

## Impact of Oyster Mushroom Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme on Women

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### ABSTRACT

A sample of 120 women from rural, tribal and urban slum areas of Amravati district of Maharashtra state in India was drawn from the list of trainees who were trained for oyster mushroom cultivation since a couple of years before. About 24 areas of entrepreneurial development in mushroom were identified and trainees were sensitized to select the enterprise. These trainees were divided into twenty four groups on the basis of their preferences and aptitude level. Training modules were designed for effective execution of training programme based on System Approach. Trainees were evaluated for adoption of mushroom enterprise by undertaking follow up measures through designing well structured interview schedule. Evaluation study revealed that about 30 per cent of rural trainees started enterprise in fresh, dry mushroom, mushroom powder and the material required for mushroom cultivation. Moreover, about 13 per cent tribal trainees established traditional processed foods enterprise, whereas 32 per cent urban slum dwellers launched enterprises in various food items like fast foods, instant food, supplementary foods, bakery foods, confectionary, ready to eat foods, traditional and continental mushroom foods, and spawn production. Marketing of products was mainly done through small entrepreneur by one to one and group contacts. The overall impact of training was found in income and employment generation among the women as a result of training imparted to them.

**Keywords:** Mushroom enterprise, Women, Training, Adoption

### INTRODUCTION

Food and financial insecurity are prominent issues facing by the developing world (Higgins *et al.* 2017). India is concerned with poverty alleviation as it is lurking in urban, rural as well as in the tribal areas, because of unemployment, under employment and below sustenance level of living. Government of India is utilizing various means and methods to improve socio-economic status in multifaceted dimensions (Rao, 1999; Sandhana Tripathi and Sushma Kaushik, 1999; Sivaprakasan and Kandaswamy, 1979; Chadha and Sharma, 1995). Considering the importance of mushroom cultivation as potential income generating agribusiness (Chang and Miles, 1990) the present study was carried out to assess the impact of entrepreneurship training in terms of change in knowledge, skill, attitude, and satisfaction of trainees.

Entrepreneur is a society's single most productive force and chief instrument of economic progress. Thus, there is a need to organize such a dynamic process of creating incremental wealth.

Entrepreneurship development in mushroom was felt necessary for the women who had knowledge in oyster mushroom cultivation residing in central India. Therefore, training programmes were designed, implemented, evaluated and follow up measures were undertaken to study the effect of training programmes.

### METHODOLOGY

Present investigation is an experimental research design of social research in which impact of training was studied in terms of total training effect and adoption of mushroom entrepreneurship by the trainees. Since 2001, Department of Home Science, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University has been conducting training on oyster mushroom cultivation. During the follow up it was observed that there is a need of empowerment with entrepreneurial skills in the trainees. A sample of 120 mushroom growers was selected from the list of trainees who were trained for oyster mushroom cultivation. Entrepreneurial development the training programme was planned and implemented by using System Approach to Training (Mishra,

1990) in the month of February 2018. Various enterprise areas were identified for designing entrepreneurial training modules. Considering training needs of trainees they were divided three groups namely mushroom cultivation, mushroom food production and mushroom marketing. The impact of training was operationalized as change in knowledge, change in attitude, skill gained and satisfaction of training was assessed with the help of five point continuum scale. Data on knowledge and attitude were collected before and after training. Change in knowledge was calculated by using formulas of Standard Learning Index (Sah, 1999). Change in attitude was computed. Skill score and satisfaction index was calculated by formula.

Adoption was quantified with the help of semi structured interview scheduled. Impact of training was summation of Standard Learning Index, skill score, score for change in attitude and satisfaction index (Stock, 1987). Follow up of training was conducted and adoption of mushroom entrepreneurship was quantified.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates that 21.6 per cent trainees had reported training need in entrepreneurship in mushroom cultivation, 54.2 per cent in mushroom food production and remaining 24.2 per cent trainees were interested in mushroom marketing.

*Table 1*  
*Distribution of trainees according to area of training needs*

Sl.No.	Area of aptitude	Rural		Urban		Tribal		Total	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1	Mushroom cultivation	14	12	08	07	04	03	26	21.6
2	Mushroom food production	19	16	26	21	20	14	65	54.2
3	Mushroom marketing	07	06	06	05	16	13	29	24.2
	Total							120	100.0

Maximum trainees were from the low income group and willing to generate income from mushroom entrepreneurship. Rural trainee reported need of entrepreneurship training in mushroom cultivation, while urban and tribal trainees were in need of training in food production and mushroom marketing. Similar finding was reported by Meera Pimplaskar *et al.* (1994).

