

Socio-economic status of farm women beneficiaries at KVK Allahabad

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ABSTRACT : The findings of study reveal that most of the respondents in the age group of 15- 20 years. Majority of respondents belonged to other back ward class, married, nuclear family system and low income group. More than one-third (32.66%) of respondents were functionally educated upto primary level. A maximum of 85.33 per cent respondents were from farmers having thatched house. Most of the respondents were from one hectare land and having Harrow. A majority of the respondents had cycle and mobile for their work. Nearly three-fourth (73.33%) of the respondents belonged to low social participation.

KEY WORDS : Socio-economic, Farm women beneficiaries, KVK

View Point Article : Rani, Abha, Paswan, A.K. and Mahapatra, S. (2017). Socio-economic status of farm women beneficiaries at KVK Allahabad. *Internat. J. Home Sci. Extn. & Comm. Manage.*, 4 (1): 35-38. **DOI : 10.15740/HAS/IJHSECM/4.1/35-38.**

Article History : Received : 06.11.2016; Revised : 26.11.2016; Accepted : 14.12.2016

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture in India is the virtual backbone of the county and regarded as the largest sector of the country's economic activity. About 80 per cent of the Indian population either directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. Agriculture has been a part of human life since the beginning of the human race and the need for agricultural information is probably almost as old as agriculture itself. In India, special attention was paid to development of an agricultural research infrastructure immediately after independence. It is actively pursuing human resource development in the field of agriculture

science by setting up numerous agricultural universities spanning the entire country. The technology intervention programmes also form an integral part of ICAR's agenda which establishes Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) responsible for training, research and demonstration of improved technologies.

KVK is an innovative science based institution, which was established mainly to impart vocational skill training to the farmers and field level extension workers. Women have been identified as key agents of sustainable development and women's equality and empowerment are seen as central to a more holistic approach towards

establishing new pattern and process of development that are sustainable. Women should be a key aspect of all social development programmes that have been initiated by the Indian government for empowering women. In order to strengthen them and improve their status, there is need to increase their participation in income generating activities. The scheme of KVK has grown from strength to strength during the last one decade. Thus, keeping all this in mind, the objective behind the study is to analyze, socio-economic status of farm women of Allahabad district of U.P. to understand the effectiveness of training programmes of rural women organized by KVK.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh which was purposively selected Chaka block, Jasra block, Karchana block of Allahabad district were selected purposively selected as the study was done amongst the beneficiaries KVK for providing Vocational training Programme to improve Socio – economic status of farm women. For data collection interview schedule were prepared keeping in view the objectives of this study. The total numbers of 150 women beneficiaries were selected. The data so collected were then analysed to draw the appropriate interference by application of suitable tests. The statistical test namely frequency, percentage and chi- square was applied to analyze the data.

OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT

The results obtained from the present investigation are summarized below :

Involvement of beneficiaries in various activities after obtaining the training from KVK :

The main objective of Krishi Vigyan Kendra is to

conduct training programme for farmers and farm women. The objective of the training programme is self employment, income generation and above all to increase their socio-economic status. KVK imparted need based training programmes for the trainees to improve technical competence of women in various fields to make them socially and economically independent. After getting the training from KVK, women started their own enterprises to earn money and increase their savings. On the basis of interview of respondents, survey and records, information was collected about the involvement of beneficiaries in various activities Such as, Demonstration, Educational tour, Training, On farm research, Film shows, Exhibition, Farmer’s fan/fair, Farm advisory service, Front – line demonstrations, Gosthi and Kisan mela.

It is evident from the Table 1 that out of total farm women beneficiaries of KVK, 30 respondents had attended training in tailoring, 20 respondents in *handicraft*, 13 respondents in value addition in agro and animal based fibre (tie and dye), 20 respondents in value addition in guava, 20 respondents in value addition in *amala*, 22 respondents in *Dhal* processing, 12 respondents in Bee keeping and 20 respondents had attended training in Vermicompost production.

Socio- economic profile of the women beneficiaries of KVK :

The frequency distribution of beneficiary women in respect to the variables of age, caste, marital status, monthly income, educational attainments, type of family, size of family, occupation, type of house, size of land holding, farm power and improved agricultural implements, material possession, medium of communication and social participation has been presented here separately.

