

Adoption of Beekeeping among Rural Women in Samastipur District of Bihar

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out to study the impact of training on adoption of beekeeping by rural women. Seven villages were selected purposively from Pusa block of Samastipur district in Bihar. A total of 50 trained and 50 untrained women were selected randomly. Data were collected from 100 respondents with the help of interview schedule. The result revealed that maximum 88 per cent of trained women adopted beekeeping technology and 't' value of difference between the mean of two samples (27.8487**) was found significant at 1 per cent level of significance indicating a significant impact of beekeeping training on adoption of rural women.

Key words: Adoption, Beekeeping, Rural Women

INTRODUCTION

Beekeeping is an ideal activity for the socio-economic development of women in rural areas. This opens up opportunities and incentives for developing entrepreneurship among rural women. Training is vital and essential to enhance motivation, create confidence and inculcate efficiency in individual. It is an important educational tool which can be effectively used to improve, refresh or update the knowledge and skill required to increase the agro-based production apart from availability of input in development of these women through training. The pursuit of apiculture does not require any sophisticated equipment. The technology is simple and is within the grasp of even illiterate women. It needs low investment, provides gain full employment and financial independence to rural women without moving away from their home. The work involved is light and all the operations including the harvesting, processing, packing and marketing of the hive products can be easily performed by women. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to study the impact of training programme on adoption of improved practices of beekeeping by rural women.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out in Pusa block of Samastipur district in Bihar and this district was selected purposively. Even villages were selected in which the beekeeping training programme on rural women already conducted. The information pertaining to objectives was collected from 50 trained and 50 untrained, rural women selected randomly, with the help of interview schedule. Statistical test *i.e.* frequency, percentage, 't' test and correlation coefficient, was used for analysing and interpretation of data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Majority (88%) of trained women showed higher adoption level followed by 12 per cent of women with medium adoption level Table 1. None of the women showed low adoption level. However, in case of untrained women majority (76.00%) had medium adoption followed by 20 per cent having low adoption and only 4 per cent having high adoption.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents among different categories of women with respect to level of adoption.

n=50				
Women's category				
Level of adoption	Trained Frequency	Per cent	Untrained Frequency	Per cent
Low	0	0.0	10	20.0
Medium	6	12.0	38	76.0
High	44	88.0	2	4.0

Table 2: Difference in mean adoption score of trained and untrained women.

n=50			
Mean adoption score			
Characteristics	Trained	Untrained	t-value
Adoption	31.16	14.60	27.8487**

It was observed from the Table 2 that the mean adoption score of the trained and untrained women was 31.16 and 14.60, respectively. The 't' value of difference between the mean of two samples (27.8487**) was found significant at 1 per cent level of probability. Hence there is significant difference amongst scores of both the respondents.

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Correlates of adoption

With the assumption that adoption is influenced by various socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, the relationship of various socio-economic variables with adoption of apiculture practices among trained and untrained respondents, coefficient of correlation between adoption and 14 selected independent variables was computed and compared.

Table 3: Relationship selected characteristics of women with adoption of beekeeping training

Variable	Correlation coefficients (r)	
	Trained	Untrained
Age	-0.3063**	-0.3299*
Caste	0.6686**	0.2849*
Personal education	0.4087**	0.3408*
Family education	0.4987**	0.3209*
Occupation	0.0287	0.0367
Size of the family	0.0484	-0.0860
Type of the family	0.2399	-0.0223
Size of land holding	-0.0393	0.0991
Annual income	0.3713**	0.3493*
Type of house	0.1794	0.0714
Household material possession	-0.0363	0.1024
Social participation	-0.1446	-0.0796
Compositeness	0.5729**	0.3340*
Economic motivation	0.3745**	0.3199*

* Significant at 1% level of probability; **significant at 5% level of probability

The caste, personal, family education, annual income, cosmopolitenes and economic motivation of trained as well as untrained women revealed positive and significant relationship with the adoption of improved apiculture practices at 1 and 5 per cent level of significance Table 3. However, age was negatively but significantly correlated with level of adoption of trained and untrained women. The remaining variables were non-significant.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded from the findings that the proportion of trained women was higher than the proportion of untrained women appearing in high level of adoption of improved apiculture practices. Thus, there was a significant impact of beekeeping training on adoption of rural women.

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