Knowledge of Agricultural Extension Educationists about Computer and its Practical Applications

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted on the random sample of 150 extension educationists working in all the SAUs of Gujarat with overall objective to study the knowledge of extension educationists about computer and its various practical applications. The study reveals that majority of extension educationists of SAUs had knowledge to operate IT tools like CD drive (64.00%), Floppy drive (61.33%) and printer (54 %), in majority of the computer related aspects and its usefulness for agricultural extension work, they seemed positive and optimistic. In case of the knowledge about computer based internet communication, majority of them had knowledge to operate MS word (58.67%) and Power point (52.67%). It was also observed that majority of the extension educationists of SAUs had lacking of Knowledge about computer based internet communication accept E-mail operating and Knowledge of Internet service provider ICENET, D2V, SATYAM, RELIENCE, TATA INDICOM, GNFC accept BSNL and VSNL. The result indicates that majority (73.34 %) of the extension educationists of SAUs had medium to high level of overall computer inclination.

Keywords: Knowledge, computer, Agricultural Extension Educationists

INTRODUCTION

Transfer of technology to the different levels of farmers is not a onetime exercise because new farm technology is being constantly evolved. A continuous flow of technologies in an appropriate manner is vital to provide quick benefit of such development to the farmers. There has been a technological explosion in the field of agriculture. This demands that the farmer has to know all the aspects of technology prior to its adoption. It can be possible effectively through the intervention of information and communication technology. The information and communication support during last 50 years has mainly been conventional; the extension personnel of the department of agriculture have been disseminating the technological messages to the farmers manually. This approach has not been enough to fill the gap and reach majority of the farmers spread across the whole country.

Today, it is possible to find out a solution to tackle this situation by using the potentials of satellite based internet technologies to meet the location specific information needs of the farmers. Information and communication networks are expanding very fast. Internet connectivity has touched almost all the districts of the country and is moving down up to the village levels. Many pilot projects to connect rural community to cyber-space are underway at various locations. To enter in the world of information communication technology, it is expected to have understating about the three-C viz., Computer, Connectivity and Content among the extension personnel involved in the process of transfer of technologies. Especially agriculture extension is concerned with the knowledge of diversified fields for which affection with computer is very much essential for the agricultural extension educationists. Keeping this in view, the study was planned and carried out with overall objective to study the knowledge of extension educationists working in State Agricultural Universities of Gujarat about computer and its practical various applications.

OBJECTIVE

Knowledge of the extension educationists regarding computer operations, computer software, computer based internet communication ,internet service provider, internet browser and Search engine

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out in all the four SAUs located at Anand, Junagadh, Navsari, and Sardarkrushinagar of Gujarat state. Ex-post facto research design was applied for the study. Based on number of available agricultural extension educationists, 55 agricultural extension educationists from Anand Agricultural University, 38 from Junagadh Agricultural University, 29 from Navsari Agricultural University and 28 from Dantiwada Sardarkrushinagar Agricultural University were selected, thus study was conducted on a random sample of 150 respondents. A structured interview schedule was developed in accordance with the objectives of the study and it was prepared in English. The information was collected through the schedules by personal contacts from the selected 150 extension educationists. The data so collected were coded classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The knowledge of the extension educationists was measured on the different six aspects in terms of three continuums nil, partial and complete knowledge as per their own perception. The responses were collected from the each extension educationist and the results are presented in the Table1 . The aspects wise knowledge is presented here.

Table 1 : Respondents according to overall knowledge of computer operations   n=150

Sr. No.	Knowledge components	Type of Knowledge					
		Nil		Partial		Complete	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	**Knowledge of computer operations**						
	LCD operation	34	22.67	69	46.00	47	31.33
	Printer operation	20	13.33	49	32.67	81	54.00
	Scanner operation	36	24.00	66	44.00	48	32.00
	Pen drive operating	19	12.67	39	26.00	92	61.33
	CD drive operating	17	11.33	37	24.67	96	64.00
	Web camera operating	84	56.00	40	26.67	26	17.33
	Internet operating	31	20.67	53	35.33	66	44.00
2	**Knowledge of computer software**						
	MS word operating	09	6.00	53	35.33	88	58.67
	Excel operating	36	24.00	51	34.00	63	42.00
	Power point operating	29	19.33	42	28.00	79	52.67
	Page maker operating	86	57.33	52	34.67	12	8.00
	Coral draw operating	118	78.67	23	15.33	9	6.00
	D Base operating	117	78.00	27	18.00	6	4.00
3	**Knowledge about computer based internet communication**						
	E-mail operating	31	20.67	50	33.33	69	46.00
	Chatting operating	79	52.67	36	24.00	35	23.33
	Video conferencing	97	64.67	32	21.33	21	14.00
	Voice mail operating	103	68.67	29	19.33	18	12.00
4	**Knowledge of Internet service provider**						
	BSNL	43	28.67	48	32.00	59	39.33
	VSNL	72	48.00	40	26.67	38	25.33
	ICENET	102	68.00	27	18.00	21	14.00
	D2V	125	83.33	16	10.67	9	6.00
	SATYAM	102	68.00	27	18.00	21	14.00
	RELIENCE	90	60.00	34	22.67	26	17.33
	TATA INDICOM	99	66.00	27	18.00	24	16.00
	GNFC	106	70.67	27	18.00	17	11.33
5	**Internet browser**	56	37.33	62	41.34	32	21.33
6	**Search engine**	65	43.33	54	36.00	31	20.67

