

EMPOWERMENT OF HILL WOMEN THROUGH TRAINING

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As per the census 2001, women account for 495.7 million representing 48.3 percent of the country's total population. Initiations in the area of training and capacity building, employment and income generation, welfare and support services and awareness gender sensitization are being undertaken by the department of women and child development with the ultimate objective of empowering women both economically and socially and making them equal partners in development. Women are the backbone of hill society. They play an important role in household and agricultural activities. The rural society of Uttaranchal is typically bound and fatalistic. Due to small and scattered land holdings the output from agriculture is very less. The ever multiplying population in the area, lack of income and employment opportunities and severe migration of male working force from the hills to plains doubles the workload of women both within as well as outside the household. Looking into this scenario it will not be wrong to say that agriculture in hills is 'Women centered'. If we look into the workload of women in the hills, "on an average the labour force ratio of female is 35% as against 25% of males. According to the assessment by Singh (1987), 'In the Indian Himalayas, a pair of bullocks works for 1064 hours, a man 1212 hours and a woman for 3485 hours in a year on one hectare of land. 'Women's work is invisible because women are not concern with the remunerative works.

Why Empowerment—To overcome the burden of work and to have an equal economic status in the society the women must be

empowered. "The empowerment of hill women is the key solution to any social problem. According to Empowerment of S.R. Bommai, than minister of human resource development of govt. of India, "women who are otherwise found deprived owing to diverse layers of inequality is necessary for building the society of our dream" The stage of world population Report 1994 states very clearly "Empowering women means extending choices, choices about if and when to get married, choice about education, employment opportunities, controlling the social and physical environment, choice about if and when to get pregnant and ultimately about family size. Empowerment requires that husbands, partners, family members, and communities help to promote a healthy environment free from violence or abuse, in which women are free to use community services on the basis of equality" In the hills since the women are the key worker in the house as well as in the field, they must have the choice to take decisions within the house and out side the household chores also.

Role of Training in Empowerment—To make the women folk more empowered in hill area they must have the knowledge of latest technological development in the field of agriculture The way to get the most reliable and authentic information about agricultural development, the only and important method is training. Tewari (1987) suggested, "A qualitative reform among the women is possible through their education and Training together with the appropriate apparatus being provided to them". To meet the pace of the

development and its complexity and sophistication in nature, farmer require proper intensive training and education about the use of advanced agricultural technologies. Training of farmers is a critical input for rapid transfer of agricultural technology. Training is the key tool to improve the capabilities of the women in order to increase their efficiency and effectiveness. Training changes the attitude of women farmers, provide greater employment, opportunity, self employment, strengthens social relationship, create awareness among women, and also give opportunities to the landless laborers to secure their necessities of life.

In the Garhwal region of Uttaranchal state Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ranichauri doing marvelous job with the aim to impart vocational training to farm women and rural youth. The present study depict the status of participation of women in different discipline during the last eight years, (1995-2002). The objective of the study is to find out the ratio of women farmers benefited through the trainings conducted during last eight years in different disciplines.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Tehri garhwal

Table 1. Gender wise Distribution of Farmer/ Farm women

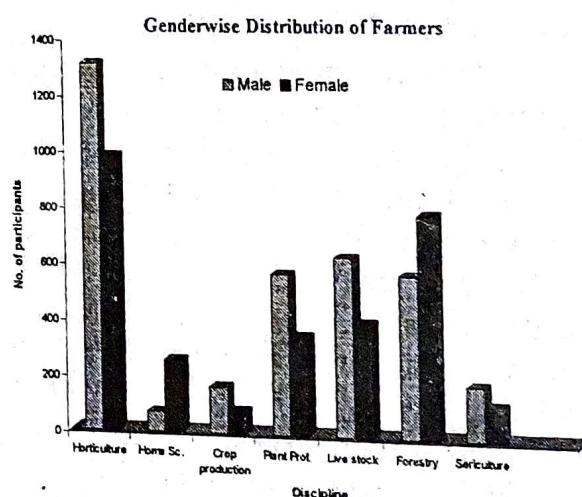
Discipline	No. of courses	Farmers/Farm Women			Percentage (%)	
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Horticulture	94	1305	978	2283	20.29	15.20
Home Sc.	25	68	251	319	1.05	3.90
Crop production	9	161	77	238	2.50	1.19
Plant Prot.	34	565	347	912	8.78	5.39
Live stock	25	628	399	1027	9.76	6.20
Forestry	52	568	782	1350	8.83	12.15
Sericulture	14	187	120	332	2.90	1.86
Total	261	3482	2954	6431	54.14	45.93

in all the discipline accept of Home science and Forestry discipline. Overall percentage of male farmers was found 54.13 in comparison to female farmers i.e. 45.93 percent. In case of home science and forestry the percentage

district of Uttaranchal. A list of respondents who received training during the study period was taken out from the reports of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ranichauri.. Further investigations were carried out to find out the participation of women folk in different training programmers

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are three types of participants Practicing Farmers/Farm women, Rural youth and extension functionaries. The gender wise participation of Practicing farmers /farm women was studied during the study years (1995-2002). The table 1 reveals that overall percentage of male participants is quite higher



of female farmers was found higher i.e. 3.90 and 12.15 in comparison to male farmers 1.05 and 8.83 percent respectively. Further it was found that maximum percentage of female participated in the training conducted in the

discipline of horticulture (15.20percent) followed by forestry (12.15 percent) and Live stock (6.20percent).

The gender wise distribution of rural youth was studied to find out the level of participation of young females in different training programmes conducted during the last eight years. The data (Table 2) reveals that the percentage of young women (32.13 percentage) was almost half of the young men (67.86 percentage) participated in different training programmes. Except in the discipline of Home science (13.46 percent male against 3.04 percent female) and live stock (6.94 percent female against 4.56 percent male) in all the discipline the percentage of young men

participant was found higher than their counterpart young women.

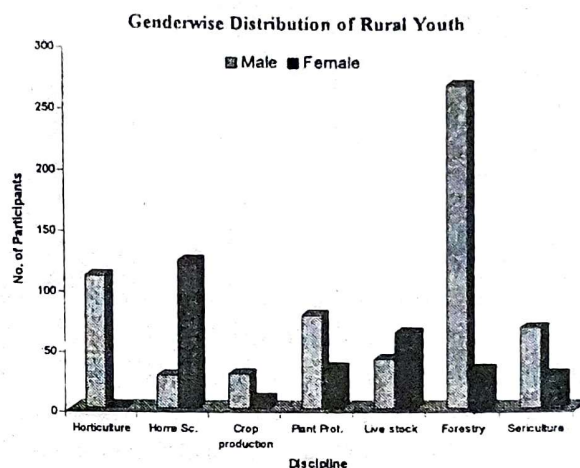


Table 2. Gender wise Distribution of Rural youth

Discipline	No. of courses	Rural youth			Percentage (%)	
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Horticulture	9	111	2	113	12.05	0.21
Home Sc.	11	28	124	152	3.04	13.46
Crop production	5	30	9	39	3.25	0.97
Plant Prot.	10	79	35	114	8.57	3.80
Live stock	6	42	64	106	4.56	6.94
Forestry	18	269	33	300	29.20	3.58
Sericulture	5	68	29	97	7.38	3.14
Total	64	625	296	921	67.86	32.13

Further gender wise distribution of Extension functionaries was also studied to find out the level of participation of females extension workers in different training programmes. The participation of male extension functionaries was found eight times more to the participation of female extension functionaries (89.01 percent male against 10.99 percent). This depicts that a very few number of women are employed as the extension functionaries and among those who are employed very few are able to participate in different training programmes conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra. (Table 3)

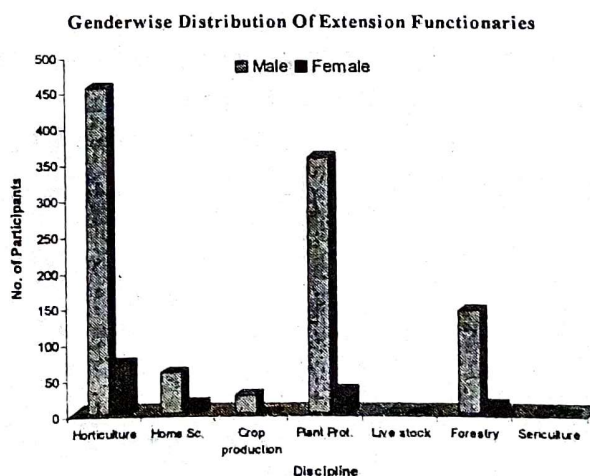


Table 3. Gender wise Distribution of Extension functionaries

Discipline	No. of courses	Extension functionaries			Percentage (%)	
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Horticulture	15	453	70	523	38.89	6.01
Home Sc.	4	57	14	71	4.89	1.20
Crop production	2	25	0	25	2.15	0
Plant Prot.	20	356	32	388	30.55	2.75
Live stock	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forestry	144	144	12	156	12.36	1.03
Sericulture	2	2	0	2	0.17	0
Total	187	1037	128	1165	89.01	10.99

The study reveals that the participation of female trainees in all the three categories viz; farmers, rural youth and extension functionaries, is very less in comparison to the male trainees. It may be due to the reason that in hills the agriculture is women centered and they don't get the time to attend the training. In case of extension functionaries, the number of women employed in different organization are very less and among those who are employed they don't turn up for the trainings. This shows a clear picture that number of female participants are still very far from the desired numbers.

To make the women empowered it is very

essential to bring them forward to attend the training programmes so that they could be benefited through these programmes in a desirable manner. At the same time it is the time to find out the reason behind not attending the trainings also. Women with proper training and education can bring phenomenal change in the desirable direction. The women specially the farm women should be awakened and empowered to bring social and economical changes in the rural society. Once they are awakened and empowered they will be on the move, with them the family will move, the entire village will move and ultimately the nation will move towards the progress.

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