

IMPACT OF TRAINING IN TERMS OF KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL WOMEN ABOUT ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out on 120 rural women selected from three villages of Hisar district during 2003 to assess the impact of training on knowledge of farm women about animal husbandry practices. These rural women were categorized into two groups, i.e. experimental and control group having 60 women in each. The overall knowledge level of experimental group was medium in breeding, health care, milk product practices whereas it was high in feeding and management practices. The respondents from control group possessed medium level of knowledge in breeding, feeding, management practices and low level in health care and milk product aspects. The experimental group had maximum knowledge in terms of percentage in feeding practices followed by management, breeding, health care and milk product practices. However, rural women of control group also exhibited such trend but their knowledge in terms of percentage was low as compared to participant group. Out of ten independent variables taken under study, five variables namely education, change proneness, mass media exposure, training attended and study tours in experimental group exhibited significant association with knowledge. Education, family education, change proneness, mass media exposure, training attended and study tours in control group also showed the same trend. The amount of variation in knowledge about animal husbandry practices of farm women was jointly contributed by ten independent variables to the extent of 74 and 68 per cent in experimental group and control group, respectively.

Key words: Training, animal husbandry practices, knowledge of rural women

Since time immemorial, Indian women had been playing a significant and crucial role in the development of agricultural and allied fields. Livestock and dairy has been one of the sectors in India where female work force participation in terms of managing and caring the animals is high. Besides other household works and farming activities, women have extensive involvement in animal husbandry and dairy activities. Almost 95 per cent of the work related to dairy farming is done by women alone. Recognizing the importance of women in agriculture, the Government of India during the 8th five year plan, has executed a project on, "women in agriculture" through state agricultural universities and state department of agriculture. The scheme was operated in one district each of Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala and Maharastra state to make the rural women self-

sufficient through training input and extension support. In Haryana, the scheme was implemented by CCS Haryana Agricultural University in three sub-divisions namely Hisar, Hansi and Tohana of Hisar district. Since the central sector scheme was implemented in three sub-divisions of Hisar, therefore, it was planned to assess the impact of training on knowledge level of rural women about improved animal husbandry practices, to analyze the relationship between socio-personal characteristics of rural women and their knowledge level and to ascertain the contribution of various socio-personal characteristics of rural women towards their knowledge about improved animal husbandry practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana during 2003. Hisar was selected purposively because the central sector scheme

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for "Women in Agriculture" was implemented in this district. The animal husbandry component of the scheme was in operation in seven different villages of Hisar district and out of these three villages namely, Bichpuri, Sarsod and Thurana were selected randomly. A random sampling technique for selection of the respondents was followed and experimental research design was employed for the study. Twenty five rural women were trained from each village. Out of them 20 rural women having training in animal husbandry sector were randomly selected and named as experimental group. A matching sample of 20 rural women having similar background but did not attend any training related to animal husbandry under this scheme were selected randomly from each village and named as control group. Therefore, 60 rural women from experimental group and 60 from control group constituted the sample for the study.

Age, family education, change proneness, social participation, herd size, mass media exposure, training attended and study tours were considered as independent variables whereas knowledge was taken as dependent variable. The knowledge was tested by developing a knowledge test. All the important technological components were included in the test

recommended by the trainers. Thereafter, all the technological components were divided into five broad categories namely, breeding, feeding, management, milk products and health care practices. The data were collected with the help of well structured pre-tested interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge level of rural women: The data presented in Table 1 reveals that most of the respondents (58.33%) possessed medium level of knowledge regarding breeding practices followed by those who were in high (41.67%) knowledge level. None from this group had low knowledge level about breeding practices. On the contrary to this 18.33 per cent of the respondents reported to have low knowledge level in the control group. However, those who reported to have medium knowledge level about breeding practices were 81.67 per cent and none of them was found in high category.

