

A Study on relationship between the Socio-Personnel Variables with the Scientific Attitude of Potato Growers in Jakhaniyan block of Ghazipur (U.P.)

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to identify ‘A study on relationship between socio personnel variables with the scientific attitude of potato growers in Jakhaniyan block of Ghazipur (U.P.). Out of 238 potato growers of the 18 selected villages, 100 respondents were selected randomly with the help of proportionate sampling. Data was collected by using interview schedule. Findings of the study reveal that, all the selected independent variables i.e. caste, age, occupation, education, social participation, farm size, farm power, farm implements, irrigation potentiality and communication factor were positively and significantly related with scientific attitude of potato growers.

Keywords *Relationship, Attitude, Habit, Potato growers.*

Since last two decades, the rate of food production in developing countries has been increasing at the rate of 3 per cent per year. But due to steady increase in population, especially in these developing countries, food shortage has become an acute problem. In India, food grain production has increased tremendously after the green revolution and now has reached a record level of 190 million tonnes. But the target of food production for the year 2000 is 220 million tonnes. This has become a formidable task for all concerned.

The potato has been established as a crop plant since last two centuries and in its origin centre of Peru of the Titikaka region. Symbiotic representations of potato occurred on pottery in the proto-chimu period of the second century A.D. suggesting that the potato was a familiar food of the coastal people for generations before adorning their pottery. The vital role of potato is recognized on account of its merit of food potential. The potato constitutes as a dietary item in over 100 countries, testifying to the wide adaptation of this crop. The potato is the

fourth most important food crop in the world. It produces, on average, more dry matter per hectare than the legumes and more than any of cereal crop except maize, which exceeds, it by some 20 per cent. In terms of its nutrition potential, the potato ranks first among the 10 major food crops in calorie production per unit area per day and second to soybeans in protein production per unit area. In India, potato is the most important vegetable in the diets of its people, both rich as well as for its nutritional values. The potato cultivation in India has made great strides during the last 46 years. There has been an increase in area, production and productivity, i.e., from a production of 9667.5 thousand tonnes from 729.2 thousand hectares in 1980-81. The production rose to 15718.0 thousand tonnes from 1075.2 thousand hectare in 1992-93. The production per hectare has almost doubled i.e. from 13258 kg's per hectare in 1980-81 to 14619 kg's per hectare in 1992-93.

The state of U.P. occupies first position in area well as production among the potato producing states in India. There is a vast scope to increase the yield of potato crop in the state of U.P. The important components of improved management for high yield are high yielding varieties, timely sowing, balanced fertilizer application, efficient water management, weed control, timely plant and protection measures of improved implements cultivation, keeping this in mind, present investigation entitled, “A Study on relationship between socio personnel variables with the scientific attitude of potato growers in Jakhaniyan Block of Ghazipur (U.P.)”, has been undertaken with the following specific objective, ‘To find out relationship between socio personnel variables with the scientific attitude of potato growers’.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present study descriptive research design was used. The study was conducted in Jakhaniyan

block of Ghazipur district (U.P.). Jakhaniyan block comprises of 78 gram panchayats, out of which 18 gram panchayats were selected randomly. From each gram panchayat one village was selected randomly for the study purpose. Out of 238 potato growers of the 18 selected villages, 100 respondents were selected randomly with the help of proportionate sampling. The statistical methods like correlation coefficient was used in the study for precise and meaningful analysis and interpretation of data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this correlation study independent variables like caste, age, occupation, education, social participation, farm size, farm power, farm implements, irrigation potentiality and communication factors were correlated with scientific attitude.

A critical examination of the data presented in Table 1 reveals that caste, age, occupation, education, social participation, farm size, farm power, farm implements, irrigation potentiality and communication factor were positively and significantly related with scientific attitude of potato growers at 1 per cent level of probability.

Keeping in view the objective of the study, the discussion on the relationship of different independent variables with the scientific attitude of the potato growers have been given below.

Caste

As against the assumption, the caste was positively and significantly related with the scientific

attitude of the potato growers. It means that caste is an important factor, i.e. higher the caste, higher will be the scientific attitude and vice-verse. This may be due to the fact that higher castes are generally more educated and more exposed to the outside world and might have more contact with the sources of scientific knowledge.

Age

As against the assumption, the age was positively and significantly related with the scientific attitude of the potato growers. It means that higher the age, higher will be the scientific attitude. It denotes that age is an important factor in assessing the scientific attitude of the potato growers. This may be due to fact that older farmers are usually more experienced and knowledgeable, in contrast to the younger farmers. The finding is in line with Kumar (1966), Shirpurekar and Patil (1968), Marrison and Warner (1971) and Chowdhary (1976). The finding is in contrast with Rao (1964), Lakshmana and Vijaya Mohan (1968), Kher and Jha (1978) and Mani and Knight (1981).