### Impact of Training

Mean index are indicated in Table 2. It is seen

from Standard Learning Index that urban (66%) were better in learning than rural (39%) and tribal (34%) trainees. Rural and urban were better in skill. Attitude score of urban trainees was 63 per cent, followed by rural (61%) and tribal (43%). Satisfaction Index of urban trainees was higher (68%) than rural (52%) and tribal (37%). Average score of total training effect reveals that, the impact on urban trainees was 63.7 per cent which was found better than rural and tribal. The findings are in line with Sanyogita Deshmukh *et al.* (2000).

*Table 2*  
*Total training effect (%) in mushroom enterprise*

Sl.No.	Effect variables	Rural	Urban	Tribal
1	Standard Learning Index	39	66	34
2	Skill Score	60	58	40
3	Change in attitude	11	63	43
4	Satisfaction Index	52	68	37
	Total training effect	212	255	154
	Average scores (%) of total training effect	52.4	63.7	38.5

The urban trainees were superior for the standard learning index, change in attitude, satisfaction index and total training effect than the rural and tribal trainees.

### Entrepreneurial Training Exposure and Adoption

During follow up study it was observed that 25 per cent trainees had adopted mushroom enterprises. Out of them 11 per cent urban, 10 per cent rural and 4 per cent tribal were engaged in mushroom related enterprises.

Table 3  
Training exposure and adoption of trainees according to area of entrepreneurial development

Sl. No.	Area of entrepreneurial development	Expose to training			Adoption		
		Rural n=40	Urban n=40	Tribal n=40	Rural	Urban	Tribal
1	Consultant in mushroom production	2	2	1	-	-	-
2	Trainer in mushroom cultivation	2	2	1	1	-	-
3	Trainer in spawn preparation	2	2	1	1	1	-
4	Trainer in mushroom food preparation	3	1	1	-	-	-
5	Fresh mushroom wholesaler	3	1	1	-	-	-
6	Dry mushroom wholesaler	2	1	2	2	-	-
7	Dealer of mushroom food products	1	1	3	-	-	-
8	Agrowaste supplier	1	0	4	1	-	-
9	Raw material supplier of mushroom cultivation	3	-	2	3	-	-
10	Supplier of equipments required for mushroom cultivation	1	3	1	-	-	-
11	Vendor of spawned bags	1	1	3	1	-	1
12	Producer of supplementary foods	2	-	3	-	-	-
13	Producer of processed foods	1	1	3	-	-	2
14	Caterer in mushroom meals	2	1	2	-	-	1
15	Caterer in low cost mushroom meal	2	-	3	-	-	1
16	Caterer in working meal	-	5	-	-	1	-
17	Mushroom breakfast	3	2	-	-	2	-
18	Mushroom fresh snacks	1	2	2	-	2	-
19	Mushroom continental foods	3	2	-	-	1	-
20	Mushroom fast food	2	2	1	-	1	-
21	Mushroom ready to eat foods	2	1	2	-	1	-
22	Mushroom instant foods	1	2	2	-	1	-
23	Mushroom bakery foods	-	3	2	-	1	-
24	Mushroom confectionary	-	5	-	-	1	-
	Total				12 (10%)	13 (11%)	05 (14%)
	Grand total	120 (100%)			30 (25%)		

Adoption of tribal was very low due to poor sustenance level of living. Adoption of urban and rural was found better. These entrepreneurs were marketing their products in local market, in various entrepreneur markets, exhibition cum sale. Trainees are generating good amount of income. One of the trainees was providing supplementary foods to pre-school children to overcome problem of protein energy malnutrition. So, the trainees were getting good income besides they were providing

employment to their counterparts. Findings were supported by the Veena Shahi *et al.* (2018), Shashi Kumar and Vinita Bindra (1994) while studying micro entrepreneurship development and women empowerment.

### CONCLUSION

It was seen from the findings that mushroom cultivation, mushroom food production and mushroom marketing are the acceptable areas of

entrepreneurial development for the urban, rural and tribal women. Mushroom enterprises are supplementing to their main occupation of the family. Hence recommended that mushroom

entrepreneurship development training should be organized and promote in the developing countries.

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