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Impact Assessment of Farm Women Training Programmes With reference to Morar block of Gwalior district (M.P.)



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A B S T R A C T

The present study was conducted in Morar block of Gwalior district. Four villages adopted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Sidhi during the year 2007-2008 were selected purposively. The sample consisted of 60 women trainees. The K.V.K. scientists in consultation with subject matter specialists made a knowledge inventory for each agricultural aspects viz. organic farming, crop husbandry, animal husbandry etc. The study revealed that the training programmes conducted on fruits and vegetables preservation techniques and organic farming had been highly effective in inducing desirable changes in the knowledge level of woman trainees. The study suggests that the attributes viz. education, size of land holding, contact with development agencies, scientific orientation, social participation and mass media exposure should be taken in to consideration while conduction any farm women training programme.

Introduction-The long neglected women power in the field of agriculture and allied enterprises drew attention of socio brain banks. It was observed that contribution of farm women in the overall activities in the system was appreciably higher than that of the male counterpart. This fact gave birth to the women empowerment strategy, aimed at providing appropriate knowledge, resources and power of decision-making. The increase in awareness of female education helped a lot for the successful execution of this strategy. Now a day the most

deprived rural women community is occupying a sound position as compared to past decades in the new emerging farming system.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra being a grass root level village institution for transfer of technology, conducting various programmes for socio economic upliftment of the farm women i.e. trainings, demonstrations etc. Keeping in view the above fact, the present study has been conducted in Morar block of Gwalior district to assess the impact of farm women training programmes with following objectives-1. To Study the knowledge

level of the respondents regarding different agricultural aspects. 2. To determine the relationship between socio personal attributes of the women trainees with their knowledge level.

Methods and Material-

The present study was conducted in Morar block of Gwalior district. Four villages adopted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Sidhi during the year 2007-2008 were selected purposively. Farm women of these villages, who had attended all the women training courses during the year 2007-2008 organized by K.V.K. were considered as the respondents for the study. Selection of the respondents was done through the stratified random sampling. The sample consisted of 60 women trainees. The K.V.K. scientists in consultation with subject matter specialists made a knowledge inventory for each agricultural aspects viz. organic farming, crop husbandry, animal husbandry etc.

With a view to assess the impact of the

trainings in terms of increase in knowledge level of the respondents, a knowledge test based on the knowledge inventory was administered to the respondents prior to the commencement of trainings and after the completion of the trainings. The maximum obtainable score for each practice was 50. adding the increase in knowledge score for each practice and determining its mean value indicated the overall increase in knowledge level of each respondent. The mean knowledge score was also worked out for each aspect. The data were collected with the help of pre tested interview schedule. In order to find out the association of different socio-personal attributes of the respondents with the increase in their overall knowledge level, chi-square tests was employed for analysis the data.

Results & Discussions-The results have been presented under the following two parts:

1. Knowledge level of the respondents regarding different agricultural aspects:

Table 1: Knowledge level of the respondents regarding different agricultural aspects-

S. N.	Aspects	Mean Knowledge Score		Increase in Knowledge	Rank in Increasing knowledge
		Pre Training	Post Training		
1.	Organic farming	5.1	27.2	22.1	II
2.	Crop husbandry	9.0	13.2	4.2	IX
3.	Animal husbandry	4.3	8.7	4.4	VIII
4.	Medicinal plants for health care	2.8	20.3	17.5	V
5.	Mushroom production Technology	0	20.2	20.2	IV
6.	Fruit and vegetables preservation techniques	2.7	33.0	30.3	I
7.	Nursery Management	8.5	29.7	21.2	III
8.	Health care & Child development	5.5	21.8	16.3	VI
9.	Post harvest management	6.0	13.9	7.9	VII

Table 1 reveals that in case of pre training mean knowledge score the mean knowledge score was found to be zero in mushroom production technology whereas it was maximum in crop husbandry aspect. As far as the post training mean knowledge score is concerned it was observed as maximum (33) in fruits and vegetables preservation techniques followed by nursery management (29.7), organic farming

(27.2), health care and child development (21.8), medicinal plants for health care (20.3) and mushroom production technology (20.2). On the contrary, it was found to be minimum in animal husbandry aspect (4.3).

On the basis of the increase in knowledge scores the aspects may be arranged in descending order as fruits and vegetables preservation techniques (30.3), organic farming (22.1), nursery

management (21.2), mushroom production technology (20.2), medicinal plants for health care (17.5) etc. 2. Overall increase in knowledge level of the women trainees:

The table 2 presents the categorization of the women trainees on the basis of extent of increase in their knowledge level. It reveals that more than half of the respondents (59%) gained medium extent of knowledge followed by the high extent of knowledge (22.2%) and low extent of knowledge (19%). 3. Association between socio personal attributes of the women trainees with their knowledge level:

Table 2: Overall increase in knowledge level of the women trainees-

S. No.	Extent of Increase	Percentage of the trainees
1.	Low	19
2.	Medium	59
3.	High	22

Table-3 Association between socio personal attributes of the women trainees with their knowledge level-

S. No.	Attributes	C ² value
1.	Caste	2.4
2.	Age	3.8
3.	Size of land holding	12.1*
4.	Contact with developmental agency	15.7*
5.	Size of family	0.9
6.	Farming experience	1.1
7.	Scientific orientation	18.2*
8.	Mass media exposure	16.3*
9.	Social participation	13.9*
10.	Credit facility	3.6

* Significant at 5% level of significance with 4 df

It was found that the variables caste, age, size of family, farming experience and credit facility did not have significant association with

overall increase in knowledge. On the contrary, the variables namely size of land holding, contact with developmental agency, scientific orientation, social participation and mass media exposure showed significant association with overall increase in knowledge.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the findings of the study, it can be concluded that the training programmes conducted on fruits and vegetables preservation techniques and organic farming had been highly effective in inducing desirable changes in the knowledge level of woman trainees. On the contrary the training courses on crop husbandry and animal husbandry had low impact in relation to increasing the knowledge level, which need to be designed and conducted with due consideration of need assessment of the trainees in the particular field. It may also be concluded that the overall knowledge gain was found to be of medium extent. The study suggests that the attributes viz. education, size of land holding, contact with development agencies, scientific orientation, social participation and mass media exposure should be taken in to consideration while conduction any farm women training programme.

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