

Attitude of Beneficiary Farmers towards District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP)- Scale Development

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ABSTRACT

A scale was developed to measure the attitude of the beneficiary farmers towards District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP) based on Likert's technique. A list of 51 statements indicating the positive or negative attitude was drafted suited to the area of study. The statements were edited in the light of the informal criteria suggested by Edwards, Thurstone and Chave and Edward and Kilpatrick. The score of each individual item on the scale was calculated by summing up the weights of the individual items. On the basis of total score, 25 percent of the subjects with the highest total score and also 25 percent of the subjects with lowest total scores were taken assuming that these groups provided criterion groups in terms of high and low evaluated by the individual statement. In order to find out the discriminating index for each item, 't' value was calculated using the formula and procedure given by Edwards. The scale so developed finally consisted of 19 statements (10 positive and 9 negative) whose 't' values were found to be significant at one percent level of probability.

Key words: *Attitude; Beneficiary farmers; District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP);*

Attitude has been defined as the degree of positive or negative affects associated with the some psychological object (Edwards, 1969). In this study; it referred to the degree of positive or negative attitude of the respondents towards District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP). A psychological object may be any symbol, person, institution, ideal, phrase or idea towards which people may differ from each other with respect to positive or negative aspect. To overcome the poverty, World Bank launched a new scheme, District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP) in the State of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. In Rajasthan DPIP project was started in July, 2000 with the financial assistance of World Bank in seven poorest districts of Rajasthan namely Baran, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Jhalawar, Rajsamand and Tonk. The main objectives of this programme were social and economic empowerment, capacity building of the beneficiaries and improving income level by providing access to various economic activities. Under this project, a "common interest group" was formed by the selected beneficiary dairy farmers. It is assumed that involvement and interest

of the people in any programme is a key to its degree of success. If it is really beneficial to fulfill the objectives as decided in the blue print document of the project to provide the employment and income, then definitely their attitude will be positive. Keeping in view of above, a scale for measuring the attitude of beneficiary farmers towards DPIP project was developed.

METHODOLOGY

The details of the steps followed in the construction of scale method to measure the attitude of farmers towards District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP) have been discussed below:

Collection of items: The first step in the construction of attitude scale was to collect statements pertaining to the DPIP project. Tentative list of 51 statements pertaining to the attitude of beneficiaries towards the DPIP programme were collected by the consultation of experts in the area, the resource personnel and from available literature relevant to the subject.

Editing the statements: These statements were edited as per the 14 criteria enunciated by Edwards (1969),

Thurstone and Chave (1929) and *Edward and Kilpatrick (1948)* as a consequence 15 statements were eliminated. The remaining 36 statements were included in the Performa.

Response to raw statements: The Proforma containing these statements on five point continuum were mailed by post and also handed over personally to the judges. These judges were experts of the concerned subject of the universities, institutes and extension education experts and officials of DPIP programme. The judges were requested to examine each statement and place them on five point continuum indicating the degree of strength of these statements from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Out of 60 judges only 54 experts had returned the same set of statements after duly recording their judgments and were considered for the analysis.

Item analysis: The respondents were asked to indicate their degree of agreement or disagreements with each statement on five point continuum ranging from strongly agree, agree undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The scoring for positive statements was done with 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 and the scoring pattern was reversed i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for negative statements; respectively. Total score was calculated by summing up the responses on each item.

Calculation of 't' values: Based upon the total scores, the judges were arranged in descending order. The top 25 per cent of the respondents with their total scores were considered as high group and the bottom 25 per cent as the low group so that these two groups provided the criterion groups in terms of evaluating the individual statements. The 't' values were worked out in order to discriminate the responses of high and low groups for the individual statements by using the under mentioned formula (*Edward, 1969*):

$$t = \frac{X_H - X_L}{\frac{\sqrt{\sum (X_H - X_H)^2 + (X_L - X_L)^2}}{n(n-1)}}$$

Where :

X_H = The mean score on given statement of the high group

X_L = The mean score on given statement of the low group

$\sum X_H^2$ = Sum of squares of the individual score on a given statement for high group

$\sum X_L^2$ = Sum of squares of the individual score on a given statement for low group

$\sum X_H$ = Summation of scores on given statement for high group

$\sum X_L$ = Summation of scores on given statement for low group

n = Number of respondents in each group

\sum = Summation

t = The extent to which a given statement differentiate between the high and low group.

