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A study on awareness of digital financial applications among the milk producers of middle Gujarat

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Abstract

Now a days Internet is very convenient for gathering the several information. Contemporary research study stresses on digital financial services available as smartphone applications among the Milk Producers in middle Gujarat. In case of rural people, they have not enough sources for collecting agricultural and banking information. They have to depend on agencies like Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Dairy Vigyan Kendra (DVK), Pashu Vigyan Kendra (PVK), Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), etc. but all type of agency or institutions have constraint regarding distribution information among the farmers. For that effective solution is - Internet. The government, various companies and Non-Government Organizations have introduced smartphone based mobile applications for farmers that provide digital banking services and other services. An increasing number of startups and tech initiatives are teaming up with the government to introduce mobile apps for farmers in India.

Keywords: ICT, AICT, digital banking, smartphones, mobile apps

Introduction

A growing quantity of startups and tech enterprises are growing up with the government to introduce mobile apps for farmers in India. Given the vital role played by agriculture in the country's economy with over 58% of rural households depending on agriculture as their principal means of livelihood, this trend will help farmers make informed decisions and help increase agricultural produce. Smartphones have become a beneficial tool in agricultural because its mobility matches the nature of farming, the cost of the device is highly accessible, and their computing power allows a variety of practical applications to be created.

The operational area of Anand Agricultural University, Anand is middle of Gujarat. We have identified 5 different baking applications available on smartphone for the analysis. Total 160 respondents were selected for the study from Anand district during the year 2017-18 and were having smartphones. Necessary data was collected from the respondents by using interview schedule with the respondents. The data analysis was done for making interpretations

Objectives

- 1. To study the profile of milk producers of middle Gujarat
- 2. To study the awareness about digital banking services among the milk producers of middle Gujarat

Research Methodology

The respondents were from Anand district of middle Gujarat. The study was conducted in all 8 talukas of Anand district. There were two villages randomly selected from each taluka. Ten Milk Producers were randomly selected from each selected village thus total 160 respondents were selected for study. Data was collected by interview schedule using online Google form.

Result & Discussion

During the research following observations were recorded regarding their demographic profile of the respondents.

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1) Demographic profile of the respondents

Table 1: Profile of the respondents

(n=160)

Sr. No.	Profile of dairy farmers	No. (%) of participants	
1	Sex		
i	Male	159 (99.37)	
ii	Female	001 (00.63)	
2	Education		
i	Primary education (1st to 7th std)	15 (25.00)	
ii	Secondary education (8 th to 10 th std)	66 (32.50)	
iii	Higher secondary education (11 th and 12 th)	39 (11.67)	
iv	Graduation and above	40 (7.50)	
3	Annual income		
i	Up to ₹ 50000	81 (50.62)	
ii	₹ 5000 to ₹ 100000	61 (38.13)	
iii	Above ₹ 100000	18 (11.25)	
4	Family type		
i	Nuclear family	47 (29.36)	
ii	Joint family	113 (70.64)	
5	Herd owned by respondents		
i	Small (up to 2 milch animals)	82 (51.25)	
ii	Medium (3–8 milch animals)	70 (43.75)	
iii	Large (More than 8 milch animals)	08 (05.00)	
6	Land holding by respondents		
i	Landless	005 (03.13)	
ii	Up to Up to 2.00 ha	122 (76.25)	
iii	2.01 to 5.00 ha	027 (16.87)	
iv	Above 5.00 ha	006 (03.75)	

2) Time period since smartphones were owned by respondents

Table 2: Time period since gadgets are owned by respondents

Gadgets / Time Periods		Numbers and Percentage since use	
	< 6 Months	34	21%
Consentations	6-12 Month	35	22%
Smartphone	1-2 Year	73	46%
	>2 Year	18	11%
Total		160	100%

3) Internet access by Respondents

Table 3: Internet access by dairy farmers

Users	Y	es	N	lo .	T	'otal
Internet access by the respondents	147	92%	13	8%	160	100%

4) Awareness about the availability of agricultural applications on smartphones

Table 4: Awareness about availability of agricultural applications on smartphones

(n=160)

Awareness about the		
availability of digital	146 91%	160 100%

Table 5: Awareness of different Agricultural applications

Respondent Numbers	Digital banking services known
1	PhonePe
2	SBI Buddy
3	BHIM
4	BHIM
5	PhonePe
6	PhonePe
7	BHIM
8	PhonePe
9	SBI Buddy
10	SBI Buddy
11	PhonePe
12	BHIM; SBI Buddy
13	BHIM; SBI Buddy
14	SBI Buddy

Data presented in the table 5 indicated that around 12 out of 14 respondents were aware of only 1 digital banking application. Only 2 respondents were aware of maximum 2 digital banking application. Out of 14 respondents 7 were aware of SBI Buddy, 5 were aware of BHIM and PhonePe

mobile applications. Out of 14 respondents no respondent was aware of Cent Mobile and iMobile ICICI digital banking application.

