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Research Article

Impact of caste in adoption of technology in rural India

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SUMMARY : Caste is one of the most important factor in Indian social system. It is responsible to improve the social status in the society by adopting various technology and projects launched by central as well as state government for the development of rural people in India. A research was conducted in district Baghpat in Western Uttar Pradesh due to 2002-2007 with an specific objective to compare the social profile of the adopters and non-adopters to observe the role of Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agricultural Support Project (UPDASP) regarding rural development in Western Uttar Pradesh funded by world bank. Locale of the research was selected purposively. To get first hand information 200 respondents (100 Adopters and 100 non-adopters) were interviewed from two blocks. The selection of respondents, villages and blocks was made randomly. Data were collected with help of interview schedule, then data were tabulated analyzed by using statistical tools. The respondents were belonging to Kshatriya, Brahmin (Upper Caste), Jaat (Backward Caste), Chamar, Balmiki etc (Schedule Caste). To test the significant difference between adopters and non-adopters Null hypothesis (H0) was formed. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents (65% adopters and 71% non-adopters) were belonging to the backward caste (OBC), where as 25 per cent adopters and 22 per cent non-adopters were related to Upper caste (General Caste), only 10 per cent adopters and 7 per cent non-adopters were belonging to Schedule caste (SC).The study also stated that there were no significant difference between adopter and non-adopters regarding their caste.

KEY WORDS :
Adoption, Caste
Technology

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

India is a large country with numerous contrast of caste. Caste system is a very important institution in India. It influenced total social composition and ways of behaviour. Although the nature of caste system differ from varna system yet it refined form of varna system. Caste is a effective factor to decide several activities in the Indian society. The share of cost in the making good social status in the society is also too much. The factor of caste is also related to the awareness and adoption of new technology for the development of human beings. Therefore, to asses the impact of caste in adoption of technology under Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agricultural Support Project was under taken. Investigaion was made in district Baghpat with an specific objective to compare the social profile with caste variables. In the study caste was taken as important variable that effects the adoption behaviour of the project UPDASP launched by Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to intensification and adoption of technology for the development.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

District 'Baghpat' of western Uttar Pradesh was selected purposively to investigate different aspects of Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agricultural Support Project (UPDASP). Two blocks namely Baghpat and Pilana were selected by using simple random method of sampling. Ten village were selected from each block using simple random method of sampling. Thus, a total of twenty village were selected for this study. A list of villagers were obtained from the B.D.O. for the selection of respondents. These list of villagers divided into two parts, adopters and non-

adopters. Five adopters and five non-adopters were selected randomly from each village, total ten respondents from each village were selected. Thus, only one hundred adopters and one hundred non-adopters were selected for the study.

Caste has been theoretically defined as hereditary indigenous group having traditional association with an occupation and particular position in the hierarchy of castes in a society. The respondents were belonging to different caste such as Kshatriya, Brahmins, Vaishya, Jaat, Jatav, Katariya, Balmiki etc. Kshatriya, Brahmins, Vaishya categorized as general caste, Jaat categorized as backward caste, Jatav, Balmiki categorized schedule caste. Caste of the respondents was ascertained and scored on the basis of caste category. Scores allotted to various caste are presented in Table A.

Table A: Scores of different caste category

Sr.No.	Caste category	Scores
a.	Schedule tribes (S.T.)	1
b.	Schedule caste (S.C.)	2
c.	Other back ward caste (OBC)	3
d.	General caste	4

Data were collected by personal interview method with the help of pre-tested structured schedule. Data thus, collected were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in the light of the objectives set up for the present study. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis of the data. The descriptive statistics included percentage and mean etc. Standard deviation, variance, 'Z' test, Pearson's co-efficient of correlation, spearman brown formula for reliability of the schedule, were used at different stages in the study as inferential statistics. To test the significant difference between adopters and non-adopters regarding caste variables used in this study, Null hypothesis (Ho) was tested.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Caste of the respondents was operationalized as a personnal status ascribed by birth and categorized in to general, other back ward caste (OBC) schedule caste (SC) and schedule tribes (ST). The result is presented in Table 1.

From the Table 1 it is concluded that 25 per cent respondent in adopters and 22 per cent respondents in non adopters categories belonged to general categories that is upper caste, 65 per cent respondents in adopters and 71 per cent in non adopters belonged to the other backward caste (OBC). Where as only 10 per cent respondents in adopters and 7 per cent in non adopters belonged to the schedule caste category. There were no respondents in adopters and non adopters came under schedule tribes (S.T.). The table also reveals that most of the respondents in adopters and non adopters came under other backward caste (OBC).

To test the significant difference between adopters and non adopters regarding their caste Null hypothesis was formed and tested. There was no significant difference in the caste of adopters and non adopters.

For testing the hypothesis Table 2 shows the total score of caste categories, mean score, standard deviation, variance and calculated 'Z' value of the respondents.

From the Table 2 the calculated value of 'Z' was 0.025 and tabulated value of 'Z' is 1.75. Hence, the Null hypothesis accepted and concluded that there was no significant difference in the caste of adopters and non adopters.

Conclusion :

Majority of respondents belonging to other backward caste were 65 per cent adopters and 71 per cent non-adopters, 25 per cent adopters and 22 per cent non-adopters were

Table 1 : Distribution of caste categories of respondents

Sr. No.	Categories	Adopters	Percentage	Non adopters	Percentage
1.	General caste	25	25	22	22
2.	Other back ward caste (OBC)	65	65	71	71
3.	Schedule caste (SC)	10	10	07	07
4.	Schedule tribes (ST)	00	00	00	00
	Total	100	100	100	100

Table 2: Showing total score, mean score, S.D., varience 'Z' value of the respondents

Sr. No.	Particulars	Adopters	Non adopters
1.	Total score	315	314
2.	Mean score	31.5	31.4
3.	Standard deviation	28.35	28.26
4.	Variance	804.05	798.90
5.	'Z' value observed	.025	

related to upper caste (General caste) and only 10 per cent adopters and 7 per cent non-adopters were belonging to schedule caste (SC). The study was also revealed that there were no significant difference between adopters and non-adopters regarding their caste. Hence, conclusion had been drawn from the study that caste is no hindering factor in the adoption of any technology for development of people.

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