Knowledge of the extension educationists about various components of computer operations

The data are presented in Table indicate detail information about the knowledge of the extension educationists about different operations of computer. The result indicates that the operation of LCD was known completely and partially by 31.33 and 46.00 per cent of the extension educationists, understanding of printer was completely and partially by 54.00 and 32.67 per cent, Scanner operation was known completely and partially by 32.00 and 44.00 per cent, Pen drive operation was known completely and partially by 61.33 and 26.00 per cent, CD drive operation completely and partially by 64.00 and 24.67 per cent, Web camera completely and partially by 17.33 and 26.67 per cent, while Internet was known completely and partially by 44.00 and 35.33 per cent of the extension educationists. It is also indicates that operations of LCD, Printer, Scanner, Floppy drive, CD drive, Web camera and Internet were unknown by 22.67, 13.33, 24.00, 12.67, 11.33, 56.00 and 20.67 per cent of the extension educationists. The similar results were also observed by Shah (2006) and Patel (2007)

Knowledge of the extension educationists about computer software

As far as knowledge of the extension educationists about computer software was concerned, it can be seen from the Table that operation of software like MS word, Excel, Power point, Page maker, Coral draw and D Base were known completely by 58.67, 42.00, 52.67, 8.00, 6.00 and 4.00 percent of the extension educationists, respectively, while same operations were known partially to operate by 35.33, 34.00, 28.00, 34.67, 15.33 and 18.00 extension educationists, respectively. It was striking to note that software like MS word operating, Excel operating, Power point operating, Page maker operating, Coral draw operating and D Base operating were unknown by 6.00, 24.00, 19.33, 57.33, 78.67 and 78.00 of the extension educationists, respectively. The similar results were also observed by Shah (2006)

Knowledge about computer based internet communication

In case of the knowledge about computer based internet communication, 46.00, 23.33, 14.00 and 12.00 per cent of the extension educationists had complete knowledge of e-mail, chatting, video conferencing and voice mail operating, while same computer based internet communication systems were known partially by 33.33, 24.00, 21.33 and 19.33 percent of

them, respectively. It was also shocking to note that e-mail, chatting, video conferencing and voice mail operating were unknown by 20.67, 52.67, 64.67 and 68.67 per cent of the extension educationists, respectively.

Knowledge of internet service provider

The data in Table-1 revealed that 39.33, 25.33, 14.00, 6.00, 14.00, 17.33, 16.00 and 11.33 per cent of the extension educations had complete knowledge about internet service providers like BSNL, VSNL, ICENET, D2V, SATYAM, RELIENCE, TATA, INDICOM and GNFC, while such knowledge was partial among 32.00, 26.67, 18.00, 10.67, 18.00, 22.67, 18.00 and 18.00 per cent of the extension educations, respectively. At the same time BSNL, VSNL, ICENET, D2V, SATYAM, RELIENCE, TATA INDICOM and GNFC were not known as service providers by 28.67, 48.00, 68.00, 83.33, 68.00, 60.00, 66.00 and 70.67 of the extension educationists, respectively. The similar results were also observed by Patel (2007).

Knowledge of internet browser

It was observed from Table-1 that 21.33 and 41.34 of the extension educationists had complete and partial knowledge about the internet browser, respectively, while 37.33 of them were unknown about internet browser. The similar results were also observed by Patel (2007)

Knowledge of search engine

The data in Table -1 indicates that 20.67 and 36.00 of the extension educationists had complete and partial knowledge about the search engines, while 43.33 of them were unknown about search engines.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority of extension educationists of SAUs had knowledge to operate IT tools like CD drive (64.00%), Floppy drive (61.33%) and printer (54 %), in majority of the computer related aspects and its usefulness for agricultural extension work, they seemed positive and optimistic. In case of the knowledge about computer based internet communication, majority of them had knowledge to operate MS word (58.67%) and Power point (52.67%). It was also observed that majority of the extension educationists of SAUs had lacking of Knowledge about computer based internet communication accept E-mail operating and Knowledge of Internet service provider ICENET, D2V, SATYAM, RELIENCE, TATA INDICOM, GNFC accept BSNL and VSNL. The result indicates that majority (73.34 %) of the extension educationists of SAUs

had medium to high level of overall computer inclination.

IMPLICATION

Computer helps to be connected with internet and internet facility helps to make agricultural teachers, researchers and extension educationists to be firm thinkers in order to stay alive with students, farmers and extension agencies in the present age. It was amazing to note that knowledge of the extension educationists working in SAUs of Gujarat about computer and its various applications in few aspects was up to the marks but considering significance of computer applications to make extension and communication efforts more effective, there is a need to inculcate knowledge wherever it was observed incomplete or nil.

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