

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFILE OF THE FARMERS AND THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS FAMILY FARMING

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture plays a vital role in the Indian economy with over 58.00 per cent of the population dependent on agriculture as their main source of income. We can't feed our population without the active involvement of farmers in family farming occupation. Our country is now facing a dual challenge of shrinking agricultural land and increasing population to feed. Inflation increases the cost of cultivation and ultimately reduces net income of the farmers so they remain in distress. In such a situation it becomes necessary to know the attitude of the farmers towards family farming and the relationship between their attitude and profile. The study shows that slightly more than two-fifths (41.67 per cent) of the farmers had a neutral attitude towards family farming. Out of fifteen independent variables nine variables had positive and highly significant, two variables had negative and significant two variables had positive and significant, two variables had a positive and non-significant correlation with the attitude of the farmers towards family farming.

Keywords: attitude, family farming, profile of the farmers

INTRODUCTION

Attitude refers to the degree of positive or negative effects of an individual associated with some psychological object. Most of the farmers of our country live in rural areas and are engaged in family farming. A family farm is generally understood to be a farm owned and operated by a family. It is sometimes considered to be an estate passed down by inheritance. Family farming is one of the most predominant forms of agriculture world-wide, both in developing and in developed countries. Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities and it is linked to several areas of rural development. Family farming is a means of organising agriculture, forestry, fisheries, pasture and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour including both women and men in both developing and developed countries. Family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sectors. It is a universally accepted fact that the attitude of an individual plays an important role in shaping his behaviour. The profile included Personal, economic, social, communicational and psychological variables.

Establishing the relationship between the profile of farmers and their attitude towards family farming helps in changing their attitude towards family farming. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to study the relationship between the profile of farmers and their attitude towards family farming.

OBJECTIVE

To study the relationship between the profile of the farmers and their attitude towards family farming

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in the Kheda district which is located in the middle of Gujarat. Kheda district comprises ten talukas. Out of ten Talukas, five Talukas namely Vaso, Matar, Mahamdabad, Nadiad, Kheda have been selected randomly. From the selected Taluka panchayat office, a list of villages has been collected for the purpose of proper selection of villages. From each Taluka two villages have been selected randomly. Further, from each selected village's panchayat office twelve farmers have been selected on random basis for the purpose of study. Thus, a total of 120 farmers have been selected for the study. The data were collected by personal contact method with the help of structured interview schedule and collected data were coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed in light objectives and in order to make the findings realistic for drawing meaningful interpretation. The statistical tools like frequency, median, mean & correlation was used for the study. The scale developed by Patel & Chauhan (2010) was used with due modifications to measure risk orientation. The scale developed by Supe (1969) was used with due modifications to measure scientific orientation, economic motivation and achievement motivation.

Measurement of Attitude of farmers towards family farming

The attitude levels of farmers were worked out by using an attitude scale developed by the researcher. The final attitude scale was administered on farmers who were

asked to express their reactions in terms of their agreement or disagreement with each item by selecting any of the five response categories viz. strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The scores given for positive statements were 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 while 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 for negative statements, respectively.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Positive	5	4	3	2	1
Negative	1	2	3	4	5

On the basis of measurement of attitude of farmers were categorised into five categories.

Sr. No.	Category	Score
1	Highly unfavourable	20 to 36 score
2	Unfavourable	Above 36 to 52 score
3	Neutral	Above 52 to 68 score
4	Favourable	Above 68 to 84 score
5	Highly favourable	Above 84 to 100 score

Karl Pearson Coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The correlation coefficient gives two kinds of information, viz. degree of relationship and direction of the relationship in terms of positive or negative between any two variables. For computing the correlation coefficient 'r' the Karl Pearson formula was used as under.

$$r = \frac{\sum(XY) - \frac{\sum X \sum Y}{n}}{\sqrt{\left[\sum X^2 - \frac{(\sum X)^2}{n} \right] \left[\sum Y^2 - \frac{(\sum Y)^2}{n} \right]}}$$

Where,

- r = Correlation coefficient
- Y = Dependent variable
- X = Independent variable
- n = Total number of respondents

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards Family farming

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	Highly unfavourable (Up to 36 score)	04	03.33
2	Unfavourable (37 to 52 score)	27	22.50
3	Neutral (53 to 68 score)	50	41.67

4	Favourable (69 to 84 score)	28	23.33
5	Highly favourable (Above 84 score)	11	09.17

The data presented in Table 1 show that slightly more than two-fifth (41.67 per cent) of the farmers had neutral attitude towards family farming, followed by 23.33 per cent, 22.50 per cent, 9.17 per cent, 3.33 per cent had favourable, unfavourable, highly favourable and highly unfavourable, respectively.

