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Adoption behaviour of the tribal farmers of Sabarkantha district towards improved animal husbandry practices

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ABSTRACT

A study on adoption behaviour of the tribal farmers of Sabarkantha district towards improved animal husbandry practices was conducted in two talukas of Sabarkantha district. The findings of the study revealed that nearly half of the tribal farmers had medium level of adoption about improved animal husbandry practices. The study also revealed that knowledge of improved animal husbandry practices contributed significantly to the prediction of the adoption of the tribal farmers.

Key words : Adoption behaviour, animal husbandry practices, tribal farmer

Indian farming is an economic symbiosis between crop and animal husbandry. India lives in the villages and large majorities (74 per cent) of the families are dependent on agriculture with live stock constituting integral role, particularly for the rural poor. Livestock provides cheap nutritious food rich in animal protein to millions of the people. It offers a good employment generation opportunity. A large number of rural women find good opportunities to work in several operations of animal husbandry. Dairy development has been acclaimed as an effective instrument capable of bringing about speedy economic and social transformation of the weaker section of the rural community. In dairy farming, adoption of improved animal husbandry practices is considered worth useful to enhance milk production, productivity and profitability and ensure sustainability. Unless the improved practices are properly adopted by the dairy farmers, the target cannot be achieved. Therefore, it was felt necessary to conduct the present study with following objectives.

1. To find out the extent of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by the tribal farmers.
2. To determine the relationship between selected independent variables of the tribal farmers and their adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.
3. To know the predictive ability of different characteristics to explain variation in adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by the tribal farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat state. Gujarat has 74.81 lakh tribal population. Sabarkantha district ranks fifth among all the districts of the state with respect to tribal population (Census, 2001).

Out of the four tribal dominating talukas of the district 2 talukas viz., Bhiloda and khedbrahma were purposively selected having more Milk Producing Cooperative societies(MPCs) functioning for the minimum last five years. 10 MPCs from Bhiloda taluka and 5 MPCs form Khedbrahma taluka were randomly selected. Thus, total 15 villages having MPCs were selected for the study. From the list of members of each respective MPC, 10 respondents were selected using simple random sampling method making a sample of 150 respondents. The data were collected by personal interview method.

To know the association between independent variables with adoption, correlation coefficient was worked out. Similarly for studying the combine effect of all independent variables in explaining the variation in the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices the multipal regression analysis was carried out.

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RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Extent of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by the farmers.

The data in Table 1 reveal that about half of the respondents (48.67 per cent) had medium extent of adoption followed by 32.00 per cent of them who had low extent of adoption. Remaining 19.33 per cent of the respondents had high extent of adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The finding is in agreement with the findings of Meena and Chauhan (1999), Verma and Sharma (2003) and Dana and Kanabi(1998).

Table 1 Distribution of the tribal farmers according to their adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Sr. No	Extent of adoption	No. of farmers	Percent
1	Low	48	32.00
2	Medium	73	48.67
3	High	29	19.33
	Total	150	100.00

Relationship between independent variables of the respondents and their adoption of improved animal husbandry practices

To ascertain the relationship between selected independent variables and extent of adoption of dairy farming practices by the members of the MPCs, the correlation coefficient was calculated.

The results presented in Table 2 reveal that out of 17 independent variables, only three variables viz., family size , family type and herd size were found having non significant relationship with adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. The remaining 14 independent variables, viz., age(0.3219), education(0.5722), land holding (0.2651), occupation(0.3299), social participation(0.3678), milk production(0.2929), farm power possession(0.2997), material possession(0.5180), mass media exposure (0.3235), extension participation(0.4748), overall modernity(0.7095), knowledge about improved animal husbandry practices(0.8006), attitude toward MPC(0.7138), and attitude toward dairy farming technology(0.7145) were found significantly and positively related with the adoption of improved animal husbandry practices as the values of all these variables were found significant at 0.01 level of significance .

Table 2 Correlation coefficient showing relationship of selected independent variables with adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. (n=150)

Sr. No	Independent variable	Correlation coefficient 'r'
1	Age	0.3219**
2	Education	0.5722**
3	Family size	0.0466 NS
4	Family type	0.0630 NS
5	Land holding	0.2651**
6	Occupation	0.3299**
7	Social participation	0.3678**
8	Herd size	0.0638 NS
9	Milk production	0.2929**
10	Farm power possession	0.2997**
11	Material possession	0.5180**
12	Mass media exposure	0.3235**
13	Extension participation	0.4748**
14	Overall modernity	0.7095**
15	Knowledge about improved animal husbandry practices	0.8006**
16	Attitude toward MPC	0.7138**
17	Attitude toward Dairy farming technology	0.7145**

**Significant at 0.01 level of significance

NS=Non significant

Variables predicting addoption of improved animal husbundary pracitices

From the ranks of standard partial regression coefficient presented in Table 3, it can be found that the knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices is the most important variable followed by age, attitude toward dairy farming technology, land holding and extension participation. All these variables collectively contributed 87.31 per cent of total variation in adoption of improved animal husbandry practices by the tribal farmers. Hence, it implies that better exposure of these variables would influence in better adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Table 3 Step-wise multiple regression analysis of independent variables with adoption.

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Partial regression coefficient (bi)	Standard error of regression coefficient (SE of bi)	't' value	Standard partial regression coefficient (b'i)	Rank
1	Age	0.1446	0.0263	4.97**	0.1802	II
2	Land holding	0.0620	0.2535	3.08**	0.0080	IV
3	Extension participation	0.0245	0.3199	1.90	0.0026	V
4	Knowledge about improved animal husbandry practices	0.6713	0.0396	17.14**	0.9804	I
5	Attitude towards dairy farming technology	0.1485	0.0360	5.01**	0.1655	III

** Significant at 0.01 level of significance

Constant=3.4846 Multipal R=0.9344 R2=0.8731

CONCLUSION

From the above results, it can be concluded that nearly half of the tribal farmers had medium level of adoption about improved animal husbandry practices. The important variable positively and significantly affecting adoption were, age, education, land holding, occupation, social participation, milk production, farm power possession, material possession, mass media exposure, extension participation, overall modernity, knowledge about animal husbandry practices, attitude toward MPCs and attitude toward dairy farming technology. The study revealed that knowledge of improved animal husbandry practices contributed significantly to the prediction of the adoption of the tribal farmers. Hence, attempt shall be made to seek maximum involvement of this characteristic. It is recommended that in order to increase the knowledge of tribal farmers, they must be updated with the latest and improved scientific practices by organizing motivational tour programmers, method and result demonstrations as well as by providing on campus institutional training on dairy farming.

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