

Research Note

EXTENT OF IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING COURSE AS PERCEIVED BY THE TRAINEES

K.C. Sharma¹ and P.N. Kalla²

Several training programmes have been touched by the training centres of Rajasthan state for the training of extension personnel from time to time. But none of them could cover up-to-date knowledge of the course contents and their relative importance for the trainees. Thus, it was thought proper to critically evaluate the different courses taught to the extension personnel at training centres. With this point in mind the present study was undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To ascertain the extent of importance of training courses, as perceived by the trainees for themselves as well as for other group of Agriculture supervisors.

METHODOLOGY

In order to know whether the course contents were really needful for the agriculture supervisors, a list of 80 topics was administered to a group of 70 Agriculture Supervisors and they were asked to note their perception by putting tick in either of the three categories viz., 'Most needed, needed, and little need' against each of the topics. Further, it was presumed that the topics may not be of much importance to the trainees for themselves but they may be of importance to other Agriculture Supervisors and vice-versa. So, the sample respondents were asked to indicate the need of training on each topic for other group of Agriculture Supervisor also who were not attending the training programme. This comparison was adopted in order to increase the reliability of the responses of the trainees.

The responses so collected were later tabulated and analysed. Subject wise need hierarchy for each trainee was calculated on the basis of mean scores (MS) and ranks were assigned according to these MS & subjects were then arranged in descending order.

Further, the need hierarchy of the items as perceived by the trainees for themselves and for other Agriculture Supervisor was compared significance was found by applying Spearman Rank Correlation test:-

Spearman's Rank Correlation Formula : (For untied observations)

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{6 \sum_{i=1}^N d_i^2}{N^3 - N}$$

Where,

r_s = Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient

N = Rank Number of subject ranked

N

$\sum_{i=1}^N d_i^2$ = The sum of difference of the two ranks squared.

i = 1

1.K.C. Sharma, Ph.D. Scholar (Extension), S.K.N. College of Agriculture, Jobner-303 329 (Rajasthan) India.

2.Dr. P.N. Kalla, Associated Professor, Department of Extension Education, S.K.N. College of Agriculture, Jobner-303 329 (Rajasthan) India.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study it was considered important to know the perception of the trainees with regard to different subjects taught to them. There were eight major subjects and their perception is presented in the following Table.

SNo.	Subject	r Value
1.	Soil & Water conservation	0.879*
2.	Agricultural Engineering	0.867*
3.	Entomology	0.758*
4.	Agronomy	0.746*
5.	Extension Education	0.710*
6.	Plant pathology	0.673*
7.	Farm management	0.661*
8.	Horticulture	0.649*

* Significant at 5% level

Examining the data in the above Table, it was found that the rs values for all the eight different subjects was significant at 5% level of significance. This shows that the extent of training need for the trainees as well as for other group of Agriculture Supervisors was varying for all the eight-different subjects.

The findings are also in line with the findings of Dube and Sultan (1962), Pisharody (1962), Sharma (1971) and Kalla (1979).

CONCLUSION

The results of the present study shows a great variation in the importance of training courses for the trainees themselves as well as as for other group of Agriculture Supervisors. This clearly indicates that the need of different courses for trainees and other group is different. This study also implies the following.

1. In teaching, greater attention must be given to those topics which are most needed by the trainees.
2. Constant efforts should be made to up-to-date the course content according to the present needs.
3. During the training the trainees must be supplied with adequate information materials so that they can care it as a reference in future.
4. The factors contributing towards the differential perception of Agriculture Supervisors with respect to their need for training must be probed and identified. The research on this aspect will help in making the training programme more effective in future.
5. In order to make training programme a success, the trainees must first be oriented about the programme. This will improve their proficiency and effectiveness and will also help in developing confidence in them.

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