From the above data it can be concluded that the majority (65.00 per cent) of the farmers had a neutral to favourable attitude towards family farming. The probable reason might be that the majority of the farmers were middle to old age group having farming experience above 15 years and education level secondary to higher secondary level so they had less scope in other occupations like service sectors and industrial sectors. Therefore, the majority had a favourable to neutral attitude towards family farming. On the other hand, the young farmers had a high level of education so they could have a good job in the service sector but lack of opportunities of employment had compelled them to be in family farming. This might be the reason for the unfavourable attitude of young farmers.

The above findings are more or less similar to Chauhan et al. (2017), Tripathi et al. (2018) Harikrishna et al. (2022), Singh et al. (2023),

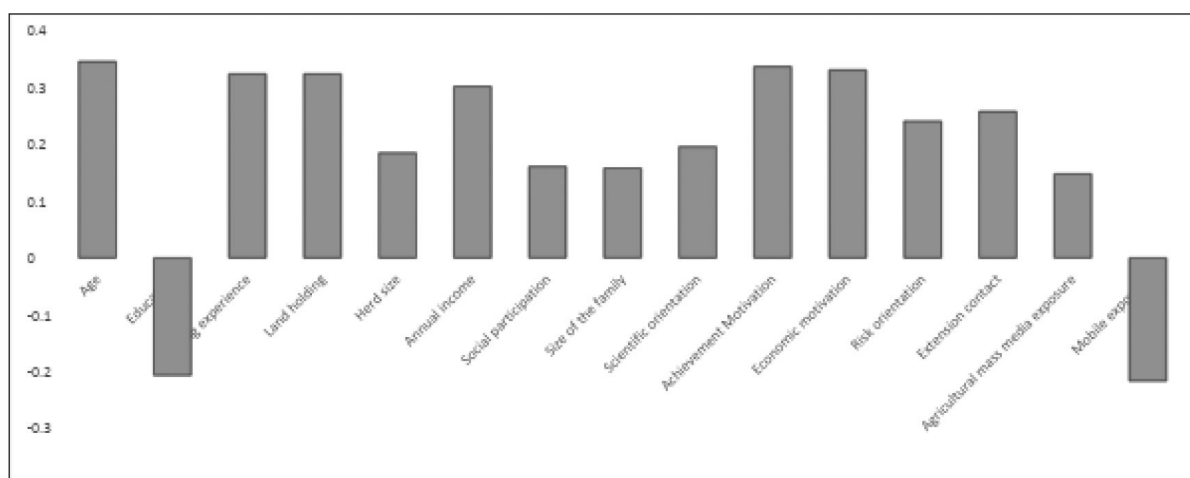


Fig. 1: Relationship between the profile of farmers and their attitude towards family farming

Table 2: Relationship between the profile of the farmers and their attitude towards family farming

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	(r' value)
X ₁	Age	0.346**
X ₂	Education	-0.207*
X ₃	Farming experience	0.324**
X ₄	Land holding	0.312**
X ₅	Herd size	0.185*
X ₆	Annual income	0.302**
X ₇	Social participation	0.161
X ₈	Size of the family	0.158
X ₉	Scientific orientation	0.196*
X ₁₀	Achievement motivation	0.337**
X ₁₁	Economic motivation	0.331**
X ₁₂	Risk orientation	0.241**
X ₁₃	Extension contact	0.258**
X ₁₄	Agricultural mass media exposure	0.148
X ₁₅	Mobile exposure	-0.201*

* = significant at 0.05 level

** = Significant at 0.01 level

From Table 2, It can be concluded that out of fifteen independent variables the variables viz. age, farming experience, landholding, annual income, achievement motivation, economic motivation, risk orientation and extension contact, of the farmers had positive and highly significant correlation with their attitude towards family farming. The variable educational qualification and mobile

exposure of the farmers had negative and significant correlation with their attitudes towards family farming. The variables like herd size and scientific orientation had positive and significant correlation with the attitude of the farmers towards family farming. Moreover, the variables like social participation, size of the family and agricultural mass media exposure of the farmers had a positive and non-significant relationship with their attitude towards family farming. The above findings are more or less similar with the results of the [Boppana et.al. \(2020\)](#), [Das et. Al. \(2023\)](#), [Harekrishna et.al. \(2022\)](#) & [Meena et. al. \(2023\)](#).

CONCLUSION

From the above study it can be inferred that slightly more than two-fifths (41.67 per cent) of the farmers had a neutral attitude towards family farming.

Out of fifteen independent variables nine variables had positive and highly significant, two variables had negative and significant, two variables had positive and significant, two variables had a positive and non-significant correlation with the attitude of the farmers towards family farming.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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