**Impact of Trainings on Women Empowerment**

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**Abstract**

Training is one of the mandatory activity of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra which are organized with the objective to create awareness ,for providing technical know how and imparting skills which help farm women to be self efficient and self reliant leading to empowerment. KrishiVigyan Kendra, Kushinagar organized 178 trainings for rural women at kvk campus and at selected villages which benefitted the 3136 rural women for their empowerment.The women gained knowledge in different aspect of farming which increased their efficiency and ultimately their productivity therfore it may be concluded that trainings are effective and useful for women empowerment.

**Key words;** Training, rural women, empowerment, KVK

**Introduction**

At an individual level empowerment is as building confidence, insight and understanding and developing personal skills for example, being able to analyse situation and communicate more effectively with others. Being empowered proposed some level of common understanding and emotional maturity and access to suitable information and know how. As for women empowerment ,there are some indicators considered useful which are as follows; i) confidence & understanding. ii)skill in analysis & communication. iii)trust, caring & tolerance. iv) communication & cooperation, v) access to information. Rural development can not be separated from women empowerment **Bishnoi (2014)**.Therefore rural development and women empowerment both have to tackled simultaneously . Presently 44 percent of the world’s food is produced by women indicating the importance of women’s role in farming. Their roles range from management to that of landless laborer on daily basis. Of the total agricultural labour force (106.77 million) 46.31% are females. In the production of horticultural crops from land preparation to post harvesting almost 70 percent activities are performed by women. Despite their substantial contributions, women continue to be unorganized, undervalued and marginalized. Based on the report of Food and Agriculture Organization **(2019)** .about 70% of the world’s poor are women There is a tendency among most administrators and policy makers to see women as farmer’s wife devoid of any decision taking ability and highlight only their supportive role rather than their significant contribution to productivity. Thus, the women participation in agriculture faces different constraints like discrimination of wages - low wages for women. Women have limited access to modern technology viz. credit, training and to other facilities and due to women illiteracy their social exposure is limited. Due to migration of men, women have to bear the entire familial responsibility and hence they prefer to work from the comfort of their home. Women are generally not perceived to have any meaningful income generation capacity, lack of job opportunity, availability and security due to seasonal nature of agricultural production in rural areas forcing them to work on as an when available basis at very cheap wages **Tyagi (2008)**. Lack of regular assured income hampers theirs options of heightened social and economic security.To combat above constraints equal opportunities both men & women should be given in education and training. Women in rural areas of India play indispensable role in economic activities, agriculture and at home. It is quite necessary to provide appropriate training for human resource development and to enable rural women to live as equal and independent partners. The training must equip women with skills, knowledge and information in relevant areas. The government and voluntary agencies are actively involved in imparting training to rural women. Krishi Vigyan Kendra is an innovative agency implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Krishi Vigyan Kendra provides not only training in agriculture but women also receive training in such areas as nutrition, health & hygiene, nutritional gardening/backyard gardening/terrace gardening, poultry keeping, home management, child care, rural sanitation, etc. There are various training programmes to train the field level workers and functionaries like Mukhya Sevikas,Angan wadi worker’s, Mid-wives, Gram Sevikas, Bal Sevikas, health functionaries and craft instructors to operate welfare programmes and projects for women education and training. In Krishi Vigyan Kendra ,there is provisions for vocational education, nonformal education and training in skill development. There Support structures, such as crèches and balwadis is provided so that girls can be free to attend school. In view of the constraints faced by women, provision of open learning system, part-time educational programmes and coordination of school/college hours with the agricultural cycle would go a long way in stepping up enrolment and retention. Women’s issues and concerns, information and training in new technology could form the core of Adult Education Programme. The emphasis is on improving conditions for learning by enabling women to participate in the educational process, rather than just opening only educational institutions. Krishi Vigyan Kendra works with the Involvement of the community, Panchayats etc. in bringing awareness about women’s empowerment can bring qualitative improvement in the situation

**Objectives-**

It is important to train rural women so as to empower them with the Economic power ,Decision-making, Self-confidence, Enhanced skills ,Ability to think critically ,Ability to participate in the development process, Ability to unify and take collective action. Keeping in view the importance of training ,training for practicing farm women, rural youths and extension worker’s is the primary mandatory activityy of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra who organized the training based on different thrust area and after the implementation of training impact assessment was done with the following objectives-

-to assess the coverage of thrust areas of women empowerment

-to assess the interest of farm women of different castes

-to assess the usefulness of trainings

**Methodology & Results**

The activities by Krishi Vigyan Kendra were organized with the prime objective of women empowerment in order to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance. i.e., i) Food security through Kitchen Gardening/Nutrition gardening, ii)Gender Mainstreaming through formation of Self Help Group, Mahila mandal, Mahila Kosh, iii)Value addition & Processing through technologies scientifically upgraded for value addition & manufacturing of quality processed goods with high nutritive value. Income generation through preparation of value added products,iv)Skill Development through location specific drudgery reduction technologies. Rural craft, Small scale enterprise, Poultry farming, Dairy farming, Goat farming, Bee-keeping, Mushroom production,v)Women and child Care through nutritious diet Awareness of vaccination Awareness about cleanliness, personal hygiene, Health Care

**Thrust Area covered by Krishi Vigyan Kendra through training;** to cover above thrust areas through trainings Krishi Vigyan Kendra organized 178 trainings for rural women at kvk campus and at selected villages which benefitted the 3136 rural women to upgrade the inherent knowledge and skills of farm women and orienting them to suitably adjust their attitude to that of scientific one resulting in visual behavior change and heightened confidence (a small step to empowerment). The list of training is given below-

