



Research Article

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF GROUP-DECISION MAKING AMONGST FARMERS' SELF-HELP GROUPS IN UTTARAKHAND

GOSWAMY P. AND KASHYAP S.K.*

Department of Agricultural Communication, College of Agriculture, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, 263145, Uttarakhand, India

*Corresponding Author: Email - kashyapsk@gmail.com

Received: July 15, 2023; Revised: August 26, 2023; Accepted: August 28, 2023; Published: August 30, 2023

Abstract: The present study was conducted amongst the farmers' self-help group in the state of Uttarakhand. As the study was in-depth and elaborative so it was decided to select total 120 respondents, 10 each from 12 self-help groups, located in 12 villages. The study aimed to compare and analyze the group decision making amongst the 12 self-help groups and identify the contributing factors for the variation in the group decision making of the selected groups. It was concluded that there was significant variation in group decision making among the selected SHGs determined by one-way ANOVA ($F(11, 108) = 11.15, p = 0.001$). It was also inferred that among the ten indicators of group decision making, the selected SHGs varied in terms of only three indicators i.e., extent of participation in group decisions, group communication and group cohesiveness. Thus, the research suggests that the three significant factors i.e., extent of participation in group decision, group communication and group cohesiveness need to be critically emphasized for making the group decision making of the self-help groups more efficient and effective.

Keywords: Group-decision making, Self-help group, Group Communication, Group Cohesiveness and Participation in Group Decision

Citation: Goswamy P. and Kashyap S.K. (2023) Comparative Analysis of Group-Decision Making Amongst Farmers' Self-Help Groups in Uttarakhand. International Journal of Agriculture Sciences, ISSN: 0975-3710 & E-ISSN: 0975-9107, Volume 15, Issue 8, pp.- 12588-12590.

Copyright: Copyright©2023 Goswamy P. and Kashyap S.K., This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Academic Editor / Reviewer: Dr Bhawana Asnani, Thakar Pratikkumar K, Dr Prashant Shrivastava, Dr Rajmohan Sharma

Introduction

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are small informal group of 10-20 individuals, who are homogenous with respect to social and economic background and come together voluntarily for promoting saving habit among members and for a common cause to raise and manage resources for the benefit of group members [1]. SHGs are voluntary association of people who are common in respect to social background, heritage, caste or traditional occupation come together to attain a collective goal [2]. One of the key features of SHGs is providing employment opportunities by imparting training to its members in order to generate both income as well as employment [3]. Self-help groups carrying out development activities possess ability to empower its members by providing required knowledge, skills, motivation, and competencies that underpin sustainable agriculture. Group co-operation supports in establishing appropriate marketing relationships and minimizing input costs [4].

These groups can play a significant role in many core aspects of farming, such as increasing production at a reduced cost; providing expert technical guidance; purchasing inputs; marketing products; training; credit or equipment; representing members' interests; building influence, fundraising and carrying different projects [5]. With the passage of time, Self-Help groups have assumed greater importance as the most necessary tool to adopt participatory approach for the social, economic, marketing, and financial improvement of the people at the grassroot level [6].

SHGs play an important role in empowering its members and acting as a support for the entire agricultural extension system of the country but being a group driven approach beside various advantages it also faces few constraints. According to some research studies, SHGs face problems such as lack of cooperation, lack of team work among members, lack of timely support from other organizations, ineffective group leadership, lack of training in group formation, mismanagement on accounts, time constraints, lack of decision making, inadequate space to conduct activities, lack of uniform growth, lack of marketing intelligence for the new products, and lack of information when needed [7,8].

Among the various problems and constraints, most of the studies suggest that SHG members perceived problems faced during group decision making as a major constraint. It was reported in a study that among the hindering factors of group effectiveness the emerging conflicts during decision-making was prominent [4]. Studies on social problems faced by members of SHGs revealed that members of SHGs had conflicts among the group members in decision-making [3,7]. Moreover, one common point observed in the groups facing decision-making constraint was the centralized control of the leader on the decisions in other words we can say the dependence of the members on the leader for the decisions. SHGs are self-governed with decisions about production and marketing taken collectively, although the group leader is responsible for identifying potential marketing centers and consumer in formal groups [9].

