

**Research Paper :**

## **Skill development in rural women through stencil printing**

**MUGDHA SHARMA, NEELAM M. ROSE, SAROJ S. JEET SINGH AND KRISHNA KHAMBRA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Stencil printing is one of the primitive arts which is easiest amongst all printing techniques and also is comparatively cheaper. Thus, an attempt was made to train rural women in stencil printing technique so that they could start their own entrepreneurial unit. Training on stencil printing was imparted to thirty women of Kaimari village of Hisar district. The existing knowledge level of respondents regarding stencil printing technique was judged using self-structured knowledge inventory and after training, the post-exposure knowledge level was judged using the same inventory. The pre and post scores were obtained and gain in knowledge was calculated. Implementation of acquired knowledge was also studied. Results highlighted that training in the stencil printing technique was found to be very effective as there was significant gain in knowledge on various aspects of stencil printing technique at 5 per cent level of significance. Results also indicated that one third of the respondents were willing to start their entrepreneurial unit after acquiring knowledge in stencil printing technique. Hence, it can be concluded that economic status of rural women can be improved, if they adopt skilled based activity like stencil printing for earning money.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

**NEELAM M. ROSE**

Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing, I.C. College of Home Science, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA

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**Key words :** Stencil, Stencil printing, Training, Knowledge acquisition, Implementation of acquired knowledge

A well known psychologist David Maclelland proclaimed “entrepreneurship could be developed through planned and structured motivational training”. In a country like India cultivation of spirit of entrepreneurship amongst rural women is absolutely imperative. This is because rural women are mostly engaged in performing labour intensive task, which continue to consume most of the time, causing a lot of drudgery and also lack of job opportunities in rural market. Hence, need of the hour is to promote such an environment in which majority of women are willing to take up income generating activities which can be achieved by providing them skill based training that will not only make them economically sound but also will be a step forward in the economic and social development of our country.

Womenfolk, who possess skill in many arts and crafts if given adequate training, can effectively earn for family or be a self-earner (Dikshit and Chek, 1985).

Newpork (1999) emphasized that in rural communities, entrepreneurial quality is a felt need for the development of the society. Clearly the vigour of entrepreneurship happens to be one of the best ways towards self-sufficiency and poverty alleviation for women in a country where employment is not guaranteed.

However, to become an entrepreneur in a rural area or elsewhere, there should be adequate financial resources along with proper technical know how.

Empowerment enables rural women to overcome the most difficult barriers in life. Rural women need support, counselling and training to become empowered. This training in empowerment is the most significant component of the entire development programme for entrepreneurship of rural women (Neelima and Swaroop, 2000).

Stencil printing is one of the primitive arts which is easiest amongst all the printing techniques and also is comparatively cheaper. Thus, an attempt was made to train rural women in the technique of stencil printing so that they could start their own entrepreneurial unit

Hence, looking into the above facts, the present research work was formulated to impart technical training to rural women and to study knowledge acquisition and its implementation regarding stencil printing.

### **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE**

The present study was conducted to develop stencil printing designs for skill development in rural women for entrepreneurship. The methodological approach followed

to carry out this study has been explained as follows:

### Selection of respondents:

The present study was conducted in Kaimari village of Hisar district, purposively, owing to the easy accessibility and convenience of the investigators. Thirty women who were interested in stencil printing were selected randomly from the village.

### Tools and procedures for data collection:

#### *Development of design:*

Stencil designs were developed for lady's suits. The stencils were prepared using developed designs for imparting training.

#### *Imparting training:*

Training was imparted to rural women using developed stencils in the techniques of stencil printing. During the course of training lecture was delivered and leaflet was distributed. Demonstration in the stencil printing technique was given and stencil products were developed by the rural women.

#### *Knowledge acquisition regarding stencil printing:*

The existing knowledge level of respondents regarding stencil printing technique was judged using self-structured knowledge inventory and after training, the post-exposure knowledge level was judged using the same inventory. The pre and post scores were obtained and gain in knowledge was calculated. Implementation of acquired knowledge was also studied.

### Analysis of data and application of statistical tools:

The collected data were coded, tabulated and analyzed using frequency, percentage and t-test to draw the meaningful inferences.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the present study have been discussed and presented under the following heads:

### Personal profile of the respondents:

It included the personal traits of the respondents, *i.e.* age, educational status, marital status, occupation, monthly family income and type of family. Data shown in Table 1 indicated that 40 per cent respondents belonged to the age group of 25-35 years, 30 per cent of respondents were illiterate, 63.33 per cent were married, 66.67 per cent of the respondents were housewives, majority of the respondents *i.e.* 76.67 per cent belonged to the families of having income from Rs. 1000-5000 per

month and 93.33 per cent belonged to nuclear family.

