

INFORMATION NEEDS FOR HILL FARM WOMEN OF UTTARANCHAL

D. Sharma¹ & D.P. Singh²

Women, the backbone of hill agriculture are extensively engaged in more farm operations, except ploughing and to some extent marketing. According to the assessment by Singh (1987) in the Indian Himalayas, a pair of bullocks works for 1064 hrs, a man for 1,212 hrs and women for 3,485 hrs in a year on one hectare land. A women's work is 1.5 times more than that of man and farm animal combined. They are normally engaged in multiple tasks but in the design the programme for agricultural development, women are neither the direct clientele of the manager nor do they have an opportunity to discuss their doubts and misgivings.

Sandhu and Sharma (1976) studied information need of farm women in two villages of Ludhiana and Jalandhar district. They found that the information need of farm women were high in respect of plant protection measures, seed selection and treatment, gardening storage and marketing.

In third world countries information technology has rapid growth and development but the hill farmwomen are yet to have access to the information including in the area of agriculture. These days information has become critical especially in view of the growing sophistication in agriculture technology.

Keeping these facts in view the present study was carried out with the following specific objectives:

1. To determine information needs of hill farmwomen of Chamba Block of Tehri

Garhwal district in respect of agriculture practices.

2. To determine information need of hill farmwomen of Home science practices.
3. To formulate training course curriculum on the basis of their priority need of agriculture and allied disciplines.

METHODOLOGY :

The data were collected from 6 villages including 2 high hills (1500m and above) 2 mid hills (1050-1500mts.) and low hills (below 1050mts.) village of district Tehri Garhwal of Uttar Pradesh. Forty respondents from each (high, mid and low hill) village were selected randomly. Total, 120 families were selected for this study. The information was collected with the help of pre-tested schedule by personally interviewing the farm women. The mean score was used for calculating the rank of information need.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

The data related to the information need in agriculture, Family welfare, Health and Hygiene, Nutrition and Environment were analysed and the findings were categorically reported as under :

I. Information needs in Agriculture :

Table 1. shows, that high yielding variety happens to be the most important area of agriculture in which hill farm women need information and this was followed by field preparation and cereal production. The other areas of information need pertaining to agriculture were proper use of fertilizer,

pesticide, weed control, disease control and sowing procedure.

Table 1. Agriculture need on the various aspects of agriculture

S.N.	Aspect of Agriculture	Mean Weighed scores	Rank
1.	Field preparation	0.941	II
2.	High yield varieties	1.475	I*
3.	Proper use of fertilizer	0.408	IV
4.	Weed control	0.275	IX
5.	Proper use of pesticides	0.375	V*
6.	Disease control	0.308	VIII
7.	Sowing procedure	0.308	VII
8.	Post harvest technology	0.225	XI
9.	Cereal crop production	0.600	III
10.	Agriculture implement	0.100	IX
11.	Irrigation	0.066	X

*Shows most important information need

II. Information need in family Welfare :

Table 2. Shows that immunization of infant happens to be most important area of family welfare information need of the respondents followed by family planning. The other areas of information need pertaining to family welfare were disease control, immunization of pregnant mother and childcare.

Table 2. Information need of farm women on various aspects of family welfare.

S.N.	Aspect of Family Welfare	Mean Weighed scores	Rank
1.	Family planning	1.908	II*
2.	Immunization and care of pregnant mother	0.250	III*
3.	Immunization of infant	1.958	I*
4.	Cause of disease and their control	0.233	IV
5.	Child care	0.083	V

*Shows most important information need

III. Information Need in the area of health and hygiene :

From Table 3. it is clear that body cleanliness was most important area of information need followed by house cleanliness and sulabh sochalaya. The other area of information need pertaining to health

and hygiene were sulabh sauhalaya, water purification, care of sick person and smokeless chulha.

Table 3. Information needs of farm Women on various aspects of health and hygiene.

S.N.	Aspect of health and hygiene	Mean weighed score	Rank
1.	Body cleanliness	1.658	I*
2.	Water purification	0.4416	IV
3.	De-worming	0.050	IX
4.	House cleanliness	0.791	II*
5.	Sulabh Sauchalaya	0.608	III*
6.	Drainage facilities	0.033	XI
7.	Care of sick person	0.200	VI
8.	Smokeless chulha	0.158	VII
9.	Toilet training of children	0.350	V

*Indicates most important information need

IV. Information need in nutrition

Table 4. shows that the balanced diet was found to be the most important area of nutrition for information need of the respondents followed by procedure to improve nutritional quality in diet. The other areas of information need pertaining to nutrition were scientific method of local food preparation, food for pregnant women, food for lactating mother and food for sick person.

Table 4. Information need farm women on various aspects of nutrition

S.N.	Aspect of nutrition	Mean Weighed Score	Rank
1.	Balance diet	1.975	I*
2.	Scientific method of local food preparation	0.558	III*
3.	Procedure to improve nutrition quality	0.840	II*
4.	Food for lactating mother	0.425	IV
5.	Food for sick person	0.266	VI
6.	Food for pregnant women	0.283	V
7.	Preservation technology	0.066	IX
8.	Weaning food	0.183	VII

*Indicating most important information on need

V. Information need in environment

Among the needs related to environment, plantation was most important area of information needs of farmwomen followed by water pollution. The other area of information need pertaining to environment were environment pollution, fodder production, protection of land slide and forest conservation as clearly mentioned in Table 5.

Table 5. Information need of farm women on various aspects of environment

S.N.	Various aspect of environment	Mean weighed score	Rank
1.	Plantation	1.533	I*
2.	Environment pollution	0.675	III*
3.	Protection of land slide.	0.383	V
4.	Importance of social forestry	0.358	VII
5.	Fodder production	0.450	IV
6.	Water pollution	0.883	II*
7.	Forest conservation	0.375	VI
8.	Save of fuel	0.300	IX

*Indicates most important information need.

CONCLUSION :

On the basis of the findings of this study the following syllabus can be prepared for providing the need based information or development training programme to farmwomen of hilly region on priority.

Agriculture :

1. High yielding varieties
2. Field crop production
3. Cereal crop production
4. Proper use of fertilizer
5. Proper use of pesticides

6. Horticulture
7. Disease control
8. Sowing procedure
9. Agricultural Implement
10. Fodder Production
11. Soil testing
12. Irrigation

Family welfare :

1. Family planning
2. Immunization and care of pregnant mother
3. Causes of disease and their control
4. Child care

Health and Hygiene :

1. Body cleanliness
2. House cleanliness
3. Sulabh sauchalaya
4. Water purification
5. Toilet training of children
6. Care of sick person
7. Smokeless chullah
8. Deworming
9. Drainage facilities

Nutrition :

1. Balance diet
2. Procedure to improve nutrition quality in diet
3. Scientific method of meal preparation
4. Food for lactating mother
5. Food for pregnant women
6. Food for sick person
7. Weaning food
8. Preservation technique

Environment :

1. Plantation
2. Water pollution
3. Environment pollution
4. Fodder production
5. Protection of land slide
6. Forest conservation
7. Importance of social forestry
8. Save of fuel

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