

Profile of farm women in imparting knowledge and skills to farm women

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Abstract: The study on socio economic profile of farm women in imparting knowledge and skills to farm women was conducted in the six villages of Sarkarsamakulam block of Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. One hundred and fifty TANWA trained farm women were selected for the study. The study revealed that, majority of the farm women were young and well educated. Most of them had high level of exposure to information source, extension agency contact and social participation. The correlation and regression analysis revealed that the three variables namely farm size, exposure to information source and innovativeness exhibited a positive and highly significant relationship with knowledge gain and skill acquisition

Keywords : Knowledge, Skill acquisition and Extension methods.

Introduction

A wide range of extension teaching methods are used for promoting rural development through educational approach. The extension worker, who intends to achieve desired changes and improvement in the behaviour of rural people, needs the help of some tools and devices. These tools and devices, which he/she uses to impart knowledge to the learners, can be termed as extension teaching methods. There are many sources/ media through which farmers get information about improve agricultural technologies. The preference and selection of media may vary from person to person. Since the learners differ in age, education, interest, intensity of need, socio-economic status etc., these socio-economic and personal attributes are so vital, that they are likely to influence effectiveness of various extension methodologies. Hence, it is essential to identify effective communication methods in teaching the farmers. In this process, it was further decided to select one modern teaching technique (Video) and one conventional technique (Lecture followed by discussion). Keeping these points in mind, an experimental study was conducted with

the following specific objectives .1 To study the profile characteristic of the farm women. II. To identify the factors influencing the effectiveness of extension methods in imparting knowledge and skills to farm women.

Materials and methods

The study was conducted at sarkarsamakulam block of Coimbatore district. The block was purposively selected for the study because, more number of farm women have been trained through the Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture Project (TANWA). Among 19 revenue villages in these blocks, six villages which received TANWA training were selected for the purpose of the study. The selected six villages were Chinnamettupalayam, Keeranatham I, Keeranatham II, Agraharasamakulam, Kalaipalayam and Vellamadai. All the TANWA trained farm women in each of the six villages were selected as respondents of the study. Thus, 150 farm women were considered for the study. 'Before and After' technique and distributed questionnaire methods were used to assess the relative effectiveness of the selected extension methods.

Table 1. Socio-economic profile of farm women

(n=150)

Sl. No.	Name of variable	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	Age	Young	108	72.00
		Middle	42	28.00
		Old	-	0.00
				100.00
2.	Education	Illiterate	0	0.00
		Functionally literate	10	6.67
		Primary education	15	10.00
		Middle education	48	32.00
		Secondary education	59	39.33
		Collegiate education	18	12.00
				100.00
3.	Occupation	Low		
		Medium	40	26.67
		High	110	73.33
				100.00
4.	Annual income	Low	105	70.00
		Medium	27	18.00
		High	18	12.00
				100.00
5.	Farming experience	Low	48	32.00
		Medium	83	55.33
		High	19	12.67
				100.00
6.	Farm size	Low	62	41.33
		Medium	88	58.67
		High	-	0.00
				100.00
7.	Social participation	Low	0	0.00
		Medium	81	54.00
		High	69	46.00
				100.00
8.	Exposure to information source	Low	34	22.67
		Medium	55	36.67
		High	61	40.66
				100.00

Table 1 contd....

9.	Extension agency contact	Low	57	38.00
		Medium	35	23.33
		High	58	38.67
				100.00
10.	Innovativeness	Low	-	0.00
		Medium	54	36.00
		High	96	64.00
				100.00
11.	Scientific orientation	Low	27	18.00
		Medium	114	76.00
		High	9	6.00
				100.00

Table 2. Correlation and multiple regression values between antecedent variables and knowledge gain (n=150)

Variable	Variables	Regression values			't' value
		'r' value	Partial regression co-efficient	Standard error	
X ₁	Age	0.0986 NS	0.0690	0.1467	0.4702 NS
X ₂	Education	0.0061 NS	0.2319	0.6613	0.3506 NS
X ₃	Occupation	-0.0089 NS	-0.5565	1.3751	-0.4046 NS
X ₄	Annual income	-0.0804 NS	-0.1202	0.0842	-1.4280 NS
X ₅	Farming experience	0.1359 NS	0.2849	0.2296	1.2409 NS
X ₆	Farm size	0.2061 **	3.3466	1.2267	2.7279 **
X ₇	Social participation	-0.2536 **	-2.8455	0.9912	-2.8706 **
X ₈	Exposure to information source	0.3576 **	0.69365	0.1764	3.9313 **
X ₉	Extension agency contact	0.1392 NS	0.4721	0.2697	1.7506 NS
X ₁₀	Innovativeness	0.1613*	1.3447	0.9125	1.4737 NS
X ₁₁	Scientific orientation	-0.0567 NS	-0.0333	0.1056	-0.3155 NS
a = 4.1724		R ² = 0.2689		F = 4.6148*	

** : Significant at 1% level

* : Significant at 5% level

NS : Non significant

Suitable statistical tools like percentage analysis, correlation and regression were used for the analysis of data for meaningful interpretation. The salient finding of the study are presented below.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic profile of farm women

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents were assessed to find out the effectiveness of extension methods.

