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Attitude of farmers towards family farming

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Abstract

This study was conducted in Gujarat state. The number of respondents were 120 from five talukas. Knowing the fact that agriculture plays a vital role in the Indian economy with over 58.00 per cent of the population dependent on agriculture as their main source of income. We can't feed our population without the active involvement of farmers in family farming occupation. Our country is now facing a dual challenge of shrinking agricultural land and increasing population to feed. Inflation increases the cost of cultivation and ultimately reduces net income of the farmers so they remain in distress. In such a situation it becomes necessary to know the attitude of the farmers towards family farming. Considering the scanty research and existing facts, a study on "Development of scale to measure the attitude of farmers towards family farming" was undertaken. The study shows that it can be inferred that slightly more than two-fifths (41.67 per cent) of the farmers had a neutral attitude towards family farming. In such a situation it becomes necessary to know the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting family farming as their occupation. Keeping in view the contribution of family farming in national production of food grains this study was conducted to list out the constraints faced by the farmers in family farming.

Keywords: Attitude, family farming

Introduction

Attitude refers to the degree of positive or negative effects of an individual associated with some psychological object. Most of the farmers of our country live in rural areas and are engaged in family farming. A family farm is generally understood to be a farm owned and operated by a family. It is sometimes considered to be an estate passed down by inheritance. Family farming is one of the most predominant forms of agriculture world-wide, both in developing and in developed countries. Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities and it is linked to several areas of rural development. Family farming is a means of organising agriculture, forestry, fisheries, pasture and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour including both women and men in both developing and developed countries. Family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sectors. The 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world's attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty. The goal of the 2014 IYFF is to reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas. Understanding the attitude of farmers towards family farming is one of the best ways to appreciate their contribution in national food grain production. It is a universally accepted fact that the attitude of an individual plays an important role in shaping his behaviour. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to study the attitude

of farmers towards family farming.

Objective

To study the attitude of farmers towards family farming.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in the Kheda district which is located in the middle of Gujarat. Kheda district comprises ten talukas. Out of ten Talukas, five Talukas namely Vaso, Matar, Mahamdabad, Nadiad, Kheda have been selected randomly. From the selected Taluka panchayat office, a list of villages has been collected for the purpose of proper selection of villages. From each Taluka two villages have been selected randomly. Further, from each selected village's panchayat office twelve farmers have been selected on random basis for the purpose of study. Thus, a total of 120 farmers have been selected for the study. The data were collected by personal contact method with the help of structured interview schedule and collected data were coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed in light objectives and in order to make the findings realistic for drawing meaningful interpretation. The statistical tools like frequency, median, mean & correlation was used for the study.

Measurement of Attitude of farmers towards family farming

The attitude levels of farmers were worked out by using an attitude scale developed by the researcher. The final attitude scale was administered on farmers who were asked to

express their reactions in terms of their agreement or disagreement with each item by selecting any of the five response categories viz. strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The scores given for positive statements were 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 while 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 for negative statements, respectively.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Positive	5	4	3	2	1
Negative	1	2	3	4	5

The attitude of farmers was categorised into five categories on the basis of measurement.

Sr. No.	Category	Score
1	Highly unfavourable	20 to 36 score
2	Unfavourable	Above 36 to 52 score
3	Neutral	Above 52 to 68 score
4	Favourable	Above 68 to 84 score
5	Highly favourable	Above 84 to 100 score

Results and Discussion

Overall attitude of farmers towards family farming is the degree of positive or negative feelings associated with family farming. The data regarding the attitude of farmers towards family farming are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards Family farming n=120

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	Highly unfavourable (Up to 36 score)	04	03.33
2	Unfavourable (37 to 52 score)	27	22.50
3	Neutral (53 to 68 score)	50	41.67
4	Favourable (69 to 84 score)	28	23.33
5	Highly favourable (Above 84 score)	11	09.17
Total		120	100.00

The data presented in Table 1 show that slightly more than two-fifth (41.67 per cent) of the farmers had neutral attitude towards family farming, followed by 23.33 per cent, 22.50 per cent, 9.17 per cent, 3.33 per cent had favourable, unfavourable, highly favourable and highly unfavourable, respectively.

From the above data it can be inferred that the majority (65.00 per cent) of the farmers had a neutral to favourable attitude towards family farming. The probable reason might be that the majority of the farmers were middle to old age group having farming experience above 15 years and education level secondary to higher secondary level so they had less scope in other occupations like service sectors and industrial sectors. Therefore, the majority had a favourable to neutral attitude towards family farming. On the other hand, the young farmers had a high level of education so they could have a good job in the service sector but lack of opportunities of employment had compelled them to be in family farming. This might be the reason for the unfavourable attitude of young farmers. The above findings are more or less similar to findings of Tripathi *et al.* (2018)^[9], Chaudhary *et al.* (2020)^[4], Asari *et al.* (2021)^[3], Patel & Vyas (2021)^[8], Harekrishna *et al.* (2022)^[6], Das *et al.* (2023)^[5] & Meena *et al.* (2023)^[7].

Conclusion

From the above study it can be concluded that slightly more than two-fifths (41.67 per cent) of the farmers had a neutral attitude towards family farming. The remaining 23.33 per cent, 22.50 per cent, 9.17 per cent and 3.33 per cent had favourable, unfavourable, highly favourable and highly unfavourable, respectively.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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