

Views of Respondents on Privatization of Agricultural Extension Services with Respect to their Socio-Economic Profile

Madhusmita Sahoo¹, Indira Priyadarsini Pattnaik², Dr. Santosh Kumar Rout³

¹M.Sc. in Agricultural Extension and Communication, Institute of Agricultural sciences, SOA University

¹Email Id: jayashreesahoo765[at]gmail.com

²M.Sc. in Agricultural Extension and Communication, Institute of Agricultural sciences, SOA University

³Professor (agricultural extension), Institute Agricultural Sciences, SOA University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Abstract: The present study was conducted during the year 2018-2020 in Khordha district of Odisha to know the socio-economic profile of the respondents on “prospects and problems of privatization of agricultural extension services”. The study reveals that majority (43.33%) of the respondent of the age group of between 26-40 with having nuclear family (68.33%) and with educational qualification upto high school (70%). Majority (60%) of the respondents having annual income upto 1 lakh and partially given irrigation facility to their crop field (46.67%). Exposure to external agencies are confined to village level and contact with external agencies mostly depend on cooperative/SHGs (96.67%) followed by local moneylenders (70%). This study will find out the possibilities of privatizing agricultural service sector in the state of Odisha. This also helps to formulate the best alternative approach to public extension service.

1. Introduction

Widely extension is viewed only in terms of improving production and profitability of the farmers. The second dimension equates extension to rural community development. Under this dimension extension is viewed as serving to advance rural communities including the improvement of their agricultural development task. However the perception and the ignorance of agricultural development task is clearly visible. Still there is scope to reduce the ignorance and improve the agricultural development task for the betterment of the farming community.

Privatization of agricultural extension services means, “farmers are expected to share the responsibility for the service provided to them and to pay fully or partially of the cost” (Van De Ban and Hawkins 1996). The experience of privatization of extension services for last 50 years worldwide has reflected that the private sectors could deliver efficiently and profitably if certain threats are taken care of. To know the interest of the respondents on privatization it was necessary to study the socio-economic profile of the respondents.

2. Materials and Methods

The research study purposively is conducted on the Khordha districts of Odisha. The study consisted of farmers only. As much as one hundred twenty respondents were selected for the study, those who cooperate to provide meaningful information as per requirement of objective of the study. The khordha sub-divisions, blocks, gram panchayats, villages and respondents were selected basing on the purposive and random sampling method.

Sub Division	blocks	Gram panchayats	No. of respondents
Khordha	Begunia	Begunia	14
		Kantabada	10
		Baghamari	6
	Khordha Sadar	Kaipadar	10
		Bajapur	12
Nandapur		8	
Bhubaneswar	Jatni	Chatabara	11
		Gangapada	6
		Janla	13
	Bhubaneswar	Chandaka	19
		Mendhasala	11

Survey cum ex-post facto research design was followed for the study. the response was collected from each selected respondents through a pretested interview schedule. The data was collected, processed and analysed with the help of appropriate statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean score, standard deviation and rank order.

3. Result and Discussion

The main objective of examining the socio economic profile was to find out whether the respondents are capable of judging the operational meaning of privatization of agricultural extension services.

(n=120)

Sl. No	Socio-Economic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age		
	a. Up-to 25	36	30
	b. 26-40	52	43.33
	c. 41-60	28	23.33
	d. Above 60	4	3.34
2	Family type		
	a. Nuclear family	82	68.33
	b. Joint family	38	31.67

