

VOCATIONAL TRAINING NEEDS OF WATERSHED WOMEN BENEFICIARIES IN RAJSAMAND DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken in Mandawar and Mandawara watershed of Rajsamand district of Rajasthan. Ninety women respondents were selected from each watershed. Thus, total sample was comprised of 180 women beneficiaries. Personal interview technique was employed to collect the required information to identify the vocational training needs of watershed women beneficiaries. The finding of the study indicated that women beneficiaries required vocational training especially in goat rearing, badi and papad making, women cloth stitching and soap making.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture in India is becoming increasingly by a female activity. One third of agriculture labour force & nearly half of self employed farmers are women. Of the total female work force in rural areas 89.5 per cent are employed in agriculture and allied sector. Yet the income they earn is not commensurate with the task they perform. Nearly 90 per cent of the women workers in rural areas and 70 per cent in the urban areas are found to be unskilled workers. The problem is two-fold. First, most rural women may not have the opportunity to acquire the relevant skills and secondly, even when the opportunity is available they may not have the necessary resources to perform the task. Keeping this in view, the study was under taken to study the vocational training needs of watershed women beneficiaries in Mandawar & Mandawara watershed of Rajsamand district of Rajasthan.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two selected NWDPR (National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area) in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan. A list of villages and presidents of users committees of both the watershed was obtained from the office of the Deputy Director Watershed Development and Soil Conservation district Rajsamand Rajasthan. The president of users

committee of each village was contacted to have a list of women beneficiaries of their respective villages for the purpose of personal interview. Ninety women respondents were randomly selected from each watershed, thus a total sample comprised of 180 women beneficiaries from these two watersheds. The data were collected by personal interview technique through standardized pre tested schedule. Then after data were analyzed, tabulated & inferences were drawn in the light of objective.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The observed response of the selected farm women for each area of vocational training need have been grouped into four categories and are presented in the following tables from 1-4.

A. Agricultural aspects

Deogarh buck have been identified as one of the improved breed of Rajasthan and this breed give good market price therefore the farm women of this area gave maximum attention (55.56 per cent) for starting the goat rearing as vocation. Vegetable cultivation has been reported by 21.67 per cent farmwomen who were of higher caste and do not like goat rearing. Poultry farming have been suggested by 6.67 per cent farmwomen of the lower caste.

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Table 1. Vocational training needs of NWDPRA women beneficiaries about agricultural aspects
(n=180)

S. No.	Training area	Mandawar n= 90		Mandawara n= 90		Overall	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Goat rearing	46	51.11	54	60.00	100	55.56
2.	Vegetable Cultivation	19	21.11	20	22.22	39	21.67
3.	Poultry farming	8	8.89	4	4.44	12	6.67

f- Frequency

B. Food processing aspects

Badi and Papad making vocation was suggested by 21.67 per cent farmwomen as they could prepare this product in their leizer time at their home easily and have a good local market. Spice processing like coriander, turmeric, chilies etc. was recommended by 19.44 per cent farm women as this practice does not require much expertise and knowledge and at the same time have local market value.

Pickle preparation was reported by 17.78 per cent women as it is used in off season and on special

occasions but some women hesitates in preparation of pickles with a fear that the product will be spoiled by the fungus so they need skill training on these aspects. Cleaning, processing, packing and marketing of cereals and pulses is now a days getting attention of the rural women. Therefore, they wanted skill training in grading, packing and marketing which was suggested by 15.56 per cent farmwomen. Sharbat, squash preparation and fruit and vegetable drying were demanded by some educated women but lack of skilled training did not allow them to start this as a vocation as reported by 2.78 and 1.11 per cent women beneficiaries.

Table 2. Vocational training needs of NWDPRA women beneficiaries about food processing aspects
(n=180)

S. No.	Training area	Mandawar n= 90		Mandawara n= 90		Overall	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Badi and papad making	17	18.89	22	24.44	39	21.67
2.	Spices processing	18	20.00	17	18.89	35	19.44
3.	Pickle preparation	13	14.44	19	21.11	32	17.78
4.	Processing packing and marketing of cereals and pulses	16	17.78	12	13.33	28	15.56
5.	Sarbat and squash preparation	3	3.33	2	2.22	5	2.78
6.	Fruit vegetable drying	1	1.11	1	1.11	2	1.11

f- Frequency

C. Clothing and textiles

Women cloth stitching has been identifies as a major vocation as reported by 41.11 per cent farm women which has a local market too (Table-3). Similarly, children cloths stitching were identified as second important area of vocational training need by 38.33% farmwomen but due to lack of skill of stitching they were not getting wider market. Sweater knitting and embroidery were the common hobbies of rural women but due to lack of skill training they could not design in proper size and shape as recorded by 14.44 per cent and 6.67 per

cent women beneficiaries respectively.

Readymade cloth business is now a days getting market in rural areas but lack of knowledge for availability of ready made cloths and marketing management, they could not do it by themselves and need vocational training as reported by 3.89 per cent farm women.

D. Other areas of vocational training

Soap Aggarbatti, candles are daily used items in every house in rural areas and have a good market value but due to lack of skills these women are

Table 3. Vocational training needs of NWDPRAs women beneficiaries about clothing and textile

(n=180)

S. No.	Training area	Mandawar n= 90		Mandawara n= 90		Overall	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Women cloth stitching	31	34.44	43	47.78	74	41.11
2.	Children cloth stitching	32	35.55	37	41.11	69	38.33
3.	Sweter knitting	15	16.67	11	12.22	26	14.44
4.	Embroidery	6	6.66	6	6.66	12	6.67
5.	Dari and Chatai making	4	4.44	7	7.78	11	6.11
6.	Readymade cloth business	3	3.33	4	4.44	7	3.89

f- Frequency

helpless in preparation of these products. It was reported by 21.67, 16.67 and 13.89 per cent women respectively (Table-4). Hand operated fan making require skill training for preparation of decorative fans generally used in every rural house during power cut. A meager number 5 per cent women beneficiaries demanded this vocation. Mahendi Rachana is the most common practice in rural areas

and almost all women do this on every festival. But a skilled hand can get better income particularly on ceremonial occasions. Rope making and paper plate making were reported by 1.67 per cent and 1.11 per cent women beneficiaries as it is required in every house and can also be sold in near by urban areas at higher prices.

Table 4. Vocational training needs of NWDPRAs women beneficiaries about other area

(n=180)

S. No.	Training area	Mandawar n= 90		Mandawara n= 90		Overall	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Soap making	21	23.33	18	20.00	39	21.67
2.	Agarbatti making	13	14.44	17	18.89	30	16.67
3.	Candle making	11	12.22	14	15.55	25	13.89
4.	Handle fan making	4	4.44	5	5.55	9	5.00
5.	Mehandi Rachna	5	5.55	4	4.44	9	5.00
6.	Bamboo basket making	-	-	3	3.33	3	1.67
7.	Roap making	1	1.11	2	2.22	3	1.67
8.	Paper plate making	1	1.11	1	1.11	2	1.11

f- Frequency

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that goat rearing has been identified as the most popular vocation, as it requires less skill but gives good return. Women and child cloth stitching have good scope in the study area and was demanded by the large number of women beneficiaries, Vegetable cultivation, Badi and Papad making and soap making also have good local market therefore, women beneficiaries were demanding training on this aspects. These beneficiaries were least interested in fruit and vegetable drying and paper plate making. It is therefore suggested that the significant training need areas be kept in focus and most intensive

training programs be conducted for beneficiary women for their upliftment.

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