

Training need of *Santal* tribes-An assessment in West Midnapore district of West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in a selected *Santal* (a tribal race) community in the West Midnapore district of West Bengal, India to assess the training need on agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry, storage and marketing with respect to their socio-economic status. To divide the sample of respondents into lower and higher socio-economic group, socio-economic status scale developed by Pareek-Trivedy was used. The needs were classified into low, medium and high categories and the frequency of the tribal respondents was distributed among these three categories. The study revealed that the majority of the respondents perceived moderate need in most of the areas irrespective of their socio-economic status. Family education, house type, extension communication, mass media exposure and mobility had significant correlation with the extent of training need.

INTRODUCTION

The need to uplift the tribal communities in the country, like India is very urgent and attempts are being made to improve these communities through training techniques. It is possible to bring an overall development in any tribal settlement by implementing training programmes with appropriate socio-economic back up. This indicates that any programme formulated for such areas should be economically viable, socially demanded and at the same time capable of generating both material and socio-personal boosting to these communities.

It is an established fact that a programme to be successful should be designed based on the identified needs of the clientele group. In order to tap the full potential by any training programme more meaningfully, it is imperative on the part of the organizers to identify the training needs of the target group.

According to 1991 census, Midnapore district (combined) of West Bengal represent the highest population of tribal and as per numeric count *Santal* community is the most dominant among all the tribes (Primary Census Abstract, 1991, GOI). Keeping these factors in view, the present study was conducted in a *Santal* village of West Bengal with the following objectives : to determine training needs in agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry, storage and marketing in relation to the socio-economic status of the tribal farmers in the study area

and to identify the relation between the extent of training need with their socio-economic and personal characters.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in a *Santal* village (*Barajhariamura*) in Binpur Block of West Midnapore district, West Bengal. The village was purposively selected considering the existence of *Santal* population and the scope of the village to be adopted with modern agricultural technologies. 50 farmers from the village were selected randomly as respondents of the present study. The survey was conducted from the month of April, 2007 to November, 2008.

A pre-tested schedule was used to collect data and for measurement of socio-economic and personal characters, socio-economic status scale developed by Pareek-Trivedy (1965) was used with some minor modification to make the scale applicable to this specific study. To assess the training need (*viz.*, on different areas like agriculture, animal husbandry etc. considered as main areas in this study), each area was divided into its sub-areas (considered as attributes in this study) (Table 1) and each sub-area/attribute was measured against a 4-point scale namely 'extreme (3)', 'moderate (2)', 'somewhat (1)' and 'no need (0)'. In this study, training need was defined as the sum total of scores obtained in all the

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