

An analysis of institutionalized vocational trainings for farm women

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The importance of training and education for improving the standard of living of the family, especially through home makers, has been recognized long back but has gained impetus in the recent past. The present study was undertaken on 240 women of Rajasthan state. A structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from the trainees. It was found that 'tailoring' was considered of much importance because even if they do not want to accept it as a vocation, they can sew their family clothings and save money. It was observed that 'Rope making' was given first preference by the respondents while the 'Jute bag making' the item of training was given the last rank by the farm women amongst all five items of the vocational training. The tailoring was most needed followed by handicraft making, carpentry, jute bag making which were important while rope making was least needed items of training as perceived by farm women.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Training needs, Adequacy, Vocational trainings, Women empowerment

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With a great education and the right training your future is already heading down the path to success. Having the right skills, and more importantly having portable skills, will make you a highly desirable valued and needed member of any community.

The term training refers to the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies as a result of the teaching of vocational or practical skills and knowledge that relate to specific useful competencies. It forms the core of apprenticeships and provides the backbone of content. Training helps to provide an opportunity and broad structure for the development of human resources' technical skills. With fast emerging sophisticated innovations and technologies in every field, training is increasingly becoming a potent instrument that can help people bring about improvement in their prevailing conditions and ways of making a living (Anita, 2006). The significance of training and education for improving the standard of living of a family, especially through home makers has been recognized long back but has gained impetus in the recent past. The

importance of training for women empowerment has further gained the attention of policy makers in our country. Training is meaningful only if it is need based and brings attitudinal change to establish own enterprise (Rana *et al.*, 2013).

Vocational training refers to a certain type of training whose main objective is preparing people for work. Vocational training for the farmers proves to be a significant input in accelerating farm production. Different attempts are being made to make rural women self - sufficient through various training programmes. Empowering women does not mean empowering in technical area only but women should remember that they are rational, intelligent and thinking human beings (Nazir *et al.*, 2012). Dependent women are not empowered women. If women think just that being highly educated and employed they are empowered, it is a myth (Banga, 2010). Empowerment is the power of obtaining basic opportunities for women, either directly by those people or through the help of welfare organizations. It also includes encouraging and developing the skills for self- efficiency.

The study was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To study the importance of items covered under vocational training courses of Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
- To find out the adequacy of items covered under vocational training courses.
- To find out the need of items covered under vocational training courses.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in III-A agro climatic zone of Rajasthan. Two KVKs, one run by NGO and one run by RAU, Bikaner were selected for the study. Eight villages from each of the KVK were selected randomly. From each village, a sample of 15 farmwomen were drawn following the procedure of simple random sampling. Thus, a sample of 240 farmwomen in all was drawn.

Interview schedule was filled in by the trainers of the KVK. The farm women were asked to rank the items of training keeping in view their importance on the three point continuum. *i.e.* most important, important and less important for them in their work.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

Importance of different items of vocational training:

Five items of farm women training under this area were measured for their importance and responses received are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 depicts the 'relative importance of different

subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in vocational training.' Five items of training *viz.*, 'Tailoring', 'Jute bag making', 'Rope making', 'Carpentry' and 'Handicraft making' were selected and their relative importance was apprehended and observed in terms of most important (MI), important (I), least important (LI). By calculating the mean score values, the items were given ranks to show their relative importance.

It is explained that 37.03 per cent farm women felt training for all the five items most important while 28.64 per cent farm women desired training as "important" and 24.33 per cent farm women reported the training least important.

It is also clear from Table 1 that 'Tailoring' the item of training was preferred most important by the maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 61.11 per cent while it was 'Jute bag making' the item of training seen most important by the lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 5.99 per cent. It was 'Handicraft making' the item of training reported important by maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 44.44 per cent and 'Jute bag making' the item of training was observed important by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 12.43 per cent. Highest number of farm women *i.e.* 81.58 per cent observed the 'Jute bag making' the item of training as least important while 'Tailoring' the item of training was noticed least important by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 11.11 per cent.

Looking at the mean score value distribution it was observed that 'Tailoring' the item of training was given first preference by the respondents while the 'Jute bag making' the item of training was given the last rank by the farm women amongst all five subject matter items of the vocational

Table 1: Relative importance of different items of training as perceived by farm women

| Sr. No. | Item of training | Percentage of farm women | | | Means score | Rank |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|------|
| | | MI | I | LI | | |
| 1. | Tailoring | 61.11 | 27.78 | 11.11 | 2.50 | 1 |
| 2. | Jute bag making | 5.99 | 12.43 | 81.58 | 1.24 | 5 |
| 3. | Rope making | 42.51 | 29.22 | 28.27 | 2.14 | 3 |
| 4. | Carpentry | 36.67 | 29.29 | 34.04 | 2.03 | 4 |
| 5. | Handicraft making | 38.89 | 44.44 | 16.67 | 2.22 | 2 |
| | Overall | 37.03 | 28.64 | 24.33 | 2.03 | |

Table 2: Relative adequacy of different items of training as perceived by farm women

| Sr. No. | Item of training | Percentage of farm women | | | Means score | Rank |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|------|
| | | MA | A | LA | | |
| 1. | Tailoring | 11.11 | 33.33 | 56.56 | 1.56 | 3 |
| 2. | Jute bag making | 2.33 | 8.52 | 89.15 | 1.13 | 5 |
| 3. | Rope making | 72.22 | 16.67 | 11.11 | 2.61 | 1 |
| 4. | Carpentry | 18.37 | 22.51 | 59.12 | 1.59 | 2 |
| 5. | Handicraft making | 13.53 | 18.29 | 68.18 | 1.45 | 4 |
| | Overall | 23.52 | 19.86 | 56.62 | 1.6 | |

training.