**Table1;Thrust Area covered by Krishi Vigyan Kendra through training**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No.** | **Thrust area** | **No. of Trainings** | **Participants** |
| 1. | Household food security by gardening  | 23 | 461 |
| 2. | Design and development of low/minimum cost diet | 9 | 189 |
| 4. | Gender mainstreaming through SHGs | 9 | 178 |
| 5. | Location specific drudgery reduction technologies | 7 | 154 |
| 6. | Value addition | 34 | 787 |
| 8. | Rural craft | 5 | 198 |
| 9. | Women & child care | 25 | 573 |
| 10. | Mushroom production for health & income | 7 |  89 |
| 11. | Nursery management | 5 | 51 |
| 12. | Integrated nutrient management | 4 | 65 |
| 13. | Animal nutrition management | 8 | 62 |
| 14. | Integrated pest management | 5 | 59 |
| 15. | Nursery management of horticultural crops | 6 | 50 |
| 16. | Disease management in livestock | 11 | 53 |
| 17. | Weed management | 3 | 45 |
| 18. | Cropping systems | 13 | 69 |
| 19. | Integrated crop management | 4 | 53 |

The data presented in table revealed that maximum number of training were organized on Value Addition followed by Women & Child Care and Household food security and minimum number of training were organized on Weed Management followed by Integrated pest management and Integrated Nutrient Management. Table also showed that the maximum number of farm women were benefitted through the training conducted on value addition followed by women & child care and household food security, where as the minimum number of farm women were benefitted through the training conducted on Integrated crop management followed by Animal nutrition management. The importance of training was also highlighted by **Gupta *et al*.2015.**

**The interest of farm women of different castes ;**Table;2 depicted that farm women of Other backward classes were more interested in attending the training programmes in compare to Schedule Class & Schedule tribes as on an average 78.11 % farm women of Other backward classes attanded the training programmes from 2010-11 to 2017-18 while only21.88 % farm women from Schedule Class & Schedule tribes attanded the training programmes in the same period

**Table 2; The interest of farm women of different castes in trainings organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra from 2015-16 to 2020-2021**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Year | Participation of farm women |
| Other backward Classes | Schedule Caste/ Schedule tribes | Total female participants |
| Frequency | % | Frequency | % |
| 1. | 2010-11 | 189 | 77.45 | 55 | 22.54 | 244 |
| 2. | 2011-12 | 206 | 67.54 | 99 | 32.46 | 305 |
| 3. | 2012-13 | 594 | 91.95 | 52 | 08.05 | 646 |
| 4. | 2013-14 | 465 | 84.08 | 88 | 15.92 | 553 |
| 5. | 2014-15 | 244 | 69.51 | 107 | 30.49 | 351 |
| 6. | 2015-16 | 412 | 85.83 | 68 | 14.17 | 480 |
| 7. | 2016-17 | 214 | 65.84 | 111 | 34.16 | 325 |
| 8. | 2017-18 | 192 | 82.75 | 40 | 17.25 | 232 |
| Total | 2516 | 78.11 | 620 | 21.88 | 3136 |

It was also observed that the participants of other backwaord class farm women was the highest in the year 2012-13i.e., 91.95% while the participants of Schedule Class & Schedule tribes farm women was highest in the year 2016-17i.e.,34.16 %.

**Usefulness of the training for women empowerment;**Usefulness of training which was assessed through post training evaluation of respondants is presented in table 3 revealed that 49.02% farm women found the training most usefulwhere as 24.57 % respondants found the training somewhat useful ,although 15.87% farm women did not found the training useful for women empowerment

**Table3;Usefulness of the training for women empowerment**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No.** | **Thrust area** | **Most useful****%** | **Somewhat Useful** **%** | **Not useful** **%** |
| 1. | Household food security by gardening  | 43.60 | 40.99 | 15.40 |
| 2. | Design and development of low/minimum cost diet | 53.11 | 32.03 | 14.86 |
| 4. | Gender mainstreaming through SHGs | 72.09 | 23.05 | 04.86 |
| 5. | Location specific drudgery reduction technologies | 56.33 | 17.87 | 25.80 |
| 6. | Value addition | 67.61 | 23.49 | 08.90 |
| 8. | Rural craft | 79.20 | 15.77 | 05.03 |
| 9. | Women & child care | 65.14 | 25.92 | 08.94 |
| 10. | Mushroom production for health & income | 70.31 | 17.21 |  12.48  |
| 11. | Nursery management | 54.88 | 25.54 | 19.58 |
| 12. | Integrated nutrient management | 32.19 | 34.09 | 33.72 |
| 13. | Animal nutrition management | 54.66 | 28.90 | 16.44 |
| 14. | Integrated pest management | 32.98 | 45.23 | 21.79 |
| 15. | Nursery management of horticultural crops | 43.77 | 36.30 | 19.93 |
| 16. | Disease management in livestock | 68.21 | 11.34 | 20.45 |
| 17. | Weed management | 52.00 | 33.87 | 14.13 |
| 18. | Cropping systems | 62.09 | 13.56 | 24.35 |
| 19. | Integrated crop management | 23.33 | 41.76 | 34.91 |
| **Mean** | **49.02** | **24.57** | **15.87** |

It may be concluded that trainings on different aspects of farm activities ,household activities, income generating activities and leadership development activities provides recommendations for gender mainstreaming, such as increasing women’s access to education or raising gender awareness which ultimately leads to women empowerment. Empowering women means gaining the power to think freely . Flourish a sense of self –reliance,believing in the ability to make desired change in oneself , the actualization of all women’s caliber and equality in society **(Phala and Mukonza 2021)**.Therefore trainings of farm women need to be promoted through out the length and breadth of the country in order to bring women led profitable farming **(Ponnusamy et al.,2015)**.

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