



## Research Article

# DYNAMIC PROFILE OF THE MEMBERS OF FIGS UNDER ATMA IN AHMEDABAD DISTRICT OF GUJARAT STATE

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**Abstract:** Farmer Interest Group (FIG) is a group of the farmers with common interest or goal and work together for achieving their common goal. The members work together to achieve this goal by pooling their existing resources, gaining better access to other resources and to share in the resulting benefits. With this regards the present study was conducted in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat state. Total 120 FIG members were selected from the four talukas of Ahmedabad district. They were interviewed personally by using Gujarati version of questionnaire. The findings of this study revealed that majority of the FIGs members belonged to middle age category, taken primary level of education, involved in farming coupled with animal husbandry as their main occupation, received 5 to 6 number of trainings, had membership in one organization, had medium level of extension contact, had very high level of economic motivation, innovativeness, achievement motivation and neutral attitude towards collectivism.

**Keywords:** FIGs members, Dynamic profile

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## Introduction

Looking to the importance of group led extension in recent era, there are wide scopes for the extension functionaries to adopt group approach for effective, efficient and time bound extension services. Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) are the key factor in transfer of agricultural technology even though their sustainability is a major concern for extension bodies. On the other hand, there might be certain problems in using these groups in extension services. The role of extension officers in supporting farmers is to set up and run their interest groups. Therefore, there is a need to analyze the situation and factors responsible for effectiveness of group dynamics of FIGs working under ATMA. Hence, greater emphasis should be laid on educating the extension functionaries working under ATMA about various aspects of group dynamics and factors associated with effective group formation. Thus, one can find the unfavorable factors in the environment of extension pose for additional pressure. For generating information on this dimension, the present research study was undertaken.

## Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat state. One twenty respondents from four talukas were selected randomly. From each taluka 15 members of eight randomly selected FIGs were selected as the respondent. Suitable and appropriate scales developed by past researchers were used for the measurement of variables. The data were collected through personal interview and analyzed to get proper answer for the specific objectives of the study. Ex-post-facto research design was applied for the study and the statistical tools used were: percentage, mean and co-efficient of correlation.

## Results and Discussion

To know the profile of the members of selected FIGs was one of the objectives of the present study. On the basis of review of literature, some of the important personal, social and psychological characteristics of the members of FIGs were selected and studied, the findings of which have been presented in subsequent pages.

## Age

The result indicated that less than half (47.50 percent) of the FIGs members were fall under the categories of middle age group, followed by old age group and young age group with 30.00 percent and 22.50 percent, respectively. Concluding the findings it can be inferred that vast majority of the FIGs members of ATMA belonged to middle age to old age group as youngster might be busy with study and are shifting from agriculture to other occupation for better livelihood options in urban area and on other hand middle aged farmers have more family responsibility leads to have better sense of commitment and involvement in their profession resulted in to development of more enthusiasm for betterment in farming might be the possible explanation of this type of results.

## Education

The result clearly indicates that less than half (45.83 percent) of the FIGs members had taken primary school level of education, followed by 35.00 percent of them with secondary level of education, 11.67 percent of them were illiterate, 04.17 percent of them were having higher secondary level of education, 02.50 percent were graduate and rest only 0.83 per were post graduate. Thus it can be concluded that vast majority of the members of FIGs of ATMA had primary to secondary level of education as now a days schooling facilities are available in each and every villages.

## Occupation

The result revealed that vast majority (77.50 percent) of the FIGs members were involved in farming coupled with animal husbandry as their main occupation, followed by 20.83 percent of them were practicing only farming. Only 01.67 percent were land less labour and no one FIGs member had their own business. Thus, it can be inferred that farming along with animal husbandry is a major economic activity of this area as strong wide network of AMUL is existing and FIGs members getting benefits of AMUL network for their additional income from animal husbandry other than agriculture might be the reason for this type of result.

### Training received

It can be clearly seen from Table 6 that less than one-third (31.67 percent) of the FIGs members had received 5 to 6 number of trainings, followed by 25.83 percent, 18.33 percent, 16.67 percent and 07.50 percent had received 3 to 4 number of trainings, up to 2 number of trainings, 7 to 8 number of trainings and more than 9 trainings, respectively. To epitomize the result it can be concluded that majority of the members of the FIGs group received 3 to 6 trainings in various organizations for scaling up their knowledge for improvement in their profession. The probable reason for this may be the good extension work as well as facility of training available in the study area by the various government and non-governmental organizations.

