

Opinion and suggestions of rural women on various Home Science training programmes

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the opinion and suggestions of rural women on various home science training programme. The respondents of the present study were rural women from adopted villages of Department of Extension Education, Faculty of Home Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. Twenty five women were selected purposively from each of the villages three one hundred numbers were the respondents of the study. The findings of the present investigation pointed out several components of home science extension training programme suggested by the respondents such as they preferred training venue as off-campus, location as sangha or samitee's office, time-afternoon, season-summer, group-medium size, training (teaching) method-lecture, teaching aid-leaflet, duration-one week, refreshment for on-campus training programme as chapatti and sabji at launch time. As regarding marketing of their products they preferred local market.

KEY WORDS : Opinions, Suggestion, Home science training programme, Rural women

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INTRODUCTION

In the content of rural development, it has been recognized that women play very important role. Women are the world caretakers of home and perform a variety of tasks. No nation can think of its full development by ignoring the welfare of women and children. To achieve this aim, various steps have been taken in the past, like establishment of Home Science college to carry out research for identification of human problems, to develop suitable technologies for socio-economic development, impart education in home science to women and prepare extension workers for dissemination of home science knowledge to rural women.

Home science extension programme means the different extension activities undertaken by the home science faculty under the curriculum and non-curriculum programme in its adopted villages. The purpose of home science extension programme is to facilitate learning and action among the numbers of farm families and communities. It can help in production and improvement in the general quality of rural life and specially increase the capacity of rural women lighten their load as home makers and improve their nutritional health status as well as their standard of living.

In the present era of scientific explosion, a study flow of home science knowledge is must be to bridge the gap between what is generated and known by the home science researcher and what is practiced by the rural women.

There are number of home science researchers engaged in generating new and appropriate home science knowledge and technology and imparting to the rural women through various communication methods, specially the training method.

Department of Home Science Extension Education, Assam Agricultural University plays a predominant role in the extension activities in its adopted villages, so far a numbers of extension training programmes had been carried out both in the villages (off campus) and in the faculty (on campus) in a non-formal setup. Extension programmes are being benefited on whether there is evidence of considerable and widespread dissatisfaction with the programme of the various problems regarding place, location, time, season, size of the group, duration of the programme, teaching method, teaching material/aid, refreshment during on campus training etc. faced by the participant. So, opinion and suggestions of the rural women regarding home science training programme would be

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necessary to improve and modify it under the present curriculum and give a right track for success of the programme.

Keeping in view, the present study was planned with following objective : to study the opinion and suggestions of rural women on :

- The component of extension training programme.
- The refreshment during training programme.
- The marketing of their products.

METHODS

The study was conducted in Jorhat development block of Jorhat district of Assam. From this block, four adopted villages namely Jamuguri, Holia, Pangiria and Habungia were selected purposively because Home Sciences Extension programmes were conducted by the department in these villages. Further 25 women who have attended at least three home sciences extension programmes were selected from each of the villages. Thus, totaling 100 numbers of rural women were selected purposively for the study. The data were collected through structured interview schedule prepared by the researchers. Collected data were analyzed by applying percentage technique.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Suggestions given by the respondents regarding component of extension training programmes

Venue of training:

It is evident from the Table 1 that majority (95%) of the respondents suggested for off campus (village) as the training programme venue. A negligible percentage (5%) of respondents preferred the training in the campus (Assam Agricultural University). Women preference for on campus training in low percentage might be due to the lack of transportation facility and heavy workload pertaining to the family responsibilities.

This findings has also been supported by Ingle and Kude (1995) and Verma and Singh (1994) who found similar findings.

Location of extension programme:

Suggestion given in the Table 1 reveals that in large majority (94%) of respondents preferred the Sangha or Samitee's office as a location of the extension programmes. Only 4 per cent preferred library and other 2 per cent preferred Namghar for conducting the extension programmes. Women in large majority preferring for their Sangha or Samitee's office as the venue of extension training programmes could be due to the fact that they

Table 1 : Suggestions given by the respondents regarding component of extension training programmes

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Percentage
1.	Venue of training	
	Village	95
	Assam agricultural university (on-campus)	5
2.	Location of programme	
	Sangha/Samitees office	94
	Library	4
	Namghar	2
3.	Timing of programme	
	Afternoon	100
4.	Duration of training	
	Short term (1day)	24
	Medium(1 week)	66
	Long term (1month)	10
5.	Season of training	
	Summer (May-July)	100
6.	Size of the group for training	
	Small(5-15 number)	23
	Medium(16-25)	70
	Large(26-35)	7
7.	Teaching methods	
	Lecture	62
	Interactive demonstration	50
	Film show	37
	Method demonstration	34
	Discussion	4
8.	Teaching aids :	
	Leaflets	95
	Folder	66
	Chart	63
	Flash card	12
	Poster	1

feel more comfortable and convenient to participate in the place, which specially belong to them. However, most of the villages have Sangha or Samitee's office of their won, build temporary and permanently where all the social functions are celebrated.

