

ICTs improving self-confidence and expression of women

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ABSTRACT

There are generally more male teachers at the secondary level, which may be a contributing factor to female student participation levels. This paper suggested that an information communication technologies (ICTs) training workshop is most effective when it brings together participants who share common objectives.

KEY WORDS : Opinion and suggestion, Home science training programme, Adopted village

How to cite this Article: Dhaka, Poonam, Ahlawat, Indra and Tiwari, Gaytri (2011). ICTs improving self-confidence and expression of women, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 2 (2) : 272-274.

Article chronicle : Received : 16.10.2010; Sent for revision : 25.06.2011; Accepted : 01.11.2011

INTRODUCTION

Seventy per cent of Indian's population lives in rural areas, often accessible only by unpaved, poorly maintained roads or by river transport. As a result, sending children to school specially for girls, and family members to health clinics, is time consuming, expensive and oftentimes impossible during the rainy season. The information communication technologies (ICT) sector is seen as consisting of segments as diverse as telecommunications, television and radio, computer hardware and software, computer services and electronic media like the Internet, as well as the content of these media.

With access to information via ICT applications, rural women can make informed decisions around education and rural services which directly affect their livelihood. Agriculture, natural based and resource-based activities can gain from the introduction of ICT applications and use. Most Indians derive some portion of their economic livelihoods from agriculture, fisheries, and livestock. By integrating ICTs into agriculture and natural resource-based activities, the sector can be supported by product differentiation, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced skill sets. ICT applications can also be integrated into the range of processes in agribusiness, planning, and management, and the agro-industry cluster. While ICTs

in agro-business are generic to other business needs, there are certain aspects that have immediate and direct implications for the rural poor, including managing, sharing and storing agricultural-related information and data, Access to time-sensitive and public (government) information, links and networks that support participatory information sharing and access to market information across sectors. ICTs have also been used by many as tools for social transformation. For example:

e-commerce:

– E-commerce initiatives that link rural women directly to universities and global markets through the Internet, as well as support their activities with education, market and production information, are being tried today in many places in India by NGOs.

– E-governance programmes have been initiated by some governments using ICTs to make government services more accessible to citizens by providing them electronically, in some cases with an explicit strategy to ensure these services reach women and others who face barriers to access.

– Health educators have used the radio to communicate information related to women's sexual and reproductive health. Possibilities based on the Internet are

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