

## INVOLVEMENT OF FARMERS IN BAUEC ADULT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN THE SADAR UPAZILA OF MYMENSINGH DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

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The main purpose of this study was to assess the influence of the farmers on their involvement in adult education activities in BAUEC undar sadar upazila of Mymensingh district. A total of 120 farmers were selected at random by taking of nine villages of Mymensingh district. Significant positive relationship was found between age, family size, attitude towards BAUEC and agricultural knowledge of the respondents and their involvement in adult education activities. About 9.2% of the respondents had low participation 53.3% of the respondents had medium and 37.5% had high participation in adult education activities of BAUEC.

**Key words:** Farmers, involvement, adult education, BAUEC

### INTRODUCTION

Adult learning and explore the implications for teaching and learning in both traditional and online learning. Some of the trends related to changing conceptions of adult development, highlighting connections to adult education. Serve students annually through public adult schools, community colleges, libraries, community and faith-based organizations, and correctional institutions. Adult education promotes that help adults get the basic skills they need to be productive workers, family members, and citizens. Literacy percent in Bangladesh is 49.1% and adult literacy percent 50.3% (BBS 2005). Overall development in the BAUEC villages is to make all-round development by their local and own resources. Encourage the spirit of self help among the rural people independently by the guidance of BAUEC. Making and developing the honest and upright leadership quality among the men and women. BAUEC creates employment opportunities for the landless people and increase awareness and motivates rural farmers for arresting the rapid growth of population. Reducing illiteracy from among the farmers. It also improves the economic condition of the saving and creates scope for training facilities among farmers in order to increase their knowledge and skills in respect of latest technological development. (BAUEC 2001). Successful BAUEC village development programme depend crucially on the degree of rural farmers involvement in different development activities.

The main purpose of this study is to examine the role of rural farmers involving in BAUEC adult educational activities in improving their socio-economic status.

### METHODOLOGY

**Sources and collection of data:** The study was conducted in the sadar upazila of Mymensingh district. Data were collected from nine villages of BAUEC farmers' societies under Mymensingh sadar upazila. Nine villages namely Daribhabokhali, Bhabokhali, Suhila, Char Raghurampur, Char Kalibari, Sutiakhali, Boyra, Mirzapur and Char Ishwardia were selected using random sampling technique.

A list of the farmers of nine villages was made and found to be 481. Twenty five percent of the farmers were selected from each of the nine villages by using a table of random number as per Blalock (1960). A total of 120 farmers out of 481 were selected.

A reserve list of 12 farmers was also prepared so that the farmers of this list could be used for interview if any farmers included in the original sample were not available during the collection of data.

Interview schedule was used for data collection. The content validity of the interview schedule was established by a panel of experts and its reliability and suitability were also determined for pertinent data.

### Measurement of the variables

**Age:** Age of respondent rural farmer referred to the period of time from his birth to the time of interview.

**Education:** Education was measured on the basis of the level of formal schooling. If a respondent passed the final examination of class five, his education score was taken as 5. If some one can not write, or can not sign, his education score was taken as 0.

**Family size:** Family size was measured by the number of the members in the family of a respondent including himself, his wife, children and other dependents.

**Farm size:** Farm size of a respondent was estimated in terms of full benefit. The farm size was measured in terms of hectares by using the following formula

$$\text{Farm size} = a+b+c-d+1/2(e+f) +g$$

Where,

a = Homestead area including vegetable plots.

b = Cropped area (owned)

c = Cropped area leased in.

d = Cropped area leased out.

e = Cropped area shared in (barga).

f = Cropped area shared out (barga)

g = Own pond.

**Annual income:** Annual income of a respondent was determined on the basis of his total earnings from agriculture, service, business and other sources.

**Organizational participation:** Organizational participation was measured on the basis of the nature of one's participation in different organization. The respondents were asked to mention the nature of participation i.e. no participation, ordinary member, executive committee member, officer of the executive committee. Score assigned to these responses were 0, 1, 2 and 3, respectively. And also asked the duration of participation i.e. nil period, upto 5 years, 6-10 years and 11 years or above. Score assigned to these responses were 0, 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

Organizational participation score of the respondents were measured by the following formula.

$$\text{Organizational participation score} = \text{Position score (P)} \times \text{Duration score (D)}$$

**Extension service contact:** Extension service contact score of a respondent was calculated on the basis of his extent of contact with four sources of information. The respondents were asked to mention the number of contact made with different individuals, media and activities on daily, weekly, monthly, yearly or not at all basis. Weights assigned to these responses were 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0, respectively. Score obtained for use of 16 selected extension media by a respondent farmer were summed together to compute his extension exposure score.

**Cosmopolitaness:** Cosmopolitaness scores of the respondents were determined on the basis of visit by them to eight different places. Farmers indicated whether they visited those places frequently, occasionally, rarely or not at all. Weights assigned to these responses were 3, 2, 1 and 0, respectively. The cosmopolitaness score of an individual was determined by adding the weights for his responses to all eight places as shown in interview schedule.

**Agricultural knowledge:** Agricultural knowledge of scores of respondents was determined on the basis of their responses to 10 questions related to agricultural. A weight of 2 was assigned for each question. The agricultural knowledge scores could range from 0 to 20; 0 indicate no agricultural knowledge and 20 indicated very high level of agricultural knowledge.

**Attitude towards BAUEC:** An attitude may be defined as predisposition to act towards an object in a certain manner. Attitude of a farmer towards BAUEC was used to refer to his belief, feeling and action tendency towards the various aspects of BAUEC. It was measured by constituting of 12 statement was considered positive if it is possessed an idea favorable towards the BAUEC. On the other hand, a statement was considered negative if it was unfavorable towards the BAUEC. The respondent were asked to express their opinion i, e fully agree, agree, no comments, disagree, fully disagree. Scores assigned to these responses were 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively if the statement was positive. A reverse scoring method was followed in case of statements

considered negative. Attitude score of a respondent was determined by summing the scores obtained by him self for all the items in the scale.

Descriptive statistics such as number, frequency distribution, range, average and standard deviation were calculated to explore the relationship between selected farmer's characteristics and the adult education related activities of BAUEC.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Analysis of the data furnished in Table 1. Age of the farmers ranged from 18-50 years with an average of 33.58 indicating that the study group was moderately heterogeneous. More than 50% respondents had young aged group, this leads to understanding that the phenomena with regard to the adult education programme of BAUEC would be reflected more in the present study by the young aged group. A major proportion 48.30 farmers had secondary education and one third i.e. 34.30% of the farmers had primary education. As regard to farm size it ranged from 2 to 8 with an average 4.34. Majority of them (43.40%) had medium family. The farm size of the respondents of the study area ranged from 0.10 – 2.0 hectare with an average 0.98 hectare. Highest proportion (50 %) of the respondent family had medium farm, while marginal and small farm were 6.70% and 43.70% respectively. No large farm family was found but average farm size (0.98 ha) of the respondents is greater than national average (0.514 ha).

Analysis of the respondent characteristics also revealed that a large proportion (51.70%) of the farmers was in medium income group and only 15.80 % were in high income group. The average income of the respondents is higher (69.74 thousand taka) than the average per capita income of the country i. e. 400 US dollar which is approximately 24 thousand taka. This might be due to the fact that the respondents of the study area were not engaged in agriculture only. They also earned from other sources such as service, business etc. which facilitate them for higher income.

Majority of the respondent (35.80%) had low organizational participation followed by medium organizational participation (31.50%) and high organizational participation (32.70%). More than two-third of the respondent had high and medium extension contact with different activities, agents and media. Highest proportion (43.50%) of the respondent had high cosmopoliteness compared to 35.70% having medium and 20.80% low cosmopoliteness. About half of the respondent (45.90%) had low knowledge while 38.30% had medium and only 15.80 % had high level of agricultural knowledge.

Attitude of the respondent towards BAUEC activities was found to range from 18-50 with a mean attitude score was 32.84. Majority (40.80%) of the respondents had moderately positive attitude towards BAUEC crop development activities and 26.60 % respondents respondent showed highly positive response towards BAUEC activities. Existence of highly positive attitude among the farmers indicates that they were well benefited by participation in BAUEC activities.

Table 1. Selected characteristics of the farmers of BAUEC

Characteristics	Scoring rank	Range	Mean	Categories	Farmers	
					Number	Percent
Age	Number of Year	18-50	33.58	Young 18-32 yrs	61	50.80
				Middle age 33-49	51	42.50
				Old >50	8	6.70
				Total	120	100
Education	Years of schooling	0-11	5.16	Illiterate (0)	10	8.30
				Sign literate (0.5)	8	6.60
				Primary edu. (1-5)	41	34.30
				Secondry edu. (6-10)	58	48.30
				Higher secondry and above (11 to above)	3	2.50
				Total	120	100
Family size	Number of members	2-8	4.34	Small (<4)	46	38.30
				Medium (4-6)	52	43.40
				Large (>6)	22	18.30
				Total	120	100
Farm size	Area in hectares	0.1-2.0	0.98	Marginal (<0.5)	8	6.70
				Small (0.51-1.0)	52	43.30
				Medium (1.01-3.0)	60	50.0
				Total	120	100
Annual income	Total earnings (taka in thousand)	20-120	69.74	Low (<53)	39	32.50
				Medium (53.01-98)	62	51.70
				High (>98)	19	15.80
				Total	120	100
Organizational participation	Nature of participation in different organization	1-50	25.18	Low (<17)	43	35.80
				Medium (18-34)	38	31.50
				High (>34)	39	32.70
				Total	120	100
Extension service contact	Number of contacts	2-43	24.76	Low (2-15)	29	24.30
				Medium (16-29)	45	37.50
				High (>29)	46	38.20
				Total	120	100
Cosmopoliteness	Number of visits to eight places	1-20	12.27	Low (1-7)	25	20.80
				Medium (8-14)	43	35.70
				High (15-20)	52	43.50
				Total	120	100
Agricultural knowledge	Number of response to question	12-17	14.69	Low (12-14)	55	45.90
				Medium (15-17)	46	38.30
				High (>17)	19	15.80
				Total	120	100
Attitude towards BAUEC activities	Number of response to positive or negative	18-50	32.84	Slightly positive (18-28)	29	32.60
				Moderately positive (29-39)	49	40.80
				Highly positive (>39)	32	26.60
				Total	120	100