In a study on group dynamics of SHGs in the North Coastal Zone of Andhra Pradesh [10] concluded that group decision making significantly influence group effectiveness. It was also opined that Group decision making in SHGs is the degree to which members makes a decision with the involvement of other members of the SHG, makes decisions without the topic drifting, supports other decisions in consensus, attempt to get other members participate in the decision making and feels recognized for his contribution in the decision-making process. The advantages of group decision making include: greater sum total of knowledge, greater number of approaches, multiple alternatives, recognition of a decision, and better understanding of a problem [11].

Few of the constraints faced by group members while group decision making was reported as social pressure toward conformity, individual domination, conflicting secondary goals, undesirable compromises, ambiguous responsibility, and time [12]. The study aimed to compare and analyze the group decision making amongst different self-help groups and identify the contributing factors for the variation in the group decision making of the selected groups.

Table-1 Analysis of Variance in Group Decision Making (GDM) of SHGs

Source of variation	Degree of freedom	Sum of squares	Mean sum of squares	'F' ratio	p-value
Between Groups	11	4318.292	392.572	11.15**	0.001
Within Groups	108	3799.7	35.182		
Total	119	8117.992			

**Significant at 1% level

Table-2 Analysis of variance in terms of indicators of GDM among SHGs

Hypothesis	Indicators	Mean	Source of variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Hypo. Result
H _{0B1}	Extent of Participation	16.38	Between Groups	870.82	11	79.17	28.05**	<.001	Rejected
			Within Groups	305.3	108	2.83			
H _{0B2}	Influence of leader	15.75	Between Groups	57.5	11	5.23	1.09	0.37	Accepted
			Within Groups	515	108	4.77			
H _{0B3}	Nature of decision	18.01	Between Groups	13.49	11	1.28	1.02	0.43	Accepted
			Within Groups	129.5	108	1.2			
H _{0B4}	Group Communication	16.51	Between Groups	26.09	11	2.37	1.91*	0.04	Rejected
			Within Groups	133.9	108	1.24			
H _{0B5}	Group Cohesive-ness	26.22	Between Groups	405.37	11	36.85	26.01**	<.001	Rejected
			Within Groups	153	108	1.42			
H _{0B6}	Accuracy of decision making	15.59	Between Groups	33.89	11	3.08	1.35	0.21	Accepted
			Within Groups	247.1	108	2.29			
H _{0B7}	Speed of decision-making	14.28	Between Groups	37.77	11	3.43	1.13	0.35	Accepted
			Within Groups	328.6	108	3.04			
H _{0B8}	Extent of satisfaction with group decision making process	15.52	Between Groups	26.17	11	2.38	1.12	0.35	Accepted
			Within Groups	229.8	108	2.13			
H _{0B9}	Group conflicts in decision making	30.18	Between Groups	256.37	11	23.31	1.85	0.05	Accepted
			Within Groups	1357.6	108	12.57			
H _{0B10}	Conviction of decisions	12.48	Between Groups	8.62	11	0.78	0.84	0.6	Accepted
			Within Groups	101.3	108	0.94			

