

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Enhancing knowledge of farm women through income generating activities training

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SUMMARY : Women constitute nearby half of the population. The role of women in the economic development cannot be over leaked. The present study was undertaken in the entire Blocks of Barmer district. Randomly 25 farm women were selected from three villages namely Marudi, Daruda and Bola. On the basis of the above findings it could be concluded that the training course was effective in terms of increasing the existing knowledge of the Practicing farm women about different livelihood aspects, which would certainly help them in dissemination of information among the Practicing farm women (Parkash and De, 2008 and Rai and Singh, 2010).

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KEY WORDS :

Farm women,
Training, Income
generating activity,
Family member,
Knowledge

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Women constitute nearby half of the population. The role of women in the economic development cannot be over leaked. Many reports show that women play a significant and crucial role in agriculture. Lovell (1991) states "Poverty particularly affects women. Traditionally poor women in rural areas have few rights regarding little choice about the courses of their lives and almost no opportunities to change their situations. The activities of women are mainly restricted within the household especially in taking care of children and other family members and maintaining homes in addition, the women also engage themselves in agricultural and non agricultural productive activities within the

homestead (Halim and McCarthy, 1985).

Due to large number of population, India is burdened with poverty which is responsible for slow pace of development. In this situation, to accelerate the pace of development, women should participate in every sphere of development process. Many efforts toward formation of policies aimed at bringing about significant socio-economic improvements to the people and ultimately self reliance for the nation by incorporating the women participation in the main stream of development process. Because women are the disadvantaged class of the society, their participation in development activities is expected to affect their lives in personal. Social and economic dimensions by increasing their access to and control over the resources. This

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can be achieved by improving their level of knowledge, increasing their skills and awareness of wider and by changing the way in which people perceives women and in which women perceived about themselves with refereed to input of knowledge.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in the entire Blocks of Barmer district. Randomly 25 farm women were selected from three villages namely Marudi, Daruda and Bola. Selected farm women were trained in Krishi Vigyan Kendras on different aspects of income generating activities for the period of four days. A knowledge test was developed to ascertain the knowledge of farm women. The gain in knowledge was operationalized as difference between the knowledge regarding various aspects of income generating activities as livelihood before and after the exposure of trainings. Knowledge scores were calculated for both the test separately. The difference between the two scores *i.e.* before the training and after the training was considered

as gain in knowledge.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The observation of the present study as well as relevant analysis has been summarized under the following heads:

Knowledge acquired by farm women about various aspects of income generating activities in training:

It indicates that before exposure of training, majority of respondents had low level of knowledge related to various aspects of income generating activities. Some of the respondents obtained medium level of knowledge while few of the respondents obtained high level of knowledge. It is also clear from Table 1 that after exposure of farm women on various aspects of training programme, majority of the respondents had medium level of knowledge followed by high and low level of knowledge score (Chohthani, 1999; Singh and Verma, 1998; Bhati *et al.*, 2012 and Kumari *et al.*, 2010).

Table 1: Distribution of farm women according to knowledge in various aspects of income generating activities

Sr. No.	Subjects	Class	Before training knowledge	After training knowledge
1.	Preservation	Low	17	6
		Medium	8	5
		High	2	14
2.	Pickle and murabba making	Low	11	7
		Medium	9	5
		High	5	13
3.	Candle making	Low	18	10
		Medium	6	3
		High	1	12
4.	Bandhej making	Low	18	4
		Medium	4	2
		High	3	19
5.	Self help group	Low	1	1
		Medium	5	3
		High	19	21

Table 2 : Per cent gain in knowledge of different subjects through training

Sr. No.	Subjects	Before training Average score	After training Average score	Gain in knowledge (y-x)	Per cent gain in knowledge
1.	Preservation	41.20	58.25	17.05	41.38
2.	Pickle and murabba making	42.13	59.64	17.51	41.56
3.	Candle making	25.63	45.28	19.65	76.66
4.	Bandhej making	33.70	46.12	12.42	36.85
5.	Self help group	47.23	59.74	12.51	26.48

Extent of gain in knowledge:

The ultimate objective of training was that each farm women must gain knowledge of the subjects which were taught to them. Table 2 depicts the average knowledge score of the trainees before and after the training, gain in knowledge and average percent gain in knowledge. Data in Table 2 show that there was significant impact of the training on the knowledge of the trainees. The difference between the knowledge of the trainees before and after receiving training was markedly high (Singh and Godara, 2002). Which may be supported by value which was significant of probability? While going into the details it was noted that gain in knowledge of the trainees was ranging from to per cent and average gain was 26.48 to 76.66 per cent. This wider variation in the gain in knowledge shows that few Practicing farm women gained more knowledge whereas; few gained very little knowledge (Singh and Verma, 1998; Aiswal *et al.*, 2008). One of the obvious reasons for this difference might be because of lack of homogeneity among the trainees (Sohal and Tyagi, 1978; Dubey *et al.*, 2008; Parkash and De, 2008 and Rai and Singh, 2010).

Conclusion :

On the basis of the above findings it could be concluded that the training course was effective in terms of increasing the existing knowledge of the Practicing farm women about different livelihood aspects, which would certainly help them in dissemination of information among the practicing farm women.

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