

ADOPTION BEHAVIOUR OF TRIBAL FARMERS ABOUT IMPROVED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

Adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by farmers is very crucial for boosting up animal husbandry production. With this in view, a study was conducted with 200 tribal farmers of Dahod district of Gujarat state to find out the extent of adoption of animal husbandry practices and its relationship with profile of the tribal farmers. The results revealed that majority of the tribal farmers had medium level of adoption about improved animal husbandry practices. All the independent variables except farm power had significant association with adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. Further, knowledge of improved practices of animal husbandry contributed significantly to the prediction of the adoption of the tribal farmers.

INTRODUCTION

Dairy farming is a very important subsidiary occupation in our country which provides employment to millions of unemployed and under-employed particularly to small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. Dairy development has been acclaimed as an effective instrument capable of bringing about speedy economic and social transformation of the weaker sections of the rural community. Unless the improved practices so far developed in recent past for boosting up animal husbandry production are properly adopted to larger extent by the farmers, the desired target cannot be achieved.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Dahod district of Gujarat state. Out of seven talukas, four talukas were selected at random and from each selected taluka, five villages were selected randomly. From each village, 10 respondents were selected randomly making a total sample of 200 tribal farmers for the present study. The data were collected by personal interview method.

To know the association between independent variables with adoption, correlation coefficient was worked out. Similarly for studying the combined effect of all independent variables in explaining the variation in the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices, the multiple regression analysis was done.

FINDINGS

Adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by tribal farmers

The data presented in Table-1 reveal that more than two third (68.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices while, similar percentage of respondents (16.00 per cent) were found to have low and high level of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The probable reasons for above finding might be due to the economic condition and lack of positivism in terms of change agency contact, scientific orientation, risk orientation, knowledge and mass media exposure up to desired level. The finding is in agreement with findings of Sharma *et al.* (1998) and Meena *et al.* (2004).

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Table-1: Distribution of tribal farmers according to their adoption of improved animal husbandry practices n=200

Sr. No.	Level of adoption	Number	Per cent
1	Low (< 9.03 score)	32	16.00
2	Medium (between 9.04 to 16.62 score)	136	68.00
3	High (> 16.62 score)	32	16.00

Mean (x) =12.825

SD = 3.794

Relationship between independent variables and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

The data depicted in Table 2 reveal that out of twenty one independent variables, only one

variable i.e. farm power was found non-significant with adoption on improved animal husbandry practices, while three variables namely age, urban pull and migration habit were found significantly but negatively correlated with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Table 2: Relationship between independent variables and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices n=200

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r value)	Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r value)
1	Age	- 0.2809**	13	Level of aspiration	0.1785*
2	Education	0.5578**	14	Role taking empathy	0.4202**
3	Occupation	0.1397*	15	Non-fatalism	0.6529**
4	Size of land holding	0.4926**	16	Economic motivation	0.3643**
5	Farm power	0.1079 ^{NS}	17	Cosmopoliteness	0.5831**
6	Migration habit	- 0.3970**	18	Risk orientation	0.5794**
7	Organizational participation	0.2852**	19	Scientific orientation	0.3929**
8	Urban pull		20	Knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices	0.7718**
9	Level of achievement	- 0.3304**	21	Overall modernization	0.5942**
10	Socio-techno-economic change	0.3348**			
11	Mass media exposure	0.6190**			
12	Change agency contact	0.6717**			
		0.6123**			

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non Significant

Other seventeen independent variables namely, education, occupation, size of land holding, organizational participation, level of achievement, socio-techno-economic change, mass media exposure, change agency contact, level of aspiration, role taking empathy, non-fatalism, economic motivation, cosmopoliteness, risk orientation, scientific orientation, knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices and level of overall modernization were found to have significant and positive correlation with the

adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Variables predicting adoption of improved Animal Husbandry practices

The rank order given on the basis of standard partial regression coefficient as depicted in Table-3 indicates that knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices was the most important variable followed by economic motivation, non-fatalism, role taking empathy, mass media exposure, size of land holding, level

of aspiration, socio-techno-economic change and organizational participation in predicting adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. All these variables jointly contributed to 71.57 per cent of the total variation in the adoption of improved

animal husbandry practices by the tribal farmers. The variable, knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices alone contributed to 59.60 per cent of total variation in adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Table-3: Stepwise multiple regression analysis of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

n = 200

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Partial regression coefficient (byi.j)	Standard error of regression coefficient (SE of byi.j)	't' value	Standard partial regression coefficient (b'yi.j)	Rank
1	Socio-techno -economic change	0.0443	0.0266	1.667 ^{NS}	0.1122	VIII
2	Size of land holding	1.0859	0.2861	3.796 ^{**}	0.1744	VI
3	Economic motivation	-0.3125	0.0636	4.913 ^{**}	-0.2557	II
4	Organizational participation	-0.7232	0.3507	2.064 [*]	-0.1001	IX
5	Level of aspiration	0.4492	0.1565	2.871 ^{**}	0.1181	VII
6	Mass media exposure	0.1882	0.0680	2.766 ^{**}	0.2185	V
7	Role taking empathy	-0.9145	0.2445	3.740 ^{**}	-0.2333	IV
8	Non-fatalism	0.5662	0.1714	3.302 ^{**}	0.2505	III
9	Knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices	0.6485	0.0838	7.740 ^{**}	0.5812	I

Constant : 3.2719

Multiple R = 0.7022

R² = 0.7157

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded from the above results that majority of the tribal farmers had medium level of adoption about improved animal husbandry practices. All the independent variables expect farm power had significant association with adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. Among them age, urban pull and migration habit had negative while other variables had positive correlation with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The finding of this study also reveal that knowledge of improved practices of

animal husbandry contributed significantly to the prediction of the adoption of the tribal farmers.

REFERENCES

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