

An Impact Assessment: Empowering Rural Women through KVK's Training Programmes

Rupender Kaur¹, Arvind Kumar Ahlawat², Ramesh Kumar³ and Amit Nath⁴

1. SMS Home Science, KVK Fazilka, ICAR-CIPHET, Regional Station, Abohar

2. Head, KVK Fazilka, ICAR-CIPHET, Regional Station, Abohar

3. ACTO, KVK Fazilka, ICAR-CIPHET, Regional Station, Abohar

4. Head, ICAR-CIPHET, Regional Station, Abohar

Corresponding author's e-mail: ext_rupender@rediffmail.com

ABSTRACT

Development of a country cannot be fully achieved if its women are confined to subordinate positions. The talents of women remain unexplored without their empowerment. It is also true that poverty in both developing and developed countries has a predominantly female face. Hence, empowerment of women plays a vital role in the progress of community and nation and particularly towards their families. The Government of India has formulated various training and development cum employment generations programmes. Majority of such schemes/programmes provide more assistance to the women regarding starting their own ventures. One such programme is Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) that provides vocational training to the rural women for making them self-dependent which ultimately help to empower them. Therefore, KVKs Fazilka Conducted different training for empowerment of rural women in the area. The data have been collected from those trainees who participated in "Masala Making Training, Tie & Dye, Papad Making, Infertility Management of cow and Value addition of milk and milk products" trainings with the help of schedule method of 123 trainees. The responses so gathered are that majority of the respondents stated their knowledge at medium level and skill developed after getting vocational training from KVKs.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Vocational Training, Knowledge, and Skill development

INTRODUCTION

Rural women play a vital role in farm and home system. Rural women contribute substantially to the physical aspect of farming, livestock management, post-harvest and allied activities. Their direct and indirect contribution at the farm and home level along with livestock management operation has not only help to save their assets but also led to increase the family income. They perform various farm, livestock, post-harvest, and allied activities and having indigenous knowledge in rearing of cow. The women were empowering themselves technically to cope with the changing times and productively using their free time and existing skills for setting and sustaining enterprises. They have the basic indigenous knowledge, skill, potential and resources to establish and manage enterprise. But now is the time to upgrade their knowledge with technical potentials.

Government of India has already started several schemes for the upliftment of farming community. KVK, Fazilka of Punjab state was established in 2016 for the improvement in the living standard of the farming community. KVK Fazilka has been implementing various entrepreneurship development activities among the farming community.

The mandate of KVK is also to support the rural women by providing vocational trainings on skill development for formation of Self-Help Groups and strengthening of rural women Entrepreneurs at household level. KVK is the major sources for providing technical knowledge to rural women by lectures, printed material imparting first hand technical knowledge in production, processing, procurement, management, and marketing among the other women. This will motivate other rural women to engage in micro entrepreneurship with

the right assistance and which will strengthen their capacities besides adding to the family income and national production. Purposively, KVKs organize need based different vocational training for the farming community and rural youths. Vocational trainings play an important role in developing the skills among the women and rural youth for income generation. Such training programmes can be replicated elsewhere and some more need based vocational training programmes may be incorporated so that the women/rural youth can be moulded as entrepreneurs. Some of the trainings are specially designed for the women so that they can earn and sustain their family through remunerative enterprise like Masal Making, Tie & dye, Papad making, Infertility Management of cow and Value addition of milk and milk products etc as per the engagement of maximum women in this area. So, this is the only solution to generate employment opportunity among rural women for setup of local entrepreneur for them within their own social system.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the role of KVKs in the development of knowledge and skill among the women trainees.
2. To find out whether women trainees initiated professional activity after getting training from KVKs.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted among the women participants of KVK trainings. Among the various vocational training programmes imparted by KVKs, five training programmes related to women viz. Masal Making, Tie & dye, Papad making, Infertility Management of cow and Value addition of milk and milk products have been taken purposively. These training programmes were conducted by KVK Fazilka. Trainees who participated in the vocational training programmes from 2021-2022 have been taken in this study. Out of total trainings only women training has been taken for the sample of study purpose.

Data Collection and Analysis

The knowledge of respondents was measured by asking various questions related to different aspects of trainings. A set of 15 questions was prepared. The responses of respondents were collected in yes and no. The numerical scores assigned for each was 1 and 0. Data analysis done with the help of standard statistics techniques i.e., mean and SD used to find out the knowledge level of trainees. Thereafter, the scores of everyone were calculated and categorized into three categories viz. low, medium, and high based on mean and standard deviation of total score of all respondents. To find out the extent of knowledge of trainees about each item, frequency, and percentage of respondents in each category i.e., low, medium, and high was calculated accordingly based on SD and mean.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1
Details of training programmes conducted during the year 2021-22 at KVK, Fazilka

| Sl. No. | Name of the training Programme | Place | Duration | No. of Participants |
|--------------------|--|-------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1 | Masala Making | KVK Fazilka | 3 Days | 26 |
| 2 | Tie & Dye | KVK Fazilka | 3 Days | 28 |
| 3 | Papad Making | KVK Fazilka | 3 Days | 15 |
| 4 | Infertility Management of cow | KVK Fazilka | 3 Days | 22 |
| 5 | Value addition of milk and milk products | KVK Fazilka | 3 Days | 32 |
| Total Participants | | | | 123 |

Table 2
Socio Economic Profile of the Trainees

| Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age | | |
| Young Age | 17 | 13.82 |
| Middle Age | 87 | 70.73 |
| Old Age | 19 | 15.45 |
| Land Holding | | |
| Land less | 67 | 54.47 |
| Small (1-2 ha) | 45 | 36.59 |
| Medium: (3-4 ha) | 10 | 8.13 |
| Large: (5 ha and above) | 1 | 0.81 |
| Occupation | | |
| Agriculture | 21 | 17.07 |
| Agri. + Animal rearing | 35 | 28.45 |
| Self Employed | 7 | 5.69 |
| Housewives | 60 | 48.78 |
| Means of Communication | | |
| News Paper | 31 | 25.21 |
| TV & Social media | 92 | 74.79 |
| Herd Size | | |
| Less than 5 | 26 | 21.14 |
| More than 5 | 9 | 7.31 |
| Education | | |
| Illiterate (Thumb Impression only) | 6 | 4.87 |
| Primary | 85 | 69.10 |
| Middle & Above | 27 | 21.95 |
| Graduate | 2 | 1.62 |
| Post Graduate | 3 | 2.43 |
| Family Type | | |
| Nuclear Family | 19 | 15.44 |
| Joint Family | 104 | 84.55 |
| Training Attended | | |
| Yes | 4 | 3.25 |
| No | 119 | 96.75 |

Five vocational training programmes were conducted pertaining to different self-employment activities. The maximum and minimum lengths were 3 days, respectively with the duration of six hours per day. The Similar study was conducted by the Lal and Tandan (2011).

Age:

The data on profile of the trainees presented

in Table-2 indicated that most of the trainees were (70.73%) belongs to medium age group followed by old (15.45%) and young age group (13.82%) respectively. Which indicates that middle age group having more potential and interest to improve their standard. It could be happened due to the more awareness about importance of education among the rural women; they sent their children to schools which are also increasing in number in that area.

Land holding:

In respect of land ownership of trainee's data indicated that most of them was landless (54.47 %) followed by small land holding (36.59%) and medium size of land ownership (8.13%) and only 0.81 % had the large land ownership. It may be concluded from those findings the landless labourer or other unemployed class had more interest in the trainings for self-employment.

Occupation:

In respect to occupation, it was revealed that, majority (48.78%) of trainees was housewives, (28.45%) opted occupation as agriculture with animal rearing, while 17.07 per cent of the trainees were having agriculture and daily wages work as their subsidiary occupation followed by 5.69 per cent trainees was self-employed respectively.

Means of Communication:

It is clear from table 2 that, out of the total trainees, 74.79 per cent had their exposure on TV and social media followed by 25.21 per cent having their exposure to newspaper reading as means of communication, respectively.

Herd Size:

In respect of findings regarding animal rearing that majority of the trainees had small herd size (21.14%) followed by large herd size 7.31

percent respectively. Which shows that they are having small interest in dairy farming or related business due to the lack of knowledge about value addition and processing of milk and milk products.

Education:

Table 2 depicts the data regarding educational status of the trainees shows that majority of the participants had up to primary level of education 69.10 percent followed by middle and above level of education 21.95 percent and illiterate 4.87 percent while only 2.43 percent were post graduate and 1.62 percent only graduate.

Family Type:

In respect of family types, it reveals that majority of the participants belongs to joint family type 84.55 per cent followed by nuclear type of family 15.44 percent, respectively. This is the big opportunity for them to start their business at household level to engage the family members by reducing outside labour for more benefits as well.

Training Attended:

Data from Table shows that only (3.25%) trainees had attended training program conducted by different departments and 96.75 percent had not attended any training for skill development as well as employment opportunities.

Table 3
Distribution of trainees based on their knowledge on different aspects

| Sl.No. | Variable | Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|---|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Masala Making | Low level | 2 | 7.7 |
| | | Medium level | 20 | 76.92 |
| | | High level | 4 | 15.38 |
| 2 | Papad Making | Low level | 3 | 20 |
| | | Medium level | 10 | 66.67 |
| | | High level | 2 | 13.33 |
| 3 | Tie and Dye | Low level | 3 | 10.71 |
| | | Medium level | 24 | 85.71 |
| | | High level | 1 | 3.6 |
| 4 | Infertility Management of cow | Low level | 5 | 22.73 |
| | | Medium level | 13 | 59.09 |
| | | High level | 4 | 18.18 |
| 5 | Value addition of milk and milk products | Low level | 4 | 12.5 |
| | | Medium level | 27 | 84.37 |
| | | High level | 1 | 3.13 |

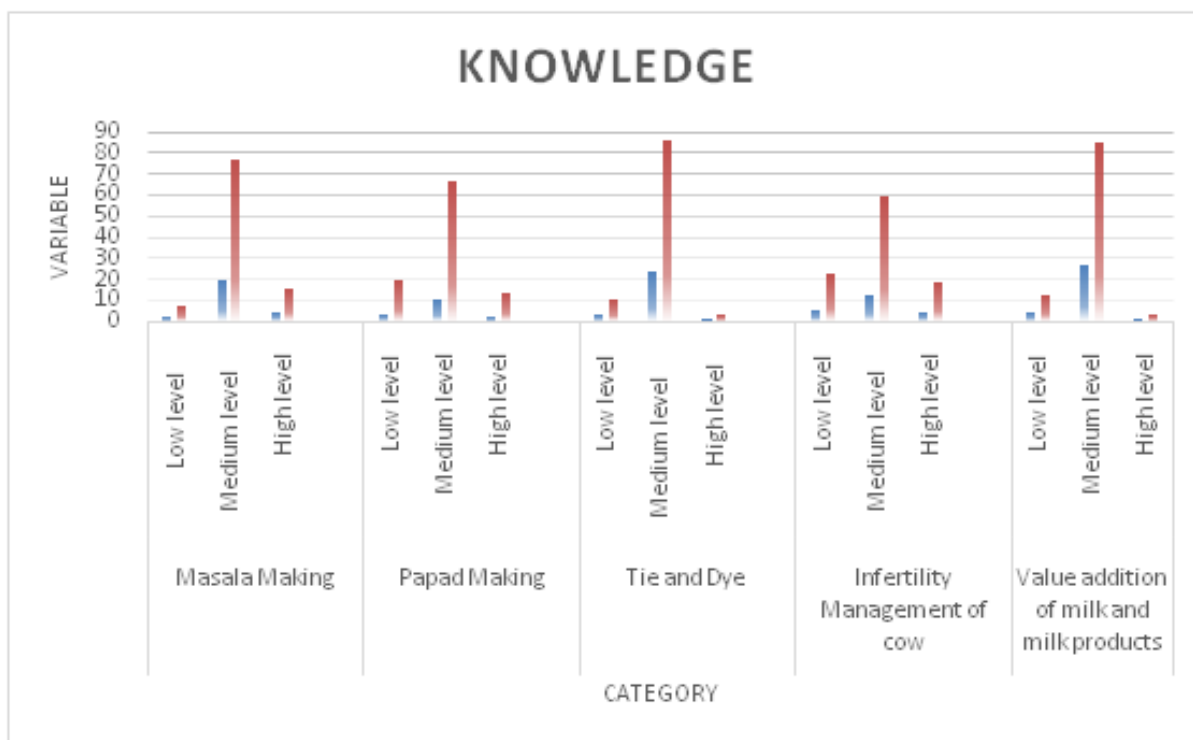


Fig. 1. Knowledge Level of Trainees

Knowledge of trainees on masala making

The data on masala making are presented in Table 3 revealed that most of the trainees (76.92%) had medium level of knowledge, followed by high (15.38%) and low level (7.7%) of knowledge about masala making practices. In this training imparted knowledge about preparation of different types of masala and storage practices. Findings were supported by Kumari *et.al.* 2010.

Knowledge of trainees on Papad Making

The data on knowledge of trainees about Papad making practices are presented in Table no.3 showed that most of the trainees (66.67%) had medium level of knowledge, followed by low (20%) and high level (13.33%) of knowledge about methods of making different types of Papad and ingredients used. Similar findings were reported by Chauhan (2012)

Knowledge of trainees on Tie and Dye

The data about knowledge of trainees about Tie and Dye practices are presented in Table no. 3 Based on the observation, most of the trainees

(85.71%) had medium level of overall knowledge, followed by low (10.71%) and high level (3.6%) of overall knowledge about methods of tie and dye procedure. Training also created awareness and knowledge about the different methods of dying in keeping preparation of designed cloths made them to participate in the demonstration attentively and actively. These may be the possible reasons to have good knowledge about tie and dye practices. Findings were supported by Kaur *et.al.* 2021.