The obtained 't' value equal to or greater than 1.75 indicates the average response of high and low groups to a statements differ significantly. On the basis of this, 19 statements were retained having 't' value more than 1.75. Out of these 19 statements, 10 positive and 9 negative statements were selected for the study. (Table 1).

Reliability of the scale: A scale is reliable when it gives consistently the same results when applied to the same sample. The designed attitude scale for the study was pre-tested for its reliability by using the split half method. It was introduced to 25 respondents of non sample area. The coefficient of correlation between odd and even scores was 0.914 which was found to be significant at 1 per cent level, thereby testifying the reliability of the scale.

Validity of scale: As the content of the attitude scale was thoroughly covered, the entire universe of DPIP through literature consultation and experts opinion, it was assumed that the attitude scale measured what it was intended to measure. Moreover, calculation of 't' values assured high discriminatory values of the statements. Therefore, the scale was taken as a valid measure of the desired dimension.

Administering the scale: the final attitude scale was administered to beneficiaries of DPIP programme who constituted the sample for their study. Each item in a scale was provided 3 response categories. These were agree, undecided and disagree with weightage of 3, 2 and 1 for the positive statements and 1, 2 and 3 for the negative statements; respectively. The total score of a respondent on a scale was obtained by adding the scores of all the individual items in that scale and based on the total scores; respondents were categorized in three

Table 1. Attitude Scale developed for measuring the attitude of beneficiary dairy farmers towards District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP)

S. No.	Statements	't' value
1.	The DPIP is a well thought project for the upliftment of the below poverty line farmers	4.63**
2	The project helped the beneficiaries to use their talent for self- employment	4.79**
3	General farmers are also benefited by the DPIP	3.59**
4	DPIP should be extended to all villages of the other districts	5.84**
5	DPIP inculcates the decision making ability among the beneficiaries	4.17**
6	Beneficiary farmers can easily get bank loans/credit in time for effective running of their business/enterprises	4.91**
7	DPIP helps beneficiaries to develop links with dairy cooperative societies	6.04**
8	DPIP provides sustainable livelihood security to beneficiaries	5.22**
9	DPIP seeks feedback of the beneficiaries for improvement	4.67**
10	DPIP is better than other dairy development programmes in the area	4.48**
11	Beneficiaries of this project do not get remunerative prices for their products	3.06**
12	Activities selected under the DPIP are not according to the needs of the beneficiaries	3.89**
13	Due to inadequate provision of training in the project, it is difficult for the beneficiaries to manage various enterprises	3.24**
14	There is no need of DPIP as this is not helpful in reducing poverty	4.41**
15	There is lack of proper coordination between the project personnel and the beneficiaries	3.42**
16	DPIP is useless effort due to its ineffective working pattern	4.02**
17	The funds of the project are not properly used for the improvement in economic conditions of the beneficiaries	3.93**
18	All the family members can not be employed under DPIP	3.35**
19	DPIP does not check the movement of people from rural to urban areas for wage employment	4.98**

** Significant at 1 percent level of probability.

groups as favourable, neutral and unfavourable attitude towards District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP).

CONCLUSION

The effectiveness of District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP) mainly depends upon the involvement and participation of beneficiary dairy farmers in the programme, which intern is reflected by their attitude

toward it. Hence a scale to measure the attitude of beneficiaries towards DPIP has been presented in this paper. The attitude scale constructed in the present study can be used by future researchers in conducting impact and evaluation on the rural developmental programmes.

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