

Skill Development of Rural Women about Value Addition in JuteBeena J. Patel¹, H. D. Shastri² and K. M. Joshi³

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*Corresponding author e-mail : beenapatel1979@gmail.com***ABSTRACT**

Jute is one of the most affordable a long, soft, shiny vegetable natural fibre and is second only to cotton in amount produced and variety of uses of vegetable fibres. Jute fibres are composed primarily of the plant materials cellulose and lignin. It is a natural fibre with golden and silky shine and hence called The Golden Fibre. It has high tensile strength, low extensibility, and ensures better breath ability of fabrics. Therefore, jute is very suitable in agricultural commodity for bulk packaging. It is one of the most versatile natural fibres that have been used in raw materials for packaging, textiles, non-textile, construction, and agricultural sectors.

Selected respondents who were able to identify the jute material and interested for receiving training on value added utility article for study. Nearly one-fourth respondents were interested in use of jute waste material for making sitting cushion and doormats. Majority 88.46 per cent of the respondents were interested and fully satisfied in making jute bag with broom strips. Majority of the respondents perceived all the three articles very useful. Almost 96.00 per cent respondents were willing to start income generating venture by preparing jute bags with broom strips and almost 93.00 per cent were willing to start an enterprise by preparing file cover with broom and bamboo strips.

Keywords : *Bamboo strips, broom strips, plain weave, training, satisfaction level*

Jute is one of the cheapest and the strongest in all natural fibers and considered as a fiber of the future. India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand are the leading producers of Jute. As a natural fibre, has many inherent advantages like lusture, high tensile strength, low extensibility, moderate heat and fire resistance and long staple lengths. It is a biodegradable and eco-friendly. It has many advantages over synthetics and protects the environment and maintains the ecological balance. Jute is not only a major textile fibre but also a raw material for nontraditional and value added non-textile products. Jute is used extensively in the manufacture of different types of traditional packaging fabrics, manufacturing hessian, sacking, carpet backing, mats, bags, tarpaulins, ropes, twines etc. Recently jute fibres are used in a wide range of diversified products: decorative fabrics, chic-saris, salwar kamizes, soft luggage's, footwear, greeting cards, moulded door panels and other innumerable useful consumer products. Properties of jute include good insulating and antistatic properties, as well as having low thermal conductivity and moderate moisture regain. It includes acoustic insulating properties and manufacture with no skin irritations. Jute has the ability to be blended with other fibres, both synthetic and natural, and accepts cellulosic dye classes such as natural, basic, vat, sulfur, reactive, and pigment dyes. While jute is being replaced by relatively cheap synthetic materials in many uses, but jute's biodegradable nature is suitable for the storage of food materials, where synthetics would be unsuitable.

Empowerment of rural women through skill development about value addition of jute leads to a development of society. Women's empowerment is critical to the socio-economic progress of the country and empowering them to exercise their choice is not only valuable in itself but it is also surest way to contribute to economic growth and overall

development. At present, number of NGOs and financial institutions have been offering micro finance especially to rural women micro entrepreneurs. These institutions have been encouraging women to start micro enterprises. A skill development training about value addition of jute has transferred the real economic power in the hands of women and has considerably reduced their dependence on men. Experience has shown that promotion of enterprise creation and income generating activities among women would transform them from 'being alive' to 'living with dignity'.

METHODOLGY

The respondents were selected randomly for acceptability of value added products from villages (Lodpa, Malivas, Nilpur) of Dantiwada block of Banaskantha district, Gujarat state for the present study. Selected forty respondents who were able to identify the jute material and interested for receiving training on value added utility article for study. Waste jute material were collected in the form of broom strips and bamboo strips for the study and planned to prepare jute bag and file cover with use of the basic plain weave. A self made proforma was used for checking acceptability of the respondents regarding jute material. Out of 40 respondents, 26 respondents were interested to make jute bag with broom strips, 10 respondents were interested to make file cover with broom strips and 4 respondents were interested to make file cover with bamboo strips.

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that 32.50 per cent of the respondents were interested in use of jute waste material for making sitting cushion followed by making doormats (30.00 %). Twenty five per cent of the respondents were interested to sell waste material and only 12.50 per cent of the respondents were interested in keeping as such means they were not interested to use waste material.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Table 1
Distribution of the respondents according to use of waste jute material (n=40)

Sr. No.	Name of the article	Frequency	Percentage
1	Selling it	10	25.00
2	Remain as it is (keep it unused)	05	12.50
3	Making Doormats	12	30.00
4	Making sitting cushion	13	32.50

Table 2
Distribution of respondents according to level of satisfaction (n=40)

Sr. No.	Name of the article	Level of satisfaction			
		Fully satisfied		Partially satisfied	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Jute bag with broom strips	23	88.46	03	11.54
2.	File cover with broom strips	09	90.00	01	10.00
3.	File cover with bamboo strips	03	75.00	01	25.00

The data depicted in Table 2 revealed that majority 88.46 per cent of the respondents were interested and fully satisfied in making jute bag with broom strips while 11.54 per cent respondents were partially satisfied. About 90.00 per cent respondents were interested and fully satisfied in making file cover with broom strips and remaining respondents were partially satisfied and about 75.00 per cent of the respondents were interested and fully satisfied in making file cover with bamboo strips and remaining respondents were partially satisfied. No respondent showed dissatisfaction regarding training.

The data presented in Table 3 indicate that majority of the respondents making all three articles were fully satisfied regarding training while none of respondents showed dissatisfaction regarding training. The researcher tried to know the perception of respondents regarding extent of usefulness of all value added jute articles. It was found that majority of the respondents perceived all the three articles very useful i.e. jute bag with broom strips (88.46 %), file cover with broom strips (90.00 %) and file cover with bamboo

Table 3.
Distribution of the respondents according to perception regarding extent of Usefulness of articles (n=40)

Sr. No.	Name of the article	Very useful		Useful	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Jute bag with broom strips	23	88.46	03	11.54
2.	File cover with broom strips	09	90.00	01	10.00
3.	File cover with bamboo strips	03	75.00	01	25.00

Table 4
Distribution of respondents according to their willingness to start income generating ventures through training (n=40)

Sr. No.	Name of the article	Yes		No	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Jute bag with broom strips	25	96.16	1	3.84
2	File cover with broom and bamboo strips	13	92.86	1	7.14

strips (75.00 %).

It was relevant to know the willingness of respondents to start income generating venture by these value added jute articles. Table 4 shows that almost 96.00 per cent respondents were willing to start income generating venture by preparing jute bags with broom strips and almost 93.00 per cent were willing to start an enterprise by preparing file cover. Further, almost 4.00 per cent respondents were not interested to start income generating venture by preparing value added jute bag and almost 7.00 per cent respondents were not interested to start an enterprise by preparing file cover.

Estimated cost of the jute bag and file cover :

The cost of jute bag was Rs. 414=00 estimated by adding the cost of fabrics, zip, lining material, sponge, packaging jute material, velcro, thread, belt, bag lock, card board, lock rings, labour charge and profit. The cost of file cover was Rs. 216=00 estimated by adding the cost of fabrics, lining material, sponge, packaging jute material, velcro, plastic strips, plastic folders, thread, less, card board and labour charge.

CONCLUSION

Diversified jute products are becoming more and more valuable to the consumer today. Empowerment of rural women through skill development training about value addition of jute leads to a development of society. Training was imparted on waste jute material to the women from Dantiwada block of Banaskantha District of Gujarat for making jute bag with broom strips and file cover with broom and bamboo strips with use of the basic plain weave design. Further, majority of the women were fully satisfied with the training and perceived training as very useful. Majority of respondents also were willing to start income generating activity by making these utility articles.

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