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Awareness of rural women on selected home science technologies

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Abstract

The present study awareness of rural women on selected home science technologies was carried out in Madhurapur village, in Rangareddy district of Telangana State. A sample of 30 rural women were selected by using simple random sampling technique. The data was analyzed through frequency and percentage. The results revealed that nearly half (46.66%) of the respondents belongs to old age category and more than half (56.67%) are illiterates. Great majority of them belongs to nuclear type of family. In decision making of home management, rural women participation is seen high in child care, food preparation, clothing and home management. Rural women had no awareness on computer, self-help groups (SHGs), Bank/ATMs, new insurance schemes and their participation is seen less in social activities. Most of the rural women are having less awareness on kitchen gardening and use of organic farming. Whereas, cent percent of them are following 3 meal plan with moist heat method of cooking for daily purpose. Majority, (86.66%) of rural women had no awareness on consumer education, food adulterants, solar energy conservation and drudgery reduction techniques. Great majority of the respondents are using LPG and remaining (16.60%) are using firewood for cooking. Majority (70.00%) of them are giving equal importance to educate girl child. Only 10.00 percent rural women expressed that they are facing gender bias in day to day life and about (13.33%) of them married before 18 years (early marriages) and remaining (86.66%) married for correct age. Most of the rural women problems can be avoided and managed through awareness and improvement in skills. To lead a better quality of life, women need to be empowered and brought into the mainstream both in communication, access to technology, and improved child care and better nutrition with low cost and available materials in the villages.

Keywords: Home science, adoption, technologies, utilization pattern, rural women

Introduction

Home Science is the education for home life. The goal of this education is to live prosperously and to have the greatest happiness. Scientific women are the backbone of family. Home science is oriented to overall development of folk women and certain low cost innovations have been developed which are ideal for all alleviating drudgery of women (Surekha and Patil 2016) [2, 3]. Women in rural areas are not aware of government schemes and most of them are not having proper education. Due to more illiteracy among rural women is also the reason for not getting benefited. Most of the problems can be avoided and managed through awareness and improvement in skills, to lead a better quality of life, for which women need to be empowered and brought into the mainstream both in communication, access to technology, and improved child care and better nutrition with low cost and available materials in the villages. If their incomes need to be improved, non-farm income and value added home stead products need to be prepared, marketed, branded and networked to earn additional income. Better nutrition access can be provided by giving awareness and new recipes for rural households.

Today the rural women are engaged and organized into self-help groups under the Swarnajayanthi Swarozgar yojana under the PAVALA VADDI scheme, wherein 3 lakhs for 3 years @9% and sub lending up to 3% is allowed to mobilise funds, and start entrepreneurial activity. In order to do this they require additional self-employment skills and most of the rural women labour and others are unskilled because of which they are not able to earn incomes. Therefore they need to be equipped with additional skills and knowledge and develop the right attitude for SABKA SATH SABKA VIKAD, for bringing holistic and inclusive development of rural India where both men and women are equal partners and we the rural urban divide is

minimized by minimizing the digital divide. Home science management in rural families are not uniform and leads to malnutrition, and vulnerable to diseases and health problems among rural women and children in particular, apart from this they suffer from low income and lesser access to education and health. This is because, resources their access, and type of families, are different in order to understand a scenario the study was designed with the following objectives.

Objective

1. To study socio-personal profile of rural women
2. To study the awareness of rural women on selected home science technologies

Materials and Methods



Fig 1: Collecting information from household women

Results and Discussion

The details of socio-personal profile of rural women are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Socio-personal profile of respondents

Age: The results in table 1 indicated that, nearly half of the respondents (46.66%) belong to old age category, 30.00 percent of them belong to middle age category and 23.33 percent of them belong to young age category.

Education: More than half (56.67%) of the respondents are illiterates. About 20.00 percent of the women educated up to high school. Equal percent of the respondents (03.33%) can only read, read & write and graduation/post-graduation respectively. About 06.66 percent of them studied up to primary school and intermediate respectively.

Gender/Religion: Cent percent of the respondents are rural women and all of them belongs to Hindu religion.

Type of family: Large majority of the rural women (93.33%) belongs to nuclear type of family and only 06.66 percent belonged to joint type of family.

Decision making in home management activities

The data in table 2 indicated that cent percent of child care and food preparation activities at home is done by women. Decision to educate children is done by men (40.00%), whereas 33.00 percent by women and 27.00 percent by both respectively. Decision to select clothing is done mostly by women (94.00%). Farming activity is mostly done by both men and women (54.00%), 36.00 percent men are involved and only 10.00 percent women are involved. Overall home management is done mostly by women (66.00%) and sometimes done by both men and women (23.00%), very few men are involved (11.00%) in home management.

Results in table 3 indicated that, large majority of rural women had no basic computer knowledge. Cent percent of the

The present study was conducted in Madhurapur village, Farooq Nagar Mandal, Rangareddy district of Telangana. An Ex post facto design was used which is a quasi-experimental study examining how an independent variable, present prior to the study in the participants, affects a dependent variable, the nutritional status and home management issues and the extent of ICT use among farm women. A total of 30 women respondents are selected through random sampling technique. A structured checklist and an interview schedule were developed for conducting PRA exercise. The data was supplemented and collected by both primary and secondary sources and analyzed through frequency and percentage. Pre-testing was done using sample rural women before conducting the survey and the data collection instrument was revised accordingly.

respondents had no awareness on new insurance schemes and none of them were self-help group members. More than half (56.66%) of them had no awareness to use ATMs, whereas 43.33 percent had knowledge to use ATMs. Only 13.33 percent had awareness on Kisan call center and remaining 86.66 percent had no awareness. More than half 63.33 percent had less social participation and remaining 36.66 percent of them participate in social events. Due to illiteracy among the rural women most of them are not aware of new government schemes and in villages money monitoring activities are carried out by men. This might be the reason that most of the rural women had less awareness regarding ATMs/Banks. In village most the women are unorganized. To improve their participation in social activities NGOs, developmental departments need to conduct training programmes to organize them in a structured way. By that women empowerment will take place.

