Relationship of Rural Women's Characteristics with their Training Needs in Animal Husbandry Practices

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out on relationship of the selected characteristics of rural women with their training needs to animal husbandry practices in Junagadh district of Gujarat state. It was envisaged that the extent of association between two variables (independent and dependent) provided the strength and direction and effects of one variable on the other variable and independent variables, which were included in the study. Attempts were made to ascertain the extent of association between the variables and their direction. The variables like mass media exposure, attitude towards dairy farming and area under fodder crop had positive and significant correlation while age and dairying experience were having negative and significant relationship with the training needs of rural women. The variables viz., caste, family type, family size, land holding, annual income, social participation, herd size and milk production were failed to establish any significant relationship with the training needs of rural women.

Key words: Rural women, Training, Animal husbandry practices

INTORDUCTION

Women in the present age are facing the most challenging situation of performing their role in and outside the home for their social and economic development. The rural women play a great role in decision making process on farm matter, perform many of the farm operations and undertake many responsibilities concerning care and management of farm animals. India needs to increase milk production which is possible by narrowing down the gap between the existing technology and its adoption. This undoubtedly requires a technological breakthrough in the areas of animal sciences, veterinary and dairying, and much depends upon the rate and speed of dissemination of information to dairy enterprises.

The hope for solving problem of rural poverty and unemployment lies in the agricultural based industries i.e. agro-industries. Dairy farming is one of such industries. Milk production has been the single major activity to supplement as well as to provide income to the rural households, the majority of them are landless and small or marginal farmers.

After acquiring training, the rural women not only learn about the improved animal husbandry practices but also opt them into practices (Sharma *et al.,* 2012). Keeping in view the above facts, the present study was carried out with the objectives to study the socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the rural women and to study the association between the socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the rural women with their training needs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state as the district is famous for Zaffarabadi buffalo and Gir cow. Two talukas were selected randomly out of sixteen talukas of the Junagadh district. Out of which, five villages from each taluka were selected having highest women-membership in co-operative milk society. After obtaining an authentic list of all the women members of the co-operative societies using proportionate random sampling technique, twenty per cent members from each of the village co-operative milk societies were chosen. Total 105 rural women were selected for this study in order to find out relationship between dependent and independent variables. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule by conducting personal interview. Pearson's product moment method of computing correlation coefficient which

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provided generally accepted means for measuring the relationship was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age:

The data presented in Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents (60.0%) were in the middle age group who can physically look after their animals. It was found that age had significant but negative relationship with the training needs of rural women ($P < 0.01$). This implies that young rural women were in high need of training as compared to old women probably due to having less experience of dairy farming and lack of knowledge about animal husbandry practices.

Education:

Majority of the respondents (65.7%) were illiterate while 28.6 percent were educated up to primary level. Only one respondent each was found under the category of middle level education and high school level education. On the other hand, only four women were found educated up to college level. Unavailability or less transportation facilities as well as certain social customs do not permit the women to leave the home to attend the school. This might be the reason of illiteracy among rural women.

It was noticed that the education had significant ($P < 0.01$) positive relationship with training needs of rural women. Education opens the faculty of thoughts and knowledge which intern helps in grasping ideas, forming favourable attitude and also in explaining the ideas to the others. This may be the reason of higher training needs demanded by the educated women.

Caste:

A perusal of the data (Table 1) revealed that 87.6 percent women belonged to intermediate caste whereas, very few women were found belonging to higher (8.6%) and lower caste (3.8%). In the Saurashtra region, Ahir and Karadia communities are famous for animal husbandry occupation. Majority of dairy co-operatives were found established in these villages. The relationship between the caste and training needs of the rural women was found to be non-significant as majority was from the intermediate caste.

Family type:

It was found that 69.5 per cent respondents were from nuclear family and 30.5 per cent from joint family. This might be due to their interest in independent living and / or life-style, handing-over of responsibility by elders to the younger's, construction of small size and kaccha living accommodation which prevents joint family type and urbanization, industrialization and certain psychological factors like individual enterprises, which lead to self-centredness. The co-efficient of correlation showing the relationship between family type of rural women and their training needs was found to be non-significant.