**Significant at 1% level

*Significant at 5% level

Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in the state of Uttarakhand. As the study was in-depth and elaborative so it was decided to select total 120 respondents, 10 each from 12 self-help groups, located in 12 villages. These 12 villages were selected from six blocks through random selection. One SHG was selected from each village, in total twelve SHGs were selected namely, Shri AipalDevta (Jeoli), Ekta (Shyalikhet), Laxmibai (Devirampur), Jai Mata Di (Nathujala), Shivshakti (Simyal), Buransh (Myora), Mansa Devi (Shantipuri Khamiya No. 1), MahilaJagriti (Shantipuri Khamiya No. 4), Shaurya (Bidaura), Purnagiri (Deyori), Kailash (Kanjabag Umrukud) and Bhagwati (Bhurakishni). The study used a Group-decision making index [13] with ten parameters to study and compare the group-decision making amongst Self-help groups. The indicators of group decision making as identified from review of literature were; Extent of participation in group decision making, Group communication, Group cohesiveness, Influence of leader, Nature of group decision making, Accuracy of group decision making, Speed of group decision making, Group conflicts in decision making, Extent of satisfaction and Conviction of decision. The group-decision making index had 48 items distributed across 10 indicators, which were rated on a five-point continuum by the respondents. The maximum possible group decision-making index score of a respondent was 240, whereas the minimum possible index score for a respondent was 48. However, for calculating the group decision-making index score of a complete group, initially cumulative score is calculated of all 10 group members for all 48 items then cumulative score of all 48 items was summated to compute index score of a group. But to maintain the value of score between the max.-min. ranges of the index, it was suggested to compute the Mean Index Score (Total score of a group/ no. of group members) of group decision-making for each group. One-way ANOVA was used as the statistical tool to find out the variation in group decision making of selected self-help groups and variation in the indicators of group-decision making among the selected self-help groups. The variance due to different sources of variation was analyzed and tested with F-test. To test the significance of variation in group decision making between the different groups, one-way classification of ANOVA was used with 12 groups and 120 respondents. Two sources of variation were Between Groups and Within Groups. Within-group variation (also called error variance) refers to the variations due to differences within individual groups. Between-group variation refers to the variance due to interaction between the mean scores of different groups. ANOVA compared the ratio of within-group variance and between group variance.

Results and Discussion

Variation in group decision making of selected SHGs

On the basis of the Group decision making index (GDMI) score obtained for each self-help group, the variation was computed and as evident from [Table-1], p-value was found less than 0.05, thus there was statistically significant difference in group decision making among the selected SHGs as determined by one-way ANOVA ($F(11, 108) = 11.15, p = 0.001$). Thus, the Null hypothesis (H_{A0}) that there was no statistically significant variation in group decision making among the selected SHGs was rejected and it was concluded that there was significant variation in group decision making among the selected SHGs.

Group decision making is a multidimensional phenomenon which is affected by a wide spectrum of factors. Though it is a group phenomenon but it involved interaction of forces among the group members. Thus, it seems rational and logical to obtain significant difference in group decision making among the groups.

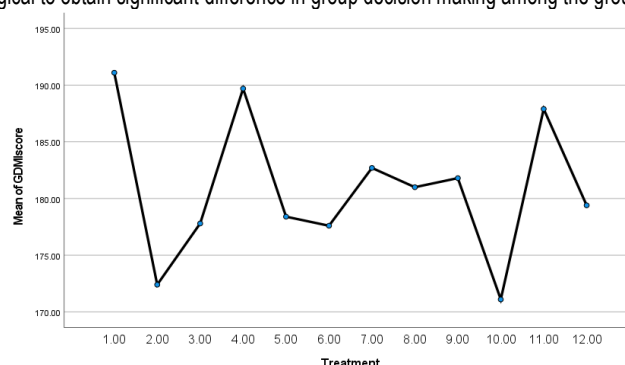


Fig-1 Representation of Mean of GDMI score of the selected SHGs (n=12)

Variation in the indicators of Group Decision Making among the SHGs

It is evident from [Table-2], that among the ten indicators of group decision making, three had statistically significant difference among different SHGs. Thus, for the three indicators i.e., extent of participation in group decisions, group communication and group cohesiveness, Null hypothesis (H_{B0}) that there was no significant difference between the SHGs with respect to the selected indicator was rejected. However, for the rest seven indicators Null hypothesis (H_{B0}) was accepted as there was no statistically significant difference among SHGs regarding these indicators.