Occupation

As against the assumption, the occupation was positively and significantly related with the scientific attitude of the potato growers, i.e. higher the occupation, higher will be the scientific attitude. It means that occupation plays a significant role in affecting scientific attitude of the potato growers. This finding may be due to the fact that a person with more one occupation or any secondary occupation in addition

Table 1: Relationship between the socio-personnel variables with the scientific attitude of potato growers

S. No	Independent variables	'r' values
1	Caste	.777**
2	Age	.470**
3	Occupation	.257**
4	Education	.474**
5	Social participation	.332**
6	Farm size	.652**
7	Farm power	.623**
8	Farm implements	.590**
9	Irrigation potentiality	.459**
10	Communication factor	.482**

**Significant at 0.01 level of probability

to occupation would be more eager to know about the development in potato cultivation which might have played an important role in forming positive attitude towards H.Y.V. of potato cultivation. This finding is in line with Bhatnagar and Singhal (1984) and Bajpai (1987). Whereas, the finding is in contrast with Rao (1964).

Education

As against the assumption, the level of education was positively and significantly related with the scientific attitude of the potato growers i.e. higher the level of education, higher will be the scientific attitude. It means that level of education is a crucial factor in judging the scientific attitude of the potato growers. A person with higher level of education is more exposed to a greater number of highly educated persons and therefore he is more extrovert and keeps contact with scientific personnel. Perhaps this might be the reason for the above finding. The finding is in line with Kumar (1966), Shirpurekar and Patil (1968), Chowdhary (1976), Gross (1977), Mani and Knight (1981), Bhatnagar and Singhal (1984), Sharma (1984) and Bajpai (1987). Whereas, the finding is in contrast with Rao (1968) and Kher and Jha (1978).

Social participation

As against the assumption, the social participation is positively and significantly related with scientific attitude of the potato growers i.e., higher the social participation, higher will be the scientific attitude. It indicates that social participation plays a significant role in affecting the scientific attitude of respondents. This may be due to the fact that individuals with more social participation have more social interaction with different categories of persons and different types of organizations, and thereby more favourable attitude towards any innovative idea. The finding is in line with the finding of Mani and Knight (1981).

Farm size

As against the assumption, the farm size has positively and significant association with the scientific attitude of the potato growers i.e., higher the farm size, higher will be the scientific attitude. It means that farm size is an important factor in affecting scientific attitude of the potato growers. The finding may be due to the reason that higher the size of land holding of a farmer, higher will be his risk bearing

ability and henceforth he will try to practise any innovation in his field, which might compel him to contact with scientific knowledge source. The finding is in line with Shirpurekar and Patil (1968), Pathak (1981) and Bajpai (1987). Whereas the finding is in contrast with Sharma (1985).

Farm power

As against the assumption, the farm power is positively and significantly related with the scientific attitude of the potato growers, i.e. higher the level of farm power, higher will be the scientific attitude. It reveals that farm power appears to be an important factor. This may be due to the fact that farmers with more farm power will try to utilize their power in best possible manner and this may force them to contact with scientists and extension personnel for their best utilization, thereby have a favourable scientific attitude

Farm implements

As against the assumption, the farm implements is positively and significantly associated with the scientific attitude of the potato growers i.e. more the number of farm implements, more will be the scientific attitude. It means that numbers of farm implements have a significant impact on the scientific attitude of the farmers. More the number of farm implements are generally possessed by big farmers having big farm size. These may influence to have a favourable attitude towards scientific knowledge sources or new innovation.

Irrigation potentiality

As against the assumption, irrigation potentiality is also positively and significantly related with the scientific attitude of the potato growers i.e. higher the irrigation potentiality, higher will be the scientific attitude. It means that number of irrigation potentiality is an important factor in affecting the scientific attitude of the respondents. It is a well known fact that farmers with good irrigation potential produce more in his field and are happy with the income they derive from their little patch of land. This may be the reason for with the favourable scientific attitude and vice-versa. The finding is in line with the finding of Pathak (1981).

Communication factors

As against the assumption, communication factor is positively and significantly associated with the scientific attitude of the potato growers i.e. more the

number of sources of information utilized, more will be the scientific attitude. It indicates that communication factors are also significant factors in affecting the scientific attitude of the respondents. This may be due to fact that those who keep contact of more number of information sources and have good connection with other persons are more innovative. This might be the reason for the above finding. The finding is in line with the finding of Bajpai (1987).

CONCLUSION

From the above finding it came to know that, there was significant relation between independent variables and scientific attitude. All the selected independent variables i.e. caste, age, occupation, education, social participation, farm size, farm power, farm implements, irrigation potentiality and communication factor were positively and significantly related with scientific attitude of potato growers.

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