



STUDY ON ATTITUDE OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

Ade Anil*, Sawandkar Dipali and Nigade Dhanshri

Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Parbhani, M.S., India

Abstract

Present study was carried out in Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari district of South Gujarat on year of 2011. The main objective of this study was to find out attitude of post graduate students towards agricultural extension. The study conducted on registered post graduate students selected from N. M. College of Agriculture and ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, Navsari. The post graduate students of different disciplines were considered as respondents. Total 100 post graduate students were in all the size of sample for the present study. The "ex-post facto" research design was used for this study. A structural interview schedule was designed for collecting the data. This study concluded that, majority (58.00 per cent) of the post graduate students had moderately favourable attitude towards agricultural extension, while 25.00 per cent and 17.00 per cent of the post graduate students were having highly favourable and less favourable attitude towards agricultural extension.

Key words: Attitude, Extension, Post graduate students.

Introduction

Attitude is an important concept to understand human behaviour. It is defined as a complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings. Attitude is a hypothetical construct that represents an individual's degree of liking or disliking for an item. Attitudes are generally positive or negative views of a person, place, thing, or event - this is often referred to as the attitude object.

In other words, attitude is one of these important qualities that play a pivotal role in executing the action of an individual. When knowing the attitude and background factors of the post graduate students showing association with their attitude towards agricultural extension must be reckon while planning their course of action. The study will facilitate in knowing the attitude of the post graduate students and it would help to serve as a guideline for the policy makers, planners of colleges of Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Forestry/ Veterinary and Agricultural University about planning and implementing of agricultural education *i.e.* agricultural extension. Considering all these facts, the present study was carried out with following objective to study the attitude of the post graduate students towards agricultural extension.

Methodology

Present study was carried out in Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari district of South Gujarat. The present study conducted on registered post graduate students selected from N. M. College of Agriculture and ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, Navsari. The post graduate students of different disciplines were considered as respondents. The lists of post graduate students were obtained by simple random sampling method. Fifty post graduates from N. M. College of Agriculture and 50 post graduates from ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, Navsari were selected for the study purpose. Thus, total 100 post graduate students were in all the size of sample for the present study.

The "ex-post facto" research design was used for this study. A structural interview schedule was designed for collecting the data. Data were collected by personal interview from 100 post graduate students. The hypotheses formulated were tested and silent interpretations drawn in light of the objectives of the study with the help of statistical techniques.

Finding

Attitude refers to the positive or negative affect associated with some psychological objects. Or an attitude is a tendency to react favourably or unfavourably towards a designated class of stimuli such as a national or racial group, a custom or an institution. The investigator has developed an attitude scale to measure attitude of the post graduate students towards agricultural extension, while constructing a scale the investigator has resorted to the methodology suggested by Likert (1932).

To measure the attitude of individual respondents towards agricultural extension, five-point scale was used. The score assigned for the positive statement were, 5 for strongly agree, 4 for agree, 3 for undecided, 2 for disagree and 1 for strongly disagree. The scoring for the negative statement was just reverse. Then, attitude towards agricultural extension of post graduate students was divided into three groups.

S. N.	Category	Score
1)	Less favourable attitude	$< \bar{C} - S.D.$
2)	Moderately favourable attitude	In between $\bar{C} \pm S.D.$
3)	Highly favourable attitude	$> \bar{C} + S.D.$

Reliability of the scale was tested by the split half method. The scale was administrated to 20 post graduate students from N. M. College of Agriculture and ASPEE

*Corresponding author Email: ade.anil@rediffmail.com

College of Horticulture and Forestry, NAU, Navsari. The calculated value of reliability coefficient ($r=0.78$) was found to be significant indicating that internal consistency of the scale was reliable.

Agricultural Extension

Attitude of postgraduate students towards agricultural extension is given in Table 1.

It is evident from Table 1 that more than half (58%) of the postgraduate students had moderately favourable attitude towards agricultural extension, whereas the postgraduate students found having highly favourable and less favourable attitude towards agricultural extension 25% and 17% respectively. Thus, it is interesting to draw the conclusion from the above facts that cumulatively majority (83%) of the postgraduate students were found to have moderately to highly favourable attitude towards agricultural extension. It can be concluded that more than half of the postgraduate students had moderately favourable attitude towards agricultural extension. The findings are in contrast with the findings of Ajit (2004), Shingare (2005), Patel (2005) and Dahake (2009).

Conclusion

This study concluded that, majority (58.00 per cent) of the post graduate students had moderately favourable attitude towards agricultural extension, while 25% and 17% of the post graduate students were having highly favourable and less favourable attitude towards agricultural extension.

References

- Ajit, C. (2004). Determination of attitude, occupational aspiration and preference for placement of B. Sc. Agriculture students of Gujarat state. Unpublished M. Sc. (Agri.) Thesis, G.A.U., Anand.
- Dahake, H.R. (2009). Attitude and aspiration of postgraduate students towards agricultural entrepreneurship. M.Sc. Theses, A.A.U., Anand (Gujarat).
- Patel, V.B. (2005). A study of attitude and occupational aspiration of B.Tech. Dairy science students of Gujarat state. M.Sc. Thesis. A.A.U., Anand (Gujarat).
- Shingare, R.K. (2005). Attitude of undergraduate veterinary science and animal husbandry college students of Gujarat towards veterinary education. M.Sc. Theses. A.A.U., Anand (Gujarat).

Table 1: Distribution of the postgraduate students according to their level of attitude towards Agricultural Extension (n=100)

S. N.	Attitude	Score	Number	Per cent
1)	Less favourable attitude	(Upto 72)	17	17.00
2)	Moderately favourable attitude	(Between 73 to 85)	58	58.00
3)	Highly favourable attitude	(Above 85)	25	25.00
	Total		100	100.00

Mean=78.4

S.D. = 6.16