

# Empowering rural women through KVK's training programmes: an impact assessment

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■ **ABSTRACT :** The aim of this study is to assess the impact of KVK training programmes on knowledge and adoption of rural women about home science technologies. The present study was carried out with the sample size of 260 rural women. These rural women were categorized into two groups, *i.e.* trained and untrained having 130 women in each. The results of the study that majority of the trained women (60%) belonged to high level of knowledge followed by medium (24%) and low (16%) about detergent and soap making. Data further reported that more number of trained women (60%) belonged to high level of and soap making, Bajra and moth products, aonla products, bakery products and henna products. The adoption followed by medium (20%) and low (20%) level category with respect to detergent and powder making. The overall knowledge level of trained group was high from untrained group in moth and Bajra products, aonla products, bakery products and henna products. With respect to adoption, majority of trained women belonged to high level of adoption in detergent and soap making, moth Bajra products, bakery products and medium level in aonla products and henna products. Out of total variables size of land holding in trained group exhibited significant and positive relationship with knowledge level and family income had shown positive and significant relationship with knowledge level of untrained group as regard to home science technologies. Size of land holding exhibited significant but negative relationship with respect to adoption level of home science technologies. More than forty five per cent of rural women (48.46%) stated that lack of adequate time as their main constraint in adoption of home science technologies.

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If you are poor, you are disadvantaged' but if you are poor and also a woman, you are doubly. Among various other ways of developing economically, promotion of entrepreneurship is presently being sought as one of the reliable and viable options. Our constitution, in its fundamental rights, has provision for equality, social

justice and protection of all citizens irrespective of caste, creed, region and above all sex. These goals can be achieved through entrepreneurship so that no man or woman is discriminated, exploited and exposed to inequalities at any levels. The country, which is rich in entrepreneurship, can attain economic augmentation too.

The entrepreneurs organize the economic ventures for producing goods and services at lower cost with objects of maximization of new employment and setting up new business (Nazar, 2005). Promotion of women entrepreneurship is a dependable path to economic stability of women and her family. It leads to more spending on education and health, increased decision making power and reduced gender discrimination.

Besides there are certain other reasons for spread of women entrepreneurship viz., its close link to social, cultural, religious and psychological variables' the flexible nature of work that combines gainful employment with domestic responsibilities' economic demands specially in rural women, and above all the modernization that snatches bread and butter of an increasing number and promotion of women. This attracted the attention of policymakers and planners towards the significance of women's productive activities and their need of income generation through entrepreneurship. Training needs of women in the informal sector is another area therefore, that should be catered to. This could help women to strengthen their activities and move into the formal sector where appropriate training should address not only the business skills requirements of women running full time informal sector enterprise but also help them manage their dual workloads (Chaudhary, 2006).

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), during fifth five Year plan launched an innovative project for imparting vocational training to farmers, farm women, rural youth and field level extension functionaries in the country by establishing Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Prasad *et al.*, 2008). The scheme Krishi Vigyan Kendra was initiated by the Indian council of agricultural research. Women are no longer confined to their homes as house wives. Different efforts are being made by Government and other organizations for the empowerment of rural people in general and rural women in particular. KVKs play an important role for capacity building of rural women through vocational training courses. KVK is based on three main principles; agriculture production is the prime goal, second work experience as main method of imparting training and third stress on weaker sections of rural population. The KVK is a grass-root level institution designed and devoted for imparting need based skill oriented vocational training courses (Nazir *et al.*, 2012). One of the main tasks of KVK is to provide and improve the level of knowledge of trainees about the

improved farm practices (Sumathi, 2014). Hence, the present study was designed to know the capacity building of rural women through trainings with the following specific objectives:

- To find out the knowledge level of trained and untrained rural women with regard to home science technologies
- To measure the extent of adoption of technologies by trained rural women
- To study the relationship between independent and dependent variables
- To identify the constraints in adoption of imparted technologies.

## ■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in Pali district of Rajasthan state during 2018-19. A list of trainees was obtained from KVK Pali who was imparted training on home science technologies. Out of six block of Pali district, highest number of trainees was observed in Rohat and Sojat block. From each block number of villages was listed and final selection of villages was made based on availability of women trained from KVK. The selected villages were Rampura, Kharda, Suraita, from Rohat block; Chandawal from Sojat block. Total 260 rural women were selected for the selected 5 technologies. Out of the total sample, equal number of trained and untrained rural women was considered for each selected technology from the 4 villages *i.e.* 130 trained rural women who have undergone training at KVK and 130 untrained rural women from the same village were randomly selected for the study. To study the impact of trainings on rural women 5 home science related trainings viz., as soap and detergent making, *Bajra* and moth products, aonla products, bakery products and henna products were selected for the study. Keeping in view the objective of the study, a structured interview schedule was prepared by reviewing the previous research studies, consulting and discussing with the home-science specialist, KVK staff and professional workers and pre-tested in the non-sample area. On the basis of pre-tested results, necessary modifications and changes were made in the schedule. The data was collected from trained and untrained women with the help of finalized schedule by personal interview technique in an informal atmosphere. Mean and standard deviation were used for classification of respondents into various categories.

