

Factors affecting Farmer's Participation in Watershed development activities

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in randomly selected Losing and Kurabad watersheds of Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Four villages from each watershed were selected and proportionate sampling techniques were employed for selection of farmers. From each watershed, 60 farmers were selected thus total sample comprised of 120 farmers. Final data were collected by personal interview technique. The review of literature has indicated a number of factors related to the beneficiary himself affected their participation in watershed activities. Therefore, factors related to the beneficiaries like personal, educational and psychological factors have been selected and the obtained responses are presented in this paper.

Key words : Farmers' participation; Watershed development;

The Department of Watershed Development and Soil Conservation launched National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPR) in the year 1990-91. Watershed development project aims at maintaining product of land in the upstream areas and reduces sedimentation hazards for the down stream reservoirs. Soil and water conservation programme within small watershed management project has been found to be the best development strategies for the rainfed area. For successful implementation of watershed programme, it is essential to ensure peoples' participation. There are several factors which affect the peoples' participation in watershed programme. Keeping this in view, the study has been undertaken with the objectives to identify personal, educational and psychological factors affecting farmers' participation in NWDPR.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Badgaon & Girwa panchayat samities of Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Two watersheds namely Losing from Badgaon panchayat samiti and Kurabad from Girwa panchayat samiti were selected randomly. Four villages were selected randomly from each watershed and proportionate sampling technique was adopted. 60 beneficiaries were selected from each watershed and the total sample consisted of 120 respondents. Data were collected through personal interview technique with the help of structured schedule. The obtained response was recorded on a three point continuum.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Factor affecting farmers' participation in watershed activities: These factors were put on a three point

continuum i.e. most important, important and not important with 2, 1 and 0 weights respectively, Farmers were asked to assign the number to each factor according to its importance with respect to their participation in NWDPR. The obtained results have been interpreted as under:

Personal factors affecting the farmers' participation in watershed programme: Table 1 shows that farmers considered education as a major personal factor, which affects their participation in watershed as they assigned 71.63 MPS. Health and load of personal work were observed as second and third important factors responsible for farmers' participation being 67.43 MPS and 63.76 MPS, respectively. Further the data indicates that age and level of living were perceived as least important personal factors affecting the farmers' participation with 57.70 MPS and 54.00 MPS, respectively.

Table 1. Personal factors affecting farmers' participation in NWDPR

S.No.	Factors	MPS	Rank
1.	Education	71.63	I
2.	Health	67.43	II
3.	Load of work	63.76	III
4.	Age	57.70	IV
5.	Level of living	54.00	V

Educational factors affecting farmers' participation in watershed: Education is one of the vital factor which plays a key role in ensuring large scale participation of farmers in any developmental programme. Table 2 indicates that the farmers considered illiteracy as a major factor responsible for their participation in watershed, as the electronic and mass media approaching among the people

rapidly. These farmers have also reported that coverage of NWDPRRA on mass media may exert a profound effect on preparing the farmers for large-scale participation in NWDPRRA. “Complicated terminology” and “educational approach” were other factors responsible for farmers’ participation in watershed programme with 57.50 and 55.58 MPS, respectively.

Table 2. Educational factors affecting farmers’ participation in watershed programme

S.No.	Factors	MPS	Rank
1.	Illiteracy	74.80	I
2.	Coverage on local media/ mass media/ reading/ demonstration/ radio/ TV	71.29	II
3.	Educational facilities	63.21	III
4.	Complicated terminology	57.50	IV
5.	Educational approach	55.58	V

Psychological factors affecting farmers’ participation in watershed programme : Table 3 shows that “exposure to reliable source of information” was found as major psychological factor which affects farmers’ participation as without knowing all information about any activity one can’t prepare him self mentally. Further the “decision making power” was also reported as important factor for which 64.58 MPS was observed as without taking right decision at right time they can’t get benefit of watershed

activities. Analysis of data further revealed that “mental flexibility” “proneness” was placed at third and fourth rank with 60.00 and 50.14 MPS as far as psychological factors are concerned.

Table 3. Psychological factors affecting farmers’ participation in watershed programme

S.No.	Factors	MPS	Rank
1.	Exposure to reliable source of information	71.19	I
2.	Decision making power	64.58	II
3.	Mental flexibility	60.00	III
4.	Proneness	50.14	IV

CONCLUSION

It was found that education, health and load of work were the major personal factors affecting farmers’ participation in NWDP. Study also reveals that age and level of living were the factors which has relatively less effect on farmers’ participation. Among educational factors, illiteracy and coverage on local media were found major factors which affects farmers’ participation in watershed development activities. Exposure to reliable source of information (71.19 MPS) and decision making power (64.58 MPS) were found as major psychological factor affecting farmers participation in NWDPRRA activities.

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