

Research Article

Socio-economic impact of rural entrepreneurship training to women SHGs

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SUMMARY : The present investigation attempts to study the socio-economic impact of rural entrepreneurship training on SHG members. Out of the total 22 SHGs formed by the krishi vigyan kendra, valsad, 8 SHGs of tribal women operating in four villages viz., Sukhala, Ambheti, Arnala, and Samarpada were selected from two blocks i.e. Kaparada and Pardi. Out of the total 448 members, 172 members of eight selected groups, were selected as respondents. It can be concluded that all the above rural entrepreneurship training programmes organized by K.V.K. had above moderate effectiveness in terms of economical gain but the training exerted very good impact on social development of women members. It was also felt that almost 59 per cent of the trainees were active and utilizing their skills. Income of all the group members was increased after entrepreneurship training to the tune of Rs.400-2500 per month. This shows effectiveness of skill oriented vocational training imparted by the Kendra.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Development and growth of a nation and healthy and harmonious growth of a society would not be possible unless women are brought into the mainstream of national development. Investing in women's capabilities and empowering them in all respect is the surest way to contribute to the sustainable economic growth. Over the years the role of women in socio economic development has now undergone a marked change. The government since independence has been emphasizing the need for development of women entrepreneurial skills and their participation in nation building (Kamalakkannam, 2005). Among many other fields, the carrier of women of today has moved into the world of entrepreneurship, both in domestic and abroad markets. It is estimated that women entrepreneurs comprises about 14 per cent of total Indian entrepreneurs. In the next decade it is expected to be doubled. However this can be achieved only by providing appropriate environment and training programmes. Training programmes are now a day the popular means among the women groups in

our country for the capacity building (Sharma *et al.*, 2006).

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is down to earth, grass root level institution committed to vocational training, training of latest relevant technologies in the district and on farm research. KVK thus going to play vital role in changing the agrarian economy of the country. One such Krishi Vigyan Kendra situated in Valsad district of Gujarat state. This kendra has formed 22 women SHGs consist of 448 tribal women members of which 432 are ST, 5 are ST and 11 are OBC members. They have been trained in different trade and linked with financial institutions. The present investigation attempts to study the socio-economic impact of rural entrepreneurship training on SHG members.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in two blocks viz., Kaparada and Pardi of Valsad district of Gujarat state as KVK is intensively working in both the blocks. Out of the total 22 SHGs formed by the Kendra, 8 SHGs of tribal women operating in four villages viz., Sukhala, Ambheti, Arnala, and

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Sarnapada were selected from two blocks *i.e.* Kaparada and Pardi. Out of the total 448 members, 172 members of eight groups, were selected purposively as it has already completed three years of functioning. Members of selected groups were imparted entrepreneurship training on tailoring, leaf cup/leaf dish preparation, mango pulp preservation and, paper packaging preparation. The data from each group were collected by interview method and the record maintained by each group was also taken in to consideration.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The data regarding profile of the members of selected SHGs (Table 1) indicated that large majority of the members (90 %) were belonged to schedule tribes followed by other backward class. About one third members were illiterate and about 43 per cent belonged to middle age group (21-30 years). Income of all the group members were increased after entrepreneurship training to the tune of Rs.400-2500per month. This shows effectiveness of skill oriented vocational training imparted by the Kendra.

Social impact:

Increase in the number of SHGs:

Within one year 6 more SHGs were formed by women in their own and neighboring villages. This shows development of leadership amongst so called illiterate, socio economically backward tribal women.

Inter loaning among the members:

It was also observed that the from the regular monthly credit amounts ,members started asking loans at marginal rate of interests not only for their business but also for their farming and family needs.

Sale of their produce:

Members had identified clients in the nearby town and sold their produce and as such they are now well acquainted with market functions.

Participation in extension activity:

Participation of trained members in extension activities such as Krishi mela, agril. exhibition, Kisan gosthis etc. are increased.

Level of confidence and mobility:

Mobility of the trained women members to the nearby town, villages for procurement of raw material, sale of the produce, banking institution, seeking guidance from KVK has increased.

Economic impact:

It could be seen from the data presented in Table 2 that income of all the group members were increased after entrepreneurship training to the tune of Rs.400-2500 per month. This may be because the members were imparted skill training on different topics under the guidance of professional trainer. They were also trained on aspects such as opening account, purchase and sale of material, record keeping, group dynamics etc. All these leads to generate income.

From among the members trained in tailoring, has purchase their own machines with the help financial assistance from bank. It is also found that most of them had repaid their loan from their regular earning. Many of them are getting work from out of the village sources. Few members had upgraded their skills and now working with embroidery machine. The net av. income gain by the member goes Rs.900 per month.

The SHGs working with leaf cup/leaf dish preparation found to be the most remunerative. This is because easy availability of *Butea Monosperma* L. leaves at village level and its higher consumption at the local level. The net av. income gain by the member goes Rs.1120 per month.

The data regarding group deals with preservation of mango pulp was not much encouraging. This may be due to fact that it requires specialized skill as it is a food material. Also it is a seasonal job (just 2 months) depends totally on market surplus of mango. Lack of storage facility found one of the main reason for less income. The net av. income gain by the member goes Rs.2500 per month.

The economic performance of paper packaging groups

Table 1 : Profile of Self -Help Group members

Sr. No.	Training	Total members	Caste			Illite rate	Education			Age (years)			
			ST	SC	OBC		Up to 8 th std	8 th to 12 th std	Above 12 th std	Up to 20	21 to 30	31 to 40	Above 40
1.	Tailoring	58	49	02	07	18	10	21	09	13	29	09	07
2.	Leaf cup / leaf dish	51	47	00	04	21	09	10	11	09	22	14	06
3.	Preservation of mango pulp	41	38	00	03	14	08	09	10	05	18	15	03
4.	Paper packaging	22	21	01	00	06	06	04	07	12	05	03	02
	Total	172	155	03	14	59	33	44	36	39	74	41	18
			(90.12)	(1.74)	(8.14)	(34.30)	(19.18)	(25.58)	(20.94)	(22.67)	(43.02)	(23.84)	(10.46)

Table 2 : Economic impact of entrepreneurship training on SHGs

Sr. No.	Training	SHGs	Total members of group	Income generation (Rs)/month by each member		Net gain/month/ member (Rs.)	Non working members
				Before training	After training		
1.	Tailoring	03	58	1200	2100	900	22
2.	Leaf cup / leaf dish	02	51	750	1870	1120	23
3.	Preservation of mango pulp	02	39	00	2500	2500	13
4.	Paper packaging	01	22	00	400	400	09
	Total	08	172				67

found very poor. Availability of the raw material, hike in cost of raw material, higher no. of inactive members, lack of marketing skills were some of the important causes for poor performance. The net av. income gain by the member goes Rs.400 per month. More number of young members may be one of the reasons for poor performance of the group.

Conclusion:

It can be concluded that all the above rural entrepreneurship training programmes organized by KVK have above moderate effectiveness in terms of economical gain. The training exerted very good impact on social development of women members. It was also felt that almost 59 per cent of the trainees are active and utilizing their skills. The young age group, un married members found less active, and were not taking much interest in setting up of work unit. This may be due to free of economic burden on them and feeling to leave parental home after marriage.

Recommendations:

Intensive training based on availability of local resources and felt needs of women, with emphasis on very practical strategy for sale of the produce, subsidized loan from financial institutions, constant guidance, forward and backward linkages may be organized.

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