Role perception and role performance of farm facilitators under Bhoochetana programme and their personal characteristics

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SUMMARY : A study on farm facilitators under Bhoochetana programme was carried out during 2012-13 with the main objectives of knowing their role perception and personal chararcteristics in a purposively selected Raichur district of Karnataka state. A sample of 120 farm facilitators were selected on random from the selected three talukas. majority (75.83%) of the respondents were young aged, over one-third (38.33%) had PUC education, medium social participation (40.83%), high mass media participation (36.66%).

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Agriculture is the main stay of Indian economy. Majority of cultivable area in the world and population is dependent on rainfed agriculture. It has been observed that the average yields of crops by and large in the State are less than the national average and also averages of other states. Further a wide gap exists in actual yield levels in the farmer's field and yields of field level demonstrations. There is an opportunity to enhance yield levels in the fields of farmers by two to three folds through adoption of suitable improved dryland technologies for various crops, based on the research findings of ICRISAT, Hyderabad and demonstrations conducted under Sujala watershed programme; a set of dryland technologies have been identified by ICRISAT, Hyderabad for increasing yields to an extent of minimum 20 per cent. Encouraged by this and also with a view to enable farmers to get better yields in their fields, the government of Karnataka initiated a novel scheme called Bhoochetana during 2009-10.The overall goal of this mission project is to increase average productivity of selected crops in the selected 30 districts by 20 per cent in four years.

The programme has completed three years, now it is necessary to study how the Bhoochetana programme has performed in achieving its objectives and the roles played

by farmer facilitators in development programme. So in this context a study on role perception and role performance by farm facilitators under Bhoochetana programme was undertaken with the following specific objectives:

– To study the socio-economic profile of farm facilitators in Bhoochetana programme.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

This study was conducted in purposively selected Raichur district of Karnataka state. Out of the five talukas in the district three talukas were selected. From each of the talukas four hoblies and in each hobli 10 farm facilitators were selected by using simple random sampling procedure. Thus, the total sample size constituted 120 farm facilitators.

A draft interview schedule against set objectives for measuring the variables of the study was first prepared and pre-tested with 20 farm facilitators in the non-sample area. The data were collected through personal interview method using pre-tested tools and data was processed and analyzed with the help of suitable statistical tools.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

Socio-economic profile of farm facilitators :

The data in Table 1 depicted the profile of farm facilitators namely; age, educational status, trainings undergone, social participation, mass media participation, extension orientation, job autonomy, job satisfaction, achievement motivation and scientific orientation. The individual result of each profile characteristic is discussed as below.

Age:

The results pertaining to age presented in Table 1depicted that majority (75.83%) of the respondents were young aged, the raith samparka kendra's agricultural officer prefered young age farm facilitators since young aged farm facilitators are more enthusiastic and as the job requires more extensive field visits and receptive to trainings regarding Bhoochetana programme.

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their personal, socio-economic characteristics (n = 120)		
Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
Young (<30 years)	91	75.83
Middle (Between 30 - 49 years)	28	23.33
Old (> 50 years)	1	0.83
Total	120	100
Education level		
S.S.L.C	37	30.83
Pre-university	46	38.33
Graduate and others	37	30.83
Total	120	100
Trainings undergone		
1-2 Trainings	7	5.83
3-4 Trainings	113	94.16
Total	120	100
Social participation		
Low (<Mean – 0.425*SD)	37	30.83
Medium (Mean ± 0.425*SD)	49	40.83
High (>Mean + 0.425*SD)	34	28.33
Total	120	100
Mean=3.49		SD=1.92
Mass media participation		
Low (<Mean – 0.425*SD)	38	31.66
Medium (Mean ± 0.425*SD)	38	31.66
High (>Mean + 0.425*SD)	44	36.66
Total	120	100
Mean=13.93		SD=4.33
Extension orientation		
Low (<Mean – 0.425*SD)	52	43.33
Medium (Mean ± 0.425*SD)	38	31.66
High (>Mean + 0.425*SD)	30	25
Total	120	100
Mean=13.15		SD=2.54
Job autonomy		
Low (<Mean - 0.425*SD)	25	20.83
Medium (Mean ± 0.425*SD)	52	43.33
High (>Mean + 0.425*SD)	43	35.83
Total	120	100
Mean = 8.15		SD = 1.10
Job satisfaction	45	37.5
Low (<Mean - 0.425*SD)	39	32.5
Medium (Mean ± 0.425*SD)	36	30
High (>Mean + 0.425*SD)	120	100
Total		
Mean = 37.18		SD = 3.53

Table 1 : Contd……….