SN	Particulars of Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age			
1	Young age (Up to 35 years)	27	22.50
2	Middle age (36 to 55 years)	57	47.50
3	Old age (Above 55 years)	36	30.00
Education			
1	Illiterate	14	11.67
2	Primary school level (1 to 7 std.)	55	45.83
3	Secondary level (8 to 10 std.)	42	35.00
4	Higher secondary level (11 & 12 std.)	05	04.17
4	Graduate	03	02.50
6	Post graduate	01	00.83
Occupation			
1	Labour	02	01.67
2	Farming	25	20.83
3	Animal Husbandry	00	00.00
4	Farming + Labour	00	00.00
5	Farming + Animal Husbandry	93	77.50
6	Farming + Animal Husbandry + Labour	00	00.00
7	Self-employment	00	00.00
Training received			
1	Very low (< 2)	22	18.33
2	Low (3-4)	31	25.83
3	Medium (5-6)	38	31.67
4	High (7-8)	20	16.67
5	Very high (> 9)	09	07.50
Social participation			
1	No participation	24	20.00
2	Member in one organization	80	66.67
3	Member in more than one organization	12	10.00
4	Position holder in any organization	04	03.33
Extension contact			
1	Very Low (< 6)	02	01.67
2	Low (7-12)	34	28.33
3	Medium (13-18)	65	54.17
4	High (19-24)	16	13.33
5	Very high (25-30)	03	02.50
Economic motivation			
1	Very low (< 10.8)	01	00.83
2	Low (10.8-15.6)	04	03.33
3	Medium (15.6-20.4)	17	14.17
4	High (20.4-25.2)	29	24.17
5	Very high (> 25.2)	69	57.50
Innovativeness			
1	Very low (< 2.6)	00	00.00
2	Low (2.7-5.2)	02	01.67
3	Medium (5.3-7.8)	25	20.83
4	High (7.9-10.4)	38	31.67
5	Very high (> 10.4)	55	45.83
Achievement motivation			
1	Very low (< 11.2)	00	00.00
2	Low (11.3-14.4)	02	01.67
3	Medium (14.5-17.6)	05	04.17
4	High (17.7-20.8)	46	38.33
5	Very high (> 20.8)	67	55.83
Attitude towards collectivism			
1	Strongly unfavorable (<9.8)	01	00.83
2	Unfavorable (9.9-12.6)	17	14.17
3	Neutral (12.7-15.4)	40	33.33
4	Favorable (15.5-18.2)	33	27.50
5	Strongly favorable (> 18.2)	29	24.17
	Total	120	100.00

### Social participation

The data presented in Table showed that exactly two-third (66.67 percent) of the FIGs members had membership in one organization, while 20.00 percent of them had no participation in any organization. Further, 10.00 percent of the respondents had membership in more than one organization and rest 03.33 percent of the FIGs members had holding position in some of the organizations. It can be inferred that great majority (76.67 percent) of the FIGs members had participation in one or more organizations. During field survey it was observed that majority of the FIGs members were member in village milk co-operative society due to strong network of AMUL in the study area.

### Extension contact

The result indicates that more than half (54.17 percent) of the FIGs members had medium level of extension contact, followed by 28.33 percent had low level, 13.33 percent had high and 02.50 percent of them had very high level of extension contact. The rest 01.67 percent of them had very low level of extension contact. Thus, majority of the FIGs members had medium to high level of extension contact. The probable reason might be the weekly visit of the village level workers, agriculture officers as well as the visit of ATMA personnel's to impart useful and needy information to the FIGs members. Thus, FIGs members were actively involved in frequently contacting various departmental officials to seek more information and to clarify the doubts pertaining to the current farming practices.

### Economic motivation

It can be clearly seen from the above Table 11 that more than half (57.50 percent) of the respondents had very high level of economic motivation, while 24.17 percent of them had high level of economic motivation, 14.17 percent had medium and 03.33 percent of them had low level of economic motivation. Only 0.83 percent of the FIGs members had very low level of economic motivation. It can be thus inferred that vast majority (81.67 percent) of the FIGs members had high to very high level of economic motivation. It could be due to the aspiration through involvement in FIGs activities for earning higher returns from available resources and also, they have learn the judicious use of critical inputs and as a resultant effect in reducing extra expenditure.

### Innovativeness

The that less than half (45.83 percent) of the FIGs members showed very high level of innovativeness, followed by 31.67 percent had high and 20.83 percent of them had medium level of innovativeness. Only 01.67 percent of the FIGs members had low level of innovativeness. Thus, majority (77.50 percent) of the group members had very high to high level of innovativeness. The degree of innovativeness among the group members was found higher and it was attributed to various FIGs activities like training, exposure visit, demonstration, farm school and awards. Thus, it was realized by the members of FIGs that achieving higher income essentially demands more of innovativeness to harness the dividends out of innovations in the field of farming and other related occupations, which they can learn through participating in FIGs from the progressive farmers.

### Achievement motivation

From the table, it is clearly seen that more than half (55.83 percent) of the FIGs members had very high level of achievement motivation, whereas 38.33 percent of them had high level of achievement motivation. Further, 04.16 percent and 01.67 percent of the members had medium and low level of achievement motivation, respectively. It can be inferred from the table that majority of the members falls in the category of high to very high level of achievement motivation. The probable reason behind this result might be the inner drive of the group members to achieve their goal by adopting new technologies and practices to gain maximum return in terms of income.

### Attitude towards collectivism

Table reflects that exactly one third (33.33 percent) of the FIGs members had neutral attitude towards collectivism, followed by 27.50 percent, 24.17 percent, 14.17 percent and 0.83 percent of them had favourable, strongly favourable, unfavourable and strongly unfavourable attitude towards collectivism, respectively.

Thus, it can be concluded that majority (51.67 percent) of the group members had favourable to strongly favourable attitude towards collectivism. The reason behind this result might be the constant touch and advice of the ATMA personnel to the majority of the FIGs members to be remaining intact for better performance.

### Conclusion

To epitomize the result, it can be said that majority of the respondents were in middle age group with primary to middle school level education having major occupation of farming coupled with animal husbandry and received 5 to 6 training with membership in one organization and had medium level of extension contact. In psychological variables the majority of the respondents had very high level of economic motivation, innovativeness and achievement motivation and neutral attitude towards collectivism.

**Application of research:** This research is helpful for organization to know the status of the members of Farmers Interest Groups of the selected area and useful to the extension professional for making further strategy for the overall development of the farmers.

**Research Category:** Extension Education

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**Study area / Sample Collection:** Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat

**Cultivar / Variety / Breed name:**

**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

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