Correlation was employed to know the relationship between dependent and independent variables. To study the association between two attributes Chi-square test was used.

## ■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

### Knowledge level of rural women about home science technologies:

#### *Detergent powder and soap making:*

It could be observed from the Table 1 that, majority of the trained women (60%) belonged to high level of knowledge followed by medium (24%) and low (16.00%). This showed that when educational efforts by way of training were made, it might be possible to increase their knowledge (Rana, 2017 and Meti, 2013). In case of untrained group, majority of them (68%) belonged to low level of knowledge (Sharma *et al.*, 2013 and Nagnur *et al.*, 2012) followed by medium (20%) and high (12%). Untrained women did not have good knowledge about detergent powder and soap making as they did not attend the training programme. The findings of the study are similar with the findings of the Nazir *et al.* (2012). The chi-square value showed highly significant association between training and knowledge level with respect to detergent powder and soap making. The procedure and materials required for preparation of detergent powder and soap is possible only through proper skill training and demonstration. This may be the probable reason for high association.

#### Preparation of Bajra and moth products:

In case of preparation of *Bajra* and moth products, it was found that more number of trained women (46.67%) was belonged to high level of knowledge followed by low (33.33%) and medium (20 %). Similar findings were reported by Dubey *et al.* (2008). Training also created awareness and knowledge about the nutrients of *Bajra* and moth in keeping good health and made them to participate in the demonstration attentively and actively. These may be the possible reasons to have good knowledge about moth and *Bajra* products.

More number of untrained women (53.33%) was belonged to medium level of knowledge followed by low

(26.67%) and high (20%) level of knowledge. Possibility of learning recipe from friends and neighbours may be another reason for possessing good knowledge about *Bajra* and moth value added products. The findings of the present study are in agreed with the findings of the Bala *et al.* (2006) and Nazar (2005). Chi-square test indicated high significant association between training and knowledge about *Bajra* and moth products. The probable reason may be less awareness of importance of *Bajra* moth and its value added products by rural women.

#### Aonla products:

The data related to knowledge level of rural women about preparation of aonla products indicated that, 43.33 per cent of trained women had high level of knowledge followed by 30 per cent and 26.67 per cent who possessed low and medium level of knowledge, respectively. Similar findings were reported by Chauhan (2012). Possession of good knowledge might be due to appropriate training received by the women. In case of untrained women, 50 per cent of them had low level of knowledge followed by 26.67 per cent and 23.33 per cent who possessed high and medium level of knowledge, respectively. Less enthusiasm to do something new products, remembering chemical names, difficulty in learning correct consisting of candy and *Chaywanprash* may be the reasons for low knowledge. This trend is in confirmation with the research findings conducted by Kumari *et al.* (2010).

Table 1 was also showed a non-significant association between training and knowledge level about aonla products. Aonla is one of the seasonal food and rural women traditionally learnt to prepare many aonla products. This may be the possible reason for non-significant association between training and knowledge level.

#### Bakery products:

Table 1 explained knowledge level of rural women about preparation of bakery products. The results revealed that all most fifty per cent of trained women (52%) had high level of knowledge followed by medium (32%) and low (16%). The training environment in which rural women gets more working experience through method demonstration may be the reason for having more knowledge about bakery products. The findings of the study were in conformity with the findings of Yadav and

Pareek (2014). While, 64 per cent of untrained women had low level of knowledge followed by high (24%) and medium (12%). Proper method, procedure and skills are required for the preparation of bread, cake; biscuits etc. which is possible only through specific trainings may be the reason for low knowledge. Similar results were reported by Nazir *et al.* (2012).

It was indicated the significant association with regard to knowledge about preparation of bakery products and training. Knowledge about procedure, requirement of ingredients and equipments, baking method, how to take bakery products as an entrepreneurial activity is possible only through specific training. So this may be the reason for significant association.

### Henna products:

It could be observed from the Table 1 that, majority of the trained women (55%) belonged to high level of knowledge followed by medium (25%) and low (15%). This showed that when educational efforts by way of training were made, it might be possible to increase their knowledge (Gautam *et al.*, 2012). In case of untrained

group, majority of them (75%) belonged to low level of knowledge followed by medium (15%) and high (10%). Untrained women did not have good knowledge about henna products as they did not attend the training programme. The chi-square value showed highly significant association between training and knowledge level with respect to henna products. The procedure and materials required for preparation of henna products is possible only through proper skill training and demonstration. This may be the probable reason for high association.

### Adoption level of trained rural women about home science technologies:

A close perusal of Table 2 elicits that, more number of trained women (60.00%) belonged to high level of adoption followed by medium (20%) and low (20%) level category with respect to detergent powder and soap making. Similar study reported by Kharatmol (2006) and Asiwal and Balai (2019). The probable reason for high adoption of this technology may be the methodology of preparation of detergent powder and soap was found to be easy to understand because of proper guidance given

Table 1: Knowledge level of rural women about home science technologies						(n=260)
Technology	Knowledge level	Respondents				2
		Trained (n=130)		Untrained (n=130)		
		F	%	F	%	
Detergent powder and soap making	Low	04	16.00	17	68.00	13.37**
	Medium	06	24.00	05	20.00	
	High	15	60.00	03	12.00	
	Total	25	100	25	100	
Preparation of bajra and moth products	Low	10	33.33	08	26.67	17.65**
	Medium	06	20.00	16	53.33	
	High	14	46.67	06	20.00	
	Total	30	100	30	100	
Preparation of aonla products	Low	09	30.00	15	50.00	2.438 <sup>NS</sup>
	Medium	08	26.67	07	23.33	
	High	13	43.33	08	26.67	
	Total	30	100	30	100	
Preparation of bakery products	Low	04	16.00	16	64.00	11.88**
	Medium	08	32.00	06	24.00	
	High	13	52.00	03	12.00	
	Total	25	100	25	100	
Henna products	Low	04	20.00	15	75.00	10.32**
	Medium	05	25.00	03	15.00	
	High	11	55.00	02	10.00	
	Total	20	100	20	100	

\*\*indicates significance of value at P=0.01; NS= Non-significance

to the trainees. In case of preparation of *Bajra* and moth products, less than fifty per cent of trained women (46.66%) were belonged to high level of adoption followed by medium (36.67%) and low level (16.67%). Availability of moth and *Bajra* in their farm and local market, easy procedure of *Bajra* and moth recipe, taste of products liked by the family members, attending up to last stage of training programme, consuming less time for preparing, giving much importance to learn new things were the possible reasons for high adoption of moth and *Bajra* products. The findings of the study were in conformity with the findings of Panwar *et al.* (2006) and Meghwal (2018). The data projected in the Table 2 indicated that 76 per cent of trained women had medium level of adoption followed by 16 per cent and 8 per cent who possessed high and low level of adoption, respectively with regard to preparation of anola products. The findings of the present study agree with the findings of the Borua and Brahma (2012) and Narendra Prasad *et al.* (2011). The reason for medium adoption of value added products of candy and *Chywanprash* from aonla is that the trained women perceive it as difficult to prepare in proper consistency and hence, showed less

interest in preparation of candy *Chywanprash*. They felt aonla pickling was more accepted product by family members and easy to prepare when compare to candy and *Chywanprash*.

Table 2 also indicated that 50, 25 and 25 per cent of trained women were found in high, medium and low level of adoption category, respectively about preparation of bakery products. This may be because of proper guidance and suggestions given by specialist. The findings of the present study are similar with the findings of the Pradhan *et al.* (2011). The data further in table about 57.14, 28.57 and 14.29 per cent of trained women were adoption in medium, high and low adoption of henna products during training programmes (Geethu and Podikunju, 2019).

### Relationship between independent variables and knowledge of the home-science technologies of trained and untrained rural women:

Table 3 indicates that out of ten variables size of land holding had shown significant and positive relationship with knowledge level of trained women. Age, education, occupation and mass media participation were found to be positive but non-significant and other remaining variables were found to be non-significant and negative relationship with knowledge level of trained rural women as regard to home science technologies.

In case of untrained rural women, family income had shown positive and significant relationship with knowledge at 1 per cent level (Table 3). The findings are in consistent with the findings of Binkadakatti (2008).

