

Constraints Faced By The Village Level Workers In Communicating The Fram Information

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INTRODUCTION

Village Level Workers are considered as backbone of T and V system. The benefit of VLW is actually derived only when we improve the quality of VLWs but a large number of constraints are responsible for changing the high communication behaviour of VLWs towards T and V system which is ultimately affects on quality of communication pattern. For understanding the constraints faced by the VLWs in communication work and developing strategies for overcoming the constraints, this study was undertaken.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the constraints faced by the VLWs in communicating agricultural technology.
2. To seek suggestions from VLWs to overcome the constraints and for making the communication patterns more effective.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Junagadh district of Gujarat State which was selected purposively, where the T&V

system has been introduced since 1978. All the VLWs working under T & V system in Junagadh district were considered for the study. Out of 180, 116 VLWs were available on the day of personal interview at fortnightly training meetings. They were selected as respondents. The interview schedule was used for data collection. For understanding the constraints faced by the VLWs, an explorative study was made. The constraints were studied in three major heads : administrative, technical and personal constraints. For this, respondents were required to offer their difficulties by rating each difficulty in either of the three categories viz, most important, important and less important having weightage of 3, 2 and 1, respectively. The constraint wise score of the VLWs were summed up and mean score thus worked out for each constraint. On the basis of the mean scores, the ranks were assigned to each constraint. The same procedure was followed for getting suggestions. The data collected and presented in Table 1 and 2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study are presented under the following heads :

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Constratints Faced By...

- (A) Constraints faced by the respondents in performing their duties (Table 1). It is evident from the Table 1 that, among the administrative constraints, most of the VLWs felt that vacant posts were not filled in time (R I) whereas, the respondents felt that travelling allowances were not received in time (R II) followed
- (B) Suggestions offered by the respondents (Table 2).

Table 1 : Constraints faced by the respondents

(N= 116)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean score	Rank (R)	Overall rank (OR)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>A. ADMINISTRATIVE</i>				
1.	Most of the programmes were not sanctioned in time	1.85	V	VI
2.	Vacant posts were not filled in time	2.33	I	I
3.	No separate facility of office	2.21	IV	IV
4.	Travelling allowances were not received in time	2.30	II	II
5.	Frequent transfer	1.03	VI	XVI
6.	Supplies and services for inputs were not arranged in time	2.27	III	III
<i>B. TECHNICAL</i>				
1.	Imparted training was not suitable to the duties of VLWs	1.09	IV	XV
2.	Solution of reported problems were not received in time higher authority	1.52	I	X
3.	Useful literature was not provided for performing duties	1.26	II	XII
4.	Complete information was not announced in advance of the programme which create difficulties in execution	1.22	III	XIII
5.	Incomplete technical guidance from higher officials	1.02	V	XVII
6.	Myself less qualified technically	0.44	VI	XXV
<i>C. PERSONAL</i>				
1.	Experienced high exhaustion due to mental and physical workload	0.86	VII	XVIII
2.	VLW's duties were hinderence in performing the family obligation	0.49	VIII	XIV

Constratints Faced By...

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Children's education suffered due to stay in Village	1.79	III	VIII
4.	Family members were put to hardship due to less transport facility	1.74	IV	IX
5.	Vehicle facility was not provide for the official duties	1.91	I	V
6.	Particularly in monsoon, it was very difficult to reach interior villages due to lack of approach roads	1.51	V	XI
7.	Less co-operation received from local leaders	1.15	IV	XIV
8.	No recognition for good work in the T and V system	1.80	II	VII

by supplies and services for inputs were not arranged in time (R III).

As far as technical difficulties are concerned, most of the respondents felt that solution of reported problems were not received in time by higher authority (R I), useful literature was not provided for performing duties (R II) and complete information was not announced in advance of the programme which creates difficulties in execution (R III) by the VLWs in descending order.

With regards to personal constraints, vehicle facility was not provided for the official duties, no recognition for good work in the T & V system and children's education suffered due to stay in village (R I, II & III respectively) were the most important constraints faced by the VLWS. These findings were in line with the findings of Vasoya (1982) and Gangani (1989).

Taking an overall situation into consideration, out of 20 constrains, on the basis of overall ranks, 4 constraints were perceived as most important (above 2 mean score). These are given below according to their overall ranks :

1. Vacant posts were not filled in time.
2. Travelling allowances were not received in time.
3. Supplies and services for inputs were not arranged in time and
4. No separate facility of office.

It clearly indicated that these constraints should be discussed at higher level on the priority basis necessary facilities should provided to them so that the effectiveness of the T and V system can be raised and improved.

The suggestions received from the respondents to overcome the constraints and for making the communication patterns more effective are presented in Table 2.

Constratints Faced By...

As evident from the data presented in Table 2, majority of the respondents (2.65) expressed their suggestion that "There should be recognition for good extension work for encouraging the VLWs" got the first rank. The second rank given to the suggestion "Loans for the purchase of moped or motor-cycle should be provided to VLWs" for performing their duties smoothly" having mean score 2.64. The suggestion who got the third rank having mean score 2.59 was ;Comparatively, there should be less area of jurisdiction for the VLWs". The other suggestions shown in table are also worth

taking into consideration for the developing favourable attitudes among the VLWs leading to more efficient working of the T & V system.

Table 2 : Suggestions offered by the respondents

		(N=116)	
Sr. No.	Suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by the VLWs	Mean score	Rank
1.	Number of contact farmers under VLWs should be reduced	2.49	VI
2.	Economic incentives should be provided to CFs for arraning demonstrations	2.55	IV
3.	Loans for the purchasing of moped or motor-cycle should be provided to VLWs for performing their duties smoothly	2.64	II
4.	Comparatively, there should be less area of jurisdiction for the VLWs	2.59	III
5.	Separate office facilities should be provided	2.54	V
6.	Solutions of field problems should be available from higher authorities	2.37	VIII
7.	Frequent transfer should be avoided	2.28	IX
8.	As per recommendations about practices of new varieties, arrangement of supplies and services should be done	2.43	VII
9.	There should be recognition for good extension work for encouraging the VLWs	2.65	I

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CONCLUSION & IMPLICATION

Taking an overall situation into consideration, out of 20 constraints, 4 constraints namely (i) vacant posts were not filled in time (ii) Travelling allowances were not received in time, (iii) Supplies and services for inputs were not arranged in time and (iv) No separate facility of office were perceived as most important constraints on the basis of overall ranks.

Constratints Faced By...

The important suggestions made by the VLWs were: there should be recognition for good extension work, loans for purchasing of moped should be provided, separate office for VLWs. Therefore, to strengthen the effectiveness of the T & V system and to increase the working and communicating efficiency of VLWs, the authorities should think on these aspects on priority basis and should minimise the constraints of VLWs by providing the said facilities.

REFERENCES

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The superior man does not set his mind either for anything or against anything.

- CONFUCIUS

We always formulate opinions at a time when our judgement is at its weakest.

- G. C. LICHENBERG