IMPACT OF PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF NICOBARI TRIBAL FARMERS ON ADOPTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED DEPARTMENTS

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Abstract

The characteristics namely social participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation and tribal leadership exhibited positive and highly significant correlation with adoption among Nicobari tribal farmers. The character farming experience had negative but highly significant association with adoption. The profile characteristic educational status, contact with extension agencies and innovativeness had a positive and significant relationship with adoption among the tribal farmers. However, age, occupational status, farm size, annual income and family type shown no effect on the dependent variable adoption.

Keywords: Nicobari tribal farmers, adoption, tribal leadership.

Introduction

India is a vast and diverse country, which is also a home for over one-fourth of world’s absolute poor. Among the social groups in India, Scheduled Tribes (ST) has the highest proportion of the poor. While they account for only 8.6 percent of the total population, they comprise 40 percent of the displaced population (CTDP, 2009). Tribals are the most vulnerable sections of the population in India. They are exploited by the most age-old social and cultural handicaps coupled with environmental factors. The age old exploitation and repression of the tribals have considerably cut them off from the main stream of socio-economic development of the country as a whole.

The union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands constitute a group of 572 Islands, islets reefs and isolated rocks in the Bay of Bengal. It is situated between 6.45° and13.45° North latitude and 92.15° and 94° East longitude. There are two different group of islands the Andaman and Nicobar. The Andaman group of islands has a land area of 6408sq.km and Nicobar group has an area of 1841 sq.km. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands
comprises of six scheduled tribes of two races- The Negrito and the Mongoloids. The Negrito race comprises of Andamanese, Jarawas, Sentinelese and Onges. The Mongloid race comprises of the Nicobarese and Shompens.

The Nicobarese are settled agriculturists and dependent on their land for their food. At present a sizable member of them are working as government servants. Other members in the family will be engaged in agricultural works. Their agriculture is for subsistence and very few of the modern technologies are adopted by them. They work only as much as is necessary to keep in good health and no more. The reason behind this may be:

- The tropical climate saps strength and makes hard work difficult.
- Basic needs of the Nicobarese are few and as the nature is bountiful, very little efforts are needed to grow and cater to their basic needs.
- Finally, amusements and festivals are as important as the need to work hard.

Inspite of this, the Nicobarese raise plantation crops like coconut, yams, banana, other fruits, besides making copra, extracting oil, looking after livestock and fishing. Though the agricultural practices of Nicobarese are very simple, they grow a number of crops successfully getting enough produce for their subsistence and feasting.

In the present study all the major developmental programs being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Fisheries have been studied. The study would yield variable data on the socio-economic and psychological characteristics of Nicobari farmers. This will enable to understand, whether the selected characteristics really played a role in their socio economic development. The findings of personal, socio-economic and psychological variables and their relationship with their adoption towards developmental programmes would be helpful to design a sound situation specific livelihood enhancement programs for the benefit of Nicobari farmers by stressing positive effects of the variables and taking precautionary measures for nullifying the effects of variables with negative impact. The main focus of the study is to evaluate the role of various developmental schemes in the development of Nicobari tribal areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Major programmes of agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries departments selected for the study are:

1. Promotion of plantation, spices and horticultural crops
2. Laying out of demonstration for productivity improvement in coconut
3. Establishment of new garden – Fruits / Spices / Flowers
4. Trio pig scheme
5. Backyard poultry farming
6. Poultry rearing
7. Essential fisheries requisites: Supply of fishing inputs
8. Construction / Purchase of mechanized boats
9. Modernization of traditional fishing craft

Methodology

The present investigation was conducted in four blocks of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, namely, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta and Katchal selected purposively for the study. Little Andaman comes under South Andaman District and the rest three blocks belong to Nicobar District. 60 farmers from each block were selected randomly. A total of 240 respondents were investigated for this study. The data were collected from the sampled respondents with the help of specially designed interview schedule. Appropriate scoring procedure was developed to measure the dependent variables towards adoption. The main objectives of this study were to identify the existing relationship and influence between independent socio-economic variables and dependent variable adoption. Further, the degree of association is measured by a correlation coefficient (r). It is sometimes called Pearson’s correlation coefficient after its originator and is a measure of linear association. If a curved line is needed to express the relationship, other and more complicated measures of the correlation must be used. The correlation coefficient is measured on a scale that varies from +1 through 0 to -1. Complete correlation between two variables is expressed by either +1 or -1. When one variable increases as the other increases the correlation is positive; when one decreases as the other increases it is negative. Complete absence of correlation is represented by 0 (BMJ, 2015).

Result and discussion:

Relationship of the independent variables with adoption: The results of correlation analysis of fifteen independent variables on adoption are presented in Table 1.
Table 1. Relationship of the independent variables towards adoption (n=240)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Adoption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>-.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational status</td>
<td>.141*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational status</td>
<td>-.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming experience</td>
<td>-.252**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm size</td>
<td>.079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual income</td>
<td>.049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension contact</td>
<td>.149*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social participation</td>
<td>.170**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass media exposure</td>
<td>.196**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic motivation</td>
<td>.292**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk orientation</td>
<td>.167**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific orientation</td>
<td>.237**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovativeness</td>
<td>.152*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family type</td>
<td>.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal leadership</td>
<td>.369**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NS - Non Significant, * Significant at 0.05 level, ** Significant at 0.01 level

The results indicate that out of fifteen characteristics studied, five characters were found to be having a positive and highly significant association with adoption. The characteristics namely social participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation, risk orientation and scientific orientation exhibited positive and statistically highly significant correlation with the adoption of departmental schemes by the Nicobari tribal farmers at 1 per cent level of probability. Patel and Chauhan (2015) also found similar findings on the relationship between social participation and adoption, Choudhary et. al. (2001) found similar relationship between mass media exposure and adoption, Mishra et. al. (2012) also found positive and highly significant association between economic motivation and adoption, Maraddl et. al. (2007) found similar results between risk orientation and adoption, and Chandra and Reddy (2002) found similar results between scientific orientation and adoption. The character farming experience had negative but highly significant association with adoption. Tanmay et. al. (2016) also found a negative association between farming experience and adoption. The profile characteristic educational status, contact with extension agencies and innovativeness had a positive and significant relationship with adoption of departmental schemes by the Nicobari tribal farmers at 5 per cent level of probability. Singh and Yadav (2013) found similar result on educational status and Gaikwad and Khalache (2010) found similar result on extension contact. However, age, occupational status, farm size, annual income and family type had non-significant association with adoption. Among
these age and occupational status had negative relationship. Tanmay et. al. (2016) found similar results on age, farm size and annual income. Veeranna and Singh (2004) also that family type shown positive and non-significant relationship with adoption.

CONCLUSION

It can be summed up as, the variables such as farming experience, social participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation, risk orientation and scientific orientation were found to act as critical variables in the adoption of departmental schemes by the Nicobari tribal. So, while preparing future plans for development of tribal farmers, one should take care of above variables.

References: