

Training need of rural women in family resource management

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ABSTRACT

Training of rural women is important so as to increase their involvement in the development process, enhance their skill and to make them equal partner in the national development. The present study was conducted to estimate the time devotion pattern of the rural women in different house hold activities and to assess the training need of the rural women in different areas of family resource management. A total of 415 respondents were selected from 16 villages of 2 districts *i.e.* Puri and Khurda. Data were collected through PRA method as well as well structured interview schedule. The rural women spent 60% to 70% time of the day in different house hold as well as agricultural activities. They got 1.25 to 2 hrs of leisure which was equal to 5% to 8% time of the day. A highly significant co-relation was observed in training need in different aspects of family resource management in both the districts. The data on training need of rural women revealed that most needed area of training was kitchen garden (69.39%) followed by training on income generating activities(55.90%).

KEY WORDS : Resource management, Training, Rural women

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INTRODUCTION

Women contribute substantially to the economic resources of a family both by way of service rendered and wage earned. So it is quite clear that there can be no development unless their need and interest are taken up and safe guarded. The effective management and development of women resources *i.e.* their abilities, skills and other potentialities are of paramount importance for the mobilization and development of human resources. Training of rural women is thus important so as to increase their involvement in the development process, enhance their skill and make them equal partners in the national development. The major objective of training for rural women should be to equip them with better skills and enhance their knowledge so as to prepare them to face new challenges due to technological development. No training programme would bring changes in the knowledge, attitude and action unless it is need based. Success of training efforts ultimately depend upon the extent to which training needs are truthfully assessed. Desai *et al.* (1992) and Sharma and Gupta (1994) indicated that training of the farm women to be effective should be based on their

felt need and not on the information requirements as perceived by the organizers of the training course.

In the backdrop of the above scenario the present study was designed with following objectives: to ascertain the Socio-economic profile of the respondents of the study, to estimate the time devotion of rural women in different household as well as farm activities and to explore the training need of the rural women for its implementation in future.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Puri and Khurda districts of Orissa. Purposive and multi-stage random sampling procedure was followed to select the district, blocks and villages and respondents for the study. A total of 16 villages were selected from the two districts keeping operational feasibility in view. The sample consisted of 415 farm housewives (207 from Khurda district and 208 from Puri districts). Training areas related to family resource management were listed under 6 broad categories. Data on socio-economic profile, time devotion pattern were collected by PRA method and through specially structured

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pre-tested interview schedule.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

It is evident from Tale 1 that majority of the respondents (55.90 %) belonged to the age group of 20-35 years where as respondents under the age group of 35-50 years were only (44.09 %). The nuclear family system was more predominant than joint family among the target group. A little more than 50 per cent of respondents were literate. The literacy level was higher among the women of younger age than the women of old age. Per capita monthly income of 45.06 % respondents was below Rs.2000/-. About 32.04% respondents belonged to monthly income of Rs.2001 to Rs.4000/-. Rupees 4001/- to 6000/- was monthly income of about 13.73 % respondent. Rest of respondents' (9.15 %) monthly earning was above Rs.6000/-. Maximum number of respondents were engaged in agriculture and allied activities (52.53 %) followed by labourer (31.32 %), self-employed (12.52 %) and service holders (3.61 %). From the total respondents 63.13 % were of other caste (higher caste), schedule castes were 24.09 % and schedule tribe were 12.77 %. About 89.39 % respondents were married and the rest were either divorce, separated or widow.

Time spent on agricultural activities varied from 4.25 hrs. to 5 hrs. *i.e.* 17 % to 20 % time of the day. Thus, the total time spent on all the activities ranged from 60 % to 70 % of day *i.e.* 14.2 hrs to 16.75 hrs. (Table 2).

A further perusal of Table 2 reveals that all the categories of respondents got nearly equal time for leisure *i.e.* 1.25 hrs to 2 hrs which was equal to 5 % to 8 % time of the day. About 3 % to 6 % as unaccounted time was observed in all other three categories of landholders except above 10 acre land owners respondents as they had more

Table 1: Socio-economic profile of the respondents

Sr. No.	Attribute	District-I (n=207)	District-II (n=208)	Total (n=415)
Age (years)				
i)	20-35	107(25.78)	125(30.12)	232(55.90)
ii)	36-50	100(24.09)	83(20.00)	183(44.09)
Family type				
	Nuclear	90(21.68)	134(32.29)	224(53.97)
	Joint	117(28.19)	74(17.83)	191(46.02)
Education				
i)	Illiterate	96(23.13)	95(22.89)	191(46.02)
ii)	Below High School	92(22.16)	89(21.44)	181(43.61)
iii)	High School and above	19(4.58)	24(5.78)	43(10.36)
Monthly Income(Rs.)				
i)	Up to 2000	89(21.45)	98(23.61)	187(45.06)
ii)	2001-4000	73(17.59)	60(14.45)	133(32.04)
iii)	4001-6000	31(7.47)	26(6.26)	57(13.73)
iv)	6001 and above	14(3.37)	24(5.78)	38(9.15)
Occupation				
i)	Service holder	5(1.2)	10(2.4)	15(3.61)
ii)	Labourer	68(16.38)	62(14.93)	130(31.32)
iii)	Self-employed	21(5.06)	31(7.46)	52(12.53)
iv)	Agriculture and allied activities	113(27.22)	105(25.3)	218(52.53)
Caste				
i)	Other caste	134(32.29)	128(30.48)	262(63.13)
ii)	SC	42(10.12)	58(13.97)	10(24.09)
iii)	ST	31(7.47)	22(5.3)	53(12.77)
Marital status				
i)	Married	184(44.33)	187(45.06)	371(89.39)
ii)	Divorce/separation	5(1.2)	8(1.92)	13(3.13)
iii)	Widow	18(4.33)	13(3.13)	31(7.46)

