

INFORMATION COLLECTION INCLINATION OF EXTENSION PERSONNEL OF SAUS OF GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

The present study to examine information collection inclination of the extension personnel working in SAUs of Gujarat and to study relationship between profile of extension personnel and their information collection inclination was carried out on a random sample of 150 extension personnel of SAUs of Gujarat state. Based on number of available agricultural extension personnel, 55, 38, 29 and 28 agricultural extension personnel from Anand Agricultural University, Junagadh Agricultural University, Navsari Agricultural University and Dantiwada Sardarkrushinagar Agricultural University of Gujarat were selected, respectively. The study concludes that there was medium to high level of overall information collection inclination among the majority (76.00 per cent) of the extension personnel of SAUs. The level of information collection inclination was observed better amongst those extension personnel who had brilliant and superior academic qualification, took their formal education in English medium, dynamic inclination towards computer for everyday works, elevated level of yearly earnings, improved information communication technology conveniences obtainable at their working place and who were greatly pleased by their job.

Keywords : information, inclination of extension personnel

INTRODUCTION

The extension is performed by its three important broad components. These components are 'Extension Education', 'Extension Service' and 'Extension Work'. As far as 'extension education' is concerned, the higher institutions like the Agricultural Universities and Colleges, ICAR institutions and apex level training organizations, generally perform the role of extension education. At the apex level organization, extension is generally integrated with training of extension functionaries. Under the function of extension education these institutions and organizations educate, train and develop professionals to understand and apply philosophy of extension, extension research and extension activities. In addition to this, suitable extension methodologies are also developed for effective function of field extension as a part of extension education component. Thus, the extension personnel of State Agricultural Universities are responsible for creation necessary basic structure for the speedy transfer of information and technology to farmers to reduce the time lag between generation of technology and its transfer to the farmers for increasing production, productivity and income from agriculture and allied sectors on a sustained basis. They also work with other experts in agriculture to learn more or even develop new methods that could advance production. The primary responsibility of extension personnel of SAUs world-wide is that of education of extension.

To carry out basic functions of extension education effectively, the extension personnel of SAUs should have effective inclination of information collection. The information collection inclination refers to the fondness in terms of frequency of utilization of various information sources made by the extension personnel to prepare themselves to gain knowledge and understanding of various subjects to organize effective function of extension education, training and teaching activities. It is tendency of spending time in collecting useful information from various sources like text books, reference books, reports, seminars, symposia, conferences, newspapers, research journals, consulting other the extension personnel or discussion with specialists. Considering importance of inclination of information collection in the life of extension personnel of SAUs, a study was felt necessary to collect reliable information on their information collection inclination with following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To examine the level of information collection inclination of the extension personnel working in SAUs of Gujarat
- (2) To study the relationship between profile of extension personnel and their level of information collection inclination

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out on a random sample of 150 extension personnel of SAUs of Gujarat state. Based on number of available agricultural extension personnel, 55, 38, 29 and 28 agricultural extension personnel from Anand Agricultural University, Junagadh Agricultural University, Navsari Agricultural University and Dantiwada Sardarkrushinagar Agricultural University were selected, respectively. The information was collected through the schedules by personal contacts. The systematically well developed scales were used to measure characters included to study profile of the respondents. The data so collected were coded classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Information collection inclination of the extension personnel

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their information collection inclination

(n=150)

Sr. No.	level of information collection inclination	No.	Per cent
1	High (> 32)	45	30.00
2	Medium (26 to 32)	69	46.00
3	Low (< 26)	36	24.00

The data presented in Table-1 indicate that majority (46.00 per cent) of the extension personnel had medium level information collection inclination utilizing information sources like text book, reference book, reports of seminar, symposia, conferences, news papers, research journals, consulting other teachers or discussion with specialists, followed by 30.00 and 24.00 per cent of them were with high and low level of habit to collect information from the same sources.

Thus, it can be concluded that majority (66.00 per cent) of the extension personnel had medium to high degree information collection inclination utilizing information sources like text book, reference book, reports of seminar, symposia, conferences, news papers, research journals, consulting other teachers or discussion with specialists. The finding is in line with the findings of Ardeshana (1990).

Relationship between profile of extension personnel and their level of information collection inclination

With a view to studying consequence of characteristics of agricultural extension education on their information collection inclination, coefficient of correlation

was worked out and outcome is presented in Table 2.

The result exhibited in Table 2 clearly indicates that degree of information collection inclination of the extension personnel of SAUs of Gujarat was observed significantly related with their academic qualification, medium of education, computer inclination, annual income, facilities available in the department and job satisfaction while it was observed non-significant with their total experience, native place, library exposure, training received and attitude towards extension work.

Thus it can be concluded that the fondness in terms of frequency of utilization of various information sources like text book, reference book, reports of seminar, symposia, conferences, news papers, research journals, consulting other teachers or discussion with specialists was observed healthier amongst those extension personnel, who had bright and higher academic qualification, studied in English medium of education, active tendency to make use of computer for different works, high level of annual income, better information communication facilities available in their department and who were highly satisfied by their job.

Table 2 : Relationship between profile of extension personnel and their information collection inclination
(n=150)

Sr. No.	Variables	correlation coefficient
X ₁	Age	-0.057
X ₂	Academic qualification	0.258*
X ₃	Medium of education	0.196*
X ₄	Total experience	0.100
X ₅	Computer Inclination	0.218*
X ₆	Native place	0.095
X ₇	Library exposure	0.157
X ₈	Annual income	0.163*
X ₉	Training received	0.058
X ₁₀	Facilities available in the Department	0.266*
X ₁₁	Attitude towards extension work	0.147
X ₁₂	Job satisfaction	0.216*
X ₁₃	Materialistic aspiration	0.132
X ₁₄	Professional aspiration	0.092
X ₁₅	Self confidence	0.046

* Significant at 0.05 level

It is natural that persons with bright and high level of academic qualification taken in international language will always try to create better ICT facilities along with computer and develop good tendency of information collection to get high level of satisfaction and success on their job, such trend was observed here. The result matches with the result observed by Darji *et al* (2017). The other side of the result indicates that extension personnel with more or less years of job experiences, rural or urban background, lower to high level of library exposure and high to less experience of training exhibited analogous degree of medium to high level of information collection inclination.

CONCLUSION

From the above study, it can be concluded that there was a medium to high level of overall information collection inclination among the majority of the extension personnel of SAUs. As far as the level of information collection inclination was concerned it was observed better amongst those extension personnel who had brilliant and superior academic qualification, took their formal education in English medium, dynamic inclination to make use of computer for everyday works, elevated level of yearly earnings, improved information communication technology conveniences obtainable at their working place and who were

greatly pleased by their job.

IMPLICATION

India has already been entered in the information highway; a sea of information is knocking its doors. India has the expertise to meet the challenges and set up internet connectivity in different colleges for research and teaching purposes. Hence, this study will be helpful to the agricultural information technology planners and administrators for straightening such facility in other educational centers of the state as well as country. The outcome of this study articulates that, for increasing the level of information collection inclination of the extension personnel of SAUs, at departmental level ICT faculties should be improved.

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