

Usefulness of Different Training Programmes in Livelihood Development of Farm Women: A Case Study in Jhargram District of West Bengal

Soma Biswas

Assistant Professor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya,
Mohampur, Nadia, W.B. Pin-741252
E-mail: somakvk123@yahoo.com

Abstract—Low productivity of agriculture and allied has considerable relevance for high level of poverty among households in the drought prone regions especially among the SCs and STs. Creation of livelihood /employment opportunities is essential in this context. The potentialities of farm women have been duly recognized and several programmes of training were introduced in India during the past few years so as to make them direct recipient of scientific information. BCKV in collaboration with Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad under Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department, GOWB, has organised training programmes for women (specially for SCs & STs) with broad objectives, viz., to build the capacity of farm women in terms of managing existing practices, learning new skills and developing entrepreneurial ventures and secondly, to develop knowledge and skills of rural women in scientific agriculture and its allied branches. During 2016-2017 total 12 numbers of trainings have been conducted covering 6 subject matter areas for 470 nos. of trainees selected from six villages of Jhargram district. Usefulness of training was studied on three point's continuum with 2, 1, and 0, scores for 8 dimensions. Total 13 variables have been selected as socio personal factors. 80.00 percent of the respondents thought training experiences were useful in their own farm and home situations. The findings show that the trainings were useful in serving its various purposes at medium level. There is positive & significant correlation of training exposer, mass media exposer, educational level, annual family income, size of operational land holding of the family, economic motivation, extent of participation in decision making & level of aspiration for economic independence with usefulness of training programme. Age and family size are negatively but significantly correlated with usefulness of training programmes. More Training need assessment is necessary before organising such training programmes. Training programmes on livelihood development of farm women contribute substantially in pushing the conditions of the female population up and through that chip in poverty eradication as well.

1. INTRODUCTION

Low productivity of agriculture has considerable relevance for high level of poverty among households in the drought prone regions especially among the SCs and STs. Along with economic growth, creation of livelihood /employment opportunities is essential and in this context, the issues

concerning economic livelihoods with equitable growth have gained much importance. Engagement of women in workforce is recognized as a positive indicator of development as well as women's empowerment. Advancement of women is an important economic and societal issue with a significant impact on the growth of nations. Therefore, to achieve these goals, it is essential to close the gender equality and empowerment gaps in education, employment, and political participation (Kabeer, 2005). Today, much of the scientific knowledge and technologies does not reach rural women for various reasons. This needs rectification. Women have a sizeable presence in every stage of daily households and farming activities. The potentialities of farm women have been duly recognized and several programmes of training were introduced in India during the past few years so as to make them direct recipient of scientific information. In this background, with a view to uplift the socio-economic status of rural women, the Regional Research Station (Red and Laterite Zone), BCKV in collaboration with Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad under Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department, GOWB has organised training programmes for women with broad objectives, viz., to build the capacity of farm women in terms of managing existing practices, learning new skills and developing entrepreneurial ventures and secondly, to develop knowledge and skills of rural women in scientific agriculture and its allied branches in order to facilitate them to improve their socio-economic condition as well as their quality of life. These trainings have been organized during 2016-2017. Total 12 numbers of trainings have been conducted covering 6 subject matter areas viz., agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fish farming, natural resource management and handicrafts. Now the present study has been carried out to know how far the trainings are been useful for the women and what are the personal and socio-economic characteristics of trainees those affect their perception about necessity and usefulness of trainings.

2. METHODOLOGY

The RRS, BCKV has conducted altogether twelve training programmes up covering six (6) subject matter areas and four hundred seventy (470) nos. of trainees selected from six villages of Jhargram district. A purposive sampling technique was followed for selection of three villages namely Bijli, Sarengashuli and Betkundari of three blocks namely Binpur I, Binpur II and Jhargram respectively. From the three villages total 60 women were selected as respondents who were undergone the training programmes and were personally interviewed for the study. Usefulness was studied on three point's continuum with 2, 1, and 0, scores following procedure used by Kaur and Talukdar (2007) with slight modification. The responses were collected against each of the response category. Further, the usefulness scores of each respondent were worked out by summing up the scores obtained on eight (8) dimensions of this variable. On the basis of total scores obtained by the respondent, they were classified into three (3) categories *viz.* low, medium and high using the procedure followed by Das (2009). A total of 13 variables have been selected after consulting with officials of department of agriculture and allied assuming that these personal and socio-economic characteristics of trainees will affect their opinion about usefulness of trainings. For finding out the relationship between usefulness of training and personal & socio-economic characteristics of the trainees, Karl Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient was used.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Usefulness of training: A perusal of Table 1 reveal that 51.67 percent of the respondent were of the opinion that the training programme was effective in creating awareness and interest about new technology related to scientific agriculture and its allied branches. Further 61.67 percent respondents considered the training programme to be effective in gaining new technical knowledge. It is evident that, the training programmes were practically very much helpful to 56.67 percent respondents in adopting new and improved practices. Again 68.33 percent respondents fely that trainings were effective in creating 'let's do feeling' among the trainees where as 30.00 percent respondents consider it as very much effective. 70.00 percent respondents thought that the training had fulfilled their needs. Further, 80.00 percent of the respondents thought training experiences were useful in their own farm and home situations and 20.00 percent they thought it was highly useful. 68.33percent respondents expressed that training experiences were not at all important for new entrepreneurship development. Most of the respondents thought that the trainings are not at all important in getting support from credit organisation.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of responses on various dimensions of usefulness of the training programmes