**Table 1: Personal traits of the respondents (n=30)**

Traits	Frequency (%)
<b>Age</b>	
15 – 25	8 (26.67)
25 – 35	12 (40.00)
Above 35	10 (33.33)
<b>Educational status</b>	
Illiterate	9 (30.00)
Primary	8 (26.67)
Middle	7 (23.33)
Metric/ Intermediate	6 (20.00)
<b>Marital status</b>	
Married	19 (63.33)
Unmarried	11 (36.67)
<b>Occupation</b>	
Housewives	20 (66.67)
Working	10 (33.33)
<b>Monthly family income (Rs.)</b>	
1000 – 5000	23 (76.67)
5001 – 10,000	4 (13.33)
Above 10,000	3 (10.00)
<b>Type of family</b>	
Nuclear	28 (93.33)
Joint	2 (6.67)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

### Knowledge acquisition regarding stencil printing:

Data of Table 2 indicate that there was significant gain in knowledge regarding stencil printing technique, type of design, material required, means of cutting traced design, preparation of printing area, type of colour and its method of application, type of fabric and its preparation and procedure followed for printing at 5 per cent level of significance. The results are in agreement with the findings of Yadav *et al.* (2006) as they also found that knowledge and skill of the respondents became higher after the training.

### Implementation of acquired knowledge:

It is evident from Table 3 that 36.67 per cent respondents indicated that after learning stencil printing technique they would set up their entrepreneurial unit, followed by 33.33 per cent who revealed that they would earn money, 13.33 per cent reported to utilize the skill for household purpose, 10 per cent were willing to implement their knowledge for utilizing free time and only 6.67 per cent to upgrade their skill. Thus, it can be concluded that one-third of respondents might start their entrepreneurial unit after acquiring knowledge in this area. Sandhya and

<b>Table 2 : Knowledge acquisition regarding stencil printing technique</b>				<b>(n=30)</b>
Knowledge parameters	Pre mean score	Post mean score	Gain mean score	't' cal
<b>Knowledge about stencil printing</b>	1.20	2.00	0.77	9.77**
<b>Type of design used for stencil printing</b>				
Bold	1.13	1.70	0.57	5.50**
Incisive	1.17	1.53	0.40	3.53**
<b>Material used for stencil printing</b>				
Waxed paper	1.23	1.90	0.67	6.12**
Acetate sheet	1.17	1.87	0.70	7.23**
Metal	1.00	1.47	0.47	5.37**
<b>Means of cutting traced design</b>				
Sharpened knife	1.20	1.87	0.67	7.64**
Blade	1.17	1.87	0.70	8.88**
<b>Preparation of printing area</b>				
Table	1.13	1.50	0.37	4.13**
Old blanket	1.20	1.43	0.23	2.67**
Wad of newspaper	1.00	1.93	0.93	13.77**
<b>Type of colour used for stencil printing</b>				
Fabric colour	1.10	1.50	0.40	4.40**
Readymade pigment colour	1.03	1.57	0.53	5.72**
Self-made colour	1.07	1.53	0.46	5.04**
<b>Method of applying colour through stencil</b>				
Brushing	1.23	1.63	0.40	4.40**
Dabbing	1.03	1.47	0.44	4.67**
Sponging	1.20	1.57	0.37	4.13**
Spraying	1.23	1.67	0.40	4.40**
<b>Type of fabric used for stencil printing</b>				
Cotton	1.23	1.83	0.60	6.60**
Silk	1.13	1.60	0.47	5.08**
Rayon	1.03	1.53	0.50	5.39**
<b>Preparation of fabric before printing</b>				
Scouring	1.20	1.67	0.47	4.40**
Ironing	1.16	1.63	0.46	5.04**
<b>Procedure followed for printing</b>				
Spreading fabric flat on printing area	1.20	1.60	0.40	6.82**
Placing of stencil	1.20	1.70	0.50	5.39**
Applying colour	1.20	1.73	0.53	5.72**
Iron on reverse side after 48 hours	1.03	1.57	0.54	5.15**
Wash after 4 days with mild soap	1.03	1.60	0.57	6.19**

\*\* Highly significant at 5% level of significance at 29 d.f.  
t tabulated = 2.0

<b>Table 3: Implementation of acquired knowledge</b>		<b>(n=30)</b>
Implementation of knowledge	Frequency (%)	
To earn money	10 (33.33)	
For entrepreneurship	11 (36.67)	
For household purpose	4 (13.33)	
For utilizing free time	2 (6.67)	
Due to own interest	2 (6.67)	
For upgrading the skill	1 (3.33)	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

Intodia (1999) suggested that training was an important component of human resource development, which enhances knowledge, skill and attitude and therefore specialized need based and skill-oriented trainings should be organized in the villages.

### Conclusion:

It is thus concluded that training in the stencil printing technique was found to be very effective as there was

significant gain in knowledge on various aspects of stencil printing technique. It is also indicated that one third of the respondents were willing to start their entrepreneurial unit after acquiring knowledge in stencil printing technique.

Stencil printing, which was developed in Japan, is presently a popular technique in India. This skill if implemented for earning money can be highly advantageous. Thus, rural women who are even illiterate can use this skill for earning of money.

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Authors' affiliations:

**MUGDHA SHARMA AND KRISHNA KHAMBRA**,  
Department of Textile and Apparel Designing, College of  
Home Science, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University,  
HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA

**SAROJ S. JEET SINGH**, I.C. College of Home  
Science, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, HISAR  
(HARYANA) INDIA

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