RESEARCH NOTE

Sway of Selected Factors on the Technical Knowledge of Small Peasants

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INTRODUCTION

Modernization among peasants can be brought thorough the knowledge of modern scientific technology. Knowledge is one of the important components of behaviour, which plays a major role in the overt and covert behaviour of an Individual. In fact knowledge influences the intellectual phase of human behaviour resulting both favourable and unfavourable responses. The demand for knowledge and production of knowledge are the basic requirements for peasantry modernization. It could be said therefore, that a complete working knowledge is very essential to bringforth positive attitude and proper adoption of scientific technology in the peasants.

Considering the above facts, it was worthwhile to delineate the relationship of technical knowledge in terms of modern practices of maize crop and animal husbandry with some of the selected factors of small peasants.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan State. A random sample of total 150 small peasants, who had below two hectares of land holding and adopted maize as a major crop with animal husbandry, was selected from the twelve villiages of all the three tehsils of Dungarpur district. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule from the selected small peasants. Knowledge regarding modern practices of maize crop and animal husbandry were measured with the help of scales developed by Jha and Singh (1970) and Sharma (1990), respectively. The co-efficient of correlation ('r') was used to findout the relationship of selected factors of small peasants with their technical knowledge.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data in Table 1 indicate that majority (56.67 and 57.33 per cent) of the small peasants had low level of knowledge regarding modern practices of maize crop and animal husbandry respectively. The probable reasons for above findings were poor contact of change agencies, low education, low cosmopoliteness and low level of aspiration.

It could be inferred from the results in Table 2 that extent of knowiedge regarding modern practices of maize crop was found positively significant with education, contact of change agency, organisational participation, mass media exposure, landholding, socio-techno-economic change and all psychological

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Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their extent of knowledge regarding modern practices of Maize and Animal Husbandry.

Sr. No.	Level	Knowledge regarding modern practices of Maize crop N=150		Knowledge regarding modern practices of Animal Husbandry N=150	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
1	Low	85	56.67	86	57.33
2.	Medium	54	36.00	42	28.00
3.	High	11	7.33	22	14.67
	Total	150	100.00	150	100.00

variables, other than secularism. While it was found negetively significant with age and secularism.

Whereas, extent of knowledge regarding modern practices of animal husbandry of small peasants, was found positively significant with their education, caste, change agency contact, organisational participation, mass media exposure, land holding, occupation, socio-techno-economic change, level of aspiration, educational aspiration for son, empathy, non-fatalism, cosmopoliteness, economic motivation, scientific orientation, risk orientation and overall modernization. While it was found negatively significant with age and secularism. This revealed that small peasants who had positive orientation towards education, aspiration, empathy, scientism, cosmopoliteness, risk orientation, social and communication activities influenced their level of technical knowledge. Probable reasons for the significant role of

psychological variabies on the knowledge of modern technology might be due to the fact that Dungarpur is one of the districts of Rajasthan, where peasants' economy is dependent only on agriculture. Dependency of peasants only on agriculture might have made some of the peasants psychologicaly strong as far as agricultural development is concerned.

IMPLICATIONS

It is observed that majority of the small peasants had low level of technical knowledge, at the same time some of the personal, social, communication and psychological variables contributed significantly to improve their knowledge. It is therefore, recommended that high efforts should be made by different agencies so as to enable small peasants to change their psychology in positive direction for the improvement of their level of technical knowledge.

Table 2 : Correlation co-efficients of knowledge regarding modern practices of Maize and Animal Husbandry

Sr. No.	Variables	Correlation co-efficients 'r' Value with knowledge of	
		Modern practices of maize crop.	Modern practices of animal husbandry
I	**PERSONAL**		
1.	Age	-0.3132 *	-0.2824 *
2.	Education	0.7566 *	0.6296 *
II	**SOCIAL, COMMUNICATION**		
3.	Caste	0.1155 NS	0.2113 *
4.	Urbanpail	0.0698 NS	0.0925 NS
5.	Change agency contact	0.4966 *	0.1755 *
6.	Organisational participation	-0.3249 *	0.1881 *
7.	Political efficacy	-0.0787 NS	0.0054 NS
8.	Mass media exposure	0.3993 *	0.4852 *
III	**ECONOMIC**		
9.	Land holding	0.2419 *	0.2254 *
10.	Level of achievement	0.1373 NS	0.0292 NS
11.	Occupation	0.1475 NS	0.4143 *
12.	Socio-techno-eco.change	0.3723 *	0.4221 *
IV	**PSYCHOLOGICAL**		
13.	Level of aspiration	0.1908 *	0.1848 *
14.	Level of edu. aspiration for son	0.4699 *	0.3138 *
15.	Role taking empathy	0.3657 *	0.3462 *
16.	Secularism	-0.5424 *	-0.3973 *
17.	Non-fatalism	0.4090 *	0.5193 *
18.	Cosmopoliteness	0.6315 *	0.4797 *
19.	Economic Motivation	0.6213 *	0.4723 *
20.	Risk orientation	0.6324 *	0.4600 *
21.	Scientific orientation	0.6577 *	0.4406 *
22.	Attitude towards modern agriculture	0.6747 *	-
23.	Overall modernization	0.5357 *	0.4616 *

* Significant at 0.05 per cent level