Family size:

The data (Table 1) indicated that the majority of the respondents (57.1%) belonged to medium size family followed by large family (28.6%) and small family (14.3%). The probable reason for medium and large family size might be the unawareness of family –planning methods among the rural people. It was observed the relationship between the family size of rural women and training needs was found to be non-significant. The traditional outlook of the aged person in family may be the probable reason of this non-significant association because most of the decisions rest on the elder person of the family and all other members have to follow it.

Land holding:

Higher percentage (43.8%) of rural women was possessing medium size and 26.7 percent small size of land holding. Nearly one-fourth rural women had large size of land holding. It was interesting to note that none of them were landless because their main occupation was rearing the animals and thus, were cultivating the land. The co-efficient of co-relation between the land-holding and the training needs was found to be non-significant.

Dairying experience:

It was revealed that 63.8 per cent of rural women had medium experience in dairying. Nearly 19.0 per cent women had low experience whereas, 17.2 per cent had high experience in dairy practices. As majority of the respondents were from the middle age group and therefore, their dairying experience was medium. It was

noticed that experience in dairy farming practices was having significant but negative relationship with the training needs. The women with high experience in dairy farming might have developed expertise in the various aspects of animal husbandry and the young women on the other hand, with less experience might be lacking in knowledge and skills. This may be the reason of negative and significant ($P < 0.01$) relationship of farming experience with training needs of rural women.

Annual income:

It was apparent that majority of rural women (90.5%) were from medium annual income (Rs.6500/- to Rs. 34000/-) and only 9.5 per cent from high annual income (> Rs. 34000/-). Their main occupation is animal husbandry therefore, a part of land is used for fodder growing and remaining for cultivation of other food crops, which obviously results in medium income. It was found that annual income had no significant relationship with the training needs of rural women. This showed that rural women need training regardless of their annual income.

Social participation:

A perusal of the data (Table 1) revealed that 93.3 per cent of the respondents had membership only in one organization, whereas, 5.7 per cent women were the members of more than one organization. Only one respondent was found holding position in one of the social organization. Lack or low level of social participation might be due to the prevailing illiteracy and absence of the basic social organizations in the studied villages. The data (Table 2) clearly indicated that social participation of rural women had non-significant relationship with their training needs. Irrespective of the training need, majority of the women were found having low social participation. They were having membership only in the dairy co-operative milk union. As a result, no variation was observed among the women with respect to their social participation.

Mass media exposure:

Majority of the rural women either had mass media exposure (46.7%) or low exposure (45.7%) whereas, only 7.62 per cent rural women had high mass media exposure. The women have to play the multipurpose role of wife, mother, farm women, etc. Their full engagement in the above roles could not permit them to listen to the radio or to see the television programme etc. This might be the reason for their low exposure. The relationship between the mass media exposure and training needs of rural women was found to be positive and significant ($P < 0.01$). The probable reason for this might be that higher mass media exposure helps the rural women in getting more information about animal husbandry practices.

Herd size:

About 77.1 per cent of the rural women had 3 to 7 milch animals, while 17.1 per cent were possessing up to 2 milch animals. The herd comprising of more than seven milch animals was possessed by a low percent (5.7%). Majority of the women selected were found belonging to the particular communities of Ahir and Kardia. The main source of livelihood of this community is animal husbandry and hence majority women were found possessing more than 2 animals. It was found that the relationship between the herd size and the training needs was found to be non-significant. Therefore, it can be inferred that size of herd of animals had no relationship with the training needs.

Milk production:

It was evident from the data (Table 1) that there were only five women (4.8%) getting annual milk production up to 3,300 l from their animals. On the other hand, the milk obtained by majority (82.9%) of the respondents was medium i.e. 3,300-9,600 l/year. Only 12.4 per cent women were found getting higher milk production from their animals. Medium milk production by the animals might be due to the lack of adoption of recommended animal husbandry practices by the respondents.

Area under fodder production:

The data (Table 1) indicated that a large population (81.9%) of rural women were cultivating fodder crops for green fodder in an area of 0.5 to 2.0 ha. and only 11.4 per cent and 6.7 per cent rural women cultivated fodder crops in an area of small size land (0.5 ha.) and large size land (above 2.0 ha.). Farmers were cultivating fodder crops only for the purpose of providing the fodder to their animals. The herd size of the

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their characteristics.

