

Evaluation of kitchen in rural areas

PRAVATI MISHRA AND PUNAM AGARWAL

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See end of the article for
authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:
PRAVATIMISHRA
College of Home Science
Orissa University of
Agriculture and
Technology,
BHUBANESWAR
(ORISSA) INDIA

ABSTRACT

Kitchens belonging to nearly same socio-economic status were evaluated and comparison made of construction features with standards. There was much difference in their kitchen arrangement. It was found that carpet area of kitchens varied between 42-112.5 sq.ft. and in 43 houses kitchens were situated outside the plinth area of the house. There was a great variation of flooring, roofing and the condition of wall. Admittance of day light and ventilation to the kitchens also varied to a great extent. As regards to the space makers, in 30 kitchens there were no shelves but in 22 kitchens two shelves were present. In all the houses proper orientation was observed and no drainage facility was found. Still then, medium level of satisfaction was expressed with 57 housewives, as they were unaware of the advantages of using an ergonomically layout kitchen.

Key words : Work-triangle, Ergonomically layout.

Kitchen is the crux of the home and it should be planned and designed carefully in order to induce satisfaction and efficiency of the home maker. According to *Vastushastra*, proper placement and orientation of kitchen invite blessings and prosperity for its inmates. Studies of Varghese, (1990) indicated that Indian women spend about 5 to 7 hours a day in the kitchen for cooking and related activities, which amount to about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of their life period. The storage area and work counters not within the normal reaches of home makers and that is one of the major reasons for discomfort (Oberoi *et al.*, 1996). In view of the above, a study was undertaken in Pipli block of Puri District Orissa, to identify the lacunae regarding various general and specific construction features of the kitchens in rural areas.

METHODOLOGY

Following the random sampling technique, 20% households from five villages were selected from Pipli block of Puri district of Orissa, with almost equal socio economic status of middle income groups, making the total sample size to 100. Majority of respondents were between 30-40 years of age, educated upto M.E. standard and all of them had 6-10 family members. The study related to the year 2002-2003.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

General features:

It was found that, in 43 houses kitchen were situated outside the main plinth area and the distance of which varied between 2 mts to 9 mts. As regards to the carpet area of kitchen, it varied between 42 and 112.5 sq.ft. Out of which 56 kitchens (Fig. 1) had plinth area varying

between 51-60 sq.ft. In 89 kitchens, mud flooring was found and rest had cemented flooring. In 62 kitchens the walls were made out of stones, In 21 kitchens of mud and in 17 kitchens of brick. Again, it was found that 77 kitchens had thatched roofing, where breaking were also noticed in some of them.

Correct orientation was found in all 100 kitchens. As regards to the placement of doors and windows, in 27 kitchens (Fig. 2), there were no doors and windows, in 57 kitchens a single door was present and in rest 16 kitchens, there was provision of 1 door and 1 window. As regards to the grouping of kitchen, in 72 houses, they were directly opened to a small adjacent varandah which was used for eating purposes.

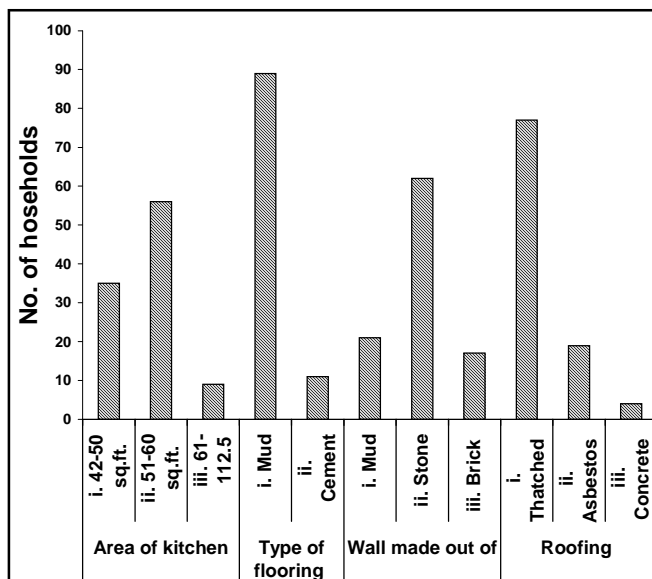


Fig. 1 : Area, floor, wall and roof of kitchen