

## **A Study on Attitude of Farmers towards Watershed Development Programme**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Watershed management is overall development of particular region including water conservation, maintaining soil fertility, pasture land, agriculture, horticulture, forestry and allied aspects. Study was conducted in district Unnao during 2005-08. Out of sixteen blocks of the district, seven blocks were selected for the study and two villages from each block were short listed for selecting the beneficiaries of watershed development programme. Thus a total of 210 respondents from 14 villages constituted the sample for research work, beside farmers, seventy officers working in watershed development projects were selected for delineating constraints in implementation of watershed development projects. A pre-tested standardized interview schedule was used to collect data from the respondents using personal interview method. The respondents (62.86 per cent) were found to have favorable attitude towards watershed development programme whereas 18.57 per cent respondents had more favorable and unfavorable attitude. Relationship between selected independent variables with attitude towards watershed development programme, age and position in family were negatively and significantly related, while education, irrigation facilities, land holding, material possession, source of information, caste, family size, annual income, social capital, political administrative status, leadership style, and management orientation were positively and significantly associated. The result of the study revealed that majority of the respondents had favorable attitude towards watershed development programme.*

**Key words:** Attitude, farmer, watershed development.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The water and Soil constitutes the vital resources of the country. These two natural resources nourish and support the plant and animal life. The prosperity and welfare of humanity is also depending on water, which is irreplaceable resource. Soil, water and vegetation are most important natural resources; they provide food, firewood, fiber and raw materials to satisfy variety of needs of people. Hence, its judicious management is a pre-requisite for overall development of the country. This clearly implies that judicious utilization of soil and water will increase substantially the present level of food grain production. In recent years more attention has been given for soil and water management.

Thurstone (1946) defined attitude as the degree of positive or negative affect associated with some psychological object. Thrust one means any symbol, phrase, slogan, person, institution, ideal or idea towards which people can differ with respect to positive or negative effect. An individual who has associated positive affect or feeling with some psychological object is said to like that object or to have a favorable attitude toward the object. An individual who has associated negative affect with the same psychological object would be said to dislike that object or to have a favorable attitude toward the object (Edwards, 1969).

The farmers with favorable attitude may also contribute more ideas and suggestions in the planning of such watershed development programme. These farmers may adopt different watershed practices by contributing more labour, equipment, money etc.

## RESEARCH METHDOLOGY

Study was conducted in district Unnao during 2005-08. Out of sixteen blocks of the district, seven blocks were selected for the study and tow villages from each block were short listed for selecting the beneficiaries of watershed development programme. Thus a total of 14 villages were selected for the study. A group of 15 respondents from each selected village were selected randomly. Thus, a total of 210 respondents from 14 villages constituted the sample for research work. Besides, seventy officers from the identified watershed development projects were also selected for this study. A pre-tested standardized interview schedule was used to collect data from the respondents by personal interview method.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Attitude of farmers towards watershed development programme

The ultimate beneficiary must have favorable attitude to participate in the development programme because people's participation is a paramount inevitable social aspect for success of any developmental programme. In watershed development programme, the local people's participation is essential at the time of programme planning, implementation and maintenance stage. Hence the study made an effort to understand and explain the results under the following headings.

### Attitude of respondents towards participation in different stages of watershed development programmes.

The data pertaining to attitude towards participation in different stages of watershed development programmes are presented in the following tables.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their attitude towards planning stage:**

N= 210

S. No.	Categories	scores	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Unfavorable (Mean – SD)	< 7.22	42	20
2.	favorable (Mean $\pm$ SD)	7.22-9.19	168	80
3.	More favorable (Mean + SD)	> 9.18	00	00

Table 1 reveals that majority (80 per cent) of the respondents were belonged to the favorable attitude category followed by 20 per cent were had unfavorable attitude category towards WDP. While no respondents having more favorable attitude towards watershed development programme. The obtained results are in consonance with results of earlier researchers Sivaprasad (1990), Manjula & Belli (1994).

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on their attitude towards implementation stage**  
N= 210

S. No.	Categories	Scores	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Unfavorable (Mean – SD)	< 7.89	61	29.05
2.	favorable (Mean $\pm$ SD)	7.89-14.22	110	52.38
3.	More favorable (Mean + SD)	> 14.22	23	10.95

The data presented in the table 2 showed that majority (52.38 per cent) of the respondent had favorable attitude towards WDP in maintenance stage followed by 29.05 per cent were had unfavorable attitude and 10.95 per cent respondents were had more favorable attitude towards WDP in implementation stage. This finding is in accordance with the result of Sinha *et al.* (1984) and Muni kishore (2006).

