A TOOL TO MEASURE THE SELF-WORKING CONFIDENCE TO BE SUCCESSFUL POULTRY FARMERS

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ABSTRACT

The scale development process is widely accepted and used as a quantitative tool to measure constructs in behavioural research. In present paper, the study was conducted to develop and standardize the reliable and valid scale to measure self-working confidence of poultry farmers. Appropriate statistical methods "scale product method' was used, which combines Thruston techniques. Twenty-four statements were given for judgment; a panel of 50 judges was requested to assign the scores for each statement based on of five-point continuums. Based on the scale value (median) and Q values twelve statements were finally selected to measure self-working confidence of poultry farmers. Reliability (spilt-half technique) and validity was worked out after the construction of scale, indicating higher reliability and validity of the scale. Looking to the value of reliability and validity of the scale it is advised to use/apply this scale for further research.

Keywords: *poultry, scale product method, likert's scale, confidence, farmers*

INTRODUCTION

Rural population living in India constitutes 72.20 per cent of the total population, which is predominantly occupied by poor, marginal farmers and landless laborers. Poultry production is an old age profession of rural families of India. It is the most potent source for subsidiary incomes for landless and poor farmers. It is an enterprise with low initial investment but higher economic returns (Thorat et al., 2019) and can easily be managed by women, children and old aged persons of the households (Thorat et al., 2016). Now-a-days, poultry meat and eggs have been the best and cheapest sources for meeting out the per capita requirement of protein and energy for rural India. Though, India has shown a tremendous growth in poultry production over decades but rural poultry farming is still lagging behind and found neglected. As it is the best alternative for the small-scale farmers to subsidize the income with negligible input (Dayal & Mehta, 2018), this farming system needs an upliftment with recent advancement of research in the field of rearing of chicks, balanced feeding, disease control and efficient marketing system for the egg and meat.

Self-working confidence is the abilities and belief in oneself, it describes an internal stage made up of think and feel about ourselves. It is highly required to work in animal husbandry particularly in poultry farming. However, till today; there is no tool to measure the self-working confidence of poultry farmers to work in their business. Understanding this, the research study on "Development of a tool to measure self-working confidence to be successful poultry farmers" is undertaken by our department.

OBJECTIVE

To develop a tool to measure self-working confidence to be successful poultry farmers

METHODOLOGY

In the present study, self-working confidence is operationalized as one's ability to work in poultry farming successfully. Amongst the techniques available 'Scale product method' (Khatri & Chauhan, 2018., Ravi & Patil, 2022) which combines the Thurston & Chave technique (1928) of equal appearing interval scale for selection of items and Likert's technique (1932) of summated rating for ascertaining the response on the scale as proposed by Eysenck and Crown (1949) was used.

Item collection

The items of self-working confidence scale are called as statements. In initial stage, 35 statements reflecting self-working confidence of poultry farmers were collected from relevant literature and discussion with experts of extension discipline. The collected statements were edited according to the criteria laid down by Edward (1957) and then 24 statements were selected as they were found to be unambiguous.

Item analysis

In order to judge the degree of 'Un-favorableness' to 'Favorableness' of each statement on the five-point equal appearing interval continuum, a panel of judges was selected. Fifty slips of the selected statements were handed over to the experts connected with extension educational work. The experts were requested to judge each statement in terms of their most agreement to most disagreement with the statements with the five equal appearing interval continuums. All 50 experts returned the statements after duly recording their judgments and were considered for the analysis.

Determination of scale and 'Q' values

Frequency distribution of the judges based on responses in five continuums was prepared. On the bases of judgment, the median value of the distribution and 'Q', Q3 and Q1 value for each of 24 statements were calculated. The inter-quartile range (Q = Q3 - Q1) for each statement was worked out for determination of ambiguity involve in the statement. 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 this, 12 statements were finally selected to constitute self-working confidence scale. The selected 12 statements for final format of the self-working confidence scale were randomly arranged to avoid response bias. The final format of the scale is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Final selected statements to measure the self-working confidence to be successful poultry farmer

Sr. No.	Statements	S value	Q value
1	I have self-working confidence to be a successful poultry farmer. (+)	1.73	1.22
2	I have practical ability needed to be a successful poultry farmer. (+)	1.46	1.07
3	I am self-dependent to purchase good inputs for poultry farming. (+)	1.93	0.78
4	I am capable of handling key operations of poultry farming practically. (+)	1.64	1.10
5	I am enough skillful to operate poultry farming related machinery. (+)	1.89	1.15
6	I am self-sufficient in adopting poultry farming as an occupation. (+)	1.80	1.00
7	I am highly confident to start poultry farming even though I don't get any support from the government. (+)	2.02	1.75
8	The scientific poultry farming is beyond my capacity to handle. (-)	3.16	2.41
9	I am highly skillful in the handling of marketing aspects of poultry products. (+)	1.84	0.94
10	For me, poultry farming is difficult to start due to the risky disease associated with it. (-)	3.83	2.22
11	I am firm to go for poultry farming even though poor approval of my society. (+)	2.18	1.56
12	I have no confidence to obtain credit to start poultry farming. (-)	2.45	2.15

Reliability of the scale

To know the consistency of the scale, reliability was worked out. The split-half technique (Vegad & Chauhan, 2019) was used to measure the reliability of the scale. Selected 12 attitudinal statements were divided into two equal halves with 6 (Six) odd and 6 (Six) even numbered statements. Each of the two sets was treated as separate scales having obtained two score, for each of the 20 respondents. Co-efficient of reliability between the two sets of score was calculated by Rulon's formula (Guilford, 1954), which was observed 0.83 in first year. To understand consistency of the scale, reliability was calculated in second year and it was observed 0.85. Considering consistency in the reliability observed during first year and second year, the scale is recommended for those researchers who want to measure the self-working confidence to be successful poultry farmer

Validity of the scale

The validity of content of scale was examined by discussing with specialists of the extension and statistics. Specialists examined and realized appropriateness of each statement to measure the self-working confidence to be a successful poultry farmer.

Administration of the scale (Scoring technique)

For application of the scale, the researcher can collect information against each 12 statements in five point continuum viz. 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Undecided', 'Disagree' and 'Strongly disagree' with weighted score of 5,4,3,2 and 1 for positive and reverse to negative statements.

CONCLUSION

Looking to the value of reliability and validity of the scale it is advised to use/apply this scale for further research.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest among researchers.

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