3	Educational qualification							
	a.	Illiterate	24	20				
	b.	Up-to high school	84	70				
	c.	Above high school	12	10				
4	Caste							
	a.	SC	28	23.33				
	b.	ST	8	6.67				
	c.	OBC/SCBC	64	53.33				
	d.	General	20	16.67				
5.	Land holding							
	a.	Up-to 1ha	72	60				
	b.	1.1-2 ha	36	30				
	c.	2.1-5 ha	12	10				
	d.	Above 5 ha	0	0				
6	Irrigation facility							
	a.	Fully	12	10				
	b.	Partially	56	46.67				
	C.	Nil	52	43.33				
7	Annual income							
	a.	Up-to 50,000	36	30				
	b.	51,000-1,00,000	64	53.33				
	c.	1,10,000- 2,00,000	20	16.67				
	d.	Above 2,00,000	0	0				
8	Exposure to external agencies							
			Regularly	Occasionally	Never			
			f	%	f	%		
	a.	Village level	56	46.67	64	53.33	0	0
	b.	Block level	44	36.67	76	63.33	0	0
	C.	District level	8	6.67	36	30	76	63.33
	d.	State level	0	0	32	26.67	88	73.33
	e.	National level	0	0	12	10	108	90
	f.	International	0	0	0	0	120	100
9	Member in formal organization							
	a.	Village level	84	70				
	b.	Block level	56	46.67				
	c.	District level	36	30				
	d.	State level	4	3.33				
	e.	National level	0	0				
10	Contact with financial agencies							
	a.	Cooperative/SHGs	116	96.67				
	b.	Local money lenders	84	70				
	c.	Banks	104	86.66				
11	Livestock possessions							
	a.	Cows	620	50.81				
	b.	Goats/sheep	320	26.22				
	c.	Bullocks	40	3.27				
	d.	Poultry birds	240	19.67				

The main objective of examining the socio economic profile was to find out whether the respondents are capable of judging the operational meaning of privatization of agricultural extension services.

The analysis reveals that higher percentage of sample belongs to the age group of 26-40 (43.33%) having nuclear family system 68.33 percent are more interested to pay for the service what they get.

It is observed that as high as 80 percent of the respondents have education level of high school and above showed their attentiveness towards privatization. One-fifth of the respondents were illiterate i.e. 20 percent. Through focus group discussion it has been ascertain that they have been enrolled on adult education programme of government of India.

The sample consists of backward caste 53.33 percent followed by schedule caste 23.33 percent. The general caste population consisted 16.67 percent. Comparatively other backward caste were showed more interest on privatizing of agricultural comodities than schedule caste.

The land holding distribution indicates that 90 percent of the respondents have 2 hectares of land for cultivation with approximately 60 percent of lands have irrigation facility. Through further discussion it has ascertained that all the irrigated land situation have full of partial coverage. The study revels that irrespective of land situation and irrigation facility the respondents are very much intrested in favor of privatization.

As high as 83.33 percent of the respondents have annual income up-to 1 lakh have given an encouraging response to privatization.

The exposures to external agencies are mostly confined to village level, block level and district level. Occasional, exposure to state and national level has been observed by 36 percent of the respondents. None of the respondent have been exposed to international level. It has been observed that respondents with higher level of exposure to extension are intrested for privatization.

Majority of the respondent have membership at village, block and district level have given a positive response to privatization.

The contact with financial agencies reveals that 70 percent of the respondents are dependent on local moneylender where as 96.67 percent of respondents dependent on cooperatives/SHGs and 86.66% of the respondents contacted with banking agencies. Hence it is concluded that many of the respondents have combination of contacts with different financial agencies for fulfill their financial requirement. It has observed that most of the responses are in favor of privatization.

The possession of animal wealth like cows and goats is also quite significant.

With the background discuss above, it appears that the sample is quite competent to express their relevant opinion on privatization of agricultural extension services.

4. Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that majority of the sample consisted of age group of above 26 years having nuclear family system with educational qualification upto high school and above are in favour of privatization. Majority of the sample consist of both backward caste and schedule caste category. The average land holding varies from 1-2 ha of the 60% of the land have irrigation facility. The annual income of the majority respondents are above 1 lakh. The institutional membership of the samples were confined to block and village level only. The respondents were found to be more dependent on local money lenders and different fiencial agencies.The present study based on the idea of the ascertaining the opinion of the farmers to conclusion that

the private extension service is much important alternative way to serve the farmers which the government agencies are not effectively delivering the good because of financial and human resource constraint.

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