Indian Journal of Agriculture and Allied Sciences
A Refereed Research Journal

ISSN 2395-1109
e-ISSN 2455-9709
Volume: 3, No.: 2, Year: 2017

www.mrfsw.org

Received: 20.05.2017, Accepted: 02.06.2017

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROFILE OF EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS: AN EXPLORATION ANALYSIS IN BIHAR

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Abstract: *This paper is based on the research study at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, PUSA. The title of the research was "Study on effectiveness of different extension teaching methods under KVK system of Bihar". Method of survey research was applied to conduct the study. It was conducted by taking the responses from thirty extension professionals included SMS 16 in number and Agricultural Coordinators 14 in numbers, of Samastipur, East Champaran and Sitmarhi districts of Bihar through random sampling method. This particular paper focused to explore the socio-economic and professional profile of extension professionals working under KVKs and department of agriculture, government of Bihar. The data were analysed through SPSS version 16.0. The statistical tools like mean, frequency, percentage, etc were used for data analysis. The* socio-*economic profile included age, gender, educational qualification, land-holdings, social participation, number of dependents, and professional profile included job involvement, job satisfaction, service experience, number of training attended, etc.*

Keywords*: Socio-economic profile, extension teaching, extension teaching methods, job nvolvement, job satisfaction.*

Introduction: Socio-economic status is a combined measurement of economic and social position of an individual or a group in relation to others in the society. It has a profound role in determining individuals' accessibility to the common resources, landholdings, educational background etc. the socio-economic profile of selected extension professionals shows their quality, grade and standard of living in their respective society. There are a lot of social and economic variables which cumulatively define socio-economic status. The selection of these variables under socio-economic profile largely depends on purpose and subject of the study.

The socio-economic status of extension professionals is an important subject for the study because it affects the main purpose of the study i.e. an effectiveness of different extension teaching methods used by KVKs and other state government functionaries to train the farmers. Actually this paper is focussed to know the relations of extension professionals with the different extension teaching methods and its impact. There was different extension teaching methods used to train the farmers for their farming wellness included individual, group and mass contact methods. Many farming practices are being demonstrated by the functionaries before the farmers for establishing its credibility to them. The reason behind these practical demonstrations is to make aware the farmers of the multifarious benefits of these improved farm practices so that the faster adoption of these interventions can be possible.

There are some imperceptible variables inside the human which largely affects his/her adoption behaviour. These variables are knowledge, attitude, perception, change-proneness, level of aspiration, risk bearing ability, economic motivation etc. As said earlier these variables are often guided by one's socio-economic status. Based from the above discussion the present study

tried to investigate socio-economic status of extension professionals to correlate it with the effectiveness of extension teaching methods.

Literature Review: Proponents of the multidimensional view of education process argue that, because of the multidimensional nature of teaching, instruction cannot be capture by on single measure such as a global effectiveness rating [1]. Emphasised on group methods because nearly all the villagers have their own un-official functional groups and can much can be done through them [2]. Observed that there was a positive relationship between age and adoption of innovation [3]. Reported that 45.33 per cent of the respondent belongs to the middle age group, followed by old age 36.25 per cent and young age group 18.75 per cent [4]. Observed that with increasing level of education, there was an increasing use of personal cosmopolite sources and mass-media sources and diminishing use of personal locality sources [5]. Studied the "Relationship between Teacher Effectiveness and Classroom Experience of Teachers" [6]. In his opinion, 6 to 7 years of classroom experience is required for the development of teaching skills and teacher attain maximum effectiveness after 18 to 19 years of teaching. The phenomenon of job involvement by discussing various data about the impact of job design elements on job involvement [7]. Found in a study of 414 secondary agricultural education teachers that there was not a significant relationship between length of service and overall job satisfaction [8]. Found that farmers with higher income were able to purchase required inputs as compared to those with low income and this facilities knowledge transfer to them [9].

Methodology

Locale of the Study: The study was conducted in Samastipur, East Champaran and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar in India during 2015- 16. The locale of the research study was selected purposefully.

Sampling Plan: There are 38 districts in Bihar, out of which 3 districts viz. Samastipur, East Champaran and Sitamarhi were randomly selected. A total of 120 farmers, from each district forty (40) farmers were randomly selected.

Selection of Variables: Fifteen variables *viz.* category, age, education, occupation, social participation, landholding, herd size, farming experience, annual income and material possession which constituted the socio-economic profile of a farmer were selected purposively to assess the socio-economic and professional profile of selected professionals.

Tools and Techniques of Data Collection: A pre-tested structured interview schedule was prepared. Data was collected by personal interview method.

Statistical Tools Used: Simple statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean and were used for analysis and interpretation of data.

Results and Discussion

On the basis of age, the selected respondents were classified into three age groups i.e. young (up to 35 years), middle (36-50 years) and old (above 50 years). This classification is similar to both types of respondents (extension professionals and farmers). The age group wise distribution of respondents has been presented here in table 1.

Table-1.

