

## Problems faced by rural women in technology adoption

■ SAYANIKA BORAH

Received: 27.07.2012; Revised: 01.10.2012; Accepted: 09.11.2012

■ **ABSTRACT :** The study was undertaken with an objective to identify the problems of respondents in practicing / adopting the technologies dissemination through Home Science Extension programmes. 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 selected purposively. The data were collected through a structured interview schedule. It was observed from the findings that the respondents had faced a number of problems in practicing different technologies disseminated through Home Science extension programme. In the area of “smokeless chullha” 29 per cent of the respondents faced the problem of “high cost of the pipe”. As regards to “Janata cool chamber” 50 per cent of respondents had the main problem of “do not have vegetables and fruits in surplus to store”. Whereas 26 per cent of the respondents opined that the main problem in planting nutrition garden was “non-availability of space”. In case of practicing demonstrated food preparation, 47 per cent respondents had faced the problem of “need longer time to prepare”. In practicing the programme of demonstrated food preservation a sizeable 22 per cent of the respondents faced the problem of “ingredients are costly”. Problems in the area of income generating activities a sizeable percentage of respondents had faced the common problem of costly materials. Although, the respondents showed wide acceptance of various technologies, the study indicates that the respondents in small numbers faced certain problems in practicing of the different technologies disseminated through Home Science extension programme. Costly raw materials such as pipe, brick, foam, food ingredients etc. were faced by small number of respondents. It is expected that the concerned authority will take into account those issues seriously to improve the future extension programmes. Planning of extension programmes considering the expectations of the respondents will create a conducive learning environment to the respondents during implementation of those programme carried out by the department in future.

■ **KEY WORDS :** Technology, Rural women, Problems

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER :** Borah, Sayanika (2012). Problems faced by rural women in technology adoption. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 7 (2): 422-425.

Author for Correspondence :  
**SAYANIKA BORAH**  
Department of Home Science,  
Extension Education, Punjab  
Agricultural University,  
LUDHIANA (PUNJAB) INDIA  
Email: sayanikaborah3@  
gmail.com

In the context of rural development, it has been recognized that women play a 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 for carry out research for identification of human problems, to develop suitable technologies for socio-economic development to rural women. It is widely known that knowledge of Home Science has the potential for development of women.

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 researchers 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 on one hand and there are several agencies, institutions and programmes entrusted with the responsibility of delivering their useful knowledge and technology to the rural women.

Extension activities in different villages have been carried out by the faculty of Home Science since its inception. Department of Extension Education plays a predominant role in the extension activities in its adopted villages. So far a

number of extension programmes had been carried out both in the villages and in the faculty in a non-formal set up. Extension programmes are being benefited on whether there is evidence of considerable and widespread dissatisfaction with the programmes of the various problems faced by the rural women. Therefore, time to time evaluation of the programmes in action would be necessary to provide a basis to determine the progress or effectiveness of the programmes. Although evaluation of such programmes were always done by this department during and after the particular programme as a part of the programmes, no systematic study was carried out, so far to get the feedback of such programme thoroughly and elaborately. Hence, the present investigator inclined to take up a research study to evaluate Home Science extension programmes in particular with the objective to identify the problems of the rural women in practicing the technologies disseminated through Home Science Extension Programme.

## ■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in Jorhat development block of Jorhat district of Assam. From this block four (4) adopted villages namely, Jamuguri, Holia, Pangiria and Habungia were selected purposively because Home Sciences Extension programme were conducted by the department in these villages. Further 25 women who have attended at least three (3) 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 researcher. Collected data were analyzed by applying percentage technique.

## ■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

An attempt has been made to identify the problems faced by the respondents in practicing different technologies disseminated through Home Science extension programmes.

Sr. No.	Problems	Percentage	Rank
1.	High cost of the pipe	29	I
2.	Non availability of pipe in local market	7	II
3.	Difficult to develop the skill of construction	3	III

The result of Table 1 reveals that among the various problems pertaining to smokeless chulha, 29 per cent of the respondents faced the problem of high cost of the pipe followed by 7 per cent of respondents faced the problem of non-availability of the pipe in local market, which was difficult

for them to carry the pipe from town. Therefore, it can be concluded, that due to the lower economic condition, a sizeable percentage of respondents faced the problem of high cost of the pipe.

Sr. No.	Problems	Percentage	Rank
1.	Non-availability of fruits and vegetables in surplus to store	50	I
2.	Bricks are costly	15	II
3.	It covers large area in the kitchen	13	III
4.	It needs skilled person to make	5	IV
5.	No encouragement from husband	3	V
6.	It is not effective	1	VI

Table 2 shows that installation of janata cool chamber was reported by 50 per cent of the respondents was to non-availability of vegetables and fruits in surplus to store in cool chamber (Rank I). It might be due to the fact that respondents were habituated either to pluck fresh vegetables and fruits from their own kitchen garden or buy them from nearby market every day or whenever needed. However, only 1 per cent of respondents who said the process are not effective (Rank VI).

A study conducted by Patnaik and Debi (1986) revealed that specially in the rural societies, females were subjected to several socio-economic constraints and discriminations. It seems that little less than 50 per cent of the respondents did not realize the actual importance of cool chamber that even the smaller amount of fruits and vegetables can be stored without spoilage in such chamber. Moreover, these people need more motivation by the Department of Extension Education to make them install and use this low cost technology although a small percentage of respondents faced the problem of high cost of the bricks which could be made through economic development of the respondents by other means of extension activities.

