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Research Note

Impact of Home science training on Rural Women

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The human resource of country is highly significant and its development is essential for the progress and prosperity of the nation. Women constitute half of the population of the country. Their contribution to economy has become obvious that they are the pivot around whom the family, the society and whole humanity moves. However, their contribution is not well recognized and valued. Of course, in recent past a number of programmes and activities have. been undertaken to ameliorate this vulnerable section of population. But we have to yet go 'miles and miles together for the empowerment of women in real sense and spirit. In order to strengthen them and improve their status there is need to increase their participation in income generating activities. The status of women can improve through economic independence. The business and socio-cultural environment is now more conducive to encourage self employment among women. Realizing this fact lCAR launched Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country which organise vocational training for rural youth and women on income generating activities such as tie and dye, bakery, preservation of fruits and vegetables, cutting and stitching of cloth, rakhi making and knitting of sweater etc. The training is an intellectual investment and effective method to bring desirable change in knowledge, skill and attitude of the trainees as these facilitate starting any particular income generating activities.

It is mandatory on the part of KVK to organize various training programmes and home science is one of them. Organizing training programmes is one aspect and assessing its impact is other. A training cycle consists of pre-training and post-training phase. Ironically the post phase is not given due importance, while it is essential to know actually what happens to the trainees after they return home. The present study aimed at assessing the impact of home science training on rural women conducted by KVK.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in KVK, Hajipur which is situated at Vaishali district of Bihar.KVK organized various types of Home science training programmes keeping in view the economic viability and quick income generating enterprise. The areas of fruit reservation and cutting and stitching of cloth were accepted by the women for undergoing training and taking up as enterprises. The training programmes were conducted to upgrade their knowledge and skills. There were 629 trainees in fruit preservation and 581 trainees in cutting and stitching of cloth. The problem of time and resource constraints restricted the investigator to a sampler trainees each from fruit preservation and cutting and stitching of cloth drawn by employing proportionate random sampling technique. The women who did not receive such training till the time of interview were selected as sample of control group from the villages in close proximity. Thus, 51 trainees from Hariharpur and Kulubpur constituted the sample from the trained group and 46 trainees from Ghasher and Meenapur Rai were the respondents in the control group. All these villages were from Hajipur Block. An entrepreneur may think that he can perform a certain enterprise operation correctly, but the procedure followed by him may not be according to scientific recommendation. Therefore, skill as operationalized as the ability to perform an operation,

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related to particular enterprise with minimum time and energy. Skill is the ability to effectively use knowledge. In other word, wean say that skill is personal application of knowledge. Skill was operationalized as the quantum of practical as well as theoretical information newly learnt by an individual respondent due to exposure of training regarding scientific fruit preservation and cutting and stitching of cloth enterprise.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Description about the difference in the skill towards scientific fruit preservation practices between trained and untrained entrepreneurs

The computed value 't' (69.88) for the overall score was found to be highly significant at I per cent level of significance which indicated that there was significant difference in the mean skill score of the trained and untrained entrepreneurs (Table I). As the trained entrepreneurs had significantly higher mean skill score (409.64) than the untrained entrepreneurs (47.50), it could be concluded that trained entrepreneurs had moderate skill about the package of practices of scientific fruit preservation enterprise than the untrained entrepreneurs.

In the training programme, entrepreneurs received skill oriented training about the recommended practices as is based on the "principle of learning by doing. The highly significant difference between the mean till scores of trained and untrained entrepreneurs revealed that there was well marked impact of training on skill of the entrepreneurs. It might be because of reason that the entrepreneurs under study received the dual benefit of practicing the skill oriented components of the technology by themselves and getting exposure of observation in face to face situation resulting into perfection and the consolidation of the advocated technology.

It is of common observation that rural , entrepreneurs, by and large, have the knowledge but do not have skill in carrying all the recommended technologies. However, successful fruit preservation practices depend upon the extent of skill the entrepreneurs have. Therefore, it was desirable to find out their level of skill of recommended different practices viz., preparation of jam, preparation of jelly, preparation of squash, preparation of sauce and preparation of pickles.

The mean skill values of trained entrepreneurs in different components of recommended fruit preservation technologies viz., preparation of jam, jelly, squash, and pickles were 83.74,79.23,80.45,85.40 respectively on the other hand in case of untrained entrepreneurs, the respective mean skill score values were 9.96, 9.80, 9.01, 11.01 and 9.01. The differences were highly significant (P<O.l) among the entrepreneurs and control group.

From above discussion, it may be concluded that there was significant impact of training in improving the level of skills of recommended technology among trained entrepreneurs and helped them to acquire more knowledge and skills of the sophisticated scientific fruit preservation enterprise. In fact fruit preservation training increased the professional competence of the entrepreneurs and helped them in upgradation of their technical know-how in a big way. Training also improved the capabilities of entrepreneurs in order to increase their efficiency and effectiveness.

Description about the difference in the skill related to cutting and stitching of cloth practice between trained and untrained entrepreneurs

Successful cutting and stitching of cloth enterprise depend upon. the extent of skill the entrepreneur have. With this view an attempt was made to analyze and compare the level of skills of two group of entrepreneurs in different types of cutting and stitching of cloth technology. The mean skill score values of trained entrepreneurs in various components viz., making peticot, making general shirt and making baby frock were 78.56,77.04 and 78.71, respectively whereas, in case of untrained entrepreneurs the mean skill value were 5.67, 4.17 and 4.28, respectively (Table 2). The mean scores differences among the trained and untrained entrepreneurs were highly significant (P<O.I). The computed t-value(69.96) for the overall score was found to be highly significant at 1 per cent level of significance which indicated that there was significant difference in the mean skill score of the trained and untrained entrepreneurs. The findings revealed that in comparison to untrained entrepreneurs the trained entrepreneurs had more moderate skill. Therefore, from the above discussion, it could be inferred that entrepreneurial training organized for trained entrepreneurs had positive contribution towards the level of skill and helped the trained entrepreneurs to acquire more knowledge and skills of the sophisticated cutting and stitching of cloth practices. In fact entrepreneurial training increased the professional competence of the entrepreneurs and helped them in upgradation of their technical know-how and do-how in a big way. Training improved the capabilities of entrepreneurs in order to increase their efficiency and effectiveness. The result was as expected that the training would induce positive changes in skill.

Table 1. Level of skill related to various types of scientific fruit preservation between trained and untrained entrepreneurs

Different types of fruit preservation	Mean Value		t-value
	Trained (n=51)	Untrained (n=51)	
Preparation of jam	83.74	9.96	51.47**
Preparation of jelly	79.23	9.80	35.48**
Preparation of squash	80.45	9.01	40.15**
Preparation of sauce	85.45	11.01	4.015**
Preparation of pickles	80.45	9.01	40.15**
Overall	409.64	47.50	69.88**

Table 2. Level of skill related to various types of cutting and stitching of cloth practices trained and untrained entrepreneurs

Different types of cutting and stitching of cloth enterprise	Mean Value		t-value
	Trained (n=46)	Untrained (n=46)	
Making peticot	78.56	5.67	35.37**
Making general shirt	77.04	4.17	34.75**
Making Baby frock	78.71	4.28	37.34**
Overall	233.80	14.50	69.96**

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that the home science trainings conducted by the KVK had a significant impact on skill upgradation of the trained entrepreneurs. Participation in training programmes helped the trained entrepreneur to acquire more knowledge and skill of the sophisticated technologies in the areas of fruit preservation and cutting and stitching of cloth. The study highlights that training programmes enable the women to sustain their small scale entrepreneurial activities through regular upgradation of knowledge and skill in new technologies.

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