

A SCALE TO MEASURE THE SELF-CONFIDENCE OF RURAL YOUTH TO WORK IN FARMING

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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 rural youth to work in farming. Appropriate statistical methods ‘scale product method’ was used, which combines Thurston techniques. Twenty-eight statements were constructed for judgment; a panel of 50 judges was requested to assign the scores for each statement based on five-point continuums. Based on the scale (median) and Q values ten statements were finally selected to measure self-working confidence of rural youth to work in farming. Reliability (split-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: scale product method, likert’s scale, confidence, farming, youth,

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has been the mainstay of many living in rural areas worldwide and investment in the agricultural sector has been demonstrated to be an effective means to lift groups out of poverty (Bennell, 2010; Diao et al., 2010). Additionally, agriculture has accounted for 32% of total global employment. Unfortunately, the average age of farmers in many nations has risen and, possibly as a result, in some areas farming innovations have decreased. Youth who might otherwise have been employed in agriculture and helped to maintain vibrant rural communities have continued to bypass this vocation and location in lieu of seemingly more lucrative prospects in urban areas (Bennell, 2010). Youth engagement and interest in agriculture the world over has been low recently and potential entry into agriculture has carried a host of challenges (FAO, 2014). Generally, youth worldwide have lacked motivation to enter and persist in the agricultural industry (FAO, 2014; Sharma, 2007). “Agriculture is not seen as a viable income source and often the youth view agriculture as employment only of last resort and may consider becoming a farmer as condemning oneself to subsistence and poverty” (Muir, 2013). Even willing youth face barriers to entering agriculture such as insufficient access to knowledge, self-confidence, information and education and limited access to land, financial services, green jobs, markets and engagement in policy dialogue (FAO, 2014). Understanding this, the research study on ‘Development and standardization of scale to measure the self-confidence of rural youth to work in

farming is undertaken with the following objective.

OBJECTIVE

To develop and standardize the scale to measure the self-confidence of rural youth to work in farming

METHODOLOGY

In the present study, self-confidence is operationalized as one’s ability to work in agriculture 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-confidence scale are called as statements. In initial stage, 35 statements reflecting self-confidence of rural youth 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 28 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 judges 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 28 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 who's 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, 10 statements were finally selected to constitute self-confidence scale. The selected 10 statements for final format of the self-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-confidence of rural youth to work in agriculture

Sr. No.	Statements	S Value	Q value
1	I am confident on my working ability of modern farming (+)	1.73	1.053
2	I can handle farming without taking help of my father (+)	2.93	2.037
3	Package of practices of scientific farming is beyond my capacity to handle (-)	3.70	0.283
4	I am confident in selecting suitable varieties of field crops (+)	1.85	0.647
5	I have ability to produce vermicomposting (+)	2.11	0.707
6	Irrigation management in farming is beyond my capacity to handle (-)	2.75	0.531
7	I feel confident to carry out weed control measures (+)	1.98	0.231
8	I feel difficulty to handle plant protection tools (-)	4.67	2.417
9	I have self-reliant to handle post-harvest techniques of crop production. (+)	2.02	0.845
10	I consider myself as market smart person (+)	1.92	1.344

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 10 attitudinal statements were divided into two equal halves with 5 (Five) odd and 5 (Five) 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 0.77 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 and validity, the scale is recommended for those researchers who want to carry out research to measure the Self-confidence of rural youth to work in farming

Validity of the scale: The validity of content of scale was examined by discussing with specialists of the extension. Specialists examined and realized appropriateness of each statement to measure the self-confidence of rural youth to work in farming.

Administration of the scale (Scoring technique): For application of the scale, the researcher can collect information against each 10 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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