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Psychological behavior of peoples towards integrated watershed management programmed

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The study was carried out during 2013-14 in the Janjgir- Champa, district of Chhattisgarh state. This study aims to assess information on extent of people's participation in integrated watershed management's programme. This study was conducted in selected 12 villages identified from 2 blocks of Janjgir- Champa, district and the sample comprised of 120 farmers. The data were collected personally through pre-tested interview schedule. Collected data were tabulated and processed by using appropriate statistical tools and methods. In the study area, 69.17 per cent respondents had favorable attitude towards IWMP with medium level of economic motivation (65.83%), had medium level of decision making ability (47.5%), about 51.67 per cent had medium level of coordination ability, had medium level of trust (40.83%) and 40.83 per cent respondents had recognized by the officials.

Keyword: Watershed management, IWMP, peoples participation, psychological behavior

Introduction

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) one of the flagship programme of Ministry of Rural Development is under implemented by the Department of Land Resources since 2009-10. Watershed in general is an area that supplies water by surface or subsurface flow to a given drainage system or body of water – a stream, river, wetland, lake or ocean. The interaction between land and water and its use and management decides the characteristics of the water flow and its relationship to the watershed. In recent decades, in many parts of the world, watershed degradation has emerged as a most serious problem causing natural resource degradation,

which has been acting as a “pull factor” for the efforts of achieving food security and led to negative environmental and socio-economic consequences. People's participation in watershed management programmes is an important strategy of government of India for making watershed programmes successful. The major benefits flowing from the participation of the people in development are; in the planning and programming stages and throughout the implementation of development programmes, rural people can provide valuable social-cultural, ecological, economic and technical indigenous knowledge ensuring consistency between objectives of development and community values and preferences; people can mobilize local

resources in the form of cash, labour, materials, managerial talent and political support which are critical to programme success.

The programme should meet the daily requirements of the majority of the stakeholders like supply of drinking water, fodder for cattle and fuel for kitchen. The watershed development programmes are made for local people. During 2010-11 Government targeted 0.236 million ha area, but as an achievement finally 0.284 million ha area was Sanctioned under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in Chhattisgarh. Central Funds Released and Utilized under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in Chhattisgarh from 2009 to 2015 were 152.44 crore and 157.93 crore respectively. Keeping this in view in mind the present investigation was done.

Methodology

The study was carried out during 2013-14 in the Janjgir- Champa, district of Chhattisgarh state. This study was conducted in selected 12 villages (10 respondents from each village) identified from 2 blocks of Janjgir- Champa, district and the sample comprised of 120 [10 x 12 =120] farmers. The data collection was done by structured interview schedule and through personal interview. Collected data were processed, tabulated and analyzed by using appropriate statistical scales and methods like frequency, mean, per-cent, correlation coefficient and multiple regression analysis.

Attitude: Determining attitude is important as it provides basis for planning of future strategies of change and also to effect desirable changes in the human behaviour. The concept of attitude was operationalized for the present investigation, as learned disposition of the respondents to react positively or negatively towards integrated watershed management programme. To measure the attitude of the respondents towards integrated watershed management programme, a scale developed by Sastry *et al.* (1992) was used with some desired modifications. The present scale consist 8 statements (1 to 6 positive and 7, 8

negative statements). The response of the respondents were recorded about each statement on a five point continuum scale i.e. strongly disagree, agree, un-decided, disagree and strongly disagree with the weightages of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for positive statements and reverse for the negative statements respectively.

Decision making ability: It is the degree to which an individual justifies his selection of most efficient means from among the available alternatives on the basis of scientific criteria for achieving maximum economic profits. It consisted 10 items each with 3 point response continuum namely, not considered, considered after consultation with others and „decision taken independently“ with scores of 0, 1 and 2, respectively. Based on the total score obtained by the respondents, they can be grouped into three categories namely; low, medium and high by considering mean score and standard deviation.