Timing of the training programme:

It is evident from the Table 1 that the cent per cent respondents preferred "Afternoon" for participation in extension programmes. The respondents preferring afternoon time might be due to the fact that they had leisure time free from all household chores only in the afternoon. Ponnusamy *et al.* (1990) found the similar result that farm women preferred afternoon for training programme.

Duration of the training programme:

It is observed from the Table 1 that large numbers of the respondents (66%) preferred one week extension programme. While 24 per cent of the respondents preferred one day extension training programme and only 10 per cent of respondents preferred long duration extension training programme of one month. It is seen that a large number of respondents preferred medium duration (1 week) extension training programme because, they can not afford their time for longer duration due to their heavy household work and family responsibilities. However, one day training programme becomes too short a period to understand the matters clearly imparted during training programme. Kaur (1997) found similar result about the duration of the extension training programme.

Season of training programme:

Table 1 shows that cent per cent respondents suggested the summer the lean season (May-July) for participation in the extension programme. It was due to the fact that the respondents were free from farm activities during this season. This finding is supported by Nataraju *et al.* (1997).

Size of the group:

It is revealed from the Table 1 that 70 per cent of the respondents preferred medium sized group for participating in extension training programmes followed by 23 per cent of the respondents who preferred small group size and only 7 per cent of respondents preferred large sized group for participating in extension training programme. Respondents preferring for medium sized group in an extension training programme might facilitate them for more interaction with the trainer and among the participants.

Teaching method:

It is observed from Table 1 that a large number (62%) of respondents preferred ‘lecture’ method in the extension training programme followed by 50 per cent of the respondents preferred ‘interactive demonstration’. A sizable percentage (37%) of the respondents preferred ‘film show’ which was followed by 34 per cent of the

respondents preferring for ‘method demonstration’. A negligible per cent (4%) of respondent’s preferred ‘discussion’ as a teaching method for the extension training programme.

Teaching aids:

It is revealed from Table 1 that a large majority (95%) of the respondents preferred ‘leaflets’ as a teaching aid in the extension training programme which was followed by 66 per cent of the respondents who preferred ‘folder’. ‘Chart’ was preferred by 63 per cent of the respondents whereas 12 per cent of the respondents preferred ‘flash card’ and only a negligible percentage of respondents (1%) preferred ‘poster’.

Refreshment during on-campus training programme:

The respondents during the interview were exposed to various lunch items with different registration fees with the common item of morning tea as well as the study materials.

It was observed from Table 2 that large percentage (60%) of the respondents preferred ‘chappati and sabji’ (vegetable) at lunch with a registration fee of rupees 20 followed by 27 per cent of the respondents preferred for ‘rice, dal and sabji’ costing Rs. 25. Only 10 per cent of the respondents preferred ‘bread and butter’ costing Rs.10. A negligible percentage (3%) of respondents preferred ‘rice with egg curry’ costing Rs.30 at lunch time during on-campus training programme. Lunch during training programme refreshes the training and makes them more attentive during the afternoon session. This finding is supported by Ingle and Kude (1995).

Suggestion regarding marketing of their product:

It is observed from the Table 3 that majority (88%) of the respondents preferred ‘local market’ for selling of their products, followed by 21 per cent of respondents preferred ‘exhibition cum sale’ to sell their products, 19 per cent of the respondents preferred ‘permanent market’, 18 per cent of the respondents preferred ‘farmers fair’ 12 per cent of them preferred ‘AAU college campus’ and a negligible percentage (7 or 8 %) liked preferred ‘trade fair and ‘door to door’ sale for marketing their

Table 2 : Suggestions regarding refreshment during on-campus training programme

Sr. No.	Study material	Suggestions			Percentage
		Morning	Lunch	Registration	
1.	Writing pad, pen and manual	Tea, biscuit	Bread, butter	Rs.15	10
2.	Writing pad, pen and manual	Tea, biscuit	Chappati, sabji	Rs.20	60
3.	Writing pad, pen and manual	Tea, biscuit	Vegetarian rice	Rs.25	27
4.	Writing pad, pen and manual	Tea, biscuit	Rice with egg curry	Rs.30	3

Table 3 : Suggestion given by the respondents regarding marketing of their products

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Percentage
1.	Local market	88
2.	Exhibition-cum-sale	21
3.	Permanent market	19
4.	Farmers fair	18
5.	AAU college campus	12
6.	Trade fair	8
7.	Door to door sale	7

products. Earning continuous income through sale of the products placed in a local market seems to be more encouraging by the respondents followed by some identified permanent shop. The respondents preferred for farmers fair, exhibition in college campus and trade fairs were found relatively low since these pockets are available only for a particular period during the whole year.

Conclusion:

A good number of suggestions were given by the respondents as regards to extension programmes. The findings of the present investigation pointed out several components of extension training programme suggested by the respondents such as training venue as off-campus, location as Sangha or Samitee,s office, time-afternoon,

season-summer, group-medium size, teaching method-lecture, teaching aid-leaflet, duration-one week, refreshment for on-campus training programme as chapatti and sabji at launch time costing Rs.20. As regards marketing of their products, they preferred local market to sell their products.

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