

Use of Audio-visual aids by subject matter specialists for information and training in T & V system of Karnataka

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INTRODUCTION

Merits on the use of Audio-Visual aids in promoting quality education has been recorded adequately through several researches and demonstrations. Recognising the merits, a new post of Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs) for Information and Training (I&T) has been created under T&V system in Karnataka. The SMS_s (I&T) in the cadre of Agricultural Officer are being located at Cluster talukas and they are considered as SMSs in communication skills. Promotion on the use of audio-visual aids in extension educational activities is one of the responsibility of these specialists. They have to help other SMS_s in using both projected and non-projected visual aids in the monthly training programmes.

The present study was made to assess the extent of use of audio-visual aids by SMSs (I&T) and to identify the constraints, which inhibit their use. The specific objectives were;

1. To assess the availability, and extent of use of audio-visual aids by the SMSs for information and training.
2. To identify the constraints which inhibit the use of audio-visual aids.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Karnataka in the year 1988-89 in 60 Cluster talukas. A team of SMSs is placed in each

Cluster talukas under the supervisions of Assistant Director of Agriculture (Co-ordination). The team consists of four Agricultural Officers who are serving as SMSs in four different disciplines, namely 1) crop production, 2) plant protection, 3) inputs and 4) information and training. The T&V system has provided a wide array of non-projected and projected audio-visual aids to each cluster talukas and placed them under the supervision of SMS (I&T) for using them in monthly/fortnightly training programmes. In order to assess the availability, the extent of use, and constraints which inhibit audio-visual aids use, a pre-tested questionnaire was mailed to all the 60 SMSs (I&T), but only 48 of them have responded. Since the total number of respondents were only 60, the sampling procedure adopted in this study was convenient sampling.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

I. Availability of Audio-Visual Aids.

Table 1 reveals that non-projected visual aids were reported to be available with majority of respondents. More than 87 percent of them stated that they have popular non-projected and projected aids like charts, slides, flashcards, posters, overhead transparencies, black board, slide projector and flannel board. This may be due to fact that the Department of Agriculture has supplied all the necessary.

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Table 1 : Availability of projected and non-projected audio-visual aids with SMSs (I&T)

			N = 48
Sl. No.	Availability of Audio-visual aids	Number	Per cent
1.	Charts	47	97.9
2.	Slides	46	95.8
3.	Flash cards	45	93.7
4.	Posters	45	93.7
5.	Flip charts	42	87.5
6.	Specimen	43	89.5
7.	Photographs	37	77.0
8.	Models	30	62.5
9.	Overheads transparencies	45	93.7
10.	Film strips	12	25.0
11.	Cassette for tape recorder	11	22.9
12.	Super 8 mm film cassette	3	6.2
13.	Black board	47	97.9
14.	Slide projector	46	95.8
15.	Flannel Board	46	95.8
16.	Slide viewer	42	87.5
17.	Display board	35	72.9
18.	Megaphone	27	56.2
19.	Stencil duplicator	24	50.0
20.	Film projector	8	16.5
21.	Super 8 mm film Projector	3	6.2
22.	Silk screen equipment	3	6.2
23.	35 mm camera	2	4.2

audio-visual aids to all the Cluster taluks in sufficient quantities for using them in fortnightly/monthly training programmes. However, some of the costly equipments like film projector, stencil duplicator, 35 mm camera and super 8 mm film projector were available only with a few respondents. The findings are supported by earlier findings of Patel (1970), Sinha (1977) and Growther (1977).

II. Development and use of Visual in Training Programmes by SMSs (I&T)

An examination of Table 2 reveals

that visual aids were more frequently developed and used in the training programmes with the exception of slides and photographs. The popular visuals like charts, posters, flip charts, flash cards and transparencies were developed and used frequently by the respondents for the training programmes, because these visuals can be prepared easily by the respondents themselves. The probable reasons for inadequate use of photographs and slides may be due to the difficulties in developing them. These photographs and slides cannot be easily prepared by the

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respondents as they require some technical skills to prepare them. The findings are in conformity with the findings of Rao (1965),

Patel (1970), Chaudary (1972) and Chidanandappa (1985).