It is evident from Table 2 shows that the maximum percentage of the respondents *i.e.* 41.33 per cent were found in the age group of 15-20 years, followed by 14

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to type of training received from KVK

Sr. No.	Training of KVKs	No. of training	Beneficiaries in each training
1.	Tailoring	5	30
2.	<i>Handicraft</i>	5	20
3.	Value addition to agro and animal based fibre (tie and dye)	1	13
4.	Value addition in guava	2	20
5.	Value addition in <i>amala</i>	2	20
6.	<i>Dhal</i> processing	1	22
7.	Bee keeping	2	12
8.	Vermiculture production (vermi composting)	2	20

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic profile (n=150)		
Categories	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age group		
15-20 years	62	41.33
21-25 years	21	14.00
26-30 years	54	36.00
30 above	12	8.00
Caste		
General	12	8.00
OBC	126	84.00
SC/ST	12	8.00
Marital status		
Married	96	64.00
Unmarried	52	36.00
Divorce	-	-
Widow	2	1.33
Monthly income		
Below	94	62.66
Rs.1500 to 2000	38	25.33
Rs.2500 to 4000	12	8.00
Rs.4500 to 6000	6	4.00
Rs. 6000 and above	-	-
Educational attainments		
Illiterate	23	15.33
Primary	49	32.66
Junior High School	40	26.66
High School	11	7.33
Intermediate	16	10.66
Graduate	11	7.00
Type of family		
Joint family	64	42.66
Nuclear family	85	56.66
Size of family		
2-5 members	64	42.66
5-6 members	63	42.00
Above 10 members	23	15.33
Occupation		
Farming	128	85.33
Caste based occupation	-	-
Service	10	6.66
Business	12	8.00
Types of house		
Thatched	61	40.66
Cemented	57	38
Semi cemented	32	2.33

Table 2 contd...

Contd... Table 2

Size of land holding		
Landless	34	22.66
Below one hectare	39	26.00
1-2 hectare	25	16.66
2-3 hectare	37	24.66
Above 3 hectare	14	9.33
Farm power and improved agricultural implements		
Tractor	-	-
Diesel engine	-	-
Thresher	2	1.33
Electric motor	40	26.66
Seed drill	44	29.33
Harrow	64	42.66
Material possession		
Motor cycle	34	22.66
Cycle	53	35.33
Radio	32	21.33
Television	31	20.66
Medium of communication		
News paper	26	17.33
Radio	-	-
Television	30	20.00
Magazine	-	-
Telephone	94	62.66

per cent were found in age group of 21-25 years. The findings also reveals that a majority of 84 per cent respondents belonged to OBC (Other back ward class), while about 8 per cent of the respondents belonged to general class and only 8 per cent were in SC/ST category. A maximum number of respondents *i.e.* 64 per cent were married while about 35 per cent respondents were unmarried and only 1.33 per cent respondents were widows.

It is clear from Table 3 that a maximum number of respondent (62.66 %) had below Rs. 1500 as their income, 25.33 per cent of respondents had Rs. 1500 to 2000 monthly income, 8 per cent of respondent had Rs. 2500 to 4000, 4 per cent of respondents had monthly income of Rs. 4500 to 6000. The findings also reported that 32.66 per cent respondents were educated upto primary level, followed by upto Junior high school, illiterate, upto Intermediate, upto high school and upto Graduation.

There were 56.66 per cent of respondents who had nuclear families and 42.66 per cent respondent's belonged to joint families. It is evident that 42.66 per cent respondents were from small families, 42 per cent

respondents belonged to medium families and 15.33 per cent respondents belong to large families. A majority of respondents were found as farmers' *i.e.* 85.33 per cent, 6.66 per cent respondents were in service and only 8 per cent respondents were in business and none of the respondents were involved in caste based occupation.

A maximum number of respondents *i.e.* 40.66 per cent respondents had thatched house followed by cemented house and semi-cemented house. Twenty six per cent respondents had below one hectare land, 24.66 per cent of respondent had 2-3 hectares land, respectively, 22.66 per cent respondents had no land, while 16.66 per cent respondent had 1-2 hectare land and 9.33 per cent of respondents had above 3 hectare land. The maximum respondents were having Harrow *i.e.* 42.66 per cent, followed by Seed drill, electric motor, thresher and none of them used tractor and diesel engine for their farming.

The finding showed that majority of respondents (35.33 %) had cycle for their work, 22.66 followed by motor cycle, television and radio as their material possession. The maximum number of respondents (62.66%) had mobile with them, 20 per cent respondent having television and only 17.33 per cent respondents read news paper to get information as a medium of communication. Majority of the respondents (73.33%) had not participated in any social organisation, whereas 16.66 per cent of respondents had participated in one

organisation and 10 per cent of respondents had participated in two organisation (Pujar and Hiremath, 2014 and Kumari, 2013).

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