

IMPACT OF VOCATIONAL TRAININGS ON THE ADOPTION OF PIGGERY IN DISTRICT SANGRUR OF PUNJAB

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ABSTRACT

Pig farming in rural India is ascribed to socially and economically underprivileged people. Most of them are illiterate, and do not have proper access to modern pig farming technologies. In order to break the social dogma, the rural youth of Punjab were motivated to adopt piggery as an entrepreneurship by imparting vocational trainings through the Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK's). The KVK, Sangrur, conducted fifteen vocational trainings courses in pig farming from 2014 to 2019 in which 645 rural youth and farmers participated. The data were collected through personal interview and self observation method. The findings revealed that nearly 45.74% of the trainees have adopted piggery as an entrepreneurship. The findings also indicate that the variables such as age, education, land holding, occupation and income of the respondents have some association with the adoption level of pig farming. The maximum adoption has been made by 10+2 passed trainees (55.59%) having age upto 40 years (80.62%) and majority of them are small and medium landholders (73.30%). The study further revealed that maximum adoption rate is amongst unemployed youth (54.58%) followed by labourers (22.71%), farmers/farm women (17.97%) and ex-service men/retired persons (4.75%).

Keywords: Adoption, Entrepreneurship, Management, Piggery

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Animal husbandry is an important sub-sector of agriculture in India. Among the various livestock species, piggery is most potential source of meat production and more efficient feed converters after the broiler which directly influences the socio-economic status of the rural poor population of the country. As per the 20th livestock census, the total pig population in the country was 9.06 million during 2019 which is 1.69 per cent of total livestock population in India whereas its population in Punjab is 0.52 lakh. Pig grows fast and is a prolific breeder, farrowing 10 to 12 piglets at a time (Raje *et al.*, 2018). In Punjab, more than 750 farmers are rearing Large White Yorkshire and Middle White Yorkshire breeds at their farms. Pig farming can be profitably practiced by small, marginal and landless farmers, part time earning for educated youth having agriculture as occupation, uneducated/unemployed youth and farm women. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Punjab are playing a significant role in popularizing piggery by conducting need based vocational training courses. The present study has, therefore, been undertaken to investigate the impact of these training programmes on adoption of piggery in the district Sangrur of Punjab.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

To undertake this work, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sangrur purposively selected all the 645 trainees those acquired vocational training in pig farming during 2014 to 2019 for the collection of data (Table 1). The information was collected in a properly designed questionnaire from the participants at the time of starting of training regarding

reason for starting of piggery farms (Table 2), personal information (Table 3) and adoption of recommended piggery farming practices (Table 4) through personal visits and self observation method. The respondents were categorized in four categories on the basis of number of sow they are rearing i.e. small (2-5 animals), medium (05-10 animals), large (above 10 animals) and others who have not adopted this entrepreneurship. The frequencies of each response/constraint were worked out and expressed in percentage. The data were analyzed as per standard statistical methods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The perusal of Table 1 reveals that total 15 training courses in piggery were conducted during 2014 to 2019 in which a total of 645 rural youth/farmers participated. Out of total 645 trainees, 295 (45.74) trainees have adopted pig farming as entrepreneurship after acquiring training. It can be seen that the during 2014-16, the adoption of piggery varied between 54.29 to 77.78 percent and thereafter during 2017-2019, it varied between 37.69 to 43.24 percent which shows that the rate of adoption has started declining because of loan related problems and lack of organized market which is also reported by Lahoria (2015). The reasons for adoption of pig farming are presented in table 2 and it reveals that more than 37.97 percent trainees have started pig farming mainly to get additional income, 29.49 percent adopted it for self-employment, 27.12 per cent due to availability of bank loan along with subsidy, whereas remaining 5.42 per cent of the trainees took up piggery farming because of inherited tradition.