### ***Involvement of farmers in adult education activities of BAUEC***

The involvement scores on the basis of adult education activities of the farmers ranged from 1 to 12 with an average 8.44. From the Figure 1 revealed that about one eleventh (9.2%) of the respondents had lower involvement in adult education activities of BAUEC. More than half (53.3%) of the respondent had medium involvement in adult education activities of BAUEC and about two fifth (37.5%) had high involvement.

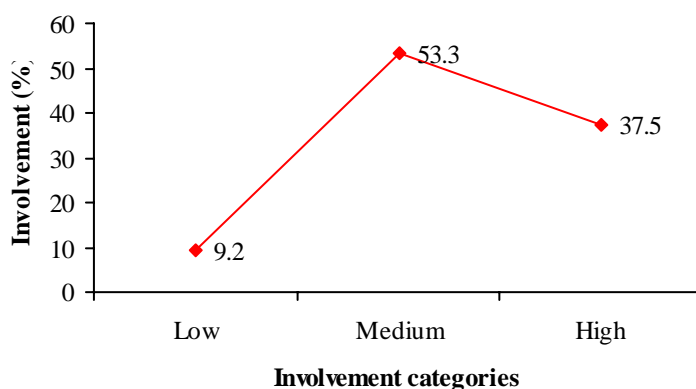


Figure1. Distribution of respondents according to their involvement in adult education activities of BAUEC

### ***Relationship between selected characteristics of the respondents with the involvement of adult education activities***

Both dependent and independent variables were analyzed in ordinal scales. Spearman rank order correlation coefficient were computed to determine the strength of association between the respondents characteristics and their involvement in adult education activities of BAUEC.

Table 2. Relationship between the characteristics of farmers and their involvement adult education activities

Dependent variable	Independent variable	Correlation co-efficient (r values)
Involvement in adult education activities of BAUEC	Age	0.554 ***
	Education	-0.137 NS
	Family size	0.435 ***
	Farm size	0.083 NS
	Annual income	0.015 NS
	Organization participation	-0.039 NS
	Extension service contact	0.091 NS
	Cosmopoliteness	-0.042 NS
	Agricultural knowledge	0.460 ***
	Attitude towards BAUEC	0.547 ***

NS = Not significant

\* = Significant at 0.05 level

\*\* = Significant at 0.01 level

\*\*\* = Significant at 0.001 level

From the Table 2 revealed that there was a significant positive relationship between age of the respondents and their involvement in adult education activities. That is level of farmer age had great influence in accepting the health and family planning related technology. Family size had significant and positive relationship with the involvement in adult education programme of BAUEC. It indicates that the farmers with higher family member had higher tendency to adopt or involvement in adult education activities. Involvement or adoption of adult education activities had no statistically significant relationship with the farm size, annual income, organizational participation, extension service contact and cosmopoliteness of the respondent. Higher level of agricultural knowledge, greater could be the adoption of adult education technology. Positive and significant relationship was found between attitude towards BAUEC of the respondents and the involvement of adult education activities( $r = 0.547$ ).

## CONCLUSION

Before dissemination of an innovation extension agency or introducer of the innovation must consider the client system's personal and socio economic characteristics. If the extension agent, are aware about the influence of characteristics of farmers will help them to motivate farmers to adopt improved adult education activities. Knowing this information about the farmers on their adoption behaviour would result in easy access to them by the extension agent. Based on the findings of this study following conclusions are drawn.

1. Higher proportion (53.3%) of the respondents had medium involvement in adult education activities of BAUEC.
2. Majority of the respondents of BAUEC was young to middle aged group and young aged members were more involved in adult education activities. Significant positive relationship were found between age of the respondents and their involvement in adult education program indicating that it may be necessary for the extension to work more with the younger farmer.
3. Significant negative relationship was found between the education of the farmers and their involvement in adult education activities. It indicates that the involvement become more with the lower levels of education rather than higher.
4. Positive significant relationship was existed between the family size, agricultural knowledge and attitude towards BAUEC of the respondents and their involvement in adult education program of BAUEC.

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