Sl. No.	Dimension	Response category	Freq.	%
1	Effective in creating awareness and interest about new technology	Very much effective	23	38.33
		Effective	31	51.67
		Not at all effective	6	10.00
2	Effective in gaining new technical knowledge	Very much effective	17	28.33
		Effective	37	61.67
		Not at all effective	6	10.00
3	Practically helpful in adopting new and improved practices	Very much helpful	34	56.67
		Helpful	26	43.33
		Not at all helpful	-	-
4	Effective in creating 'let's do feeling' among the trainees	Very much effective	18	30.00
		Effective	41	68.33
		Not at all effective	1	1.67
5	Helpful in fulfilment of need	Very much helpful	5	8.33
		Helpful	42	70.00
		Not at all helpful	13	21.67
6	Usefulness of training experience in own farm and home situations	Very much useful	12	20.00
		useful	48	80.00
		Not at all useful	-	-
7	Importance of training experience for new entrepreneurship development	Very much important	3	5.00
		Important	41	68.33
		Not at all important	-	-
8	Helpful in getting support from credit organisation	Very much helpful	1	1.67
		Helpful	5	8.33
		Not at all helpful	54	90.00

Table 2: Distribution of respondents on various levels of usefulness of the training programmes

Category	Score range	Frequency of respondents	Mean	S.D.
Low	2.0-5.5	12(20.00)	7.96	3.14
Medium	5.6-9.5	30(50.00)		
High	9.5-15.0	18(30.00)		

(Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage)

The results reveal that the scores secured by the respondents varied from minimum of 2.00 to maximum of 15.00 with mean 7.96 & S.D. 3.14. Further, 20.00, 50.00 & 30.00 percent of the respondents belong to low, medium & high levels of usefulness of training programme respectively. The findings show that the trainings were useful in serving its various purposes at medium level (Table 2). This result might be due to the fact that, the trainings were not fully able to address the various expectations of the trainees. More Training need assessment is necessary before organising such training programmes. This provides enough scope for taking such steps for enhancing the usefulness of trainings.

Table 3: Relationship between usefulness of training programmes and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

Sl. No.	Variables	'r' value
1	Age	-0.569*
2	Education level	0.469*
3	Family size	-0.576*
4	Annual family income	0.373*
5	Size of operational land	0.418*
6	No. of cattle	0.134
7	Training exposure	0.809*
8	Group participation	0.399*
9	Mass-media exposure	0.631*
10	Economic motivation	0.486*
11	Achievement motivation	0.307*
12	Extent of participation in decision making	0.353*
13	Level of aspiration for economic independence	0.393*

*Significant at 0.05 percent level

The results of Table 3 show that there is positive & significant correlation of training exposer, mass media exposer, educational level, annual family income, size of operational land holding of the family, economic motivation, extent of participation in decision making & level of aspiration for economic independence with usefulness of training programme. Findings further reveal that age and family size are negatively but significantly correlated with usefulness of training programmes. It indicates that during selection of trainees for organising an effective training programme and its long term impact, emphasis should be given on the those criteria which are either positively or negatively but significantly correlated with the usefulness of training programmes.

4. CONCLUSION

The study shows that the main reason for participating in training programmes is not be merely to get just information about new technologies, it in an empowerment process. After participation in training the women want to be economically and socially empowered. This empowerment cannot be transformed or delivered. It must be self generated such that it enables those who are empowered to take control over their lives. Training programmes on livelihood development clearly plays a central role in the lives of the poor women. These type of training programmes can be the way for the economic independence of rural women. Thus, it can be concluded that the training programmes on livelihood development of farm women contribute substantially in pushing the conditions of the female population up and through that chip in poverty eradication as well.

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