Sl. No.	Age group	Extension Personnel (N=30)	
		F	%
1.	Young (Up to 35 years)	06	20
2.	Middle (35- 50 years)	20	**66.7**
3.	Old (> 50 years)	04	13.3

It is evident from the table 1 that majority of extension professionals belonged to the middle age group (35-50 years), i.e. 66.7 per cent; whereas least number of the respondents came under the category of old age group (13.3 per cent) and the young extension professionals (20 per cent) occupied second position.

Table-2

Sl. No.	Gender	Extension Personnel (N=30)	
		F	%
1.	Male	28	**93.3**
2.	Female	2	6.7

Perusal of the table 2 shows that majority (93.3 per cent) of extension professionals were male, whereas female extension professionals were found least percentage (6.7).

Table-3

Sl. No.	Marital status	Extension Personnel (N=30)	
		F	%
1.	Married	30	**100**
2.	Un-married	0	0.0
3.	Divorced	0	0.0

The perusal of table 3 shows that the full majority (100 per cent) of selected extension professionals were showed married.

Table-4

Sl. No.	No. of dependents	Extension. Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	0-5	30	**100**
2.	6-10	0	0.0
3.	> 10	0	0.0

The perusal of table 4 shows that 100 per cent of the selected extension professionals were found to have the number of dependents under 0-5 category.

Table-5

Sl. No.	Family type	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	Joint	23	**76.7**
2.	Nuclear	7	23.3

As it is evident from table 5 that majority (76.7 per cent) of extension professionals belonged to joint family followed by 23.3 per cent who were came from nuclear family.

Table-6

Sl. No.	Personal annual income (Annual)	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	Up to 3 Lakh	14	46.7
2.	300001-600000	0	0.0
3.	> 600000	16	**53.3**

It is evident from the table 6 that majority (53.3 per cent) of extension professionals came from above Rs. six lakhs personal income category and all they were subject matter specialists while 46.7 per cent extension professionals belonged to up to Rs. three lakhs (up to 3 lakh) annual personal income category and rest they were found to be agricultural coordinators.

Table-7

Sl. No.	Category	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	Marginal	6	20.0
2.	Small	14	**46.7**
3.	Medium	7	23.3
4.	Large	3	10.0

It is evident from the table 8 that majority (46.7 per cent) of extension professionals having small size of land holdings followed by 23.3 per cent having medium sized followed by 20.0 per cent having marginal size of land holdings. On the other hand only 10 per cent extension professionals having large sized land holding.

Table-8

Sl. No.	Category	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	SC	0	0.0
2.	EBC	2	6.7
3.	BC	18	**60.0**
4.	ST	0	0.0
5.	UR	10	33.3

Table 9 reveals that majority (60 per cent) of extension professionals came from backward caste (BC), followed by 33.3 per cent who came from un-reserved category and only 6.7 per cent of

extension professionals were under extremely backward caste (EBC) group. None of extension professionals belonged to scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST).

Table-10

Sl. No.	Educational qualifications	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	B.Sc. (Ag.)/ Equivalent	08	26.7
2.	M.Sc. (Ag.)/ Equivalent	14	**46.7**
3.	Ph.D.	08	26.7

The perusal of table 10 shows that majority (46.7 per cent) of extension professionals having masters or equivalent degrees and equally 26.7 per cent of extension professionals were found have their PhD degree and 26.7 per cent having B.Sc. (Ag.) or equivalent degrees.

Table-11

Sl. No.	Occupation	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	Service	26	**86.7**
2.	Service + Agriculture	04	13.3
3.	Service + Agriculture+ Allied profession	0	0.0

The perusal of table 11 shows that majority (86.7 per cent) of extension professionals possessed service as their occupation and 13.3 per cent (13.3 %) of extension professionals were found to had service+ agriculture both as their occupation. No extension professional were found to engage in the 'service+ agriculture+ allied profession group during the study.

Table-12

Sl. No.	Service experience	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	Short (0-5 years)	0	0.0
2.	Medium (6-10 years)	9	30.0
3.	Long (11 & above)	21	**70.0**

The perusal of table 12 shows that majority (70 %) of extension professionals were found to have their long (11 & above years) service experience followed by 30 per cent professionals having medium (6-10 years) level of service experience. None of them were found to have short (0-5 years) duration service during the course of study.

Table-13

Sl. No.	Farming experience	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	Short (0-5 years)	21	**70.0**
2.	Medium (6-10 years)	6	20.0
3.	Long (11 & above)	3	10.0

The perusal of table 13 shows that majority (70 per cent) of extension professionals were found to have short (0-5 years) duration of farming experience followed by 20 per cent (20 %) who had medium (6-10 years) level of farming experience and only 10 per cent (10 %) were found to have their long (11 & above years) farming experience.

Table-14

Sl. No.	Sources of income	Extension Personnel (n=30)	
		F	%
1.	By the salary only	27	**90**
2.	Salary+ agriculture	3	10
3.	Salary+ business	0	0.0
4.	Salary+ business and others	0	0.0

The perusal of table 14 shows that majority (90 per cent) of the extension professionals having their sources of income by salary only followed by only 10 per cent (10 %) extension professionals generated their income through salary+ agriculture.