Knowledge of trainees on Infertility Management Practices in Cow

The data about Infertility Management Practices in cow as presented in Table no. 3 Based on observation, household infertility management aspect the knowledge of trainees was found (59.09) at medium level of knowledge, followed by low (22.73) and high level of knowledge (83.18%). Similar findings were recorded by Nagnur *et.al.* 2012 about impact of organic farming practices on women trainees.

Knowledge of trainees on value addition of milk and milk products

The data about value addition of milk and milk products as presented in Table 3 Based on observation, most of the trainees (84.37%) had medium level of overall knowledge, followed by low (12.5%) and high level (3.13%) of knowledge

about value addition of milk and milk products. Similar findings were reported by Kurbetta *et al.* (2017). Possession of good knowledge might be due to appropriate training received by the women.

Table 4
Rank Distribution of Trainees according to their knowledge level in different categories

| Category | MPS | Rank Order |
|--|-------|------------|
| Masala making | 62.3 | 1 |
| Tie &Dye | 48.14 | 11 |
| Papad Making | 47.14 | 111 |
| Infertility management practices of cow | 38.18 | V |
| Value addition of milk and milk products | 45 | IV |

The findings related to rank assigned to the trainees based on their knowledge (Table 4) indicate that most of the beneficiary farm women give maximum importance to the skill of masala making training acquired first rank with (MPS 62.3) due to their keen interest in this training and availability of raw material at whole year as per demand, followed by the tie and dye training acquired second rank with (MPS48.14). They also gave 3rd rank to Papad making (MPS47.14) because these are used in rural areas for vegetable purpose at low cost, but they had knowledge about preparation of only gram dal Papad instead of other material. Also was unaware about the machinery used for Papad making for

more production as well as drudgery reduction, fourth rank given to value addition of milk and milk products training (MPS45). In rural areas they use milk for only direct consumption they were unaware about production of value-added products for health purpose as well as income generation and fifth rank were assigned to the training about infertility management practices of cow (MPS38.18) respectively. This may be due to the lack of knowledge regarding improvement and management of infertility among cows at household level.

Association between knowledge and socio profile characteristics of the trainees

Table 5
Relationship between selected characteristics of the respondents and their extent of knowledge

| Personal Attributes | Correlation Coefficient (r) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Age | 0.1082 NS |
| Education | -0.1579 NS |
| Land Holding | 0.006649 NS |
| Occupation | 0.2439** |
| Family Type | -0.356 NS |
| Means of Communication | 0.3886** |
| Herd Size | -0.3803 NS |

NS-Non Significant, ** Significant

Table 5. present the data about relationship between selected characteristics of the trainees and their extent of knowledge Personal attributes found with the help of Correlation coefficient (r) as Age 0.1082 NS, Education -0.1579(NS), Land holding 0.006649 NS, Occupation 0.2439**, Family Type -

0.356 NS, Means of Communication 0.3886** and herd size =-0.383 Non significant at 0.01 level of probability, NS=Non-significant characteristics of the trainees with their extent of knowledge on different aspects of training.

Results contained in Table 5 further shows

that occupation and means of communication of the respondents had positive significant relationship with their knowledge level where the coefficient of correlations (r value) were 0.2439**and 0.3886**, respectively at 1.0 per cent level of significance. It indicates that if there is any means of communication and work experience there would be an increase in their extent of knowledge.

CONCLUSION

KVK has plays major crucial role for the improvement of livelihood security of farm women of Fazila district through the implementation of various entrepreneurial activities like, "Masala Making Training, Tie & Dye, Papad Making, Infertility Management of cow and Value addition of milk and milk products" which helped to improve their standard of living, food security, employment, and educational opportunities as well as income security in the rural areas.

This can be done by organizing awareness trainings to educating the rural women not only about farming and dairy practices but also on other

aspects of value addition and processing, which can effects on human health, animal health and income generation of rural women. It also suggests that intensive efforts be made to educate rural mass with special emphasis given to farm women for nutritional security as well as to empower them. Based on findings of the study it may be concluded that in all aspect trainees had medium level of their knowledge. It may be stated that the knowledge gained by women will be helpful in practicing dairy farming, value addition as well as establishment of small-scale entrepreneurial unit at household level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. KVK training may be considered for Enhancement of entrepreneurial knowledge and skills of rural women on value added products based on local availability.
2. Skill development trainings may create awareness to generate employment opportunities among rural women.
3. Sustainable development opportunities among rural women in allied areas of farming.

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