



PERSONAL AND SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BENEFICIARY FARMERS OF COMMUNITY BASED TANK MANAGEMENT PROJECT AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Tumkur district of Karnataka state during 2011-12 to know Personal and Socio-Psychological Characteristics of the Beneficiary Farmers of Community Based Tank Management Project and their relationship with Socio-Economic Status. The present investigation included 120 beneficiaries from Sira, Madhugiri, Koratagere Taluks of Tumkur district. Results revealed that more than two fifth (41.67 %) of the respondents were belonged to middle age group and high risk orientation category, medium achievement motivation (45.83%) and nearly half of the respondents (46.67%) had medium innovativeness. Study found that more than half (57.50%) of the beneficiary farmers had medium cosmopolitism and about 54.17 per cent of beneficiary farmers belonged to high economic motivation. About 41.67 per cent of the beneficiary farmers had medium scientific orientation and 46.67 per cent were belonged to medium level of deferred gratification.

KEYWORDS: Tumkur district, Farmers, Tank project, socio-economic project *etc.*

INTRODUCTION

A community tank is a small reservoir constructed across the slope to catch and store water during rainy season. Community tank is less capital intensive and has wider geographical distribution. Community tank is an attractive proposition to the farmers because it is estimated that the average net returns from the tank irrigated area is about three times higher than those of the un-irrigated area. It has special significance to the marginal and small farmers, because most of them depend on the tanks for irrigation. Hence, it is necessary to know the impact of this project on the target groups. Community Based Tank Management Project (CBTMP) is the one which was selected for the present study implemented by Jala Samvardhana Yojana Sangha (JSYS). In the present study, an attempt is made to know the Personal and Socio-Psychological Characteristics of the Beneficiary Farmers of Community Based Tank Management Project and their relationship with Socio-Economic Status and Crop Productivity.

METHODOLOGY

Present investigation was carried out in Tumkur district of Karnataka state. This project has covered four taluks namely Sira, Madhugiri, Koratagere and Pavagad in Tumkur district. Out of these four taluks, three taluks were selected for the study. Two villages from each of the selected taluks, thus total six villages were selected randomly and from each villages 20 respondents were selected randomly constituting total 120 respondents for the study. Ex-post facto research design was employed for conducting the study. Data was collected by using a detailed interview schedule employing personal interview method. The responses were scored, quantified,

categorized and tabulated using statistical methods like percentage, mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Profile of the Beneficiary Farmers

Age

It could be inferred from the table 1 that 41.67 per cent of the respondents were middle aged, 26.66 per cent were old and 31.67 per cent respondents were young, which implied that little more than two-fifth (41.67%) of the respondents were in the age group of 36 to 50 years. In general, the farmers of middle aged group were enthusiastic and have more work efficiency. Moreover, these people have more family responsibility and sensibility. They also work with a sense of commitment and involvement. These might be the probable reasons for majority of the respondents to be found in the middle aged group followed by young and old age. This finding was in line with the findings of Choudhari (2006) and Shanthamani (2007).

Risk orientation

It can be predicted from Table 1 that Majority of CBTMP beneficiaries belongs to high (41.67%) risk orientation category, followed by medium (30.83%) and low (27.50%) risk orientation. The reason for this kind of result might be that risk bearing capacity of an individual depends upon the personal, psychological, social and economic condition of farmers. The individual with good education, more farming experience and medium to high land holding and more income might have exhibited high and medium level of risk orientation. The other reason may be that the frequent trainings organized by the project to its beneficiaries might have increased the perception and confidence of the farmers about new practices and assurance of good yield have influenced to fall under high

and medium risk orientation category. On the other hand, about 27.50 per cent of respondents had less risk orientation capacity this may be due to the fact that, less social participation and less exposure to mass media and

farming under rainfed condition and uncertainty of getting more yields and income, might have contributed to less risk bearing capacity. These findings are in accordance with the findings of Natikar (2001) and Deepak (2003).

TABLE 1. Personal and Socio-psychological characteristics of the beneficiary farmers

(n=120)

1. AGE		
Category	Number	Per cent
Young	38	31.67
Middle	50	41.67
Old	32	26.66
2. RISK ORIENTATION		
Low	33	27.50
Medium	37	30.83
High	50	41.67
3. ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION		
Low	23	19.17
Medium	55	45.83
High	42	35.00
4. INNOVATIVENESS		
Low	39	32.50
Medium	56	46.67
High	25	20.83
5. COSMOPOLITENESS		
Low	30	25.00
Medium	69	57.50
High	21	17.50
6. ECONOMIC MOTIVATION		
Low	30	25.00
Medium	25	20.83
High	65	54.17
7. SCIENTIFIC ORIENTATION		
Low	28	23.33
Medium	50	41.67
High	42	35.00
8. DEFERRED GRATIFICATION		
Low	28	23.33
Medium	56	46.67
High	36	30.00

Achievement motivation

It could be noted from the result of the table 1 that, 45.83 per cent of the respondents belonged to the medium achievement motivation category followed by high (35.00 per cent) and low (19.17 per cent) achievement motivation categories, respectively. Achievement motivation is the value associated with an individual, which drives him to excel or do well in an assignment he undertakes. Achievement motivation helps an individual to decide and complete the tasks in certain direction, which in turn helps in achieving the desired results. Beneficiary farmers from CBTMP in the study were found to have medium to high level of achievement motivation because of their risk taking ability, visit to other progressive farmer's field, demonstrations, integrated farming practices by project, continues supervision and guidelines by staff members. This is reflected in their practices to achieve higher economic performance and obtain sustainable yield. The findings are in conformity with the results of the studies conducted by Chandrapaul (1998) and Suresh (2004) who

found that majority of the farmers had medium level of achievement motivation.

