

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MUSHROOM PRODUCTION FOR RURAL WOMEN

Manju*, S.K.Varma** and Seema Rani***

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in two villages of Kurukshetra district of Haryana state. Total 50 rural women were selected from identified villages for assessment of impact about mushroom production. The study revealed that exposure to training had increased the knowledge of rural women regarding all the sub-components of mushroom production. The study further interred that respondents after exposure training acquired knowledge and change their attitude to the extent which was less than 66 per cent but of moderate level.

INTRODUCTION

Since time immemorial, women have played and continue to play a key role in conservation of basic life support system such as land, water, flora and fauna. 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, goatery, rabbit rearing, bee-keeping, mushroom production, floriculture, horticulture, fruit preservation, post-harvest technology, value added food products etc.

Mushroom cultivation is a women friendly profession. Mushroom growing is one agricultural activity in which women can play a vital role without sacrificing their household responsibilities. Mushroom cultivation is simple, low cost, and suitable for rural areas, is labour intensive and can provide employment in both the semi-urban and rural areas. Mushroom cultivation will improve the socio-economic condition of farmers, families and solve employment problems of both literate and illiterate, especially women.

In view of above facts, mushroom farming in

our country may flourish like mushroom growth in the coming years. The rural and urban masses are showing much interest in mushroom cultivation. The small enterprises in India have been proved to be engine of growth of the economy with 39 percent of India's gross industrial production. It is estimated that with over 11.8 million units in the country, the small sector provides employment - intensive segment of the economy, the employment of women through organization of Self Help Groups was one of the nine primary objectives of the ninth five year plan. (Dasgupta 2005).

Mushroom growing has been appreciated as a technically feasible and profitable venture and widely accepted by the researchers as a good venture for his income, employment generation and rural development (Kapoor and Behl, Chauhan, 1983 and Sood, 1992). There is an urgent need to impart technical know how to women in order to adopt mushroom production as an income generating activity for enhancing additional income of their family. Rather it is a boon for poverty alleviation as reported by Chiroro 2004. Keeping in view the increasing demand of mushroom due to globalization and opening of the economy, the present study was undertaken with the specific objective:

- To asses impact of mushroom production as enterprise.

* PG Scholar, College of Home Science, CCS HAU, Hisar.

** Professor, Department of Home Science Extension Education, College of Home Science, CCSHAU, Hisar.

*** Scientist, Department of Home Science Extension Education, College of Home Science, CCSHAU, Hisar.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Kurukshetra district of Haryana state. For the study two blocks namely Pehowa and Ladwa of identified district were selected randomly, out of these selected blocks two villages were randomly selected. A sample of 100 respondents i.e. 50 from each village was drawn and 25 women each from selected villages were taken randomly who were interested in having training on mushroom production. Data were collected with the help of pretested structural interview schedule personally. Thereafter, data were analysed and results were discussed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gain in knowledge of rural women for mushroom production

Table 1. Gain in knowledge of rural women for mushroom production

S. No	Components	Pre-Exposure (Mean Score)	Post- Exposure (Mean Score)	Gain in knowledge	't' value
1.	Food value	1.22	6.16	4.94	43.41*
2.	Kinds of mushroom	2.04	6.28	4.24	14.02*
3.	Composting	10.14	20.08	9.94	17.46*
4.	Spawn /spawning/filling	11.58	23.14	11.56	35.53*
5.	Casing	1.04	5.98	4.94	16.80*
6.	Fruiting	1.20	3.92	2.72	14.90*
7.	Harvesting	2.10	8.64	6.54	29.81*

*Significant at 5% level of significance

Change in Attitude

Change in attitude of rural women regarding mushroom production in village Bhoarsainda, Niwarsi and pooled sample were assessed through pre-and post exposure mean score and 't' test. Pre-exposure and post-exposure mean score and 't' test were computed for all the sub-component of mushroom production and have been presented in Table 2. It is evident from the table that respondents succeeded in changing their attitude at post-exposure level in village Bhoarsainda, Niwarsi and pooled sample. It may be inferred that change in attitude was recorded in Bhoarsainda, Niwarsi village as well as pooled sample after exposing to training on mushroom production. It can be concluded that respondents had changed their attitude when exposed to training on mushroom production.

