

ATTITUDE OF TRIBALS TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN KERALA

Tribes in Kerala account for about 1.03 per cent of the total population. Being isolated from the mainstream of people on other areas, they are one of the most undeveloped and under privileged lots of the state. Among the various developmental programmes for the tribals, agricultural development is given prior importance since it is one of the main occupations of the tribals in Kerala. Various agricultural development programmes now being carried out in the tribal areas include supply of improved seeds, manures and fertilizers, plant protection chemicals, improved breeds of cattle and agricultural implements and assistance in soil conservation works.

An investigation was carried out in the South Wynad and North Wynad taluks of Kerala to find out the attitude of tribals towards agricultural development programmes. The study was confined to four major tribal communities in the area, viz., Kurumans, Kurichiyans, Adiyans and Paniyans. The study area was classified into developed and less developed, based on the quantum of funds utilized. One hundred and fifty tribal families from the more developed area and 50 tribal families from the less developed area, selected randomly formed the respondents of the study.

The attitude scale developed by Singh *et al.* (1972) was suitably modified and used for measuring the tribals attitude towards agricultural development programmes. Out of the 12 items in the original scale 10 items were selected which were slightly modified without altering the meaning to suit the condition of tribals in Kerala. The scale was administered to the respondents individually during the interview. The alternative response categories and corresponding scores, for favourable statements were 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for strongly agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree respectively. Scoring procedures for unfavourable statements was reversed so that favourable response always received maximum score. The scores obtained by each respondent in each of the statements were summated to arrive at the total score. The median of the attitude scores of all the respondents was found out. Attitude values above the median values were considered to reflect favourable attitude and those which were below the median value were considered to reflect unfavourable attitude.

Majority of the Kurumans (C_1) were having a favourable attitude towards agricultural development programmes in the more developed area while majority of the Kurichiyans (C_2) have unfavourable attitude (Table 1). In the less developed area majority of the Adiyans and Kurichiyans were having less favourable attitude while Kurumans and Paniyans were having favourable attitude towards agricultural development programmes. There was no significant difference in the mean attitude scores of Adiyans (C_3) with other groups. Since a favourable attitude towards agricultural development programmes is a pre-requisite for the effective implementation of Agricultural development programmes, efforts should be directed towards reorienting their attitude for a better impact.

Table 1

Distribution of the tribals in more developed area and less developed area according to their attitude towards agricultural development programmes

Tribe	Attitude	More developed area		Less developed area	
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%
C ₁	Favourable	29	63.04	9	52.94
	Unfavourable	17	39.96	8	47.06
		46	100.00	17	100.00
C ₂	Favourable	14	45.17	2	22.22
	Unfavourable	17	54.83	7	77.78
		31		9	
C ₃	Favourable	20	29.41	1	11.11
	Unfavourable	14	70.59	8	88.89
		34	100.00	9	100.00
C ₄	Favourable	16	41.02	9	60.00
	Unfavourable	28	38.98	6	40.00
		39	100.00	15	100.50

Median score — 25.95

C₁ = Kurumans C₂ = Kurichians C₃ = Adiyans C₄ = Paniyans

Table 2
Mean attitude scores

	C ₁	C ₂	C ₃	C ₄	Mean
More developed area	24.24	23.84	27.11	25.64	25.11
Less developed area	24.41	27.00	27.86	24.26	25.46
Mean	24.29	24.55	27.27	25.26	

C₁ = Kurumans C₂ = Kurichians C₃ = Adiyans C₄ = Paniyans

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References

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