Sources of Information for Extension Personnel: Sources of information refer to the various means through which personnel seek all the relevant information of their interest. Sources of information has been classified into six groups, viz. by training, by farmers' field visit, by state officials, by university scientists, by different

electronic media and different print media. The distribution of respondents according to their information seeking habit has been presented in the table 15.

Table-15

S.N.	Sources of Information	Most often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
1.	By training	24 **(80 %)**	4 **(13.3 %)**	2 **(6.7 %)**	0	0
2.	By farmers' field visit	28 **(93 %)**	2 **(6.7 %)**	0	0	0
3.	By state officials (BAO/ DOA/ DA, etc.)	11 **(37 %)**	9 **(30 %)**	9 **(30 %)**	1 **(3.3%)**	0
4.	By university scientists	6 **(20 %)**	21 **(70 %)**	3 **(10 %)**	0	0
5.	By electronic media					
	1. T.V.	7 **(23 %)**	17 **(56.7 %)**	6 **(20 %)**	0	0
	2. Radio	9 **(30 %)**	13 **(43.3 %)**	8 **(26.7 %)**	0	0
	3. Mobile	23 **(77 %)**	**7 (23.3 %)**	0	0	0
	4. Internet	25 **(83 %)**	5 **(16.7 %)**	0	0	0
6.	By Print media					
	1. News paper	9 **(30 %)**	14 **(46.7%)**	5 **(16.7 %)**	2 **(67 %)**	0
	2. Farm magazines	17 **(57.0 %)**	10 **(33.3%)**	3 **(10.0 %)**	0	0
	3. Journals	10 **(33.3 %)**	12 **(40 %)**	5 **(16.7 %)**	3 **(10.0%)**	0
	4. Books	18 **(60 %)**	10 **(33.3%)**	2 **(6.7 %)**	0	0

The perusal of table 15 shows that personnel were found to concert information through the farmers' filed visit followed by electronic media and training. The Agriculture Coordinators and SMSs were found to be rarely concert with the journals and newspapers that is print media. While mobile, farm magazine, consultation with the state officials were found to have the most often area of sources of information. Similarly, result depicted in the table shows that university scientists source is often being used by ACs and SMSs followed by state officials, TV, radio and newspaper, etc. the result also indicated that SMSs and ACs are often using the different sources of agricultural information through different agencies. However in terms of rarely and never component of the sources of information were found insignificant with the use.

Job Involvement: In order to assess the effectiveness of different extension teaching methods also measured some professional variables like job involvement of extension personnel. The details of result has displayed here in the table no. 16 and 17.

Table-16: Shows the job involvement of SMS

Sl. No.	Score Range	SMS	
		F	**%**
1.	Up to 70 (Low)	03	18.7
2.	71- 80 (Medium)	10	**62.5**
3.	> 81 (High)	03	18.7

From the perusal of table no. 16 it is evident that majority of SMS (62.5 %) were found to have medium level of job involvement, while 18.7 per cent (18.7 %) were found to have high level of job involvement. Only 18.7 per cent were found to have low level of job involvement.

Table-17: Shows the job involvement of Agricultural Coordinators

Sl. No.	Score Range	AC	
		F	**%**
1.	Up to 40 (Low)	2	14.3
2.	41- 50 (Medium)	5	35.7
3.	> 50 (High)	7	**50.0**

From the perusal of table no. 17 it is evident that majority of AC (50 %) were found to have high level of job involvement, while 35.7 per cent (18.7 %) were found to have medium level of job involvement. Only 14.3 per cent were found to have low level of job involvement.

Job Satisfaction: In order to assess the effectiveness of different extension teaching methods also measured some professional variables like job satisfaction level of extension personnel. The details of result has displayed here in the table no. 18.

Table-18: Shows the distribution of respondents according to their job satisfaction

Sl. No.	Score Range	SMS		AC	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Up to 25 (Low)	1	6.3	8	**57.7**
2.	26- 35 (Medium)	4	25.0	5	35.7
3.	> 36 (High)	11	**68.7**	1	7.1

From the perusal of table no 5.26 it is evident that majority of SMS (68.7 %) were found to have high level of job satisfaction followed by 25 per cent (25.0 %) have medium level of job satisfaction. Only 6.3 per cent SMS were found to have low level of job satisfaction.

While, majority of AC (57.7 %) were found to have low level of job satisfaction followed by 35.7 per cent (35.7 %) have medium level of job satisfaction. Only 7.1 per cent (7.1 %) were found to have high level of job satisfaction.

Conclusion: One of the major goals of agricultural growth and development is to convince the farmers to adopt new advance technologies. An understanding of the socio-economic status of the extension professionals either from KVKs or from department of agriculture, government of Bihar and its determinants will lead to effectiveness of different extension teaching methods used by them. It is concluded that the socio-economic condition of extension professionals was up to the mark. Most of the extension professionals were satisfied with their respective job. The job involvement level of the extension professionals were found to have 50 per cent AC highly involved while 62.5 per cent SMS were involved at medium level. Overall it is concluded that extension professionals are good at socio-economic status and their information seeking behavior is up to the mark.

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