

RESEARCH NOTE

Adoption Status of Practices Imparted Under Vocational Training Courses in Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are designed and devoted for imparting need based, skill oriented short and long-term vocational training courses to farmers, farm women and rural youth. KVKs provide training not only in agriculture and allied sectors but also in other areas of income-generating activities that increase the income of farming families. To assess the impact of Vocational Training Courses (VTCs) on value addition to household products, a sample of 140 women trainees who had attended the training of 21 days or more duration was selected from the five KVKs of Punjab namely Bathinda, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur and Saheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Nawansher. Out of the total selected trainees, 46 per cent trainees have attended the training on value addition to household products. Out of total, only four per cent trainees had started their enterprise after receiving training. However, all the trainees had adopted the practice of preparation of decorative and utility articles from household waste material. Majority of the trainees had high level of extent of adoption of practices and overall adoption status of training course was also high. Major reason for non-establishment of an enterprise by the trainees was poor marketing linkages. Therefore, it is suggested that the marketing component and linkages related to establishing an enterprise should be an integral part of the training programme.

Key words: Adoption status; Farm women; Value addition; Trainees; Extent of adoption;

In India, though women have played a key role in the society, their entrepreneurial ability has not been properly tapped due to the lower status of women especially the rural women in the society (Sharma, 2013). Entrepreneurship development and income generating activities are a feasible solution for improving the status of women and making her economically independent. In various policies and developmental programmes, the emphasis has been given to empowering women in all spheres of life (Swaminathan 2007). *Krishi vigyan kendra* plays an important role to improve the economic status of women by imparting need-based and skill oriented vocational training courses on the various topics (Masur and Jadhav, 2018). Vocational training is an essential tool that are based on practical activities, non-academic and specific occupation to prepare and enhance the self employment and skills among its trainees which further helps to

improve the employability of workforce. It provides initial training and continuing professional development of each individual and also develops knowledge, skill and attitude about a particular form of employment among its trainees (Harvey 2009). No specific qualification is required to be the participant of the training programmes and certificates are awarded to all the trainees who successfully completed the training course. Therefore, the present study was on To assess the adoption status of practices imparted under 'Value addition to household products' vocational training course, conducted by KVK SBS Nagar, Nawansher, Punjab.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted at KVK Saheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Nawansher. It has conducted three long duration training courses on 'Value Addition to Household Products' from year 2009 to 2013. The list

of 64 women trainees who had attended the vocational training course on 'Value Addition to Household Products' was procured from *Krishi Vigyan Kendra Saheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Nawansher*. From this list, twenty five per cent of the trainees were selected by applying the probability proportional to size technique. Therefore a total 16 trainees comprised the sample for study. Data were collected personally from the respondents (women trainees) by using an interview schedule.

Adoption status: It refers to the relative position of trained women regarding adoption, non-adoption, discontinuance, the extent of adoption of practices/ technologies imparted under respective vocational training course. Two, one and zero scores were assigned to adoption, discontinued and non-adoption of the practices respectively. Mean scores were calculated on the basis of assigned scores by using following formula:

$$MST = \frac{\text{Total score of } n^{\text{th}} \text{ practiced}}{\text{No. of trainees of } n^{\text{th}} \text{ training course}}$$

Extent of adoption: It refers to the total numbers of recommended practices adopted by trained women under particular training course. It was measured into three categories i.e. Low, Medium and High. One score was assigned to each adopted practice.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adoption status of value addition to household products: The perusal of data in Table 1 shows the adoption status of the practices imparted under training course on 'Value addition to household products' by *Krishi Vigyan Kendras*. Commonly there were six practices that were imparted under above said training course. The adoption status of the practices was measured on the basis of adoption, non-adoption and discontinuance of the particular practice by the trainees. The detailed report of adoption status of the practices along with their reasons of adoption, non-adoption & discontinuance is as discussed below:

Preparation of decorative & utility articles from household waste materials: It was interesting that hundred per cent of trainees who had received the training on above discussed topic had adopted the practice of 'Preparation of decorative & utility articles from household waste materials'. The reason stated by a large majority (81.25%) were the availability of the required material in nearby market at reasonable price

followed by easy to made and interesting work (68.75%), for the beautification of the home (56.25%) and recycle the household waste into some productive article (43.75%). It could be concluded that all the trainees had adopted the respective practice because they found it very easy, interesting, useful and cost-effective. home and easy to make

Multiple response (reasons) use of varnish to increase the durability of the products: The practice of 'use of varnish to increase the durability of the products' was adopted by 50 per cent of the trainees. The reasons for its adoption were to make articles more attractive (43.75%) and varnishing adds shining in the product (25.00%). Remaining fifty per cent had not adopted because they never felt a need of it.