Figures in the parentheses indicate percentages

Table 2: Size of landholdings and allocation of average time (in h.) spent on various activities by the respondents in a day

Time spent in various activities (hrs.)	Land holdings			
	Below 5 acre	5-10 acre	Above 10 acre	Landless
Food preparation	4.0 (16.66)	4.15 (17.24)	4.5 (18.75)	3.75 (15.62)
Cleaning and maintenance of house	0.8 (3.33)	0.75 (3.12)	1.0 (4.16)	0.6 (2.5)
Care of children	1.2 (5)	1.0 (4.16)	1.0 (4.16)	1.00 (4.16)
Personal care	0.75 (3.12)	0.8 (3.33)	1.0 (4.16)	0.7 (2.91)
Fetching water	1.25 (5.20)	1.2 (5)	0.75 (3.12)	2.3 (9.58)
Animal care	1.0 (4.16)	1.4 (5.8)	2.5 (10.14)	0.75 (3.12)
Care of clothing	1.0 (4.16)	0.75 (3.12)	1.00 (4.16)	0.6 (2.5)
Agricultural activities	4.25 (17.70)	4.5 (18.75)	5.00 (20.83)	4.5 (18.75)
Leisure	1.30 (5.4)	7 (29.16)	1.25 (5.20)	2 (8.33)
Sleep	7 (29.16)	7 (29.16)	6 (25)	7 (29.16)
Unaccounted time	1.45 (6.04)	1.0 (4.16)	-	0.8 (3.33)

Figures in the parentheses indicate percentages

agricultural and allied activities due to possession of more land.

The work leisure ratio was worked out (Table 3) and found to be 11:1, 10:1, 13:1 and 7:1 with respect to landholdings size of below 5 acre, 5-10 acre, above 10 acre and landless, respectively. The leisure was highest in landless category of respondents *i.e.* 2 hrs followed by 1.45 hrs for 5-10 acre, 1.3 hr for below 5 acre and 1.25 hr for above 10 acre. Thus, it was concluded that size of landholdings directly affected the utilisation of time in household activities.

Table 3 : Work-leisure ratio of the respondents

Landholdings (acre)	Total time spent on various activities	Leisure time	Work leisure ratio
Below 5 acre	14.25 (59.37)	1.3 (5.4)	11:1
5-10 acre	14.55 (60.62)	1.45 (6.04)	10:1
Above 10 acre	16.75 (69.79)	1.25 (5.20)	13:1
Landless	14.2 (59.16)	2 (8.33)	7:1

Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage

Table 4 : Most preferred training needs of rural women in family resource management practices

Sr. No.	Training areas	District-wise most preferred training needs		
		Khurda (n=207)	Puri (n=208)	Total (n=415)
1.	Kitchen gardening	156 (75.36)	132 (63.46)	288 (69.39)
2.	Fuel conservation	128 (61.38)	74 (35.57)	202 (48.64)
3.	Time and energy saving devices	67 (32.36)	59 (28.36)	126 (30.36)
4.	Sanitation and hygiene	54 (26.08)	33 (15.86)	87 (20.9)
5.	Income generation activity	109 (52.65)	123 (59.13)	232 (55.90)
6.	Entrepreneurship development	43 (20.77)	27 (12.98)	70 (16.86)

* Multiple responses, $\chi^2=15.19$ at 5% level of significance

Further, it is suggested that training on income generating activities may be introduced keeping in view, the needs of the respondents, the available resources and other operational feasibility for rural women in general with landless respondents in particular to enhance their socio-economic standard.

Data of Table 4 reveal that out of total sample, 69.39% respondents preferred training related to kitchen gardening followed by income generation activity (55.90%). According to the district wise analysis maximum, need for training was observed in the area to kitchen gardening in both the districts (75.36% in Khurda and 63.46% in Puri). The next preferred area of training was fuel conservation technology followed by income generation activity among the respondents of Khurda district and *vice versa* in Puri district. Results thus clearly indicate that easy accessibility of fuel wood in the near by forest area and less time taken for collection of fuel wood restricted their second preferred training need to income generating activity. Similarly type of studies pertaining to household activities and participation of women in agriculture, allied and household activities were conducted by Virk *et al.* (1991) and Singh *et al.* (1994), respectively.

Conclusion:

In order to transform the rural women, an integral part of economic development of the nation, Govt. of India has given a lot of attention to development and supportive services to motivate them. Therefore, it becomes necessary to transfer appropriate technology to actual users with high speed. A need therefore arises to improve their knowledge, skill, attitude through appropriate training programme. To obtain maximum participation of rural women in training programme, it is inevitable to first find out the training area where there is scope of developing maximum knowledge and skill.

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