



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2021; SP-10(9): 280-282
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www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 13-07-2021
Accepted: 15-08-2021

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Role of Indira Gandhi agricultural university for the empowerment of rural women through Mushroom training

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh state. All India Coordinated Research Project on Mushroom (AICRP) organizes different training programme for rural women at Directorate of Extension and Mushroom production centre, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (IGAU), Raipur. Women of Raipur district have revolutionized mushroom production in villages. The story began with the training programme for rural women of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. The training was given on spawn (seed) preparation, casing preparation, compost preparation, chemical treatment, bed preparation, pest and disease control and complete mushroom production. It is the only possible way to empower rural women by capacity building and skill development. The findings revealed that majority of the respondents developed their skill, got economic freedom, enhanced their leadership qualities and competency to work independently. Thus mushroom training given by IGAU plays a positive role for empowerment of rural women who have undergone through trainings and adopted the recommendations of the given practices.

Keywords: empowerment, mushroom training, rural women and IGAU

Introduction

Empower a women to empower next generation. Women constitute almost fifty percent of the entire population. Rural women are invisible in statistics while women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. Rural women play a crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, fisheries and mushroom production etc. In addition to their role in agricultural production, women are gainfully employed in agri-based allied activities like dairying, animal husbandry, poultry, horticulture, fruit preservation, post harvest technology etc. Their roles ranges from managers to landless labourer. The total agricultural labourers are 106.77 million out of which 46.31% are female worker (Pradhan and Sadangi, 2008) ^[3] but are less likely to secure favorable outcomes for themselves in household decision making process (Amartaya Sen, 2007) ^[1]. UNDP report indicates that while 67% of the world's work is done by women, only 10% of global income is earning by women and mere 1% of global property is owned by women (Singh and Kumar, 2007) ^[4].

Training is one of the most' effective media for dissemination of agriculture and other subsidiary occupation like dairy, poultry, fisheries and mushroom cultivation technology among women. The mushroom production has huge potential as an income generating activity. It requires less space and makes use of vertical space too and hence it. is of great importance for landless and marginal landholders. Keeping in view the small holdings of the farmers, cultivation of mushroom can become an important source of additional income. The IGAU, Raipur provides training to the rural women on various aspects of Mushroom cultivation technology.

The Directorate of Extension and mushroom production centre, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur organizes training programme for farmers. Training to the rural women, farmers is a critical input to ascertain mushroom production and processing. On one hand increases the employment and on other hands increases the income of the rural women or farmers. Women should remember that they are rational, intelligent and thinking human beings. Dependent women are not empowered women. If women think just that being highly educated and employed they are empowered, it is a myth (Banga, 2010) ^[2].

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Materials and Methods

The study was done in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh state. All India Coordinated Research Project on Mushroom (AICRP) organizes different training programme for rural women in Directorate of Extension and mushroom production centre, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (IGAU) due to which Raipur district was selected for further study. Out of four blocks in Raipur district Dharsiwa, Abhanpur and Arang blocks were selected because most of the rural women of these blocks got training in various aspects of mushroom production and processing technologies from IGKV Raipur and from each block two villages, Serikhedi and Jora village from Dharsiwa block, Tenduwa-2 and Tarra-2 village from Abhanpur block and Baihar and Mandir hasaud village from Arang block. Further, 15 respondents were selected from each village. A sample size comprised of 90 respondents were selected for further study.

Results and Discussions

Indira Gandhi agricultural University provides mushroom training to rural women. This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data. In order to have results of the investigation at a glance they are presented in a tabular form.

Participation of respondents in different training scheduled programmes conducted by IGAU

The perusal of Table 1, revealed that (48.88%) of the respondents attended one training followed by (35.55%) of respondents attended two training and only (16.66%) of respondents had attended three training or more. It was also observed that (60%) of respondents attended training for 1-3 days followed by 23.33 per cent of the respondents had attended training of 6-7 days and only (16.66%) respondents attended training for 15 days.

Table 1: Distribution of rural women according to their participation of different training programmes.

S.no	Categories	Training details	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Number of training	One training	44	48.88
		Two training	31	35.55
		Three training or more	15	16.66
2.	Number of days	1-3 days	54	60.00
		6-7 days	21	23.33
		15 days and above	15	16.66

Different training programme attended by the respondents

The data on Table 2, revealed that 48.88 per cent of respondents had attended training on complete mushroom production training followed by 47.77 per cent of respondents had attended spawn preparation training, 46.66 per cent of respondents had attended chemical treatment training programme, 36.66 per cent of respondents had attended pest and disease control training programme, 35.55 per cent of respondents had attended compost preparation training programme, 26.66 per cent of respondents had attended casing preparation training programme and only 16.66 per cent of respondents had attended bed preparation training programme.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to different training programme.

S.no.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Spawn preparation	43	47.77
2.	Casing preparation	24	26.66
3.	Compost preparation	32	35.55
4.	Chemical treatment	42	46.66
5.	Bed preparation	15	16.66
6.	Pest and Disease control	33	36.66
7.	Complete mushroom production	44	48.88

Distribution of respondents as per the changes felt by the rural women after training

The data presented in Table 3, depicted that majority of the respondents had found change in their skill development. (80%) of respondents had revealed that their skill development had increased after training, while (20%) had found no change in their skill development. This table also revealed that as per competency to work independently majority 66.66% of respondents competency to work independently had increased while 33.33% of respondents had

found no change after training. With respect to leadership quality it had found that 63.33% of respondents leadership quality had increased, while 36.66% of respondents had found no change in their leadership quality and 61.11% of respondents economic freedom had increased, while 38.88% had found no change in their economic freedom after training.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents as per the changes felt by rural women after training.

S.no.	Statement	Frequency	Percentage
I.	Skill development		
a.	Increase	72	80.00
b.	Decrease	00	00
c.	No change	18	20.00
II.	Competent to work independently		
a.	Increase	60	66.66
b.	Decrease	00	00
c.	No change	30	33.33
III.	Leadership Quality		
a.	Increase	57	63.33
b.	Decrease	00	00
c.	No change	33	36.66
IV.	Economic freedom		
a.	Increase	55	61.11
b.	Decrease	00	00
c.	No change	35	38.88

Conclusion

It can be concluded that IGAU plays a positive role for the empowerment of rural women. Majority of the rural women developed their leadership quality, competency to work independently, economic freedom and skill development. Majority of the rural women after going through mushroom training programmes and adopting the recommended techniques became independent. Rural women became socially and psychologically empowered.

Acknowledgement

I am immensely thankful to my major advisor Dr. M.K. Chaturvedi, Associate professor, for providing me guidance during my whole investigation period. I am heartily thankful to my parents whose best wishes were always with me.

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