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Research Article

Impact of training programme on socio-economic status and knowledge of trainees of Kathua district in India

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SUMMARY : The investigation was undertaken among 120 on-campus trainees and 120 off-campus trainees among six purposively selected villages under three blocks under the jurisdiction of KVK, Kathua. The 120 on-campus trainees and 120 off-campus trainees were selected randomly from each selected villages. Two variables namely respondents socio-economic status and their levels of knowledge about the training programme were measured by utilizing pre-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. Findings of the study showed that 42.00 per cent of on-campus trainees had medium socio-economic status followed by low 35.00 per cent socio-economic status and only 23.00 per cent had high level of socio-economic status. However in case of off-campus trainees, 57.00 per cent had low socio-economic status followed by 40.00 per cent medium level and only 3.00 per cent possessed high level of socio-economic status. The study revealed considerable difference on and off-campus trainees regarding their socio-economic status. It was also found that 26 per cent respondents had medium and low level of knowledge (1.00 %), were as in case of on-campus trainees, 74.00 per cent respondents had medium level of knowledge, 17.00 per cent had high level of knowledge followed by 9.00 per cent who had low level of knowledge about the KVK training programme. This indicates that there has been significant difference between the on and off-campus trainees with regard to this knowledge about KVK training programmes.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Indian economy is predominantly rural and agriculture oriented where the declining trend in the average size of the farm holding poses a serious problem. In agriculture 84 per cent of the holding is less than 2 acres. Majority of them are dry lands and even irrigated areas depend on the vagaries of monsoon. In this context, the socio-economic status of farmers is low because of inherent social hierarchy and economic deprivation. In order to ameliorate the poor socio-economic conditions of the farmers, farm women and rural youths in rural India by raising the level of farm productivity, income and employment with application of agricultural innovation generated at research station, an innovative extension education institution *i.e.* Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) was introduced by Indian council of Agricultural Research (Dubey *et al.,* 2008).

RESOURCES AND METHODS

KVK, Kathua was selected purposively for selection of respondents, the total respondents were 240, consisted of 120 on-campus trainees and 120 off-campus trainees. The data were collected through personal interview method using structural schedule. The entire data were transformed into normal score. The level of knowledge was categorized as low, medium and high on the basis of scores obtained.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation have been discussed in the following sub heads:

Socio-economic status (SES) of respondents:

The SES status scores of the respondents

Table 1 : Distribution of trainees according to their socio-economic status score

Category (SES Scale)	Trainees			
	On-campus		Off-campus	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Low (Upto 40)	42	35.00	68	57.00
Medium (Above 40 upto 80)	51	42.00	48	40.00
High (Above 80)	27	23.00	04	3.00
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00
				Z. value (0.05) 5.23

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge towards KVK training programme.

Category (level of knowledge)	Trainee (on-campus)		Trainee (off-campus)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Low (Upto 8)	01	1.00	11	9.00
Medium (Above 8 upto 16)	31	26.00	89	74.00
High (Above 16)	88	73.00	20	17.00
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00
				Z-Value (0.05)=12.93

were computed and their distribution is given in Table 1. As revealed from the Table 1, majority of the on-campus trainees (42.00 %) had medium Socio-economic status followed by low socio-economic status (35.00 %) and only 23.00 per cent had higher level of socio-economic status, whereas, in case of on-campus trainees 57.00 per cent had low socio-economic status followed by 40.00 per cent medium level and only 3.00 per cent had high level of socio-economic status. Thus it can be concluded that the on-campus trainees had higher socio-economic status than the off-campus trainees. The calculated values of 'Z' were found to be 5.23 which was greater than the table value of 'Z' (1.96) at 5 per cent level of significance. It is thus there was significant difference between trainees on and off-campus regarding their socio-economic status. The findings are in conformity with the findings of Dubey *et al.* (2008).

Knowledge of on and off-campus trainees about KVK training:

Training programme: Knowledge of the trainees of on and off-campus about KVK training programmes was determined by a set of twenty-five question. Only 1 question was discarded since its difficulty level was found to be above 80.

A perusal of the data in Table 2 reveals that majority (73.00 %) of the on-campus trainees had high level of knowledge followed by medium level of knowledge (26.00 %) and low level of knowledge (1.00 %) where as in case of off-campus trainees 74.00 per cent respondents had medium level of knowledge, 17.00 per cent had high level of knowledge followed by 9.00 per cent had low level of knowledge. Hence, it may be concluded that on-campus trainees had high level of knowledge than the off-campus trainees about KVK training programme.

Calculate value of 'Z' was found to be 12.93 which was greater than the table value of 'Z' (1.96) at 5 per cent level of 298 degree freedom. This indicates that, there was a significant difference between the trainees of on and off-campus with regard to this knowledge about KVK training programme.

Thus, it was concluded that the on-campus trainees have more knowledge about the KVK training programme than the off-campus trainees. These finding tally with those of Kumar *et al.* (1994), Murthy and Veerabhadraih (1998) and Dubey *et al.* (2008).

Conclusion:

It is evident from the findings that KVK is able to bring about significant changes in the socio-economic status as well as the level of knowledge among different categories of trainees. Training and guidance provided to trainees have played prime role in influent technological change, besides management orientation. Therefore, there is a need to give due importance for the above factors with suitable changes by the staff to promote successfully function of KVK training programmes.

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