From the Table 1, it could be seen that 72 per cent of the farm women belonged to young age group, followed by 28 per cent who belonged to middle age group. From the above findings, it could be inferred that in the sampled respondents more of young women were actively involved in farming than the other two categories. Regarding educational status of the respondents, it was observed that nearly 40 per cent of the farm women were educated upto higher secondary school (39.33%) followed by middle school (32%). A little more than one-tenth of the respondents were educated upto collegiate level (12%) followed by primary education (10%). More than seventy percent of the respondents were having low annual income followed by medium level (18%). The respondents in the study area were mostly owned medium to small size holdings. Hence, more number of farm women belonged to low income group. Further, it could be revealed that higher percentage (55.33%), (58.67%) and (54%) of the farm women belonged to medium level of farming experience, farm size and social participation respectively.

From Table 1, it could be observed that majority of respondents (41%), (38.67%) and (64%) belonged to high level of exposure to information sources, contact with extension agency and innovativeness respectively. It could be concluded that majority of the farm women

were young and educated and also had agriculture as the main occupation. Again, most of them had medium level of farming experience, farm size, social participation and had high level of exposure to information sources, extension agency contact, innovativeness and scientific orientation.

II. Factors influencing the effectiveness of selected extension methods in imparting knowledge and skill to farm women Relationship and influence of independent variables towards knowledge gain

To establish the relationship of socio-economic variables with knowledge gain, correlation coefficient (r) and regression (t) were calculated and the results are presented in Table 2. variables viz. farm size, exposure to information sources and innovativeness were positively and significantly correlated with knowledge gain at 0.05 level of significance. The results of correlation and multiple regression analysis of 11 independent variables on knowledge gain are presented in Table 2.

It could be observed from Table 23 that out of the 11 independent variables, three variables namely farm size (X_6), exposure to information source (X_9) and innovativeness (X_{10}) exhibited a positive and highly significant relationship with knowledge gain, whereas social participation had a negative and significant relationship with knowledge gain. The regression coefficient values were found to be positively significant for the variables namely farm size (X_6) and exposure to information source (X_9) at 0.01 level of significance and social participation (X_7) had a negative and significant influence on knowledge gain at 0.01 level. The finding is similar to the findings of Karthikeyan (1997) and Sriram (2000) who reported exposure to information sources, farm size and social participation exhibited positive and significant influence with knowledge gain.

Table 3. Correlation and multiple regression values between antecedent variables and skill acquisition (n-150)

Variable	Variables	Regression values			t' value
		Y value	Partial regression co-efficient	Standard error	
X ₁	Age	0.0975 NS	0.1632	0.2479	0.6583
X ₂	Education	0.0394 NS	1.1816	1.1172	1.0575
X ₃	Occupation	0.01 26 NS	0.2990	2.3232	0.1287
X ₄	Annual income	-0.0777 NS	-0.2419	0.1422	-1.7800
X ₅	Farming experience	0.2243 **	0.8874	0.3879	2.2876**
X ₆	Farm size	0.2458 **	6.0510	2.0725	2.9195"
X ₇	Social participation	-0.0541 NS	-0.5522	1.6746	-0.3297
X ₈	Exposure to information source	0.3845 **	1.4875	0.2980	4.9902**
X ₉	Extension agency contact	0.2201 **	0.9285	0.4556	2.0379 *
X ₁₀	Inhovativeness	0.0765 NS	0.6765	1.5416	0.4388
X ₁₁	Scientific orientation	-0.0078	0.0135	0.1785	0.0754

a = 25.287

R² = 0.29058

F = 5.1388*

** : Significant at 1% level

* : Significant at 5% level

The R² value i.e, 0.2689 depicts 26.89 per cent of variance in knowledge gain was contributed by the significantly correlated variables. A good deal of 73.11 per cent of variation in knowledge gain was due to some other variables which were not included in the study..

2. Relationship and influence of independent variables towards skill acquisition

Table 3, depicts the contribution of variable under study towards skill acquisition. It is clear from the Table that the variables namely farm size, farming experience, exposure to information source and extension agency contact exhibited a positive an significant relationship with skill acquisition .The multiple regression analysis revealed that the four variables namely, farm size, farming experience, exposure to information sources and contact with extension

agency were found to have positive and significant influence skill acquisition. The farm women had frequent contacts with extension workers and had high level of exposure to information sources. This would have enabled them to acquire new skill related to agricultural technologies. This might be the possible reason for contact with extension agency showing positive and significant influence to skill acquisition. The finding is in agreement with the finding of Nirmala (1997) who reported that extension agency contact had showed a positive and significant influence with skill acquisition. Y R² value 29.05 per cent of variation in skill acquisition was contributed by the significantly correlated variables and the remaining 70.95 per cent of variation in the dependent variable - skill acquisition was explained by some other variables which were not included in the study.

Conclusions

- * It could be concluded that majority of the farm women were young and educated and also had agriculture as the main occupation. Again, most of them had medium level of farming experience, farm size, social participation and had high level of exposure to information sources, extension agency contact, innovativeness and scientific orientation.
- * The correlation and multiple regression analysis indicated that farming experience, extension agency contact, exposure to information sources were positive and highly significant with knowledge and skill acquisition.
- * The Extension personnel, scientists should concentrate more in selection of variables while organizing the training programmes.

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