agri-Food Sector 2013 Dec 4* (pp. 129-149). Routledge.

Bell MM. *Farming for us all: Practical agriculture and the cultivation of sustainability*. Penn State Press; 2024 Jul 2.

Hamilton ND. Moving toward food democracy: Better food, new farmers, and the myth of feeding the world. Drake J. Agric. L..2011;16:117.

Avery DT. Saving nature's legacy through better farming. Issues in Science and Technology. 1997 Oct 1;14(1):59-64.

UNDER PEER REVIEW