Making articles from macramé knots : The perusal of data presented in Table 1 indicated that a large proportion (75.00%) had adopted the practice of 'Making articles from macramé knots', while twenty five per cent trainees don't adopt the respective practice. Further, it was found that no trainee had discontinued the respective practice. Majority of the trainees (62.5%) revealed the reason of the adoption of the particular practice as it has demand in the market followed by easy availability of material and easy to make (56.25%) and to make utility articles (43.75%). the remaining twenty five per cent trainees reported the reason for its non-adoption that it is a very difficult task and time consuming (18.75%).

Pot decoration by using old newspaper, waste material and fevicol : It was observed that 56.25 per cent trainees had adopted the practice of 'pot decoration by using old newspaper, waste material and fevicol' followed by 43.75 per cent who didn't adopt this practice. While it was interesting that none of the trainees had discontinued the respective practice after adopting it once. More than fifty per cent of trainees stated the reasons of its adoption as material is easily available in the market followed by it is easy to made (43.75%), more attractive articles (12.5%) and around 6 per cent of trainees found it interesting. The reasons of non-adoption of this practice were reported by trainees as articles are very delicate and they need extra care to handle (31.25%) followed by nearly 19 per cent each found the respective practice very time consuming and had no interest in this practice.

Making decorative articles from dori : It was noticed from the above shown data that seventy five per cent

Table 1. Adoption status of practices/technologies imparted under 'Value addition to household products' (N=16)

| Practices/ Activities | Adoption No. (%) | Discontinuance No. (%) | Non-Adoption No. (%) | Mean Score (0-2) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Preparation of decorative & utility articles from waste materials | 16(100) | - | - | 2.00 |
| Use of varnish to increase the durability of the products | 8(50.00) | - | 8(50.00) | 1.00 |
| Making articles from macramé knots | 12 (75.00) | - | 4(25.00) | 1.50 |
| Pot decoration by usingwaste material and fevicol | 9(56.25) | - | 7(43.75) | 1.13 |
| Making decorative articles from dori | 12(75.00) | - | 4(25.00) | 1.50 |
| Preparing wall hanging from waste | 12 (75.00) | - | 4(25.00) | 1.50 |
| Adoption status of training course | | | | 1.44 |
| <i>Reasons of Adoption, Non-Adoption & Discontinuance</i> | Adoption No. (%) | Discontinuance No. (%) | Non-Adoption No. (%) | |
| Make home beautiful | 9(56.25) | - | - | - |
| It is an interesting work and easy to made | 11(68.75) | - | - | - |
| Better use of household waste | 7(43.75) | - | - | - |
| Material is easily available and to made | 13(81.25) | | | |
| To make articles more attractive | 7(43.75) | | Never feel the need | 8(50.00) |
| It adds shine to the product | 4(25.00) | - | of using varnish | |
| Demand in the market | 10(62.5) | | Time consuming and | 3(18.75) |
| Utility articles like purse, mirror holder, key holder | 7(43.75) | | difficult task | |
| Easy availability of material and | 9(56.25) | | Lack of marketing | 4(25.00) |
| Interesting work | 1(6.25) | | Time consuming | 3(18.75) |
| Easy to make | 7(43.75) | | Lack of marketing | 5(31.25) |
| Attractive look | 2(12.5) | | Not interested | 3(18.75) |
| Material is easily available | 9(56.25) | - | - | |
| Easy to make | 2(12.5) | | Time consuming | 1(6.25) |
| Many decorative and useful articles can be made | 6(37.5) | | Lack of marketing | 4(25.00) |
| Easy availability of material | 9(56.25) | | | |
| Good marketing of the products | 2(12.5) | - | - | |
| Useful and decorative article | 9(56.25) | | Lack of marketing | 4(25.00) |
| Easy availability of material at | 12(75.00) | - | Difficult task | 2(12.5) |