Impact assessment Index

Impact assessment of mushroom production

Pre exposure and post-exposure mean scores and 't' test was computed for all the sub-components of mushroom production which are presented in Table 1. Sufficient gain in knowledge regarding mushroom production knowledge was recorded for sub-components viz., food value of mushroom different kinds of mushroom, composting of mushroom, spawning or filling of mushroom, casing of mushroom, fruiting of mushroom and harvesting of mushroom in pooled sample. It may therefore, be concluded that women succeeded in acquiring knowledge after exposure to training on mushroom production. Thus, it can be inferred that exposure to training had increased the knowledge of rural women regarding all the sub-components of mushroom production.

index of training is given in Table 3. It clearly indicates that the calculated impact was found to be 61.48 per cent. Thus, it may be inferred that women respondents after exposure to training acquired knowledge and change their attitude to the extent which was less than 66 per cent but of moderate level.

Table 2. Change in Attitude of rural women for Mushroom Production

Name of Village	Pre-Exposure (Mean Score)	Post-Exposure (Mean Score)	Change in attitude	't' value
Bhoarsainda (n=25)	20.4	38.44	18.04	19.39*
Niwarsi (n=25)	20.16	43.44	23.28	27.45*
Total (n= 50)	20.28	40.94	20.66	25.92*

*Significant at 5% level of significance

Table 3. Impact assessment index of training on gain in knowledge change in attitude and skill acquisition of rural women regarding message on mushroom production

n= 50

Attitude Skill	Knowledge	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Total
Most favorable					
HIGH (3)	High(3)	14(3x3x3) = 378	3(3x3x2) = 54	1(3x1x3) = 9	34
	Medium(2)	6(3x2x3) = 108	3(3x2x2) = 36	1(3x2x1) = 6	
	Low(1)	4(3x1x3) = 36	2(3x1x2) = 12	0(3x1x1) = 0	
Favorable					
MEDIUM (2)	High(3)	5(2x3x3) = 90	2(2x3x2) = 24	1(2x1x2) = 4	14
	Medium(2)	2(2x3x3) = 36	2(2x2x2) = 16	0(2x2x1) = 0	
	Low(1)	1(2x1x3) = 6	0(2x1x2) = 0	1(1x2x1) = 2	
Unfavorable					
LOW (3)	High(3)	1(1x3x3) = 9	0(1x3x2) = 0	0(1x3x1) = 0	2
	Medium(2)	0(1x2x3) = 0	1(1x2x2) = 4	0(1x2x1) = 0	
	Low(1)	0(1x1x3) = 0	0(1x1x2) = 0	0(1x1x1) = 0	
Total		33	13	4	50

Percentage impact = 61.48 % (Moderately high)

CONCLUSION

There was significant difference in mean score of knowledge and attitude of rural women at pre and post exposure stage for all the components of mushroom production in selected districts of Haryana state. The respondents succeeded in gain in knowledge, change their attitude at post exposure.

REFERENCES

Kapoor, P. and Behl, N. 1983. Cultivation of button mushroom – Gram Prodyogiaka. 3 (2):101.

Chauhan, S.K. and Sood, R. P. 1992. Economic of production and marketing of mushroom in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh. *Indian J. Agriculture Marketing*. 6 (2) : 44-49.

Chiroro, Canford K. 2004. Poverty alleviation by mushroom growing in Zimbabwe. *International j. Mushroom Res. and Dev.* 3 (2) : 97-98.

Dasgupta, 2005. Mushroom cultivation for rural women. *Social Welfare* 44 (2): 34-35.

□□□