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on their attitude towards maintenance stage:**  
N= 210

S. No.	Categories	Scores	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Unfavorable (Mean – SD)	< 9.89	60	28.57
2.	Favorable (Mean $\pm$ SD)	9.89-14.34	88	41.90
3.	More favorable (Mean + SD)	> 14.34	62	29.53

The table 3 reveals that majority (41.90 per cent) of the respondents were expressed favourable attitude towards WDP in maintenance stage, followed by 29.53 per cent were had more favorable attitude and 28.57 per cent were expressed unfavourable attitude towards WDP in maintenance stage. Similar trends of results were reported by Sunderrao (1988), Sivaprasad (1990) and Prasad & Sundaraswamy (2000).

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents based on overall attitude**

N= 210

S. No.	Categories	scores	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Unfavorable (Mean – SD)	< 26.06	39	18.57
2.	favorable (Mean $\pm$ SD)	26.70-36.70	132	62.86
3.	More favorable (Mean + D)	> 36.70	39	18.57

The results pertaining to the attitude of watershed beneficiaries towards watershed development programme are presented in the table 4, clearly indicated that nearly (62.86 per cent) of the respondents had favourable attitude towards watershed development programme, where as 18.57 per cent of them had more favorable attitude and also 18.57 per cent of them expressed unfavorable attitude.

### Relationship between dependent variables and independent variables

A depth analysis was making to find out relationship between selected dependent variables and independent variables and results are presented in the following tables given below.

**Table 5: Relationship between independent variables with attitude of respondents towards watershed development programme.**

S. No	Independent Variables	( 'r' values)
1.	Age	-0.653(**)
2.	Education	0.674(**)
3.	Irrigation facilities	0.698(**)
4.	Land holding	0.656(**)
5.	Material possession	0.248(**)
6.	Source of information utilized	0.682(**)
7.	Caste	0.472(**)
8.	Family Type	0.133
9.	Family size	0.140(*)
10.	Housing pattern	0.231
11.	Social Participation	-0.090
12.	Annual income	0.400(**)
13.	Social Capital	0.402(**)
14.	Political Administrative Status	0.301(**)
15.	Leadership Style	0.200(**)
16.	Position in family	-0.521(**)
17.	Management Orientation	0.611(**)

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of probability

\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level of probability

Table 5 shows that age and position in family of the respondents were negatively and significantly co-related with their attitude towards watershed development programme with correlation coefficient  $r = -0.653$ , and  $-0.521$ . It is showed that the attitude of respondents towards watershed development programme increased significantly with the decrease their age and position in family.

The table 5 further shows that education, irrigation facilities, land holding, material possession, source of information, caste, family size, annual income, social capital, political administrative status, leadership style, and management orientation were positively and significantly associated with their attitude towards watershed development programme with correlation coefficient values  $r = 0.674, 0.698, 0.656, 0.248, 0.682, 0.472, 0.140, 0.400, 0.402, 0.301, 0.200$  and  $0.611$ . It shows that the attitude of respondents toward watershed development programme grew more and more favorable with improvement in education, irrigation facilities, land holding, material possession, source of information, caste, family size, annual income, social capital, political administrative status, leadership style, and management orientation.

Thus it can be inferred that out of 17 independent variables 14 variables those were, age, education, irrigation facilities, land holding, material possession, source of information, caste, family size, annual income, social capital, political administrative status, leadership style, position in family and management orientation exert their influence significantly on attitude of respondents towards watershed development programme.

In these selected independent variables were fitted with the people's participation in watershed development programme in the multiple regression equation. The finding has been in corporate in table 6.

The findings reveals that these variables would account for a highly significant amount of variation in the attitude towards watershed development programme from the above observation 't' test of significant indicates that the regression ( $\beta$ -values) are found to be significant for land holding, material possession and management orientation those explain that the utilization of these parameters with full certainty in making sound strategies of watershed development plane be highly effective. It can be therefore concluded that these variables have definite role to play in affecting attitude of respondents towards watershed development programme. The remaining variables under this study does not affecting the attitude of respondents towards watershed development programme.

**Table 6: Multiple regressions with selected independent variables related to attitude of respondents in watershed development programme**

S. No.	Variables	Std. Error	$\beta$ values	't' values
1.	Age	0.032	-0.617	-5.757
2.	Education	0.114	0.016	0.189
3.	Irrigation facilities	0.137	-0.012	-0.242
4.	Land holding	0.405	1.216	11.519**
5.	Material possession	0.187	0.679	7.954**
6.	Source of information utilized	0.051	-2.051	-13.426
7.	Social Participation	0.016	-0.004	-0.637
8.	Annual income	0.038	-0.014	-1.570
9.	Social Capital	0.075	-0.383	-24.678
10.	Leadership Style	0.105	-0.045	-3.749
11.	Position in family	0.102	-0.448	-28.999
12.	Management Orientation	0.040	0.065	4.812**

$R^2 = 0.502$  F value = 34.051 DF= (197)

\*\* Significant at the 1.00 level of probability

The results of the study revealed that the farmers had favorable attitude to participate in different stages of watershed development programme and people's participation is the key for success of any rural development programme.

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