6) Awareness of features of SBI Buddy

Table 6: Awareness of SBI Buddy features

S	r. No	Feature of SBI Buddy application	Number of respondents who gave correct answer for this feature
	1	Are you aware that you can recharge your prepaid mobile and DTH using SBI Buddy?	4
	2	Are you aware that you can pay your electricity and gas bills instantly anytime and anywhere using SBI Buddy?	4
	3	What is the monthly transfer limit in SBI Buddy?	4

Out of 7 respondents 4 respondents were aware about feature to recharge of prepaid mobile and DTH using SBI Buddy application. Out of 7 respondents 4 respondents were aware about feature to pay electricity and gas bills instantly anytime and anywhere using SBI Buddy. Out of 7 respondents 4

respondents were aware about monthly transfer limit in SBI Buddy. (i.e. Rs. 25000)

7) Awareness of features of BHIM

Table 7: Awareness of BHIM features

Sr. No	Feature of BHIM application	Number of respondents who gave correct answer for this feature
1	What is the full form of the BHIM app?	3
2	Are you aware that in BHIM, you don't need to know the bank account number of the payee (Mobile number is enough)?	3
3	Is Google developed BHIM application?	5
4	Are you aware about "Scan and Pay" facility, which makes the payment transfer fast, specially between merchants and consumers in BHIM?	2
5	Are you aware about beside the PIN, you can also authenticate the fund transfer using your fingerprints?	2

Out of 5 respondents 3 respondents were aware about full form of the BHIM app. Out of 5 respondents 3 respondents were aware about feature that in BHIM user don't need to know the bank account number of the payee (Mobile number is enough). Out of 5 respondents all 5 respondents were aware that Google has not developed BHIM application. Out of 5 respondents 2 respondents were aware about "Scan and Pay"

facility, which makes the payment transfer fast, especially between merchants and consumers in BHIM. Out of 5 respondents 2 respondents were aware about feature - beside the PIN, user can also authenticate the fund transfer using his/her fingerprints.

8) Awareness of features of PhonePe

Table 8: Awareness of PhonePe features

Sr. No	Feature of PhonePe application	Number of respondents who gave correct answer for this feature
1	Are you aware that PhonePe available in multiple languages?	2
2	Are you aware that PhonePe is among India's first Unified Payment Interface (UPI) applications?	1
3	Are you aware that PhonePe supports around 30 major banks on the UPI platform for transactions?	0

Out of 5 respondents 2 respondents were aware about feature that PhonePe digital banking is available in multiple languages. Out of 5 respondents 1 respondent was aware about feature that PhonePe is among India's first Unified Payment Interface (UPI) applications. Out of 5 respondents no respondent was aware that PhonePe supports around 30 major banks on the UPI platform for transactions.

Summary of Result and Interpretation Based on demographic profile we can analyze that

- Gender wise profile: male respondents were 53% and female respondents were 47%
- 35% were having primary education (1st to 7th Standard), 32% respondents were having secondary education (8th to 10th standard).
- 8% respondents belonged to Agriculture and 92% belonged to mixed occupation.
- Around 61% respondents belonged to income bracket of less than ₹ 50000.
- Land holding details: around 60% respondents were having land up to 2 hacter.
- Herd size owned by respondents: around 9% respondents were not having herd.
- 43% were not having any gadgets like basic phone, smart phone, computer, laptop etc. 55% respondents were having basic phone,
- ICT Devices used for Internet access: Respondents from training participants of Dairy Vigyan Kendra use

Smartphone for internet access.

 Usage of AICT Application: No respondents were using any AICT application.

Conclusion

Almost half of Milk Producers (46%) had smartphone for 1-2 years. Majority of Milk Producers (92%) used internet in their smartphone. Only 6.00 percent of Milk Producers were aware about availability of agricultural applications on smartphone.

Implication

To provide training to the Milk Producers regarding agricultural applications and other AICT applications available on smartphone for enhancing scientific animal husbandry.

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