

Computer Inclination of Agricultural Extension Educationists

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in the four State Agricultural Universities located at Anand, Junagadh, Navsari, and Sardarkrushinagar of Gujarat state on a random sample of 150 extension educationists. Ex-post facto research design was applied for the study. The methodological procedure consisted of dependent and independent variables. The data so collected were coded classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful. The study concludes that there was a medium to high level of overall computer inclination among the majority of the extension educationists of SAUs. The level of computer inclination was observed better amongst the younger aged extension educationists with less working experience, while it was found positively significant with variables like native place, father's education, mother's education, facilities available in the department, professional zeal, mass media liveliness, habit of information collection, library exposure, training received, attitude towards extension work, job satisfaction and innovativeness. It means that extension personnel who were from urban background, son/daughter of educated parents, having availability of supplementary IT tools in the department, encouraging professional passion, familiar to work as mass communicator, curious to collect information, frequent visitors of library, positive in their feelings towards extension work, devotee of work and inventive in nature were more connected and attached with computers.

Keywords: Computer inclination, Agril. Extn. Educationists

INTRODUCTION

The economy of our nation is based on agriculture and allied agro-based industries, animal husbandry and all other agriculture based businesses. Thus overall development of our country is not possible by ignoring the agriculture and farmers. The present time is an age of science and information communication technology, the perfect, quick, timely, required and understandable information in the field of agricultural sciences has been considered as an indispensable input for the development of agriculture, rural people and farmers.

Looking to the importance of the agriculture in national economy, high level efforts are expected to stand in the era of open global markets. The dissemination of all recent innovative technologies is required to be deliberated. It can be possible effectively through the intervention of information and communication technology. Emerging electronic technologies are continually advancing computer's capacity and usefulness. In the wider sense computer is well-known

as an information-processing machine. In the present time, it is hard to imagine conducting any research, educational, extension or business activity without computers. The challenge in adopting computerization in everyday work in agricultural extension system is a prominent need of the time. Today it is possible to fulfill this need and gear up new working situation by developing and training active information technology oriented human resources for the agricultural extension system.

Nowadays, there is a large gap in terms of the availability of information systems and application of these technologies in developing countries. An integrated approach of information technology provides opportunity to develop various developmental activities; it is expected to speed up transfer of agricultural technology to the rural communities. Integrated approaches can fasten communication among the many intermediary organizations that work for rural and agricultural development. A study was felt necessary to collect reliable information on their feelings and inclination

towards computer.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To study the level of computer inclination of the extension educationists working in SAUs of Gujarat.
- 2 To ascertain relationship between profile of extension educationists and their level of computer inclination.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out in all the four State Agricultural Universities located at Anand, Junagadh, Navsari, and Sardarkrushinagar of Gujarat state. Ex-post facto research design was applied for the study. Based on number of available agricultural extension educationists, 55 agricultural extension educationists from Anand, 38 from Junagadh, 29 from Navsari and 28 from Dantiwada Sardarkrushinagar Agricultural University were selected, thus study was conducted on a random sample of 150 respondents. The methodological procedure consisted of dependent and independent variables. The data so collected were coded classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of Computer inclination

The level of computer inclination of the extension educationists: The data presented in Table: 1 indicate that majority (73.34 per cent) of the extension educationists of SAUs had medium to high level of overall computer inclination. The result indicates that the extension educationists of SAUs had taken much interest to collect useful information and communicate messages through computer.

Table 1 : Respondents as per overall computer inclination n=150

Sr. No.	Overall computer inclination	Number	per cent
1	High (> 59.57)	49	32.67
2	Medium (46.50 to 59.57)	61	40.67
3	Low (< 46.49)	40	26.66

The extension educationists of SAUs have to play triple roles of educationist, researcher and extension educationist, to play such roles effectively, they need to collect latest information and maintain live contacts with other officers, extension educationists, teachers and scientists of the country and world. In addition to this, they have to publish and present their research work in state, national and

international level journals. To do all such jobs timely, they might have realized the importance of computer application, this might be the reason to have medium to high level of overall computer inclination among the majority of the extension educationists of SAUs.

Relationship between profile of extension educationists and their computer inclination: With a view to studying role of independent variables on the level of overall computer inclination of the extension educationists of SAUs, coefficient of correlation was worked out and outcome are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Relationship between profile of extension educationists of SAUs of Gujarat and their computer inclination n=150

Sr No	Variables	correlation coefficient ('r')
I	Personal variables	
1	Age	-0.319*
2	Academic qualification	0.119 NS
3	Medium of education	-0.146NS
4	Total experience	-0.297*
5	Knowledge of different languages	0.073 NS
6	Native place	0.230*
II	Economic variable	
7	Annual income	-0.086 NS
8	Father's occupation	0.079 NS
III	Situational and communication variables	
9	Father's education	0.238*
10	Mother's education	0.208*
11	Facilities available in the Department	0.586*
12	Professional zeal	0.482*
13	Mass media liveliness	0.257*
14	Habit of information collection	0.218*
15	Library exposure	0.791*
16	Training received	0.222*
IV	Psychological variables	
17	Attitude towards extension work	0.573*
18	Perception of workload	0.071 NS
19	Professional development	0.069 NS
20	Job satisfaction	0.523*
21	Materialistic aspiration	-0.081 NS
22	Professional aspiration	0.140 NS
23	Self confidence	0.019 NS
24	Perception of span of control	0.051 NS
25	Inter-personal communication	0.006 NS
26	Innovativeness	0.562*

