

Training package on macramé for skill development

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Macramé is delightful hand knotted craft employed to make several useful and decorative products. The role of textile handicraft industry in rural economy of India is increasing steadily. Therefore, the present study explored the potential of this traditional beautiful craft in developing training package on macramé products to encourage women for skill development.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Macrame, Training package, Skill development

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Macrame is an art of decorative knotting without using needles and hooks. It is beautiful craft used to make several utility articles. It can gain immense popularity by giving the opportunity to socially and economically under privileged women of semi-urban and rural sector for skill development. The developed skill will be helpful for empowering women by earning income to support their livelihood. In this view the research was undertaken with an aim to develop training package on macramé with following objectives :

- Finding demographic information and existing knowledge of respondents.
- Development of training package on macramé technique and its evaluation.
- Training on preparation of macramé products.

The descriptive-cum-experimental research design was used in the study. Respondents of age group between 20 years to 40 years living in the nearby localities of Chandra Shekhar Azad University, Kanpur were selected. Training package was developed and evaluated by panel of 10 experts. Training programme was implemented after distribution of training package to respondents. Respondents were trained on macramé knots for first 5 days and articles were prepared in remaining 15 days. Feedback was assessed on last day of training.

Results of Table 1 revealed that sample of the study comprised of 50 per cent respondents from age group 21 to 25

years as the respondents of young age group were more interested in learning new skills. Maximum respondents (35%) have education level between 9th to 12th standard. About 42.5 per cent respondents were from service families and more than 50 per cent had monthly family income of Rs. 5,001/- to 10,000/-. It was observed from the data that 87.5 per cent respondents had 3 to 5 hours leisure time in a day for extra activities. They spent their leisure time in an unplanned way and would like to engage themselves in some income generating activities, if learned (Table 1).

Existing knowledge:

Table 2 shows that only 12.5 per cent respondents had knowledge about macramé and its products whereas 62.5 per cent knew other knotting techniques. Cent per cent respondents were interested in preparing macramé products and majority (42.5 %) liked to learn all type of articles viz., macramé jewelry, utility and decorative articles.

Training package was developed by researchers which included macrame booklet and audio-video CD. Stepwise procedure of making macrame knots in local language (Hindi) along with pictures have been included in booklet. CD contained short audio-video clips of different macrame knots which is self explanatory for respondents.

After evaluation of training package, training programme of 21 days was implemented. On the first day of training, macrame booklet and CD were provided to all the respondents.

Table 1 : Demographic profile of respondents

Sr. No.	Age	Percentage
1.	21-25 years	50.0
2.	26-30 years	35.0
3.	31-35 years	12.5
4.	36-40 years	2.5
Education level		
1.	Illiterate	15.0
2.	1 to 4 th class	25.0
3.	5-8 class	25.0
4.	9-12	35.0
Occupation		
1.	Service	42.5
2.	Business	27.5
3.	Farming	10.0
4.	Labour	20.0
Family income		
1.	Below Rs. 5,000/-	12.5
2.	Rs. 5,001 to 10,000/-	52.5
3.	Rs. 10,001 to 15,000/-	25.0
4.	Rs. 15,001 and above	10.0
Duration of leisure time		
1.	1-2 hours	5.0
2.	2-3 hours	7.5
3.	3-4 hours	35.0
4.	4-5 hours	52.5

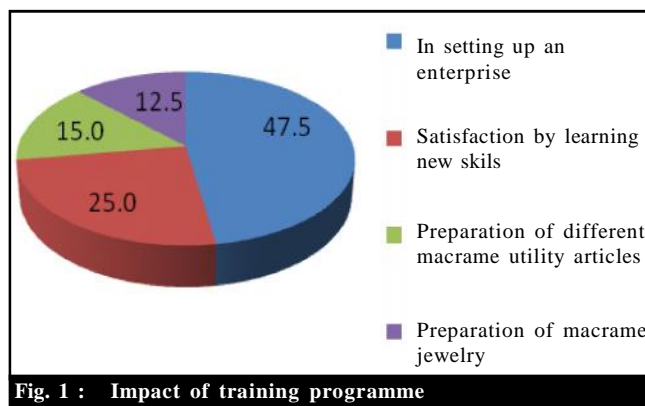
Table 2 : Existing knowledge of respondents

Sr. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1.	Knowledge of knotting techniques	62.5
2.	Knowledge about macrame and its products	12.5
3.	Interest in preparing macrame products	100.0
4.	Interest for type of products	
	Macramé jewelry	20.0
	Utility article	27.5
	Decorative article	10.0
	All of the above	42.5

Selected macrame knots *viz.*, lark head knot, reverse lark head knot, half hitch knot, over head knot, coil knot were explained to the respondents for first five days. On the 6th day skill of respondents in preparation of macramé knots was evaluated. After that different macrame products (Macramé utility articles like mirror holder, pot holder, lamp shade etc. and Macramé

jewelry like ear rings, bracelets, necklace etc.) were prepared by respondents as per their choice.

On the assessment of training programme and benefits, it was found that respondents were satisfied with training and benefits from training programme as shown in Fig.1, which reveals that 47.5 per cent respondents felt that this training would be helpful for setting up their own enterprise and 25 per cent liked training programme as they learned new skills in their leisure time. Women were interested to run their business through forming self-help groups (SHG).

**Fig. 1 : Impact of training programme**

Skill development in macramé craft can help to popularize this beautiful traditional art and can be a source of earning for women. Trained women if take up this craft as an entrepreneurial activity it would support their livelihood.

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