



Research Article

Training needs in sheep husbandry of farm women in Barmer district

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SUMMARY : Women participate in every area of sheep husbandry. More specifically, their participation was high in areas like management of sheep, cleaning and management of sheep, health care, preparation of feeds and feeding and low in areas like construction of sheep yard, breeding and purchasing and procurement of feeds. The study showed that the women need more training in selection of sheep, management of sheep, health care, and cleaning and management of sheep. They preferred training of 2-3 days duration in their home village during the period January to April. Lack of time, inadequate compensation, venue and lack of awareness about training programmes were some of the constraints they faced in attending training courses. Therefore, training programmes may be arranged and conducted based on the needs of the women to enhance their knowledge and confidence in sheep rearing.

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Key Words :

Training needs, Sheep husbandry, Farm women

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Women are playing an important and crucial role in the conservation of basic life support system such as land, water, flora and fauna since the time immemorial. Livestock plays a vital role in the socio-economic and cultural life of the people in Thar desert of Rajasthan the women are actively engaged in every work of livestock rearing. Women participation in livestock rearing is a long standing tradition in Barmer where domestic animals are reared in backyard system. Amongst the livestock, sheep are reared in every household and is an integral part of family farming system. The sheep population is which is highest amongst livestock. Although the women carry out much of the works, development, extension and training programme and are not generally designed for greater involvement of women and extending benefit to them (Laxmi *et al.*, 1999). Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To find out the extent of participation of women in sheep husbandry,
- To visualize appropriate training needs of women in sheep farming,

- To determine their preferences regarding time, venue and duration of training
- To find out the constraints faced by the women in attending training programme.

A training need may be described as an actual condition different from a desired condition in the human, or “people”, aspect of organization performance or, more specifically when a change present humn knowledge, skill and attitude can bring about desired performance. Mishra (1990) has defined it schematically in mathematical equation as under:

$$\text{Training needs} = \text{Job requirement} - \text{Present performance} + \text{Development needs}$$

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Barmer Tehsil of Barmer district (Rajasthan). Total samples of 100 women were selected from ten villages namely, Ati, Balera, Bola, Jasai, Daruda, Derasar, Mahabar, Barmer Agor and Para. A structured interview schedule containing total 9 activities in sheep husbandry and 7 major training need areas was used to gather information from respondents

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personally. A three point rating scale (much needed 2, needed 1 and not needed 0) was employed to measure the training need score areas and were classified into more important and less important based on the mean score value.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation has been discussed below:

Participation of women in sheep husbandry:

Participation of women in sheep husbandry was studied in respect of nine specific areas covering housing, health care, feeding, general management, breeding and marketing were selected for the purpose of study and results are presented in Table 1. A perusal of the table revealed that women participated in every area of sheep rearing. Their participation was highest in management of sheep (84%), cleaning and management of sheep (80%), preparation of feeds and feeding of sheep (73%), health care (71 %), selection of sheep (64%) and marketing of sheep (59%). But their involvement was less in breeding aspect (7%), construction (10%) and purchasing and procurement of feeds (31 %).

Table 1: Extent of participation of women in sheep husbandry

Sr. No.	Activities	Participation (%)	Non-participation (%)
1.	Selection of sheeps	64	36
2.	Management of sheep	84	16
3.	Preparation of feeds and feeding	73	27
4.	Health care	71	29
5.	Purchase and procurement of feeds	31	69
6.	Breeding of Sheeps	7	93
7.	Cleaning and management of sheepsty	80	20
8.	Construction of sheepsty	10	90
9.	Marketing of sheeps	59	41

Training needs:

The training needs of the women in sheep husbandry have been presented in Table 2. The average mean score was 1.32 for training needs. The specific areas were classified into two categories *i.e.* more important and less important based on average score. The areas that had mean score above 1.32 were considered as more important and below 1.32 were considered as less important. The data which are presented in Table 2 show that the area selection of sheep ranked 1st with mean score 1.80 followed by health care (1.78), cleaning and

management of sheep (1.70), management of sheep (1.56) and preparation of feed and feeding of sheep (1.46). The less important training need areas were found to be construction of sheepsty (0.64), breeding aspect (0.80) and marketing of sheeps (0.90).

Table 2. Training need areas of women in sheep husbandry

Sr. No.	Training need areas	Mean Score	Rank
1.	Selection of sheep	1.80	I
2.	Management of sheep	1.56	IV
3.	Construction of sheep sty	0.64	VIII
4.	Preparation of feeds and feeding	1.46	V
5.	Cleaning and management of sheepsty	1.70	III
6.	Health care	1.78	II
7.	Breeding aspects	0.80	VII
8.	Marketing of sheep	0.9	VI

During the study, it was observed that most of the women were not aware of new technologies of sheep rearing. The study indicates that Thar women needed training in almost all the areas relating to sheep rearing. A perusal of Table 1 and 2 shows that most of the women felt the need of training in areas where their involvement was high. They felt that these areas as important and crucial to build up their confidence and to enhance their knowledge to perform these activities more effectively.

Time, venue and duration of training:

From Table 3, it was observed that 89 per cent of the women preferred to attend training programmes during the month of January to April as they got some free time. Cent per cent of respondents expressed that the training programmes

Table 3: Time, venue and duration of training preferred

Sr. No.	Particulars	Yes (%)	No (%)
Time of training			
1.	January to April	89	11
2.	May to August	23	77
3.	September to December	4	96
Venue			
1.	Farmers training centre	10	90
2.	KVK, Barmer	3	97
3.	In their village	100	0
4.	Blocks	0	100
Duration of training			
1.	1 days	35	65
2.	2-3 days	90	10
3.	3-4 days	5	95
4.	One week or more	0	100

should be organized in their home village with field trips to nearby farms. An overwhelming percentage of women (90%) revealed that the duration of the training should be of 2-3 days long.

Table 4: Constraints faced by the women in participating training programmes

Sr. No.	Constraints	Yes (%)	No (%)
1.	Lack of time	100	0
2.	Inadequate compensation for the time spent	78	22
3.	Lack of awareness about the training	64	26
4.	Place of training	55	45
5.	Family resistance	46	54

Besides attending their house hold activities, women are also expected to do most of the activities in livestock rearing. This makes quite difficult for them to spend time in training programme outside their home. Therefore, the women were asked to point out the causes for which they were unable to

attend trainings. Cent percent of them expressed lack of time as the main constraint while 78 per cent, 64 per cent and 55 per cent of the respondents were of a view that inadequate compensation, place of training centre far way from their home and lack of awareness about the training as major constraints which came into their way in attending training programmes (Table 4).

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