In experimental group, all the respondents were having high knowledge about feeding practices. On the other hand, one-third (35.0%) of the respondents had high knowledge level and remaining about two-third (65.0%) respondents were in medium knowledge level. These results

Table 1
Overall knowledge level of rural women

| Category | Rural women | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| | Category | Experimental group (n=60) | Control group (n=60) |
| Breeding | Low (<2) | - | 11 (18.33) |
| | Medium(2-4) | 35 (58.33) | 49 (81.67) |
| | High (>4) | 25 (41.67) | - |
| Feeding | Low (<4) | - | - |
| | Medium(4-8) | - | 39 (65.00) |
| | High (>8) | 60 (100.00) | 21 (35.00) |
| Management | Low (<7) | - | 01 (1.67) |
| | Medium(2-4) | 01 (1.66) | 35 (58.33) |
| | High (>4) | 59 (98.33) | 24 (40.00) |
| Health care | Low (<3) | - | 36 (60.00) |
| | Medium(3-6) | 50 (83.33) | 14 (23.33) |
| | High (>6) | 10 (16.67) | - |
| Milk products | Low (<2) | 05 (8.33) | 45 (75.00) |
| | Medium(2-4) | 44 (73.33) | 15 (25.00) |
| | High (>4) | 01 (1.67) | - |

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Table 2
Extent of knowledge among rural women

| Practices | Rural women | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | Total score | Experimental group (n=60) | | | Control group (n=60) | | |
| | | Obtained score | Mean score | Knowledge in terms of % age | Obtained score | Mean score | Knowledge in terms of % age |
| Breeding | 360 | 269.00 | 4.48 | 74.72 | 180.00 | 3.00 | 50.00 |
| Feeding | 660 | 598.45 | 9.97 | 90.67 | 466.00 | 7.78 | 70.72 |
| Management | 420 | 362.50 | 6.04 | 86.28 | 229.25 | 3.82 | 54.58 |
| Health care | 540 | 332.00 | 5.33 | 61.48 | 204.00 | 3.40 | 37.78 |
| Milk products | 420 | 202.00 | 3.37 | 48.14 | 122.00 | 2.03 | 29.00 |

are in accordance with the findings of Deshpande *et al.* (1987).

The majority (98.33%) of the rural women from experimental group had high knowledge level about management practices and only 1.66 per cent of them were under medium knowledge level. But in control group most of the women (58.33%) possessed medium level followed by high (40.0%) and low (1.67%) knowledge level. As high as 83.33 per cent of respondents from experimental group had medium level of knowledge about health care practices. Whereas only 16.67 per cent women were found to have high level of knowledge. None of the respondents were reported in low knowledge level. In case of controlled group three-fifths (60.0%) of the respondents had low knowledge level followed by medium (23.33%). However, none of them was found in the category of high knowledge level.

The data also reveal that only 1.67 per cent of rural women from experimental group had high level of knowledge and majority (73.33%) of them were found to have medium knowledge level about milk products whereas, in controlled group, three-fourths (75.0%) of the respondents had low level of knowledge followed by medium level (25%).

Practice-wise extent of knowledge: It is obvious from the data in Table 2 that the extent of knowledge among the experimental group of rural women about breeding practices was as high as 74.72 per cent whereas in controlled group the knowledge was only 50.0 per cent. The extent of knowledge with respect to feeding practices among experimental group was as high

as 90.67 per cent, whereas, in controlled group it was found to be 70.72 per cent.

In management practices the extent of knowledge was 86.28 and 54.58 per cent among the experimental and controlled groups, respectively. The knowledge about health care an aspect in experimental group was observed to the extent of 61.48 per cent whereas, in controlled group, it was assessed only 37.78 per cent.

A similar trend was also observed in experimental (48.14 %) and controlled groups (29.0 %) regarding milk products. Further, with respect to feeding practices it was found that the experimental group had high knowledge (90.67%) followed by management, breeding, health care and milk product practices to the tune of 86.28, 74.72, 61.48, and 48.14 per cent, respectively.