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Achievement motivation		
Low (<Mean - 0.425*SD)	50	41.66
Medium (Mean ± 0.425*SD)	31	25.83
High (>Mean + 0.425*SD)	39	32.5
Total	120	100
Mean = 24.39		SD = 2.24
Scientific orientation		
Low (<Mean - 0.425*SD)	26	21.66
Medium (Mean ± 0.425*SD)	46	38.33
High (>Mean + 0.425*SD)	48	40
Total	120	100
Mean = 10.05		SD = 1.49

Respondents between 18 to 30 years age group generally have more physical vigour, active in spreading agricultural practices to the farming community and have more responsibility towards employment than the middle aged. Thus, most of the farm facilitators were from young age group that could be justified.This finding was in the accordance with the results reported by Khare *et al.,* (1998) and Belli (2008).

Educational status:

In the present study, it was found that over one-third (38.33%) of the respondents were PUC and followed by equal proportion with S.S.L.C and graduation level (30.83% each), this could be due to the minimum eligibility being S.S.L.C and above to get job as farm facilitators in Bhoochetana programme. Nearly one-third (30.83%) facilitators were S.S.L.C and degree this could be due to need for higher education being slowly felt by people and their awareness of importance of education to use other benefits in the society. The results are in line with the findings of Manjunath (2004) and Chandargi (1996).

Trainings undergone:

A glance at the data in the Table 1 showed that most of the farm facilitators (94.16%) have undergone more than 3-4 trainings and remaining have undergone only 1-2 trainings.This could be due to training is made compulsoryby department of agriculture. Training may change and increase knowledge, skill, attitude and motivation of farm facilitators with respect to agriculture it will benefit to the farming community. The findings got support from the studies of Manakar (2003).

Social participation:

Perusal of Table 1 revealed that over one third (40.83%) of the farm facilitators were in medium social participation, followed by 30.83 per cent who were in low social participation and 28.33 per cent of them were in high social participation.Inability of farm facilitators to devote their time, due to involvement in Bhoochetana work, lack of awareness of activities of various social institutions and they are found to be more busy in their roles may be the probable reasons for medium social participation. The above findings got the support from the studies conducted by Anitha (2004).

Mass media participation:

The results in Table 1 indicated that over one-third (36.66%) of the farm facilitators were in high mass media participation and equal proportion (31.66%) of the farm facilitators were in the category of low and medium mass media participation, respectively.Mass media have been the proven channels for quick dissemination of current agricultural information for widely spreading and to reach large number of people in less time.Higher education and the influence of Information and Communication Technology on the farm facilitators may be the reason for high mass media exposure. It was also found that all the farm facilitators being literates and had realised the importance of newspaper and farm magazines. The other reason might be that they might have felt that television would meet their needs of getting required information and entertainment. This finding was in the accordance with the results reported by Moulasab (2004) and Belli (2008).

Extension orientation:

Table 1 showed that majority (43.33%) of the farm facilitators belonged to low extension orientation followed by category, medium category (31.66%) and 25.00 per cent of them belonged to high category of extension orientation. The probable reason might be lack of eagerness and low enthusiasm to solve the farmers problems by extension agents andnon-availability of extension agents in time. They also lacked updated knowledge with the extension agencies.The results were in line with the research findings reported by Venkataramalu (2003).

Job autonomy:

The results in Table 1 indicated that, majority

(43.33%) of the farm facilitators were found to be in medium job autonomy, while equal proportions (35.83%) of them were found in high and low job autonomy categories. This could be due to the work and procedure of farm facilitators laid down by raith samparka kendra's another reason may be almost farm facilitators have no say about scheduling of work in raith samparka kendra. This finding was in the accordance with the results reported by Chandargi (1996).

Job satisfaction:

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that majority of the farm facilitators (37.50%) had low level of job satisfaction, while (32.50%) had medium level of job satisfaction and the rest (30.00%) of them had high level of job satisfaction.In general, job satisfaction depends upon the extent to which an individual derives personal, socio-economic, psychological benefits from his job. If the working conditions and facilities in the organization are not up to one's expectation then the individual derives less satisfaction from his job. The working conditions being more field visits, carrying out surveys may be the reason for low satisfaction.The results were in line with the research findings reported by Manjunath (2004) and Nagananda (2005).

Achievement motivation:

The results pertaining to achievement motivation revealed that majority of farm facilitators (41.66%) had low level of achievement motivation whereas 32.50 and 25.83 per cent of them were in high and medium achievement motivation, respectively (Table 3). The reasons for the present finding might be the temporary nature of job with no guarantee of continuity and other situational factors like low salary and contractual basis, might have put majority of farm facilitators in medium category. The results were in line with the research findings reported byHalakatti and Sundaraswamy (1998) and Manjunath (2004).

Scientific orientation:

The data represented in Table 1 revealed that, majority (40.00%) of the farm facilitators had high scientific orientation followed by (38.33%) and (21.66%) of them had medium and low level of scientific orientation respectively.Since, all the farm facilitators had education of S.S.L.C and above (nearly three fourth had PUC and

graduate in level). It is the logical thinking, foresight and rationality, which help the individual to understand the object. It might be due to this reason that those who had higher scientific orientation had higher role perception and role performance about Bhoochetana programme.

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