

A STUDY ON ACHIEVEMENT ORIENTATION, MODERNITY LEVEL AND GROUP COHESIVENESS AMONG MEMBERS OF WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS (WUAS)

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Southern region of Gujarat state. 40 villages were identified from two districts (20 from each) on the basis of highest number of Water User Associations (WUAs) for the present study. Ex post facto research design was used and 200 sample size was drawn out by using proportionate random sampling method. The data were collected by personal interview method. The result shows that majority of the beneficiaries had moderate to low level of achievement orientation and group cohesiveness, while their modernity level was found to be moderate.

INTRODUCTION

Irrigation is lifeline of agriculture. It is estimated that 70.00 per cent of world's fresh water used for irrigation. Availability of irrigation water is critical for food security and requires meticulous management. Over the last two decades, various policy reforms were focused on participatory concept. During these reforms it has been realized that without active participation of end users i.e. farmers, irrigation systems cannot be managed efficiently. The basic idea behind farmers managed irrigation systems was to improve the overall efficiency of irrigation system and improve the irrigation revenue recovery rate. This laid the seeds for Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) programme in India. It was accepted as a policy of the Government of India and included in the National Water Policy in 1987. So far 63167 WUAs have been formed in various States covering an area of 14.623 m. ha. under various command areas of PIM programme (Anon. 2011). Gujarat has done significant work under this programme among all the states of India.

Keeping this view in mind, the present study was carried out to determine the Achievement orientation, Modernity level and Group cohesiveness among members of Water User Associations (WUAs).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out at Surat and Navsari districts of South Gujarat during the summer season of 2010-11. Navsari and Surat districts are situated on the bank of Purna and Tapi rivers respectively and have well structured canal of Ukai and Kakrapar dams. Hence both the districts were purposely selected for this study.

Navsari district has five talukas and Surat district has eight talukas. Out of these Navsari and Jalalpore talukas from Navsari district while Kamrej and Olpad talukas from Surat district were selected on the basis of highest number of Water User Associations (WUAs) under PIM programme. After selecting the talukas, villages were arranged in descending order on the basis of number of beneficiaries of PIM programme to identify the first ten villages from each taluka. In this way 40 villages were identified for the study. A proportionate random sampling method was used for selection of respondents in present study. From each village proportionate random sample was drawn to makeup 50 respondents from each taluka. The proportion sample size was drawn from each village by the following formula

$$\text{Proportional sample size} = \frac{\text{Total number of beneficiaries of village} \times 50}{\text{Total number of beneficiaries to taluka}}$$

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Where:

50 is desired sample from each taluka

In this way 50 respondents were selected from each taluka. Thus, the sample size for the study comprised of 200 respondents from 40 villages.

Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. Keeping in view, the objectives of the study, the interview schedule was prepared and data collection was done. The collected data were analyzed by using percentage, mean, standard deviation, and correlation coefficient (r).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Achievement orientation

It is desired to do well not for the sake of social recognition or prestige, but to attain an inner feeling of an individual. The responses regarding achievement orientation of the beneficiaries were collected and grouped into three categories viz., (i) lower level of achievement orientation (up to 16 score), (ii) moderate level of achievement orientation (16.1 to 22 score) and (iii) higher level of achievement orientation (above 22 score). The information regarding the achievement orientation is presented in table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of beneficiaries according to their achievement orientation (n=200)

S. No.	Level of Group cohesiveness	f	%
1.	Lower level of group cohesiveness	62	31.00
2.	Moderate level of group cohesiveness	96	48.00
3.	Higher level of group cohesiveness	42	21.00
Total		200	100.00

(Mean=19.05); (SD=3.52)

It is evident from table 1 that nearly half of the beneficiaries of PIM programme (48.00 per cent) had moderate level of achievement orientation followed by 31.00 and 21.00 per cent had lower and higher level of achievement orientation respectively.

In general, majority of the respondents (69.00 per cent) had moderate to higher level of achievement orientation. It might be due to stipulated resources with an individual to earn

supplement income and medium level of perception of available resources.

Similar finding have been reported by Jadhav et al. (2003) and Ravi et al. (2007).

2. Modernity

It is the extent to which and how far the beneficiary respondents are modernized in thinking and in their outlook. The views about modernity were collected and grouped into three categories viz., (i) lower level of modernity (up to 18 score), (ii) moderate level of modernity (18.1 to 32 score) and (iii) higher level of modernity (above 32 score) and presented in table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of beneficiaries according to their level of modernity (n=200)

S. No.	Level of modernity	f	%
1.	Lower level of modernity	43	21.50
2.	Moderate level of modernity	102	51.00
3.	Higher level of modernity	55	27.50
Total		200	100.00

(Mean=25.66) (SD=7.22)

It is observed from table 2 that the majority of beneficiaries of PIM programme (51.00 per cent) had moderate level of modernity followed by 27.50 and 21.50 per cent of beneficiaries had higher and lower level of modernity respectively.

In general, majority of the beneficiaries (51.00 per cent) had moderate level of modernity. The probable reason of this finding might be that the beneficiaries had nature to modify according to present social scenario.

The finding is similar to the findings reported by Pulaniswami and Sriram (2001) and Jadhav et al. (2003).

3. Group cohesiveness

Group cohesiveness can be defined as the feeling and sense of belongings developed by the members in the cooperative structures. The responses of the beneficiaries of PIM programme were grouped as; (i) lower level of group cohesiveness (up to 20 score), (ii) moderate level of group cohesiveness (20.1 to 26 score) and (iii) higher level of group cohesiveness (above 26 score) and presented in table 3.

The data of table 3 revealed that majority of the beneficiaries of PIM programme (44.00 per cent) had moderate level of group cohesiveness, followed by 31.50 and 24.50 per cent of the beneficiaries had lower level of group cohesiveness and higher level of group cohesiveness respectively.

Table 3. Distribution of beneficiaries according to their group cohesiveness (n=200)

S. No.	Level of Group cohesiveness	f	%
1.	Lower level of group cohesiveness	63	31.50
2.	Moderate level of group cohesiveness	88	44.00
3.	Higher level of group cohesiveness	49	24.50
Total		200	100.00

(Mean=22.96) (SD=3.52)

From the table 3 it can be concluded that majority of the beneficiaries (68.50 per cent) had moderate to higher level of group cohesiveness. The probable reason for the above finding might be due to the fact that the members of WUAs had matured understanding with each other and they perceived the importance of cooperation to run of a WUA.

The finding is similar to the findings reported by Naik (2006).

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the result obtained in present study it can be concluded that majority of the beneficiaries had moderate to higher level of achievement orientation and group cohesiveness while, they had moderate level of modernity. These results might be due to that generally members of WUAs had matured understanding and cooperation among them while their perception, available resources and social trend having significant impact on their livelihood.

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