It was found that the farm women remained idle not only in slack season but also during crop season. If vocational courses are given to the farm women they can utilize their time to raise their economic level. Further, 'Tailoring' the item of the training was of much importance because even if they do not want to accept it as a vocation, they can sew their family clothing and save money. The 'Jute bag making' the item of training was found least important because the availability of jute in Rajasthan is very low.

Adequacy of different items of vocational training:

Five items of training were checked by the farm women for their adequacy and the results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 depicts the 'Relative adequacy of different subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in vocational training.' Five items of training *viz.*, 'Tailoring', 'Jute bag making', 'Rope making', 'Carpentry' and 'Handicraft making' was selected and their relative adequacy were observed in terms of most adequate (MA), adequate (A) and least adequate (LA). Mean score was calculated and all the items were given ranks.

It is apparent from the results of Table 2 that 23.52 per cent farm women felt training for all the five items most adequate while 19.86 per cent farm women desired training adequate and 56.62 per cent farm women reported the training to be least adequate.

The table shows that 'Rope making' the item of training was preferred most adequate by the maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 72.22 per cent while 'Jute bag making' the item of training was noticed most adequate by the lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 2.33 per cent. The 'Tailoring' of training was reported adequate by maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 33.33 per cent while 'Jute bag making' was informed adequate by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 8.52 per cent. Highest number of farm women (89.15%) observed the 'Jute bag making' the item of training as least adequate while 'Rope making' was noticed least adequate by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 11.11 per cent.

It is clear from Table 2 that the 'Rope making', has been given first rank by the farm women. The 'Carpentry' was awarded the second rank while 'Tailoring' the item of training

was provided the third rank. The 'Handicraft making' was given the fourth rank followed by 'Jute bag making' which was awarded the last rank.

Looking at the mean score value distribution, it was observed that 'Rope making' the item of training was given first preference by the respondents while the 'Jute bag making' was given the last rank by the farm women amongst all five items of the vocational training. It was found that rope making was mostly performed by the farm women for their day to day operation due to which adequate knowledge and skill have been developed by them, therefore, they apprehended 'Rope making' as most adequate item of training whereas on the other hand 'Jute bag making' was found least adequate because jute cultivation is not much in Rajasthan and so raw material procurement is a problem and, thus, the farm women perceived 'Jute bag making' the item of training as least adequate.

Meshram *et al.* (2011) also revealed that training programmes conducted on handicraft making had been highly effective in inducing desirable changes in the knowledge level of women trainees.

Need for vocational training:

Five items of farm women training under vocational training area were checked and responses received are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 depicts the 'relative need for different subject matter items of training as perceived by farm women in vocational training.' Five items of training *viz.*, 'Tailoring', 'Jute bag making', 'Rope making', 'Carpentry' and 'Handicraft making' were selected and their relative need was observed in terms of most needed (MN), needed (N) and least needed (LN). Mean score was calculated and all the items were given ranks as per their relative need.

It is explained that 24.98 per cent farm women felt training for all the five items most needed while 29.96 per cent farm women desired training needed and 45.06 per cent farm women reported the training least needed.

It is revealed from the result of Table 3 that 'Tailoring' the item of training was preferred most needed by the maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 42.22 per cent while 'Rope making' was observed most needed by the lowest

Table 3: Relative need for training as perceived by farm women

| Sr. No. | Items of training | Percentage of farm women | | | Means score | Rank |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|------|
| | | MN | N | LN | | |
| 1. | Tailoring | 42.22 | 40.00 | 17.78 | 2.24 | 1 |
| 2. | Jute bag making | 12.17 | 26.96 | 60.87 | 1.51 | 4 |
| 3. | Rope making | 11.11 | 16.56 | 72.33 | 1.39 | 5 |
| 4. | Carpentry | 20.33 | 27.41 | 52.26 | 1.68 | 3 |
| 5. | Handicraft making | 39.09 | 38.89 | 22.05 | 2.17 | 2 |
| | Overall | 24.98 | 29.96 | 45.06 | 1.80 | |

number of farm women (11.11%). It was 'Tailoring' the item of training informed needed by maximum number of farm women *i.e.* 40.00 per cent and 'Rope making' was noticed "needed" by lowest number of farm women *i.e.* 16.56 per cent. Highest number of farm women (72.33%) expressed the 'Rope making', the item of training as least needed while 'Tailoring' was noticed least needed by lowest number of farm women (17.78%).

Looking at the mean score value distribution, it was observed that 'Tailoring' the item of training was given first preference by the respondents while the 'Rope making' was given the last rank by the farm women amongst all five items of the vocational training. It was found that tailoring was good and popular vocation. If such courses were taught to the farm women they can utilize their free time and also raise their economic level. Further, even if they do not adopt it for earning, they can save money by sewing their family clothings. Thus, the 'Tailoring' was perceived as most needed item of training whereas the 'Rope making' was found the least needed because farm women were well aware of this practice and in their idle time they made ropes and earn money. Therefore, the training was least needed in this area.

The findings are in agreement with the observations of Gurav and Kamble (1995) who highlighted that training is vital to enhance the motivation, create confidence and inculcate efficiency in an individual.

Conclusion:

It can be concluded that the tailoring was considered the most important while handicraft making, rope making and carpentry were considered important and jute bag making was considered the least important item of farm women

training. Rope making was expressed as most adequate while carpentry, tailoring and handicraft making were adequate while the jute bag making was found to be least adequate in decreasing order of their adequacy. The tailoring was most needed followed by handicraft making, carpentry and jute bag making which were important while rope making was least needed item of training as perceived by farm women.

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