* Significant at 0.05 level

NS = Non Signification

Computer inclination and personal variables:

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that the computer inclination of extension educationists was observed negatively significant with their age and total experience in work, while it was seen positively significant with their native place; it indicates that level of overall computer inclination was better among younger extension educationists with low level of experience than the older ones. The result also indicates that extension educationists from urban native had higher computer inclination than those who were from rural backgrounds. The other personal variables like academic qualification, medium of education and knowledge of different languages of extension educationists had non-significant relationship with their computer inclination. The result indicates that computer inclination of the extension educationists was observed indistinguishable with irrespective levels of their academic qualification, medium of education and knowledge of different languages known by them.

Computer inclination and economic variable

The level of annual income as well as fathers' occupation of the extension educationists and their degree of overall computer inclination had negative and non-significant relationship. The result indicates that annual income as well as fathers' occupation of the extension educationists did not play any positive role in improving their level of computer inclination. The finding is in line with result of Shah (2006) and Patel (2007).

Computer inclination with situational and communication variables

The data seen in Table 2 clearly indicate that level of overall computer inclination of the extension educationists was observed positively significant with situational and communication variables like father's education, mother's education, facilities available in the department, professional zeal, mass media liveliness, habit of information collection, library exposure and training received. The result indicates that level of overall computer inclination was observed better amongst those extension educationists whose parents were highly educated, who had better facility of computers and other ICT tools in their departments, who were elevated level of professional zeal, mass media liveliness, tendency of information collection, library exposure and tendency to take various types of training. The level of computer inclination was observed better amongst those extension educationists, who had more liveliness and input in publication, seminar,

symposia, conference and association in professional journals. It is accepted fact that person with positivism to develop his professional career will have need of information and innovative ideas. The results are in line with the results reported by Patel (2007) and Shah (2006).

Computer inclination and psychological variables

The information seen in Table 2 indicates that level of computer inclination of the extension educationists was positively significant with their types of attitude towards extension work, level of job satisfaction and degree of Innovativeness, while it was observed non-significant with their perception of workload, professional development, materialistic aspiration, professional aspiration, self confidence, perception of span of control and inter-personal communication. It indicates that computer inclination of those extension educationists was observed superior who had positive attitude towards extension work. Based on the result, it can be said that level of computer inclination of the extension educationists of SAUs of Gujarat was increased with increase in the level of their job satisfaction. It is natural that the person with high degree of satisfaction with his job will always try to engage more and more in his job, this makes him more positive in collecting useful information through modern media like internet via computer about the development of his job. It was found that the extension educationists with the skill and imagination to create new things were very active in making use of computer than those who were low inactive. The result is in line with the findings reported by Patel (2007).

CONCLUSION

From the above study, it can be concluded that there was a medium to high level of overall computer inclination among the majority of the extension educationists of SAUs. The level of computer inclination was observed better amongst the younger aged extension educationists with less working experience, while it was found positively significant with variables like native place, father's education, mother's education, facilities available in the department, professional zeal, mass media liveliness, habit of information collection, library exposure, training received, attitude towards extension work, job satisfaction and innovativeness. It means that extension personnel who were from urban background, son/daughter of educated parents, having availability of supplementary IT tools in the department, encouraging professional passion, familiar to work as mass communicator, curious to collect information, frequent visitors of library,

positive in their feelings towards extension work, devotee of work and inventive in nature were more connected and attached with computers.

IMPLICATION

The outcome of this study articulates that, for increasing the level of computer inclination of the extension educationists of SAUs, the variables such as facilities available in the department, professional zeal, mass media liveliness, habit of information collection, library exposure and training received. Thus, it can be suggested that to give best results of computer, ICT facilities available in the department, professional zeal, mass media liveliness, habit of information collection, library exposure and training should be improved. It can be said that computer along with internet facility helped the extension educationists of SAUs to satisfy their hunger of information and innovative ideas. It is, therefore, suggested that computer along with internet facility should be provided in other organizations also to satisfy information need of the academicians, researchers,

administrators and extension educationists. This result gives us enough support to recommend creating this facility to satisfy needs and interests of the extension educationists with said irrespective level of independent variables: perception of workload, professional development, materialistic aspiration, professional aspiration, self confidence, perception span of control and inter-personal communication. To motivate such extension educationists to make effective use of computer along with internet, efforts should be made to make them confident with computer by reducing their computer anxiety or nervousness.

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