The rural women from control group also exhibited such trend but their knowledge in terms of percentage was low as compared to experimental group. They had 70.72 per cent knowledge in feeding followed by management (54.58%), breeding (50.0%), health care (37.78%) and milk products (29.0 %). This shows that the increase in level of knowledge was due to training imparted to these farm women. These results are in line with the findings of Farooque *et al.* (1992) and Asiabaka (1992). It suggests that as a result of training on animal husbandry, there is clear cut demarcation of knowledge level between experimental and controlled group which implies that there is a logical valid justification of imparting such type of need based training to increase the knowledge

Table 3
Correlation and regression analysis between socio-personal characteristics of rural women and their knowledge

| Background variables | Correlation coefficient | | Regression coefficient | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Experimental group | Control group | Experimental group | | Control group | |
| | ('r' value) | ('r' value) | ('b' value) | ('t' value) | ('b' value) | ('t' value) |
| Age | -0.192 | -0.203 | -0.023 | -0.858 | 7.087 | 0.018 |
| Education | 0.329* | 0.310* | 0.775 | 1.163 | 5.401 | 0.059 |
| Family education | 0.182 | 0.313* | 0.313 | 1.488 | -2.288 | -0.087 |
| Change proneness | 0.669** | 0.397** | 0.732 | 3.042** | 0.421 | 1.246 |
| Social participation | 0.067 | - | 0.343 | 0.437 | - | - |
| Farm family income | 0.175 | 0.146 | -0.552 | -0.758 | -0.375 | -0.415 |
| Mass media exposure | 0.487** | 0.749** | 0.048 | 0.286 | 1.072 | 4.939 |
| Herd size | 0.159 | -0.068 | 0.861 | 2.303* | 5.627 | 1.033 |
| Training attended | 0.655** | 0.628** | 0.003 | 0.877 | 0.626 | 3.279 |
| Study tours | 0.760** | 0.431** | 0.391 | 3.252** | -0.495 | -1.670 |
| R ² value | - | - | - | 0.743 | - | 0.680 |
| F-value | - | - | - | 14.210 | - | 12.080 |

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

level of rural women.

Relationship of background variables of rural women with their knowledge level:

With a view to find out relationship between independent and dependent variables, the zero-order coefficient of correlation equation was employed. The data shown in Table 3 reveals that in experimental group, out of nine variables only five variables viz., education (0.329), change proneness (0.669), mass media exposure (0.487), training attended (0.655) and study tours (0.760) exhibited positive and significant relationship with knowledge of animal husbandry practices. However, non-significant but positive relationship of family education (0.182), social participation (0.067), farm family income (0.175) and herd size (0.159) was found with knowledge. In the control group six variables viz. education (0.310), family education (0.313), change proneness (0.397), mass media exposure (0.749), training attended (0.628) and study tours (0.431) also exhibited significant relationship with knowledge. These results agree with the findings of Mahale (1991), Majumdar (1991), Asiabaka (1992) and Bhatti (1992).

The age had shown negative non significant correlation with knowledge of animal husbandry in both the experimental (-0.192) and controlled groups (-0.203). Social participation in experimental group was positively correlated (0.067) with knowledge whereas no correlation was established between social participation and knowledge due to the poor participation in social organizations of controlled group of rural women. These results are in agreement with Mahale (1991) and Sheokand (2003) who found that the training had a good impact on social participation in changing the knowledge level and skill.

It is, therefore, concluded that variables having significant correlation and are manipulative in nature should be carefully analysed and put to use so that the rural women's knowledge about animal husbandry can be increased, substantially.

Contribution of socio-personal variables towards the knowledge of rural women: All the independent variables were fitted into regression equation and the result are shown in Table 3. The data reveal that in case of experimental group, all the nine variables jointly

explained 74 per cent variation towards the knowledge of rural women about animal husbandry practices. Analysis also indicated that change proneness, herd size and study tours contributed significantly.

In case of control group the independent variables contributed to the extent of 68 per cent towards the knowledge, whereas mass media exposure and training attended contributed significantly. It implies that an increase in change proneness, herd size and study tours in experimental group, mass media exposure and training attended in controlled group by one unit will lead to change in the knowledge level of rural women by 0.73, 0.86, 0.39, 1.07 and 0.62 units, respectively, when the other variables are kept constant.

The age and farm family income in experimental group and family education, farm family income and study tours in controlled group had negative prediction values. This clearly indicates that decrease in age and farm family income in experimental group while family education, farm family income, study tours in controlled group by one unit will lead to change in the knowledge level of rural women by -0.02, -0.55, -2.28, -0.37, and -0.49 units, respectively,

when the other variables are kept constant. In experimental group the social participation had positive but non-significant contribution whereas, it had no contribution towards change in knowledge level of rural women in controlled group.

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