

ADOPTION BEHAVIOUR OF TRIBAL FARMERS ABOUT IMPROVED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in Dahod District of Gujarat State to know the adoption behaviour of tribal farmers about improved animal husbandry practices. The findings reveals that majority of the tribal farmers had medium level of adoption about improved animal husbandry practices. All the independent variables selected for the study were positively and significantly associated with adoption of improved animal husbandry practices except farm power. Though, age, urban pull and migration habit were significantly but negatively associated with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The knowledge of improved practices of animal husbandry contributed significantly to the prediction of the adoption of the tribal farmers.

INTRODUCTION

India is basically a rural oriented and land based country. Being an agricultural country with 1/5th of world's population of cattle and half of the buffaloes, the cows and buffaloes are backbone of agriculture and play a major role in the rural economy. Dairy farming is a very important subsidiary occupation and provides employment to millions of unemployed and under-employed, particularly the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. Dairy development has been acclaimed as an effective instrument capable of bringing about speedy economic and social transformation of the weaker sections of the rural community. Improved practices meant to boost up animal production are more complex than the traditional one. Unless the improved practices are properly adopted by the farmers, the desired target cannot be achieved. Keeping this point in view, the present study was conducted with the following objectives.

1. To find out the extent of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by the tribal farmers.
2. To study the relationship between selected independent variables and the extent of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.
3. To know the predicting ability of different characteristics to explain variation on adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by the tribal farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Dahod district of Gujarat state. Out of seven talukas, four talukas were selected randomly. Five villages were randomly selected from each taluka making 20 villages to be covered in this study. From each village, 10 tribal farmer respondents were selected randomly, making a sample of 200 respondents. The data were collected by

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Table 1 : Distribution of tribal farmers according to their adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

N=200

Sr. No.	Level of adoption	Number	Per cent
1.	Low (< 9.03 score)	32	16.00
2.	Medium (between 9.04 to 16.62 score)	136	68.00
3.	High(> 16.62 score)	32	16.00
	Total	200	100.00

Mean(\bar{x}) =12.825 SD = 3.794

personal interview method.

To know the association between independent variables with adoption, correlation coefficient was worked out. Similarly for studying the combine effect of all independent variables in explaining the variation in the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices the multiple regression analysis was done.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

The data presented in Table-1 revealed that more than two third (68.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of adoption

of improved animal husbandry practices. An equal number of respondents (16.00 per cent) were found to have low and high level of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The finding is in agreement with findings of Sharma *et. al.* (1998) and Meena *et. al.* (2004).

Relationship between independent variables and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

The results presented in Table 2 revealed that out of twenty one independent variables, only one variable i.e. farm power was found non-significant with adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. From the remaining twenty independent variables,

Table 2 : Relationship between independent variables and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

N = 200

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r value)	Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r value)
1.	Age	- 0.2809**	13.	Level of aspiration	0.1785*
2.	Education	0.5578**	14.	Role taking empathy	0.4202**
3.	Occupation	0.1397*	15.	Non-fatalism	0.6529**
4.	Size of land holding	0.4926**	16.	Economic motivation	0.3643**
5.	Farm power	0.1079 ^{NS}	17.	Cosmopolitaness	0.5831**
6.	Migration habit	- 0.3970**	18.	Risk orientation	0.5794**
7.	Organizational participation	0.2852**	19.	Scientific orientation	0.3929**
8.	Urban pull	- 0.3304**	20.	Knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices	0.7718**
9.	Level of achievement	0.3348**	21.	Overall modernization	0.5942**
10.	Socio-techno-economic change	0.6190**			
11.	Mass media exposure	0.6717**			
12.	Change agency contact	0.6123**			

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

NS= Non Significant

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

Table 3 : Stepwise multiple regression analysis of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

N = 200

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Partial regression coefficient (by _{i.j})	Standard error of regression coefficient (SE of by _{i.j})	't' value	Standard partial regression coefficient (b'yi.j)	Rank
1	Socio-techno-economic change	0.0443	0.0266	1.667 ^{NS}	0.1122	VIII
2	Size of land holding	1.0859	0.2861	3.796**	0.1744	VI
3	Economic motivation	-0.3125	0.0636	4.913**	-0.2557	II
4	Organizational participation	-0.7232	0.3507	2.064*	-0.1001	IX
5	Level of aspiration	0.4492	0.1565	2.871**	0.1181	VII
6	Mass media exposure	0.1882	0.0680	2.766**	0.2185	V
7	Role taking empathy	-0.9145	0.2445	3.740**	-0.2333	IV
8	Non-fatalism	0.5662	0.1714	3.302**	0.2505	III
9	Knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices	0.6485	0.0838	7.740**	0.5812	I

Constant : 3.2719

Multiple R = 0.7022

R² = 0.7157

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

the three variables namely age, urban pull and migration habit were found significantly but negatively correlated with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Whereas, other seventeen independent variables namely, education, occupation, size of land holding, organizational participation, level of achievement, socio-techno-economic change, mass media exposure, change agency contact, level of aspiration, role taking empathy, non-fatalism, economic motivation, cosmopolitanism, risk orientation, scientific orientation, knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices and level of overall modernization were found significantly and positively related with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Variable Predicting Adoption of Improved Animal Husbandry Practices

The data presented in Table-3 indicated that from the ranks of standard partial regression coefficient that the independent variable knowledge regarding improved animal

husbandry practices is most important variable followed by economic motivation, non-fatalism, role taking empathy, mass media exposure, size of land holding, level of aspiration, socio-techno-economic change and organizational participation. All these variables jointly contributed to 71.57 per cent of the total variation in the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by the tribal farmers. The variable, knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices alone contributed to 59.60 per cent of total variation in adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above results that majority of the tribal farmers had medium level of adoption about improved animal husbandry practices. All the independent variables selected for the study were positively significantly related with adoption of improved animal husbandry practices except farm power. Though, age, urban pull and migration habit were found to be significantly but negatively correlated

with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The finding of this study indicated that knowledge of improved practices of animal husbandry contributed significantly to the prediction of the adoption of the tribal farmers. Hence, by organizing motivational tour programmes, method and result demonstrations as well as by providing on campus institutional training programmes, tribal farmers should be properly motivated to adopt improved animal husbandry practices.

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