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Number	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young (up to 30 years)	23	21.9
	Middle (31-45 years)	63	60.0
	Old (above 45years)	19	18.1
2.	Education		
	Illiterate	69	65.7
	Primary education	30	28.6
	Middle Education	1	0.9
	High School Education	1	0.9
	College Education	4	3.8
3.	Caste Status		
	Higher caste	9	8.6
	Intermediate caste	92	87.6
	Lower caste	4	3.8
4.	Family Type		
	Joint	32	30.5
	Nuclear	73	69.5
5.	Family Size		
	Small (up to 4)	15	14.3
	Medium(5-8)	60	57.1
	Large (above 8)	30	28.6
6.	Land Holding		
	Landless	0.00	0.0
	Marginal (up to 1 ha.)	5	4.8
	Small (1.01 to 2.0 ha.)	28	26.7
	Medium (2.01 to 4.0 ha.)	46	43.8
	Large (above 4 ha.)	26	24.8
7.	Dairying experience		
	Less experience (up to 12 years)	20	19.0
	Medium experience (13 to 29 years)	67	63.8
	High experience(above 29)	18	17.2
8.	Annual Income		
	Medium Income (Rs. 6,500-34,000/-)	95	90.5
	High Income (above Rs. 34,000/-)	10	9.5
9.	Social Participation		
	Membership in one organisation	98	93.3
	Membership in more than one organization	6	5.7
	Office holder	1	0.9
10.	Mass Media Exposure		
	Low exposure (up to 1)	48	45.7
	Medium (2-5)	49	46.7
	High (above 5)	8	7.6
11.	Herd size		
	Small (up to milch animals)	18	17.1
	Medium (3-7 milch animals)	81	77.1
	Large (above 7 milch animals)	6	5.7
12.	Annual Milk Production (litres)		
	Low (up to 3300 l.)	5	4.8
	Medium (3301 to 9600 l.)	87	82.9
	High (above 9600 l.)	13	12.4
13.	Area under fodder crops		
	Small (up to 0.5 ha.)	12	11.4
	Medium (0.51 to 2.0 ha.)	86	81.9
	Large (above 2.0 ha.)	7	6.7
14.	Attitude towards dairy farming		
	Favourable (more than 28 scores)	11	10.5
	Neutral (24-28 scores)	83	79.0
	Unfavourable (less than 24 scores)	11	10.5

majority of respondents was medium therefore, the area under fodder crop was also found to be medium.

Attitude towards dairy farming:

It was evident that majority of rural women (79.0%) had a neutral attitude towards dairy farming, while equal number of women (10.5 %) had favourable and unfavourable attitude towards dairy farming.

Relationship between training needs of rural women with respect to animal husbandry practices :

The individual variables viz., education, mass media exposure and area under fodder crop were found having positive and significant ($P < 0.01$) relationship with the training needs of rural women, while attitude towards dairy-farming was related with training needs of the rural women at 5 per cent level of significance. Age and dairying experience were found having negative and significant($P < 0.01$) relationship with training needs of rural women. The variables viz., caste, family type, family size, land-holding, annual income, social participation, herd size and milk production failed to establish any significant ($P < 0.01$) relationship with the training needs of rural women.

Table 2. Relationship between the selected characteristics of the rural women with their training needs.

Sr. No.	Name of the independent variable	'r ' value
1	Age	-0.6242**
2	Education	0.5450
3	Caste	0.0886
4	Family type	0.1184
5	Family size	0.0405
6	Land holding	0.0574
7	Dairying experience	-0.6303**
8	Annual income	0.0159
9	Social participation	-0.0905
10	Mass media exposure	0.3488**
11	Herd size	0.1052
12	Milk production	0.0906
13	Area under fodder crops	0.6397**
14	Attitude towards dairy farming	0.2289

The value at 0.05 level of significance = 0.1917,
The value at 0.01 level significance = 0.2540
* significant at 0.05 level of significance, ** significant at 0.01 level of significance

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that training needs of rural women were dependent on their age, education, dairying experience, mass media exposure and area under fodder crop, attitude towards dairy farming, while, caste, family type, family size, land-holding, annual income, social participation, herd size, milk production were not significantly related with their training needs. It was evident from the findings that KVK should make training programmes more effective and should be based on the felt needs. The training programme which is not need based have little impact on bringing desired change in the clientele system. However, while organizing the training programme, it is also necessary that time, venue, duration of training and choice of teacher-trainer etc. should be as per the convenience of the rural women. This will help in arousing the interest of women to attend such training programme.

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