



KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL WOMEN ABOUT DRUDGERY REDUCTION

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ABSTRACT: The objective of the present study was to find out the knowledge of rural women about homestead technologies in Chittorgarh district. The study was conducted in *Bhadesar* and *Bassi* panchayat samities of Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan state. From each panchayat samiti, two villages where the homestead technologies have been promoted by the KVK since last five years were included in the study. The sample consisted of randomly selected 100 rural women, 25 from each village. Personal interview method was used for data collection. Mean per cent score were used for analysis of data. The knowledge of the respondents about drudgery reduction component revealed that majority of the respondents (82.03%) possessed good knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

A rural women hold on three fold responsibilities of home, farm and management of livestock. In home she devotes endless time in preparing food, washing clothes, procuring fuel from forest, bringing water, storing food grains, cleaning and maintaining house, looking after children and adults, participating in social and religious ceremonies and the list is never ending. Beside this, she does a lot of work in agriculture and animal husbandry. Adding to the plight of these, women use age old customary methods for performing all these tasks which make their work more drudgery ridden, tedious and thorny.

Technological innovations and their reach to the rural women can result in enhancing women's welfare and their empowerment. Low cost, reliable homestead technologies related to nutrition, health and sanitation, drudgery reduction, post harvest technologies etc. can provide a great leap



forward for meeting rural women's practical needs for reducing their drudgery, increasing their efficiency and improving family's health condition.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan state. The district has 11 panchayat samities out of these, two panchayat samities namely *Bhadesar* and *Bassi* were selected purposively where the homestead technologies have been promoted by the KVK since last five years (2009-2013). Total four villages from two selected panchayat samities were included in the study. Sample for the study consisted of 100 rural women, 25 from each village. Personal interview method was used to collect the data from the respondents. Mean percent score were used for analysis of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Background information of the respondents

More than 40 per cent respondents belonged to the age group of 18-30 years and 38 per cent were from 31-45 years of age. Majority of the respondents (60%) were under upper caste category. Regarding education, 29 per cent respondents were illiterate and 24 per cent were educated up to middle level. Only 15 per cent respondents were graduates. Farming was the main family occupation of 89 per cent respondents. All the respondents were involved in some subsidiary occupations like farm labor, business and service. Majority (63%) belonged to nuclear family. More than 40 per cent respondents had small size family consisting of up to 4 members. Majority of the respondents (62%) were small and marginal farmers. Majority of the respondents (75%) were residing in *pucca* houses.

Knowledge of the respondents about Drudgery reduction

Knowledge of the respondents about drudgery reduction. Critical examination of the knowledge score highlights that the respondents possessed good knowledge about drudgery reduction component (82.03MPS).



An indepth enquiry into knowledge of the respondents in different components was made to find out specific deficiencies in knowledge so that necessary efforts can be made to increase the knowledge of the rural women about homestead technologies.

Drudgery reduction

Perusal of Table 1.1 reveals that the rural women had good knowledge about improved tools and appliances as cent percent respondents knew about chips maker, lemon squeezer, *poori* making machine, pressure cooker and electric butter churner. Similarly 60-70 per cent respondents had knowledge about electric mixer grinder, potato peeler and grater. The reason for good knowledge of the respondents was that majority of the respondents possessed these kitchen tools and appliances and were using these on regular basis to improve their work efficiency.

Table 1.1: Knowledge of the respondents about improved kitchen tools and appliances and their purpose

n = 100

S. No.	Items	Purpose	f / %
1.	Potato peeler	Peeling of vegetables and fruits	70
2.	Electric mixer grinder	For blending, grinding, churning and mixing of food materials	60
3.	Chips maker	To make slices of potato / row banana	100
4.	Lemon squeezer	For extracting lemon juice	100
5.	Grater	For grating vegetables	70
6.	<i>Poori</i> making machine	To make <i>poori</i> and <i>papadi</i>	100
7.	Pressure cooker	To cook food by steaming and boiling	100
8.	Electric butter churner	For churning curd and extracting butter and buttermilk	100



Data presented in Table 1.2 clearly depict that all the respondents (100%) had knowledge about various advantages of chips maker, lemon squeezer, *poori* making machine, pressure cooker and electric butter churner. Similarly majority of them (70-89%) knew about advantages of potato peeler, grater, electric mixer grinder viz. time saving, energy saving and easy to operate.

The results are in conformity with findings of Sant (2006) who concluded that majority of the respondents had knowledge about pressure cooker (77%), grater (65%), butter churner (57%), mixer grinder (50%), lemon squeezer (48%) and potato peeler (42%). Some of the respondents also had knowledge of *poori* making machine (30%).

Table 1.2: Knowledge of the respondents regarding advantages of kitchen tools and appliances

n=100

S. No.	Advantage	Potato peeler f / %	Electric mixer grinder f / %	Chips maker f / %	Lemon squeezer f / %	Grater f / %	<i>Poori</i> making machine f / %	Pressure cooker f / %	Electric butter churner f / %
1.	Time saving	70	89	100	100	70	100	100	100
2.	Energy saving	70	89	100	100	70	100	100	100
3.	Easy to operate	70	89	100	100	70	100	100	100
4.	Easily available	70	89	100	100	70	100	100	100
5.	Protect hands from cuts	70	NA*	100	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6.	Complete juice can be extracted	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	NA	NA	NA



7.	Fine and even grating	NA	NA	NA	NA	70	NA	NA	NA
8.	Proper shape of <i>poori</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100	NA	NA
9.	Cooking becomes faster	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100	NA
10.	Saves fuel and don't require continuous attention	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100	NA
11.	Large amount of curd can be churned at a time	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100
12.	Any type of food can be grinded	NA	89	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

*NA – Not applicable

Conclusion

Based on the findings it could be concluded that the respondents had good knowledge about drudgery reduction.

References:

Sant, J. 2006. Assessment of knowledge and use of homestead technologies by rural women of Chittorgarh district. M.Sc. Thesis submitted to Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan.