

DEVELOPMENT OF SCALE TO MEASURE ATTITUDE OF FARMERS' SONS TOWARDS PERMANENTLY WORKING IN RURAL AREA

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ABSTRACT

This is needed to develop new generation of farmers not only to produce necessary food grains to feed the huge population of our country but also to encourage rural youths to stay and work to develop rural area. It is high time to understand the farmers' sons' feeling to work permanently in rural area. Realizing need of research tool, a scale was developed to measure the attitude of farmers' sons towards permanently working in rural area. Appropriate statistical method, 'scale product method' which combines Thurston and Likert technique was used.

Keywords : attitude, permanently working in rural area, farmers son

INTRODUCTION

On an average, 2,035 farmers have been losing the status of 'Main Cultivators' every single day for the last 20 years. There is a great significance to encourage rural youth especially sons of practicing farmers to settle in rural area and continue family farming as profession by adopting modern farming for the sustainable development of rural India and agriculture. This is needed to develop new generation of farmers not only to produce necessary food grains to feed the huge population of our country but also to encourage rural youths to stay and work to develop rural area. It is high time to understand the farmers' sons' feeling to work permanently in rural area; however policymakers have no any methodologically developed tool to measure such feelings. In this regard, effort was made to construct and standardize the scale to measure the attitude of farmers' sons towards permanently working in rural area

OBJECTIVE

To develop scale to measure attitude of farmers' sons towards permanently working in rural area

METHODOLOGY

Among the techniques available for construction of scale, the methodology suggested by Likert (1932) and Edward (1957) was used in this study for scale construction and for ascertaining the response of the scale. The technique chosen to construct the attitude scale was of "Scale Product Method" which combines the technique of Equal Appearing Interval Scale of Thurston (1946) for selection of the items and Likert's techniques of Summated Rating for ascertaining the response on the scale. The procedure followed in the Makwan and Chauhan (2016) was used.

Item collection

The items making up an attitude scale are known as statements. A statement may be defined as anything that is said about a psychological object. As a first step in the developing the scale, 22 statements about attitude of farmers' sons towards permanently working in rural area were collected from the relevant literature, experts of extension personals. The statements, thus selected were edited on the basis of the suggested criteria.

Judge's rating of attitude statements

In order to judge the degree of 'Unfavorableness' to 'Favorableness' of each statement on the five point equal appearing interval continuum a panel of 50 judges was selected. The judges selected for the study comprised extension educationist, economist and statisticians from different agricultural university. The judges were visited personally along with letter of instructions to guide them for rating the statements in desired manner for each set of the statements.

Determination of scale and quartile value

The five points of the rating scale were assigned, ranging from 1 for most unfavourable and 5 for most favourable. On the base of judgment, the median value of the distribution, and the Q value for the statement concerned was calculated, the inter-quartile range ($Q = Q_3 - Q_1$) for each statement was also worked out for determination of ambiguity involved in the statement.

Final statements for attitude scale

When there was a good agreement among the judges, in judging the degree of agreement or disagreement

of a statement, Q was smaller compared to the value obtained, when there was relatively little agreement among the judges it was reserse. Only those items were selected whose median (scale) values were greater than Q values. However, when a few items had the same scale values, items having lowest Q value were selected. Based on the median and Q values 12 statements were finally selected to constitute attitude scale. The scale values were ranging from 1.5 to 3.6 with 0.5 class intervals.

Reliability of the scale

A scale is reliable when it consistently produces the same results when applied to the same sample. In the present study, split-half method of testing reliability was used. The 12 statements were divided into two halves with six odd

numbered in one half and other six even-numbered statements in the other. These were administered to 20 farmers’ sons. Each of the two sets of statements was treated as a separate scale and then these two sub-scales were correlated. The coefficient of reliability was calculated by the Rulon’s formula (Guilford, 1954), which came to 0.734. Correction factor was calculated by using Spearman Brown formula, which came to 0.84. Thus, the developed scale was found reliable.

Content validity of the scale

The validity of the scale examined for content validity by determining how well content were selected by discussion with specialists, extension academicians, etc. thus, the present scale satisfied the content validity.

Table 1. Final statements of the scale to measure attitude towards permanently working in rural area

Sr. No.	Statements	SA	A	UD	DA	SDA
1	I love to work in rural area to keep myself close to motherland. (+)					
2	I dislike encouraging my family to reside in rural areas. (-)					
3	I like to work in rural area to keep myself ever healthy. (+)					
4	I like to avoid working in rural area because it keeps me isolated from family. (-)					
5	I love staying permanently with rural people easily than with urban people. (+)					
6	I think, living in rural area for me means spoiling life. (-)					
7	I prefer working with rural people to experience the real beauty of life. (+)					
8	I dislike working in rural area as it restricts my personal development. (-)					
9	I like to work constantly in rural areas. (+)					
10	I see limited scope to develop my future in rural area. (-)					
11	I hate working in rural area restricts family development. (-)					
12	I like to insist my parents not to force me to settle in rural area. (-)					

SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, UD = Undecided, D = Disagree, SD = strongly disagree

Scoring system

The selected 12 statements for the final format of the attitude scale are randomly arranged to avoid response biases, which might contribute to low reliability and detraction from validity of the scale. The responses can be collected on five points continuum viz, strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with respective weights of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 for the favourable statements and with the respective weights of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the unfavourable statements.

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