Technology	Adoption level	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
Detergent powder and soap making	Low	02	20.00
	Medium	02	20.00
	High	06	60.00
	Total	10	100
Preparation of bajra and moth products	Low	05	16.67
	Medium	11	36.67
	High	14	46.66
	Total	30	100
Preparation of aonla products	Low	02	08.00
	Medium	19	76.00
	High	04	16.00
	Total	25	100
Preparation of bakery products	Low	02	25.00
	Medium	02	25.00
	High	04	50.00
	Total	08	100
Henna products	Low	02	14.29
	Medium	08	57.14
	High	04	28.57
	Total	14	100

Independent variables	Pearson correlation co-efficient 'r' value	Pearson correlation co-efficient 'r' value
	Trained (n=130)	Untrained (n=130)
Age	0.019 <sup>NS</sup>	0.044 <sup>NS</sup>
Education	0.037 <sup>NS</sup>	0.032 <sup>NS</sup>
Marital status	-0.044 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.054 <sup>NS</sup>
Family income	-0.031 <sup>NS</sup>	0.326**
Family size	-0.067 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.045 <sup>NS</sup>
Type of family	-0.045 <sup>NS</sup>	0.121 <sup>NS</sup>
Size of land holding	0.784**	0.023 <sup>NS</sup>
Occupation	0.035 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.032 <sup>NS</sup>
Mass media participation	0.029 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.044 <sup>NS</sup>
Extension contact	-0.038 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.129 <sup>NS</sup>

\*\*indicates significance of value at P=0.01; NS= Non-significance

This indicated that with the increase of family income, the level of knowledge regarding home science technologies also increased. This may be due to the better economic condition which might have helped the respondents to participate in SHG group, trainings, meetings, extension activities etc. Other variables such as age, education, type of family and size of land holding were found to be positive but non-significant whereas other remaining variables were found to be non-significant and negative relationship with knowledge level of untrained rural (Table 3).

### Relationship between independent variables and adoption of the home science technologies of trained rural women:

A look at the Table 4 showed that, size of land holding exhibited significant but negative relationship with respect to adoption level about home science technologies. This showed that increased land holding resulted in decreased adoption level of home science technologies. They were found to be more interested to work in their farm related activities than home science. Their earnings from agriculture were sufficient to meet their day today requirements may also be the other reason for negative relationship with adoption level. The findings of the present study are not in accordance with the findings of the Chandranna *et al.* (2008). Family size, type of family, occupation, mass media participation and extension contact were found to be non-significant and negative relationship and other variables showed positive and non-significant relationship with adoption level of trained rural women about home science technologies.

Independent variables	Pearson correlation co-efficient 'r' value
	Trained in home science technologies
Age	0.024 <sup>NS</sup>
Education	0.047 <sup>NS</sup>
Marital status	0.012 <sup>NS</sup>
Family income	0.021 <sup>NS</sup>
Family size	-0.032 <sup>NS</sup>
Type of family	-0.028 <sup>NS</sup>
Size of land holding	-0.323 <sup>**</sup>
Occupation	-0.049 <sup>NS</sup>
Mass media participation	-0.042 <sup>NS</sup>
Extension contact	-0.154 <sup>NS</sup>

\*\*indicates significance of value at P=0.01; NS= Non-significance

### Constraints in adoption of home science technologies by trained rural women:

An investigation of Table 5 indicated that, majority of them stated lack of adequate time (48.46 %) as their main constraint as their main occupation of the family is agriculture and fully engaged in farm, they may not get time to practice non-farm activities followed by lack of financial assistance (41.54%). The findings of the present study are in confirmation with the findings of the Santhi *et al.* (2013). Non-availability of raw materials (17.71%), lack of guidance (13.39%), non co-operation and lack of family encouragement (13.08%), high cost of raw materials (09.23%) and lack of market facility (08.46%) were other reasons in adoption of home science technologies. Findings confirm with the findings of Malabasari and Hiremath (2016).

Sr. No.	Constraints	Trained rural women	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Non-availability of raw material	23	17.71
2.	High cost of raw material	12	09.23
3.	Lack of financial assistance	54	41.54
4.	Lack of market facility	11	08.46
5.	Lack of guidance	21	16.15
6.	Lack of adequate time	63	48.46
7.	Non-cooperation and lack of family encouragement	17	13.08

Note : Multiple answers possible

### Conclusion:

It may be concluded that the higher level of knowledge and adoption of home science technologies may be attributed due to the higher knowledge gain by the trainee. Knowledge-gain and extent of adoption by the trainees were directly proportional, as the knowledge-gain increased the adoption of home science technologies also increased with corresponding level. Since information imparted through training programme was scientific, it was not possible for non-trainees to adopt them without going through the training programme. It may be concluded from the above results that KVK's training on home science technologies was effective in enhancing the knowledge and adoption of learnt technologies. Therefore, it could be employed that more and more such training programme in home science may be organized which would be benefited to farm women in particular

and farming community in general. The better knowledge and adoption of trained farm women more because they were received regularly training programmes and new technologies from KVK scientists.

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