of trainees had adopted the practice of 'making decorative articles from dori' while remaining twenty five trainees didn't adopt this practice. Reasons of adoption of this practice were like easy availability of material in nearby markets (56.25%), decorative, productive and useful articles can be made from it (37.5%) and good marketing of product (12.5%). Reasons for non-adoption of this practice were very time consuming task (25.00%) and faced difficulty to make articles.

Preparing wall hanging using cuttings : The perusal of data presented in the above shown Table 1 indicated that a large majority of trainees (75.00%) has adopted this practice and twenty five per cent trainees didn't adopt this practice while none of the trainees had discontinued the practice after adopting it once. When the trainees were asked about the reasons of adoption,

non-adoption and discontinuance of the respective practice, trainees who had adopted the above discussed practice stated that it is easy to make & material is readily available in the market (75.00%) followed by 56.25 per cent found it useful. Nearly nineteen per cent said that it can be gifted to friends and relatives, so they had adopted the particular practice.

Lack of time (25.00%) and it is a difficult task (12.5%) were the reasons stated by the trainees for non-adoption of the respective practice.

It could be concluded that the maximum number of the trainees had adopted the practices imparted under this training course on 'value addition to household products' as the material required is easily available in the nearby markets and it is easy to make productive article by adopting these practices. The practice of 'preparation of decorative & utility articles from

household waste materials’ had obtained the highest mean score (0.33), while ‘use of varnish to increase the durability of the products’ had obtained the lowest mean score (0.17).

Extent of adoption: It refers to the total numbers of recommended practices adopted by trained women under ‘Value addition to household products’ training course. One score was assigned to each adopted practice. It was measured into three categories i.e. Low, Medium and High. Minimum and maximum scores were determined on the basis of number of practices imparted under a ‘Value addition to household products’ training course.

Table 2. Extent of adoption of practices/technologies of different vocational training courses

| Value addition to household products | No. | % |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Low (1-2) | 4 | (25.00) |
| Medium (3-4) | 3 | (18.75) |
| High (5-6) | 9 | (56.25) |

It was observed from the Table 2 that majority of the trainees (56.25%) had high level of extent of adoption of practices imparted under training course on ‘Value addition to household products’. One-fourth (25%) of the trainees had low level of extent of adoption while nineteen per cent of the trainees (18.75%) had medium level of extent of the practices. Overall mean score was 1.44, it also indicated the medium adoption status of training course.

Annual increase in income of the respondents after starting an enterprise: The trainees were asked about the increase in their annual income by starting an enterprise after the completion of their training course at *krishi vigyan kendras*. The data in Table 3 revealed that there was a noticeable annual increase in the income

of trainees of value addition. Thirteen per cent trainees reported maximum annual increase of Rs 8-12,000 while 19 per cent revealed an increase of Rs1000-4000 in their annual income.

Table 3. Annual increase in income of the respondent after starting an enterprise (N=5)

| Income increased/annum | No. | % |
|------------------------|-----|-------|
| 1000-4000 | 3 | 18.75 |
| 4001-8000 | - | - |
| 8001-12000 | 2 | 12.50 |

It can be concluded that adoption of practices imparted under training courses on value addition to household products had increased the income of trainees. The results are also supported by *Sharma (2001)*, she concluded that after getting training from *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* in Punjab, women had increased their income by adopting improved practices.

CONCLUSION

Majority of the trainees had medium level of adoption status of the practices while extent of adoption of practices imparted under the respective vocational training course was high. Practice of preparation of decorative and utility articles from household waste materials imparted under value addition training course had high adoption status due to easy availability of the material in the nearby market. But only four per cent trainees had started their enterprise after receiving training. Major reason for non-establishment of an enterprise by the trainees was poor marketing linkages. Therefore, it is suggested that the marketing component and linkages related to establishing an enterprise should be an integral part of the training programme.

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