

Development of Scale to Measure Attitude Towards Farmer's Training Programmes Organized by SAUs of Gujarat State

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ABSTRACT

Farmer training is an important tool widely utilized by development programs in developing countries. SAUs of Gujarat are also imparting various types of training to the farmers for betterment of their livelihood. Hence to up lift more involvement of farmers in various training organized by SAUs, it is realized to know feelings of farmers towards training programmes organized by SAUs. Appropriate statistical methods. 'scale product method' was used, 22 statements were selected for judgment; a panel of 40 judges was requested to assign the score for each statement in five continuums, based on the scale (median) and Q values, 10 statements were finally selected to constitute scale to measure attitude towards farmer's training programmes organized by SAUs of Gujarat State. Reliability of the scale was found 0.74

Keywords: Attitude scale, Farmer's training programme

INTRODUCTION

One out of every two people on this planet struggles to feed and educate their children. Even where natural resources are ample, people suffer from chronic malnourishment because they lack access to agricultural financing, quality seed and fertilizer, competitive crop distribution channels, agricultural education and training, and insurance against natural disasters. Training that will help farmers in increasing their crop yields, improve income and food security for their families and communities, and create jobs for their neighbors.

Training is teaching, or developing in oneself or others, any skills and knowledge that relate to specific useful competencies. Training has specific goals of improving one's capability, capacity, productivity and performance. It forms the core of apprenticeships and provides the backbone of content at institutes of technology (also known as technical colleges or polytechnics). State Agricultural Universities play an active role in projects and partnerships in agricultural education, training and skills development. This is done through training programmes, farm visits, on farm trials, KVKs, kisan melas, kisan clubs, advisory bulletins and the like, so that farmers need the necessary resources to transform their subsistence farm into a thriving agribusinesses to create a better future for their families and their communities. Small-scale farmers move from subsistence to commercial farming and increase their profits.

Some of the major land marks in the history of farmers training in India after the advent of high yielding varieties of crop have been intensive training for farmers at Extension training centers, Agricultural schools, Agricultural colleges of SAUs., establishment of farmers training centers all over the country and integrated farmers training programme by following the principles of "Teaching by doing and "Learning by doing. SAUs of Gujarat are also imparting various types of training to the farmers for betterment of their livelihood. Hence to up lift more involvement of farmers in various training organized by SAUs, it is realized to know feelings of farmers towards training programmes organized by SAUs. Looking to this it was decided to develop tool to measure attitude towards farmer's training programmes organized by SAUs of Gujarat State.

OBJECTIVE

To develop and standardize the Scale to measure attitude towards farmer's training programmes organized by SAUs of Gujarat State.

METHODOLOGY

In the present study attitude is conceptualized as positive or negative feelings towards farmer's training programmes organized by SAUs of Gujarat State.

Scale product method' which combines the Thrustone's technique of equal appearing interval scale (1928), for selection of items and Likert's technique of summated rating (1932) and for ascertaining the response on the scale as proposed by Eysenck and Crown (1949) was selected to develop the scale.

Statement Collection

In initial stage of developing the scale, 32 numbers of statements about reflecting feelings of training programmes organized by SAUs were collected. The collected statements were edited according to the criteria laid down by Edward (1957). From the 32 statements, 22 statements were selected for judgment.

Statement Analysis

In order to judge the degree of "Unfavorableness" to "Favorableness" of each statement on the five point equal appearing interval continuum i.e. strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree, a panel of 40 judges of social science group was selected.

Determination of scale values

Based on judgment, the median value of the distribution and the Q value for the statement concerned were

calculated with the help of

$$S = L + \frac{0.50 - \sum P_b}{P_w} \times i$$

The inter-quartile range (Q = Q3 - Q1) for each statement was also worked out. Only those statements were selected whose median values were greater than Q value. When a few statements had the same scale values, the statements having lowest Q Values were selected.

Thurstone and Chave (1946) described another criteria in addition to Q as a basis for rejecting statement in scales constructed by the method of the equal appearing interval. Accordingly when a few items had the same scale values, the item having lowest Q Values were selected. With this same manner, scale to measure attitude of research scholars of AAU, Gujarat towards use of Information Technology for their empowerment was developed and standardized statistically by Patel M.C. and Chauhan N.B, (2008).

RESULT

Based on the scale and Q values out of 22 statements 10 statements were finally selected to constitute scale to measure attitude towards farmer's training programmes organized by SAUs of Gujarat State.

Table 1: Final format of statements to measure attitude towards farmer's training programmes organized by SAUs of Gujarat State

No.	Final format of Statement	SA	A	UN	DA	SDA
1 ⁺	Training programme organized by SAUs helps in increasing confidence among farmers.					
2 ⁺	The training programmes organized by SAUs provide the needful information regarding improved agricultural practices.					
3 ⁻	Hand out provide during training programme organized by SAUs are difficult to understand the agricultural practices					
4 ⁺	Off campus training programme organized by SAUs is more beneficial to rural women.					
5 ⁻	For progressive farmer training programme organized by SAUs is wastage of time.					
6 ⁻	Farmer's training programme organized by SAUs in not advisable for experienced farmers					
7 ⁺	Conducting of visit of successful organization during training organized by SAUs provide adequate information to the farmers.					
8 ⁺	Vocational training programme conducted by SAUs develop skilled entrepreneur.					
9 ⁺	Information given during training programme builds innovative ideas among farmers.					
10 ⁺	SAUs training programme creates interest among farmers regarding modern farming technology.					

SA-Strongly Agree, A- Agree, UN- Undecided, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly Disagree

Reliability of the scale

The split-half technique was used to measure the reliability of the scale. The 10 statements were divided into two equal halves with 5 odd numbered and 5 even numbered. These were administered to 30 trainees of training programme organized at Sardar Smruti Kendra, AAU, Anand. Each of the two sets was treated as separate scales having obtained two score, for each of the 30 trainees. Co-efficient of reliability between the two sets of score was calculated by Rulon's formula (Guilford 1954). This was found 0.74.

Validity of the scale

The validity of the scale was examined for content validity by determining how well content were selected by discussing it with specialists, of extension and statisticians.

Scoring technique

Against each of 10 statements there were five columns, representing a five point continuum of agreement or disagreement to the statements as followed by Likert (1932). The points on continuum were strongly agreed, agree and disagree with weight of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, respectively for positive statements and reverse scoring for negative statement. To know level of attitude towards farmer's training programmes organized by SAUs of Gujarat State, Score of

each statement will be summed up.

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