Conclusion

The present study concluded that there was significant variation in group decision making among the selected SHGs determined by one-way ANOVA ($F(11, 108) = 11.15, p = 0.001$), as the Null hypothesis (H_{A0}) that there was no statistically significant variation in group decision making among the selected SHGs was rejected and it was concluded that there was significant variation in group decision making among the selected SHGs. It was also inferred that among the ten indicators of group decision making, the selected SHGs varied in terms of only three indicators *i.e.*, extent of participation in group decisions, group communication and group cohesiveness. Thus, extent of participation in group decisions, group communication and group cohesiveness could be considered as the significant factors leading to variation amongst self-help groups in terms of group-decision making.

Application of Research

The research finding have important implication in understanding that the factors of group-decision making (including Extent of participation in group decision making, Group communication, Group cohesiveness, Influence of leader, Nature of group decision making, Accuracy of group decision making, Speed of group decision making, Group conflicts in decision making, Extent of satisfaction and Conviction of decision) have important role in indicating the performance of a group in terms of group-decisions. Moreover, as inferred through the research, the three significant factors *i.e.*, extent of participation in group decision, group communication and group cohesiveness need to be critically emphasized for making the group decision making of the self-help groups more efficient and effective.

Research Category: Agricultural Extension and Communication

Abbreviations: GDM-Group Decision Making, SHG-Self-Help Group, GDMI-Group Decision Making Index, ANOVA-Analysis of Variance

Acknowledgement / Funding: Authors are thankful to Department of Agricultural Communication, College of Agriculture, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, 263145, Uttarakhand, India. Authors are also thankful to SHGs; NGOs Chirag; Himmotthan Society; District Development Manager, NABARD, U.S. Nagar; Block Development Officers of Bheemtal, Kotabagh, Ramgarh, Rudrapur, Khatima & Sitarganj

****Research Guide or Chairperson of research: Prof Dr S.K. Kashyap**

University: G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, 263145, Uttarakhand, India

Research project name or number: PhD Thesis

Author Contributions: All authors equally contributed

Author statement: All authors read, reviewed, agreed and approved the final manuscript. Note-All authors agreed that- Written informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to publish / enrolment

Study area / Sample Collection: Uttarakhand

Cultivar / Variety / Breed name: Nil

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Ethical approval: This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

References

- [1] NABARD (2018) *Master Circular on Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme*. Retrieved on 10/9/23 from https://www.nabard.org/auth/writereaddata/tender/0609185415Cir_230_E.pdf
- [2] Kumar S.S. (2011) *Golden Research Thoughts*, 1(1), 1-4.
- [3] Kaur L. and Sachan D. (2016) *International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology*, 5(12), 20755-20761.
- [4] Kalra R.K., Anil B., Tonts M. and Siddique K.H.M. (2013) *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 37(5), 509-530.
- [5] Pertev R., and King D. (2000) *Agricultural and Rural Development*, 7(1), 28-30.
- [6] Sivakumar A. and Kavithasri S. (2017) *Int. J. Appl. Res.*, 3(9), 593-598.
- [7] Ajith B., Satyanarayan K., Jagadeeswary V., Rajeshwari Y.B., Veeranna K.C. and Harisha M. (2017) *International Journal of Science, Environment and Technology*, 6(2), 1080-1085.
- [8] Mercykutty M.J., Smitha B. and Ajit T. (2018) *International Journal of Agricultural Science and Research (IJASR)*, 8(5), 31-38.
- [9] Vijaya Bharathi G. and Masthani S. (2014) *International Journal of Management and Business Studies*, 4(2), 48-53.
- [10] Purnima K.S. (2004) *Women Self Help Group Dynamics in the North Coastal Zone of Andhra Pradesh*. Thesis, Doctor of Philosophy, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad. <http://krishikosh.egranth.ac.in/handle/1/5810017435>
- [11] Lunenberg F.C. (2010) *National Forum of Teacher Education Journal*, 20(3), 1-7.
- [12] Schoenfeld A. H. (2011) *How we think: A theory of goal-oriented decision making and its educational applications*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- [13] Goswamy P., Kashyap S.K., Bhardwaj N., Kameswari V.L.V. and Kushwaha G.S. (2021) *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology*, 39(7), 71-80.