Table 2 : Extent of use of projected and visual aids in training programme by SMSs (I&T)

Sl. No.	Types of projected audio-visual aids	Never used	In training programmes			
			Every training programme	More than 6 times	4-6 times	1-3 times
1	Film projector	21 (43.70)	-	10 (20.88)	9 (18.70)	8 (16.70)
2.	Slide projector	17 (35.40)	-	19 (39.58)	5 (10.40)	7 (14.60)
3.	Overhead projector	5 (10.40)	23 (47.90)	10 (20.80)	4 (8.40)	6 (12.50)
4.	Flip chart stand	10 (20.80)	22 (45.80)	10 (20.80)	3 (6.25)	3 (6.25)
5.	Black board	-	32 (66.70)	-	-	13 (27.08)
6.	Super 8 mm Film projector	48 (100.00)	-	-	-	-
7.	Cassette for tape recorder	48 (100.00)	-	-	-	-

Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentages.

III. Extent of Use of Projected Audi-Visual Aids in Training Programmes by SMSs (I&T).

Among the audio-visual aids listed in Table 3, black board was used in every training programme. While overhead projector, slide projector and flip chart were less frequently used. But none of the

respondents had used either super 8 mm film projector or cassette for tape recorder. In case of film projector, only 18 per cent of the respondents stated that they used this equipments occasionally. Under the Indian condition, overhead projector and slide projector are normally.

Table 3 : Development and extent of use of visuals in training programmes by SMSs (I&T).

Types of visuals developed	Development of visual aids per month		Total number of visual aids developed by SMSs information & Training per year	Use of visuals by SMSs information and training in more than one training sessions	
	Number	Per cent		Number	Per cent
1. Charts	43	89.6	279	38	79.2
2. Posters	29	60.4	52	26	54.2
3. Flip Charts	39	82.2	89	23	47.9
4. Flash cards	32	66.7	43	31	64.6
5. Photographs	16	33.4	24	11	22.9
6. Slides	9	18.9	66	38	79.2
7. Transparencies	31	64.1	41	28	58.4

More than one response is possible

preferred because the required transparencies can be developed by the respondents themselves. The costly equipment like film projector was in short supply and difficult to get it. Further it is difficult to get appropriate films to use them in training

IV. Constraints in preparation and use of Audio Visual Aids.

As seen from Table 4, the important constraints faced by the SMSs (I&T) were

sessions. Hence this equipments was rarely used. The findings are conformity with the findings of Patel (1970), Chaudhary (1972), Siddaramaiah *et al* (1972) and Sawant and Khuspe (1981).

non-availability of artist to develop visual aids, insufficient lack of facilities to store the prepared visual aid, and audio-visual equipment to the place of training.

Table 4 : Constraints in preparation and use of Audio-Visual aids.

Items	N = 48	
	Number	Per cent
1. Non-availability of artists to develop audio visual aids	36	75.00
2. Insufficient budget for audio-visual aids	32	66.66
3. Lack of storage facilities	23	47.91
4. Non-availability of transportation facilities	22	45.83
5. Non-availability of boards, colours to prepare audio-visual aids	13	27.08
6. Lack of encouragement for preparing audio-visual aids	8	16.66

The present findings are in line with the previous findings of Rao (1965), Somasundaram (1967), Patel (1970) and Crowther (1977).

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The findings identified that SMSs (I&T) were provided with adequate A.V. aids and equipment. However, they were not adequately used. Extent of use of

projected A.V. aids was low when compared to non-projected visuals. This calls for the necessity of training to the SMSs (I&T) on effective use of A.V. aids and equipment available with them. One of the major constraints expressed by them was non-availability of artists to assist in the preparation of non-projected aids. Therefore, there is a necessity to recruit artist at Cluster taluk level.

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Pride is tasteless, colourless and sizeless.

Yet it is the hardest thing to swallow.

- August Black