Innovativeness

It was found that 46.67 per cent of respondents belonged to medium innovativeness, while, 32.50 and 20.83 per cent comes under low and high innovativeness category, respectively (table-3). The probable reason for medium innovativeness might be due to the fact that the Community Based Tank Management Project is conducting regular trainings on various aspects of agriculture and allied aspects by actively involving them in various activities. Hence, the principle of learning by doing might have increased their knowledge and skill level and as a result they might have shown keen interest in adopting new technologies and hence this kind of result. On the other hand 32.50 per cent of respondents belonged to less innovativeness category it may be due to the fact that they might be having less education, less land holding and less income. The similar findings reported by Barman and Gogoi (2000), Natikar (2001) and Ninga Reddy

(2005).

Cosmopoliteness

The data in tabl 1 revealed that 57.50 per cent of the respondents had medium level of cosmopoliteness followed by low (25.00 per cent) and medium (17.50 per cent) level of cosmopoliteness.

It can be concluded that considerable percentage of beneficiary farmers were medium cosmopolite in nature. This might be due to their sound economic conditions, their regular participation in extension activities like field visits, Krishimela and also due to more extension contact which might have led to this kind of result. The results are in conformity with the findings of Suresh (2004).

Economic motivation

A critical look at the tabl 1 reveals that 54.17 per cent of respondents belonged to high economic motivation, while, 25.00 and 20.83 per cent of the respondents belonged to low and medium economic motivation category, respectively. The probable reason for this might be that, the farmers who exhibit economic motivation will have a greater urge to increase his farming efficiency in terms of cost-benefit ratio. They think in terms of minimizing inputs cost and maximizing profits. Hence, study has revealed such findings.

Scientific orientation

The result in the table 1 found that 41.67 per cent of respondents belonged to medium scientific orientation, while, 35.00 and 23.33 per cent of the respondents belonging to high and low scientific orientation categories, respectively.

This indicates that the majority of the respondents view the things scientifically with interest and good knowledge because of their risk taking ability, achievement motivation, innovativeness, cosmopoliteness and

economic motivation. All these factors might have contributed for taking keen interest in scientific aspects in their farming activities.

Deferred gratification

It was found that more number (46.67%) of beneficiary farmers had medium deferred gratification followed by high (30.00%) and low (23.33%) deferred gratification levels, respectively. Deferred gratification helps to overcome unforeseen circumstances under the project, they conducted frequent training programme on crop management, provided high yielding and pest-disease resistant varieties, with regular market information. Farming community has to manage drought situations, pest and disease outbreak, market gluts and other situations. It is desired that famers need to have some level of deferred gratification.

Relationship between socio-economic status and the personal and socio-psychological characteristics of the farmers:

The observation of data in Table 2 reveals that a positive and significant relationship between socio-economic status of beneficiary farmers with their Risk orientation, Achievement motivation, Cosmopoliteness and Economic motivation.

The possible reasons for significant relationship between Socio-economic status and Risk orientation is that farmers with larger land holding are getting higher income which increases the economic status. Further it also increases their recognition in the society, thereby increasing socio-economic status of farmers. High annual income also provides enormous opportunities for repeated exposure of farmers to new technology, taking more risk than the other members in adopting the new practices.

TABLE 2. Relationship between Socio-Economic Status and Personal and Socio-Psychological Characteristics of the Beneficiary Farmers (n=120)

Sl. No.	Independent variables	Correlation co efficient (r)
1	Age	-0.039 ^{NS}
2	Risk Orientation	0.514 ^{**}
3	Achievement motivation	0.442 ^{**}
4	Innovativeness	0.095 ^{NS}
5	Cosmopoliteness	0.490 ^{**}
6	Economic motivation	0.220 [*]
7	Scientific orientation	0.0511 ^{NS}
8	Deferred gratification	0.179 ^{NS}

* Significant at 5 per cent level

** Significant at 1 per cent level

NS- Not Significant

It further reveals a positive and significant relationship between Socio-economic status of beneficiary farmers and Achievement motivation. This helps an individual to decide and complete the tasks in certain direction, which in turn helps in achieving the desired results. Beneficiary farmers from CBTMP in the study area were found to have medium to high level of achievement motivation. This is reflected in adopting new practices to achieve higher economic performance, annual income and sustainable yield. The result was in agreement with the findings of Suresh (2004). It was found that positive and

highly significant relationship between socio-economic status of beneficiary farmers with their Cosmopoliteness. Majority of the respondents belong to medium level of Cosmopoliteness. The farmers who make frequent visits to outside places will be exposed to new ideas and awareness. This might be due to their sound economic conditions, their participation in extension activities like field visits, krishimela, group meetings, and training programs and also due to more extension contacts might have led this kind of result. There was a positive and significant relationship between socio-economic status and

Economic motivation. The probable reasons for this might be that the farmers who exhibit economic motivation will have a greater urge to increase his farming efficiency in terms of cost-benefit ratio. They think in terms of minimizing inputs cost and maximizing profits and also increased economic motivation in their farming activities would help them to attain accuracy and efficiency of performing skills relating to different activities of farming to improve the economic status.

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