Table 3 shows that a small number (26 %) of the respondents did not practice the nutrition garden in their households which they reported as non-availability of place for the nutrition garden (rank I). A negligible percentage (8 %) of respondents complained about insufficient men power as well as non-availability of time for a nutrition garden. These problems might have occurred due to their dual role played

Sr. No.	Problems	Percentage	Rank
1.	Non availability of place	26	I
2.	In sufficient manpower	8	II
3.	Non availability of time	8	II

both agriculture and home front and also due to their poor economic condition.

This finding is supported by Srivatava (1998) that the women had dual burden of contributing to the family income and shouldering the responsibility of looking to the family. A proper space management prescribed by expert from horticulture department and proper distribution of work load can deal with such problems that even a small place if properly planned can utilized to an optimum level.

Table 4, it was observed that time required relatively longer to prepare a food item demonstrated through Home Science Extension programme which was felt by 47 per cent of the respondents (Rank I). On the other hand, a negligible percentage (2 %) of the respondents complained about more time needed for pre-preparation of the food.

The data presented in Table 5 indicate that 22 per cent of respondents had faced the problem of costly ingredients used in food preservation (Rank I) followed by 9 per cent of the

<b>Table 4 : Problem faced by the respondents in practice of demonstrated food preparation (n=66)</b>			
Sr. No.	Problems	Percentage	Rank
1.	Needs longer time to prepare	47	I
2.	Ingredients are costly	14	II
3.	Different taste of the family members	3	III
4.	Lots of pre-preparation needed	2	IV

<b>Table 5 : Problems faced by the respondents in practice of demonstrated food preservation (n=77)</b>			
Sr. No.	Problems	Percentage	Rank
1.	Ingredients are costly	22	I
2.	Ingredients are not easily available	9	II
3.	Process is time consuming	8	III
4.	It is not cost effective	7	IV

<b>Table 6 : Problems faced by the respondents in taking up income generating activities</b>			
Sr. No.	Problems	Percentage	Rank
<b>Making pot holder (n=31)</b>			
1.	Costs of the materials are high	23	I
2.	It is time consuming	10	II
3.	Non-availability of market for selling the product	7	III
4.	Foam is not available in the local market	7	III
5.	Difficulty in getting materials from market	7	III
<b>Cushion cover (22)</b>			
1.	Materials are costly	36	I
2.	Non-availability of sewing machine	27	II
3.	Process is time consuming	14	III
4.	Non-availability of the materials	14	III
<b>Tie and dye</b>			
1.	Materials are costly	38	I
2.	Chemical (fixing) are not available	21	II
3.	Dye is not available in the local market	7	III
<b>Flower making</b>			
1.	Materials are costly	40	I
2.	Non-availability of materials in local market	13	II
3.	Process is time consuming	10	III
4.	Difficult to develop the skill to making of flower	2	IV
<b>Woven materials</b>			
1.	Process is time consuming	27	I
2.	Daily work load is high	26	II
3.	Lack of knowledge and skill to market the product	9	III
4.	Materials are costly	7	IV

respondents who found that the ingredient were not easily available (Rank II). Only 7 per cent of the respondents opined that the item was not cost effective (Rank II).

It is observed from the findings of Table 6 that a sizeable percentage of respondents had faced the common problem of costly materials in case of income generating activities accept woven materials production. Although the respondents had faced monetary problem to take up an income generating activities, proper motivation needs to be given. This is also supported by Rath and Veerabhadraiah (1991) that lack of infrastructure, lack of physical facilities, inadequate supply of input, lack of useful literature, lack of mobile training unit etc., the respondents face in taking up income generating activities.

However, Gogoi (1989) pointed out that all the farm women faced the problem of domestic work load, lack of social approval and inadequate of knowledge / skill in practicing the agricultural operation. To gain the confidence of the respondents, they have to be made aware that some amounts of money spend in the initial stage is nothing but a good investment which can give a handsome return if the skilled is acquired to an optimum level.

#### **Conclusion:**

The respondents are facing certain problems during the practice of various technologies disseminated through Home Science Extension programmes which are of different nature.

Although the respondents showed wide acceptance of the technologies, different opinion and suggestions were given by them for further improvement of the quality of extension programmes. It is expected that the concerned authority will take into account those issues seriously to improve the future extension programmes. The findings of the present investigation will throw light on those functionaries engaged in rural development programmes. There is a scope to study the problems faced by the rural women in practicing the farm based technologies disseminated through extension programmes.

#### **■ REFERENCES**

- Gogoi, B.C.** (1989). A study on Women's knowledge and their participation in farm operation. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, ASSAM (INDIA).
- Patnaik, S.C.** and Debi, S. (1986). An assessment of women's economic contributions to the farm sectors a micro level study. *J. Rural Development*, **5**(4) : 480-490.
- Rath, N.C.** and Veerabhadraiah, V. (1991). Problem counted by SMSs in smooth functioning of T and V system. *Indian J. Extn. Edu.*, **21** (4 & 5):110-111.
- Srivastava, S.** (1998). Women of rural Indian over view. *Yojana*, **22** (9).

\*\*\*\*\*