Trust: Trust was operationalised as the degree of faith between the respondents and watershed officials has on each other. If the respondents have trustworthy then they can narrate each other problem frequently and expect help and coordination to the officials. Functioning of the watershed activity is largely based on the principle of mutual trust. The trust among the respondents on their watershed officials and suggested activities were also measured separately by asking the respondent to evaluate themselves on the trust and indicate against each (five) activity. Score 0 was given indicating against no trust where as score of 1 each was given for a tick mark against the activity indicated.

Results and Discussions

Attitude of respondents towards IWMP

The findings indicate that the majority of the respondents (69.17%) had favorable attitude toward IWMP followed by 27.5 per cent of them had unfavorable attitude and only 3.33 per cent of respondents had most favorable attitude.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their overall attitude towards IWMP

Sl. No.	Attitude category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Unfavorable (up to 21 score)	33	27.50
2	Favorable (22 to 25 score)	83	69.17
3	Most favorable (Above 25 score)	04	3.33
X Σ = 23.1			S.D.= 1.80

Decision making ability of the respondents

The table shows response of respondents with

different ten statements in the form of frequency and percentage (%).

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their decision making ability

Sl. No.	Statements	Not considered	Considered after consultation with others	Considered independently
1	Try to adopt new crop variety	27 (22.5)	79 (65.8)	14 (11.7)
2	Borrow money for farming	04 (3.3)	21 (17.5)	95 (79.2)
3	Buy farm implements	00 (0)	83 (69.2)	37 (30.8)
4	Choose various types of fertilizers	08 (6.7)	102 (85)	10 (8.3)
5	Attend Agril. Meeting	01 (0.8)	24 (20)	95 (79.2)
6	Subscribe farm publications	114 (95)	06 (5)	00 (0)
7	Hire farm workers	44 (36.7)	10 (8.3)	66 (55)
8	Try to adopt new farm practice	05 (4.2)	115 (95.8)	00 (0)
9	Increase or Decrease crop acreage	39 (32.5)	69 (57.5)	12 (10)
10	Switch to new cropping plan	19 (15.8)	99 (82.5)	02 (1.7)

Note: Figures in parentheses are in percentage

The findings indicate that the majority of the respondents (47.50%) had medium level of decision making ability, followed by 31.67 per

cent of them had low level of decision making ability and only 20.83 per cent of respondents had high level of decision making ability.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their overall decision making ability

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (up to 12 score)	38	31.67
2	Medium (13 to 16 score)	57	47.50
3	High (Above 16 score)	25	20.83
X Σ = 14.12			S.D.= 1.92

Trust of beneficiaries on programme officials

The table shows response of respondents with

different five statements in the form of frequency and percentage (%).

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to their trust shown against officials

Sl. No.	Statements	Yes	No
1	At the time of decision taken in the meeting of watershed programme	108 (90)	12 (10)
2	At the time of execution of the programme	103 (85.8)	17 (14.2)
3	Success of the programme	115 (95.8)	05 (4.2)
4	Work distribution	67 (55.8)	53 (44.2)
5	Different methods suggested by officials of the Programme	82 (68.3)	38 (31.7)

Note: Figures in parentheses are in percentage

The findings indicate that the majority of the respondents (40.83%) had medium level of trust, followed by 32.50 per cent of them had high level of trust and only 26.67 per cent of respondents had low level of trust.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents based on their level of trust on IWMP officials

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (up to 6 score)	32	26.67
2	Medium (7 to 8 score)	49	40.83
3	High (Above 8 score)	39	32.50
		$\bar{X} = 7.04$	S.D. = 1.13

Conclusion

In the study area, 69.17 per cent respondents had favorable attitude towards IWMP with, medium level of economic motivation (65.83%), had medium level of decision making ability (47.5%), about 51.67 per cent had medium level of coordination ability, had medium level of trust (40.83%) and 40.83 per cent respondents had recognized by the officials. From the above findings it can be concluded that the overall participation of the respondents in integrated watershed management programme was recorded 67.53 per cent and gap was recorded 32.47 per cent. Hence, extension and other government and non government organization efforts should be made to increase the level of people's participation in integrated watershed management programme.

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