

## Relationship between the Profile of farmers and their Attitude towards Agriculture as a Profession

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### **Abstract:**

The study was conducted in the village of Ghoragacha in Nadia District, West Bengal with 70 respondents to find out the relationship between the profile of farmers and their attitude towards agriculture as a profession. This study will give an insight into the inner feelings of the farmers and whether the farmers are interested in continuing this farming profession in the future. Besides, the overt and covert factors responsible for such attitude can also be identified. The study revealed that Age, Education, Experience in farming and Annual income had significant relationship with the attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession, whereas Land holding and occupation did not have any significant relationship with the aforesaid attitude.

**Key Word:** Agriculture, Attitude, Covert, Overt, Significant.

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### I. Introduction

The origin of agriculture dates back to the prehistoric period with the domestication of plants and animals. Men went to hunt for food and women were supposed to grow crops and look after their maintenance. The whole mankind thrived on agriculture and hunting, but, as civilization progressed, gradual change in lifestyle was observed. India with its enormous and diversified geographic area, was a center of origin for various indigenous species of crops ranging from cereals to spices to fruits and vegetables. Thus, the Indian lifestyle was agriculture centric. Even after Independence, nearly three-fourth of the population were farmers but with time there is a steep decrease in the number and there is a disinterest observed among the farming community and this is largely because India is now more of an Industrial and Urban centric rather than the previous rural centric development as conceived by Mahatma Gandhi. An attitude can be defined as a positive or negative evaluation of people, objects, event, activities, ideas, or just about anything in your environment<sup>1</sup>. The study aims at excavating the factors responsible for the varying attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession.

### II. Material And Methods

The present study was conducted at the village of Ghoragacha in Nadia district, West Bengal with 70 respondents where both the area and respondents were randomly selected. The variables in the present study have been categorized into two main categories.

i) **Independent variables:** The variables and their empirical measurements are as follows

- **Age(X<sub>1</sub>):** In this study, the chronological age of farmers at the time of interview, expressed in terms of completed years was taken as a measure of age of the respondents.
- **Education(X<sub>2</sub>):** It refers to formal education obtained by the farmers in terms of their level of education. Education, in this study, has been measured according to the completed years spent on education of the respondents.
- **Years of Experience(X<sub>3</sub>):** Experience in farming in the present study has been referred to as the actual completed years of working of the farmers in their occupation. It refers to the number of years of experience in farming by the farmer at the time of interview.
- **Land Holding (X<sub>4</sub>):** Land holding refers to the actual size of the land owned and cultivated by the farmers in acre.
- **Annual Income (X<sub>5</sub>):** It refers to the total earning by the farmers in a year through farm and non-farm sources. The total annual income (in INR) of the farmer per year was asked and recorded as such.

- **Occupation(X<sub>6</sub>):** It refers to the number of occupations in which the farmers were involved as a source of income. To measure the occupation of farmers, structured schedule was developed assigning scores ranging from 1 to 4.

**ii) Dependent Variable**

**Attitude(Y):** In this study, the attitude scale developed by Onima V. T<sup>2</sup> was employed to calculate the attitude score of each of the 70 respondent farmers towards agriculture as a profession. The scale had 14 positive statements and 12 negative statements to gauge the attitude of the respondent farmers. Corresponding attitude score with respect to the statements was calculated with the most negative response being 1 and the most positive response being 5 according to Likert's<sup>3</sup> technique of summated rating.

**III. Results And Discussions**

After The linear relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable was obtained by calculating the co-efficient of correlation(r). Table 1 presents the r value of the dependent and independent variables and it can be observed that:

- **Age(X<sub>1</sub>)** has been recorded to have the highest r value and is thus believed to influence the attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession. Positive correlation found in case of age might be due to the fact that as age increased, the attitude score towards agriculture as a profession too increased. Thus, though the youth had somewhat negative views towards agriculture as a profession, the older respondents differed.
- **Education (X<sub>2</sub>)** has been recorded to have a negative and significant relationship with the attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession. This might be because the respondents with higher level of education might feel that farming, for him, is a lowly disposition and is meant only for people with no or low level of education. Farming is ascribed to low status in this state and thus, agriculture as a profession to the highly educated mass is neither obligatory nor acceptable.
- **Experience in Farming(X<sub>3</sub>)** has been observed to have a positive and significant relationship with the attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession. It might be inferred that more the experience of the farmers in farming, more is the attitude score towards agriculture as a profession.
- **Land Holding (X<sub>4</sub>)** has been recorded to have a positive and non-significant correlation with the attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession. Thus, land holding does not have a linear relationship with attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession.
- **Annual Income (X<sub>5</sub>)** has been observed to have a positive and significant correlation with attitude towards agriculture as a profession. Thus, with an increase in annual income of the farmer, the attitude score increases.
- **Occupation (X<sub>6</sub>)** has been recorded to have a non-significant relationship with attitude. Thus, there does not exist a linear relationship between them.

**Table no 1:** Relationship between profile of farmers and their attitude towards agriculture as a profession.

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r value)
1	Age (X <sub>1</sub> )	0.585*
2	Education (X <sub>2</sub> )	-0.459*
3	Experience in Farming (X <sub>3</sub> )	0.386*
4	Land Holding (X <sub>4</sub> )	0.086
5	Annual Income (X <sub>5</sub> )	0.548*
6	Occupation (X <sub>6</sub> )	0.094

\*Correlation is significant at 0.05 level

**IV. Conclusion**

The results of the study revealed that independent variables like age, experience in farming and annual income had positive and significant linear relationship and are thus directly proportional to the attitude score of farmers towards agriculture as a profession. Whereas, education had negative and significant linear relationship thereby being inversely proportional to the attitude of farmers towards agriculture as a profession. Variables like land holding and Occupation did not have a significant linear relationship with the farmer's attitude.

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