

Study of Socio-personal profile of ATMA trainers in North Bihar

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in two selected districts of North Bihar, one from each Agro-climatic zone, namely, Muzaffarpur and Purnia. Training programmes conducted by two selected district ATMAs were analyzed for period of five years. The data was collected by the researcher itself by direct interview method with help of semi-structured interview schedule. Analysis of result obtained by interview of ATMA trainers depicts that majority of ATMA trainers were of middle age group. ATMA trainers were dominated by male members. As per educational qualification is concerned majority of ATMA trainers were educated up to master's level. The major discipline of the trainers was found to be Agricultural science. Majority of respondents were having designation of Assistant Professor or equivalent post. There was lack of highly experienced trainers as majority of trainers were having training experience of less than five years.

Keywords: ATMA, Trainers, Educational Qualification, Discipline, Training Experience, Animal Husbandry

Introduction

The livestock sector has a primary role in Indian economy. The sector alone contributes nearly 25.6% GDP of agricultural sector. The overall contribution of livestock sector was nearly 4.11% to total GDP of country in current price of 2012-13 (Anonymous, 2012) this sector plays an important role in providing livelihood support to more than 8 crore rural households engaged in dairying. Value of output of milk is more than Rs. 7.72 lakh crores during 2018-19 at current prices which is more than the value of output of wheat and paddy together (Anonymous, 2021). Contribution of livestock in GSDP of Bihar is 6.0 percent and in state Agriculture is 32 percent during 2019-20 (Economic survey 2020). Livestock sector is an integral part of agriculture and contributes substantially to the national economy and also plays a vital role in sustaining livelihood of the people. At present productivity of almost all animal species in India is less than world average which can be improved further by capacity building of the livestock farmers with help of suitable training programmes.

Training is one of the potent tools for bringing transformation in the working pattern of livestock farmers. Training is the most suitable process to disseminate latest technology to dairy farmers. Desired change in knowledge, skill and attitude help to motivate farmers so that they could increase their farm productivity efficiently (Lynton and Pareek, 1990). Based on the principal of "Learning by doing", training provides capacity building in all aspects including animal husbandry. Training enhances the accuracy in working along with developing confidence in the people. A trainer plays a vital role in successful organization of training programme and technology dissemination to the farmers. Since Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is overall performing the coordination work of all the agricultural related work in the district and improving the capacity building of the farmers by providing training in the different fields, therefore it is necessary to know the socio-personal profile of ATMA trainers, so that trainings could be improved substantially for overall improvement of the animal husbandry sector.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in the state of Bihar. North Bihar has two Agro-climatic zones namely Zone-I consisting of North Alluvial Plain and Zone -II consisting of North East Alluvial Plain (Deptt, of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar). For the study, both Agro-climatic zones were considered for the sample. One district from each Agro-climatic zone was selected randomly as below:

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Zone	Name of Agro- Climatic Zone (ACZ)	District
I	North Alluvial Plain	Muzaffarpur
II	North East Alluvial Plain	Purnia

The ATMA working in the two selected districts was analyzed for trainings conducted by them in animal husbandry sector for last 5 years. With the help of district ATMA 25 trainers were identified and selected who had provided training to the farmers in Animal Husbandry sector during last 5 years, in each district. The total sample size selected was 50.

Results and Discussion

Distribution of the ATMA trainers according to their age : ATMA trainers according to their age are presented in Table-1:

Table-1: Distribution of the ATMA trainers according to their age

Variable	Muzaffarpur	Purnia	Pooled
Age	n=25	n=25	N=50
Young	8(32)	9(36)	17(34)
Middle	10(40)	14(56)	24(48)
Old	7(28)	2(8)	9(18)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

It is evident from table-1 that in Muzaffarpur district majority (40%) of respondents were of middle age group followed by young (32%) and old (28%). In Purnia district majority (56%) of the trainers were of middle age followed by young (36%) and old (8%). Pooled value of age of ATMA trainers of both districts depicts that majority (48%) of trainers were of middle age group followed by young age (34%) and old (18%) age respectively. Similar findings were reported by Singh et al. (2013).

Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their sex: ATMA trainers according to their sex are presented in Table-2:

Table -2 : Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their sex

Variable	Muzaffarpur	Purnia	Pooled
Sex	n=25	n=25	N=50
Male	21(84)	22(88)	43(86)
Female	4(16)	3(12)	7(14)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

From Table-2 it is evident that in Muzaffarpur district majority (84%) of the trainers were male and 16 percent were female. In Purnia district the similar trend was observed where majority (88%) of trainers were male and 12 percent trainers were female. Pooled data of both districts depicts that ATMA trainers were dominated by male members where 86 percent of the trainers were male and only 14 percent respondents were female.

Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their Educational Qualification: ATMA trainers according to their Educational Qualification are presented in Table-3:

Table -3 : Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their Educational Qualification

Variable	Muzaffarpur	Purnia	Pooled
Educational Qualification	n=25	n=25	N=50
BVSc&AH/BSc	7(28)	8(32)	15(30)
MVSc/MSc	10(40)	12(48)	22(44)
PhD / PDF	5(20)	3(12)	8(16)
Others	3(12)	2(8)	5(10)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

Table -3 is showing distribution of respondents according to their educational qualification. Educational qualification of trainer is very much detrimental for any short of training or capacity building programme. It is evident from the table that in Muzaffarpur district majority (40%) of trainers had education up to master's degree followed by education up to graduation (BSc or equivalent, 28%), education up to PhD (20%) and least 12 percent were having other qualifications like diploma etc. In Purnia district majority (48%) of the trainers were having education up to master's degree followed by education up to graduation (32%), education up to PhD (12%) and least 8 percent of the trainers were having educational qualifications of other disciplines. Pooled value of both the

districts depicts that majority (44%) of the trainers had qualification up to master's degree followed by graduation (30%), doctoral degree (16%) and least 10 percent of the trainers had other qualifications like diploma etc.

Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their discipline: ATMA trainers according to their discipline are presented in Table-4:

Table -4: Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their discipline

Variable	Muzaffarpur	Purnia	Pooled
Discipline	n=25	n=25	N=50
Animal Science	8(32)	7(28)	15(30)
Agricultural Science	12(48)	11(44)	23(46)
Social Science	3(12)	2(8)	5(10)
Home science	2(8)	5(20)	7(14)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

Discipline of trainers refers to subject of basic qualification which they obtained during their career. It is expected that for training in the field of animal husbandry, an expert in the subject of animal husbandry is the best choice. From the Table-4 it is evident that in Muzaffarpur district majority (48%) of the trainers were belonging to Agricultural Science discipline followed by Animal Science (32%), Social Science (12%) and Home Science (8%) respectively. In Purnia district majority (44%) of the trainers were belonging to Agricultural Science discipline followed by Animal Science discipline (28%), Home Science discipline (20%) and least from Social Science discipline (8%).

Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their designation: ATMA trainers according to their designation are presented in Table-5:

Table -5 : Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their designation

Variable	Muzaffarpur	Purnia	Pooled
Designation	n=25	n=25	N=50
Asstt. Professor/Asstt. Director/ Scientist / Equal	12(48)	15(60)	27(54)
Associate Professor/ Senior Scientist/ Deputy director	5(20)	6(24)	11(22)
Professor/ Principal Scientist/ Director/ Equivalent	4(16)	3(12)	7(14)
Others	4(16)	1(4)	5(10)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

It is evident from Table-5 that in Muzaffarpur district majority (48%) of the respondents were of the rank of Assistant Professor or equivalent followed by rank of Associate Professor or equivalent (20%) and equal number of trainers (16%) at the rank of Professor and other posts. In the Purnia district Majority (60%) of the trainers were of the rank of Assistant Professor or equivalent followed by Associate Professor or equivalent (24%), Professor & equivalent (12%) and least 4 percent of the trainers had different designation like Agricultural coordinator, ATM, BTM etc. Pooled value of both districts clearly depicts that majority (54%) of the trainers were at the rank of Assistant Professor or equivalent followed by rank of Associate Professor or equivalent (22%) Professor or equivalent (14%) and Other posts (10%). It is evident from figure that trainers at the rank of Assistant Professor or equivalent were more engaged in training programmes related to animal husbandry sector, the reason may be more availability of time to basic posts like Assistant Professor whereas resource persons at higher post like Professor or equivalent are having more responsibility in their organization and engaged in activities other than training which result in less available time for attending training programmes for farmers, another reason may be due to more involvement of contractual persons which are mainly at the post of Assistant Professor or equivalent.

Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their Training Experience: ATMA trainers according to their Training Experience are presented in Table-6:

Table-6: Distribution of ATMA trainers according to their Training Experience

Variable	Muzaffarpur	Purnia	Pooled
Training Experience	N=25	N=25	N=50
Up to 5 Years	12(48)	9(36)	21(42)
5-10 Years	8(32)	12(48)	20(40)
10-15 Years	3(12)	2(8)	5(10)
More than 15 Years	2(8)	2(8)	4(8)

* Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage

It is evident from Table-6 that in Muzaffarpur district majority (48%) of ATMA trainers were having training experience up to 5 years followed by experience up to 5-10 years (32%), experience up to 10-15 years (12%) and trainers with experience of more than 15 years was found only up to 8 percent. In Purnia district majority (48%) of the ATMA trainers were having training experience of 5-10 years followed by experience up to 5 years (36%) and equal number of trainers (8%) were having experience up to 10-15 years and more than 15 years.

Pooled value of both selected districts shows that majority (42%) of the trainers were having training experience up to 5 years followed by experience up to 5-10 years (40%), experience up to 10-15 years (10%) and least 8 percent of the trainers were having training experience of more than 15 years. It is evident from the figures presented in the table -6 that majority of trainers were having training experience of less than 5 years. For quality training more experienced trainers are required. Therefore, ATMAs should try to engage more experienced trainers for their training programmes. The fact could not be denied that more experienced trainers are in general at higher posts which in turn having more official responsibility and therefore less available to act as a resource person for farmers training.

Conclusion

The result of the study is indicative that in North Bihar majority of ATMA trainers were of middle age group (48%) followed by young (34%) age group. There was dominance of male trainers (86%). As per educational qualification is concerned majority of the trainers were having education up to master's degree (44%), majority of resource person used for training of animal husbandry to farmers were from Agricultural science discipline (46%). There was lack of resource persons at higher designation like professor or equivalent (14%). Training to farmers were being imparted by mainly less experienced (42%) trainers having training experience of up to 5 years.

From the result of the study, it may be concluded that there is need of more involvement of female trainers. To improve the quality of trainings organized by ATMA more qualified (Doctoral or equivalent) trainers should be given preference, however there was constraints faced by ATMA for availability of the trainers with doctoral degree. It was observed that training in Animal Husbandry was provided mainly by the trainers from Agriculture science discipline, there should be specialized trainers from animal husbandry discipline for training to livestock farmers. However it was also subject to availability to resource person from Animal Husbandry sector. ATMA should try to arrange resource persons from line department of Animal Husbandry or faculty from Bihar Animal Sciences University located in Patna. The study also reveals that there was less involvement of trainers with higher designation like Professor or equivalent posts. There is need to give more preference to experienced trainers to improve the quality of trainings.

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