

A SCALE TO MEASURE DECISION MAKING PATTERN OF VILLAGE LEVEL EXTENSION WORKERS

Hemanga Kumar Kalita

SCS College of Agriculture, AAU, Rangamati, Dhubri

E mail: hekuk08@gmail.com

Abstract: A scale was constructed to measure decision making pattern of Village Level Extension Workers of Assam. A total of 24 numbers of statements were constructed followed by judges rating. The response of the judges were compiled as suggested by Thurston and Chave (1929). The statements having minimum Q values were finally selected for the scale.

Keywords: VLEW, Decision Making.

The Village level Extension Workers (VLEW) are the grass root level workers for development of Agriculture. He is a generalist and requires high degree of professional competency. He is the major link between the farmers and Agricultural Development Officers. Because of his direct and close contact with the farmers the VLEW is the most sought after extension agent for information and advice by average farmers.

Decision making pattern is the way by which a VLEW justifies his selection by most means from among available alternatives on the basis of scientific criteria to achieve success in his extension work. To have a grasp and understanding of the different aspects of a VLEW's job it is necessary to know his decision making style. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to develop a scale to measure decision making pattern of VLEWs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of statements: Based on the review of literature and discussion with the psychologist, teachers and scientist of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat and with the officers of the Department of Agriculture, Assam, 24 statements covering the universe of the variable were constructed.

Judges rating of statements: The statements so collected were sent to 40 numbers of judges. They were requested to weigh the statements on the basis of a five point continuum ranging from 'most relevant' to 'not relevant'. The panel of judges selected for the study was officers of the Department of Agriculture, Assam and teachers and scientists of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. Out of 40 judges, 35 replied with their judgments.

The responses of the judges were compiled as suggested by Thurston and Chave (1929). The interquartile range (Q) was compiled to measure dispersion of the statements on the scale. The statements having minimum Q values were finally selected. Thus the scale constructed consists of 12 statements (10 positive and 2 negative).

Reliability and validity: To measure the reliability of the statements the scale was administered to a sample of 30 VLEWs of Barpeta district of Assam. The scale was divided into two halves on the basis of odd and even numbers of statements. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was calculated between the sets and the score so obtained was correlated using Spearman Brown Formula. The calculated reliability coefficient (0.72) was found highly significant indicating that the scale was reliable for studying the variable concerned. Since the statements were constructed on the basis of field experience and expert opinion, it was taken to have content validity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The final format of the scale is given in Table 1. In each statement there are five response categories namely, 'Strongly Agree' (SA), 'Agree' (A), 'Undecided' (UD), 'Disagree' (D) and 'Strongly Disagree' (SD) with scores of 5,4,3,2 and 1 respectively. The scoring procedure was reverse for the negative statements. The possible decision making score for any respondent varied from 12 to 60.

REFERENCES

[1] Thurston, LL and E.J Save (1929). Measurement of attitude. University of Chicago Press, Chicago

Table 1: Final format of the scale on decision making pattern of Village Level Extension Workers

Sl No	Statements	Response category			
		SA	A	UD	D
1	Regular discussion with fellow VLEWs working in similar situation helps in proper decision making regarding farm operations.				
2	Arriving at a firm decision is increasingly difficult when the VLEWs involve the farmers in decision making.				
3	Involvement of the farmers by the VLEW during decision making ensures timely adoption of proper recommendations.				
4	A VLEW usually seeks guidance from superior officers in taking decisions regarding technical implications of farm operations.				
5	An efficient VLEW always give high priority in making accurate decisions about the farm information to be disseminated.				
6	Decision making on farm operation is a wasteful exercise as the decision could never implemented.				
7	Farm leaders should always be involved in arriving at farm decisions about the farm operations to be taken.				
8	Collective decision making ensures harmony and healthy relations among the people.				
9	The VLEWs brings the decision of the farmers to superior officers/specialists for proper programme planning.				
10	Decision making by the VLEW is a careful activity for establishing rapport with the farmers who will implement the decision.				
11	Ability to think and anticipate about the events to be occurred leads a VLEW to take appropriate decision on farm operations.				
12	A good decision has no value if it is not followed by implementation.				