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Table 1

No of trainings, trainees and adoption of piggery in Sangrur district of Punjab

Year	Number of training conducted	Total no. of trainees	No. of trainees adopted piggery entrepreneurship	Adoption (%)
2014	01	18	14	77.78
2015	01	35	19	54.29
2016	01	45	27	60.00
2017	03	148	64	43.24
2018	04	200	96	48.00

Table 2

Reason for starting of piggery farms by trainees (n=295)

Reason for starting of piggery farm	No. (%)
Inherited tradition	16 (5.42)
Additional income	112 (37.97)
Self employment	87 (29.49)
Availability of loan with subsidy	80 (27.12)

Table 3

Classification of piggery farms adopted by trainees on the basis of farm size and socio-economic parameters of piggery farmers in Sangrur district of Punjab

Parameters	Number (%)
Farm size (No. of animals):	
Small (2-5 animals)	38 (12.88)
Medium (05-10 animals)	162 (54.92)
Large (above 10 animals)	95 (32.20)
Age (Years):	
Upto 30	126 (42.71)
31-40	112 (37.96)
>40	57 (19.32)
Educational status:	
Upto Matriculation	70 (23.73)
10+2	164 (55.59)
Graduate & above	61 (20.68)
Land holding (acres):	
Upto 02	72 (24.41)
02-05	144 (48.81)
> 05	79 (26.78)
Occupation:	
Unemployed youth	161 (54.58)
Ex-service man/retired person	14 (04.75)
Farmers/farm women	53 (17.97)
Labourers	67 (22.71)
Total income (Rs./month):	
Upto 10,000	94 (31.86)
10,001 to 15,000	98 (33.22)
> 15,000	103 (34.92)

Table 4

Impact of training programmes on adoption of recommended piggery farming practices in Sangrur district of Punjab

Recommended piggery farming practices	Knowledge level before and after training No. (%)	
	Before	After
Housing	56 (8.68)	580 (89.92)
Feed management	143 (22.17)	563 (87.29)
Preventive measures and diseases control	15 (2.33)	513 (79.53)
Breeding	35 (5.43)	441 (68.37)
Value addition	31 (4.81)	105 (16.28)

The information presented in table 3 indicates that 12.88 percent farmers adopted this business on small, 54.92 percent on medium, 32.20 percent on large scale. It was found that the trainees having age >40 years (19.32%) were less interested in piggery farming while those having age upto 40 years (80.62%) adopted it keenly. Further, it was observed that maximum adoption of piggery was made by 10+2 passed trainees (55.59%) followed by upto matriculate (23.73%) and graduation & above (20.68%). The marginal and small sized land holders (upto 05 acres) adopted piggery farming with a greater frequency (73.33 per cent) whereas remaining 26.78 per cent adoption of piggery farming was made by large sized land holders (>05 acres). It was further revealed that on overall basis, 54.58 percent trainees were unemployed youth, 22.71 per cent were labourers, 17.97 per cent were farmers/farm women while 4.75 per cent were ex-service man/retired person who adopted piggery entrepreneurship. The income-wise classification of the trainees brought out that 31.86, 33.22 and 34.92 per cent of the trainees adopted piggery who were already earning an income of upto Rs. 10,000, 10,001 to 15,000 and more than Rs, 15,000 per month, respectively. Their main source of family income was from casual labour and petty jobs. Similarly, Rahman (2007) reported that the adoption of piggery was associated with age, education, operational land holding and farm size.

The findings on impact of training programmes on adoption of recommended piggery practices (Table 4) reveal that the knowledge level of the trainees regarding various piggery practices has gone up after getting the training. The knowledge level before and after training regarding housing, feed management, preventive measures and disease control, breeding and value addition has been increased from 8.68 to 89.92%, 22.17 to 87.29%, 2.33 to 79.53%, 5.43 to 68.37% and 4.81 to 16.28%, respectively. Higher knowledge of the trainees after acquiring training might be due to keen interest of the

trainees, effective and relevant course content; face to face interaction with the trainees, discussion and exposure of trainees with successfully established piggery farmers and supply of literature for self study. Singh *et al.* (2013), Hundal *et al.* (2016) and Belakeri *et al.* (2017) also reported that training had an effective and positive impact to improve the working knowledge of farmers.

From the above study, it can be concluded that pig farming is emerging as a lucrative enterprise for the rural youth/farmers of district Sangrur for providing an opportunity of income enhancement. The vocational training courses of KVKs can further boost the adoption of piggery and improve the knowledge of villagers regarding proper housing, breeding, feeding and health care practices for earning more benefit from piggery. The findings also indicate that the variables such as age, education, land holding, occupation and income of the respondents have some association with the adoption level of piggery farming.

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