Research Note

Relationship Between Empowerment Level and Profile of Farm Women Attending Vocational Training Programme

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ABSTRACT

Empowering women and reducing gender inequalities are one of the major components of development objectives. The present study was conducted in Bhimtal district of Nainital to study the, profile characteristic of farm women and its relationship with empowerment level as a result of vocational training programme. The findings of the study showed that, empowerment level was found to be influenced by their profile characteristics. Variables like age, land holing and annual income etc. showed non-significant association with empowerment level in both beneficiaries and non beneficiaries. The result also shows that empowerment had significant association with selected independent variables such as scientific orientation, and risk orientation. Therefore, the concerned organizations and personnel may manipulate those characteristics for improving the psychological, social and economic empowerment of farmwomen.

Keywords: Attributes, Empowerment, Training, Women

INTRODUCTION

In Uttrakhand, agriculture is the main source of livelihood. Women in Uttarakhand devote 62.17 per cent of their time for outdoor activities, 21.11 per cent for indoor activities and 8.72 per cent for recreational activities and 29.35 per cent of her time to agriculture and livestock (Sharma and Prasad, 2011). In spite of their major contribution women still are in the grip of economic dependence, social neglect and political ignorance and are not in a position to attain the due place in society. The government schemes and laws have been formulated and designed to meet the path of women empowerment. Government role along with different institutions like State Agriculture Universities and NGOs are found crucial to develop women capabilities and skills through its training programme and other initiatives. According to the mandates Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jeolikote in Uttarakhand organizes different kinds of training courses for the farmers, farm women and youth in different subjects. The different vocational trainings that were organized for farm women like: tailoring, knitting and handicraft, mushroom cultivation, post harvest technology, poultry management, candle making and food processing. There are some latent factors inside the human which largely affects his/her behaviour that is reflected as acceptance or rejection. These variables are age, education, annual income, land holding, material possession, risk orientation, scientific orientation etc. These variables influence the adoption behaviour and also influence the factors which affect the adoption behaviour. The findings of profile characteristic and its relationship with empowerment may provide valuable information to all public and private extension agents, researchers and policy makers to orient their efforts for rural needs. Keeping all these in view an

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attempt was made to know the profile of respondents and their relationship with economic and psychological empowerment in some adopted village of KVK Jeolikote.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Uttarakhand state. Out of thirteen districts of the state, Nainital district and Bhimtal block was selected purposively for the present study as Krishi Vigyan Kendra; Jeolikote has been working in this district and maximum numbers of vocational trainings are organized by KVK in this particular block. Selection of three villages was done randomly. A complete list of trainees who had undergone trainings during (2017-18) conducted by KVK Jeolikote in the villages were obtained. Equal numbers of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries were selected from the villages by using proportional allocation method. Thus, constituting the total sample size of 90 women in which 45 were beneficiaries and 45 were non beneficiaries. Interview schedule was administered to generate data and the collected data was statistically analyzed through frequency and percentages, inferential statistics were used to analyse the data, on the different aspects of the study. The data were analyzed with the help of SPSS software. The categories of low, medium and high were computed on the basis of frequency and percentage. The chi square of independence test was used to see the association between selected characteristics with empowerment and Z two sample test was applied to the sample to check the difference between the beneficiaries and non beneficiaries in terms of empowerment. The Chi-Square distribution calculates the p value results, and if the calculated value of 'p' was greater than the table value of p at 0.01 or 0.05 level of probability, the association was considered to be significant. The chi square test of independence was used to see association between the two characteristic.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The profile characteristic of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries was studied; that includes socio-psycho-economical and communicational characteristics of the farmwomen. Almost equal number of beneficiaries and non beneficiaries belonged to the young and middle age group whereas majority of respondents in both beneficiaries (51.11%) and non beneficiaries (53.33%) were educated up to high school respectively. 73.33 per cent of beneficiaries and 88.88 per cent of non-beneficiaries had small size of land holding, majority of the non-beneficiaries (71.11%) and 44.44% of beneficiaries belonged to low income level and nearly half (51%) of the respondents from beneficiaries group attended more than two trainings, showing their active involvement in the development process. The findings of the present study are in line with Kurbetta (2017). They received trainings related to candle making, food processing, knitting woolen garments and macramé activities from the KVK trainers. The duration of training mostly varied from 2-3 days. It was found that 46.67 per cent of beneficiaries started making decorative candles and 35.56 per cent of beneficiaries started knitting woolen garments as venture due to high demand in nearby Nainital market, which is being a tourist place. Majority 86.67 per cent of respondents started their venture individually as it provided them flexibility in working hours. The place of selection for raw material was based on the ease of nearness, convenience and cost of material available. Therefore majority of the respondents 67 per cent purchased their raw material from Haldwani market. Most of the respondents' monthly income ranged between Rs. 1600 to 3350 after receiving vocational trainings, however, it was also found that most of the respondents sold their products in local market. Majority of respondents (77.77%) 'never' sought information from friends and relatives. Among personal localite sources, it was found that respondents 'never' visited local leaders for any kind of information, 50 per cent of the respondents 'always' received information from KVK staff. In the non-beneficiaries category most of the respondents had medium level (48.88%) of information seeking behaviour, followed by low level (33.33%) whereas only (17.77%) were found in high level of information seeking behaviour. Majority of respondents in both the categories had medium level followed by low level of information seeking behaviour.

Table 1 indicates that majority (73.33%) of the beneficiaries and only about seven per cent of non beneficiaries had high level of risk orientation. This might

be due to support and exposure provided through KVK resulted in high risk orientation. KVK trainers enabled them to take risk and helped them to move ahead. The findings of the study are in line with the study conducted by Sharatmol (2006) who also found that respondents had medium to high level of risk orientation. Majority of the non-beneficiaries (77.77%) had low level of scientific orientation and only 17.77 per cent of beneficiaries were found to have high level of scientific orientation. It is Both categories of respondents had low scientific orientation it might be because respondents had no exposure to mass media or other sources of information therefore they lagged behind in scientific orientation. The majority of beneficiaries (77.77%) and about 71 per cent of non-beneficiaries were found to be in medium level of

achievement motivation respectively. While, about 29 per cent of non-beneficiaries and none of the beneficiaries had low level of achievement motivation and only about 22 per cent of beneficiaries were found to be high on achievement motivation. The reason why one third of beneficiaries were high on achievement motivation might be due to their continuous contact with KVK personnel which instilled in them the quality to be more achievement oriented.

Association among selected independent variables with empowerment was calculated by using Chi square test. The results are presented in Table 2, shows that empowerment had significant association with selected independent variables such as scientific orientation, and

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to Psychological attributes (n=90)

Category	Beneficiaries (n$_1$=45)		Non beneficiaries (n$_2$=45)	
Risk orientation	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Distribution of respondents according to risk orientation				
Low (Less than12)	0	0	18	40
Medium (12-15)	12	26.66	24	53.33
High (above 15)	33	73.33	3	6.66
Distribution of respondents according to Scientific orientation				
Low (less than 20)	19	42.22	35	77.77
Medium (20-24)	18	40	6	13.33
High (above 24)	8	17.77	4	8.82
Distribution of respondents according to Achievement motivation				
Low (less than 14)	0	0	13	28.88
Medium (14-16)	35	77.77	32	71.11
High (more than 16)	10	22.22	00	0

Table 2: Chi square values for association of selected variables with empowerment

Variables	df	Beneficiaries	df	Non beneficiaries
Age	2	.721ns	4	5.06
Education	4	2.173ns	8	5.58
Total family income	2	3.068ns	2	1.17
Total land holding	2	2.735ns	4	6.67
Information seeking behaviour	4	4.69ns	4	.887
Risk orientation	2	10.73*	4	2.49
Scientific orientation	4	32.54*	2	5.65
Achievement motivation	2	2.29	2	.45

*significant at 5% level of probability, ns- Non significant, df- degree of freedom

risk orientation at 0.05 level of significance. Independent variables like age, education, total family income, total land holding, information seeking behaviour and achievement motivation had no significant association with empowerment. The significant associations between risk orientation and scientific orientation with empowerment were due to the reason that psychological characteristics had improved the awareness about different schemes, understanding, marketing skills decision making power and led to empowerment of farm women. Z two sample test was applied to the sample to check the difference between the beneficiaries and non beneficiaries in terms of empowerment. The result of the test was significant, $Z=13.73$, $p < 0.001$. Beneficiaries were significantly empowered than non beneficiaries. The results of the present result is supported by study conducted by Nashine (2014) who also reported that significant difference was found between empowerment of beneficiaries and non beneficiaries group.

CONCLUSION

Profile characteristics of both categories of respondents varied in respect of their risk orientation, scientific orientation and achievement motivation. The findings of this study provide valuable information to all institution and agencies regarding respondents' socio economic level and their relationship with empowerment, so that they can orient their policies and training according to their need. From the results it is also concluded that, the relationship between the profile characteristics of beneficiaries with empowerment level was positive and significant in terms of scientific orientation, and risk orientation at 0.05% of significance. However, majority of trained respondents suggested the need for community training center, financial facilities as well as subsidy facilities to start any of the small enterprises.

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