Awareness on health management

Results in table 4 reveals that majority (73.33%) of the rural women are not maintaining kitchen garden at home for daily purpose and remaining 26.66 percent of them are following at their home. Great majority 86.66 percent of the respondents are not using organic farming foods and only 13.33 percent know the importance of eating organic foods. Cent percent of the rural women are following three meal pattern of food consumption. Great majority of the respondents are following moist heat method of cooking for daily purpose and only 03.33 percent of them are following dry heat method of cooking. Most of the rural women in India are suffering with anemia and malnutrition. This is because lack of awareness on nutrition. The reason might be due to illiteracy most of them are not eating organic foods.

The results in the table 5 reveals that great majority of the rural women had no (86.66%) awareness regarding consumer

education remaining 13.33 percent of them had awareness. Whereas, large majority 96.66 percent of the rural women had no awareness on food adulterants. Majority of the rural women are using LPG for cooking purpose and remaining 16.66 percent are using firewood for cooking. Cent percent of the respondents had no awareness of solar energy conservation and drudgery reduction techniques. The results in the table 6 indicated that, 13.33 percent of the

respondents married in early age (before 18) and majority 86.66 percent of married for correct age. Majority 70.00 percent expressed that they are providing equal importance to educate girl child. About 10.00 percent of the respondents expressed they are facing gender bias in day to day life. Cent percent of the respondents had no awareness on legal rights of women.

Table 1: Socio personal profile characterizes of the rural women, n = 30

Sl. No.	Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (18 – 35 years)	07	23.33
		Middle (36 – 50 years)	09	30.00
		Old (51 years and above)	14	46.66
2	Education	Illiterate	17	56.67
		Read Only	01	03.33
		Read and Write	01	03.33
		Primary School	02	06.66
		High School	06	20.00
		Intermediate	02	06.66
		Graduation and post-graduation	01	03.33
3	Gender	Female	30	100
4	Religion	Hindu	30	100
5	Family type	Nuclear Family	28	93.33
		Joint Family	02	06.66

Table 2: Decision making in home management activities, n = 30

Sl. No.	Activity	Men	Women	Both
1	Child Care	-	100	-
2	Food preparation at home	-	100	-
3	Decision to educate children	40.00	33.00	27.00
4	Clothing	03.00	94.00	03.00
5	Farming	36.00	10.00	54.00
6	Home Management	11.00	66.00	23.00

Table 3: Awareness/knowledge on extension activities, n = 30

Sl. No.	Activities	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Basic computer knowledge	Yes	02	06.66
		No	28	93.33
2	Self- help group (SHG) Members	Yes	-	-
		No	30	100
3	Awareness on Banks/ATMs to use	Yes	13	43.33
		No	17	56.66
4	Awareness on Kisan Call Center	Yes	04	13.33
		No	26	86.66
5	Awareness on New Insurance Schemes	Yes	-	-
		No	30	100
6	Social Participation	Yes	11	36.66
		No	19	63.33

Table 4: Awareness/knowledge of rural women on health management, n = 30

Sl. No.	Activities	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Maintaining Kitchen Gardening at home for daily purpose	Yes	08	26.66
		No	22	73.33
2	Use of Organic Farming/importance of eating organic foods	Yes	04	13.33
		No	26	86.66
3	Mode of Food Consumption	3 Meal plan	30	100
		5 Meal plan	-	-
4	Method of Cooking for daily purpose	Moist heat method	29	96.66
		Dry heat method	01	03.33
		Combination	-	-

Table 5: Awareness/knowledge of rural women on resource management, n = 30

Sl. No.	Activities	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Awareness on Consumer Education	Yes	04	13.33
		No	26	86.66
2	Awareness on Food adulterants	Yes	01	03.33
		No	29	96.66
3	Type of Fuel used for Cooking	LPG	25	83.33
		Firewood	05	16.66
4	Are you aware of solar Energy Conservation	Yes	-	-
		No	30	100
5	Awareness on Drudgery Reduction techniques	Yes	-	-
		No	30	100

Table 6: Awareness on human development and gender equality, n = 30

Sl. No.	Activities	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Early marriage of the respondents	Yes	04	13.33
		No	26	86.66
2	Providing equal importance to educate girl child	Yes	21	70.00
		No	09	30.00
3	Rural women are facing Gender Bias in day to day life	Yes	03	10.00
		No	27	90.00
4	Do you know about women legal rights	Yes	-	-
		No	30	100

Conclusion

Most of the problems can be avoided and managed through awareness and improvement in skills, to lead a better quality of life, for which women need to be empowered and brought into the mainstream both in communication, access to technology, and improved child care and better nutrition with low cost and available materials in the villages. If their incomes need to be improved, non-farm income and value added home stead products need to be prepared, marketed, branded and networked to earn additional income. Better nutrition access can be provided by giving awareness and new recipes for rural households.

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