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CONTENTS

Decision making power of women in Raebareli and Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT: The aim of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Farm Science Centre), an innovative science based institutions, were consequently established mainly to impart vocational training to the farmers and field level extension workers. The concept of vocational training in agriculture through KVK grows substantially due to greater demand for improved agricultural technology by the farmers. The study was carried out in the KVKs of Raebareli and Pratapgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh. By following simple random sampling 160 beneficiaries form KVK Raebareli and 160 beneficiaries from KVK Pratapgarh were selected. The finding revealed that great majority that age of rural women was positively and significantly correlated with level of involvement of women in decision making. Education of farm women was found effective in the participation of farm women in agricultural decision-making process. Respondents of forward caste participated in decisions with a greater frequency than SC and ST; and so, caste was found to have significant influence on the level of women's involvement in farming decisions. From this study it may be suggested that in rural families, type and size of the family, caste, size of land holding, socio-economic status of the families, education level of rural women have significant influences on the involvement in decision-making.

Key words: Decision making, farm women, Krishi Vigyan Kendra

There is a large section of Women farming community which is still unaware of technological developments in the field of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Home Science. For this purpose a number of extension programmes have been introduced by ICAR and state departments to reduce this gap and these programmes have yielded good results. Krishi Vigyan Kendra designs different kinds of training courses for the farmers/farm women. Courses are based on the information received through family and village survey. No specific qualification is required to be the participant of the training programmes. After conducting the training programmes follow-up programmes are organized for converting the obtained skills of the trainees into practice (Roy *et al.,* 2006).

Training is an important mechanism for transfer of technology successfully and improving the human resource development at all levels. The individual sector has taken a lot of advantage by developing and utilizing the training infrastructure within the country or abroad. The same tempo has yet to come in agriculture sector. Training programme are to be designed to impart the latest knowledge to the farmers through work experience by applying the principles of teaching by doing and learning by doing (Panwar *et al.,* 2017).

The concept of vocational training in agriculture through KVKs grew substantially owing to the greater demand for advancement of agricultural technology and the growing progressiveness of the farmers. They need not only knowledge and understanding, but also progressively more skill in various complex agricultural operations. This is imperative for the rapid transfer of technology (TOT). It is designed to impart need based and skill oriented vocational training to the practicing farmers, in service field level extension workers and to those who wish to go in for self-employment.

The training start from fields farms, dairy units, poultry units, sheep units, goat units, pig units, workshop etc. and terminates in the discussion assembly. The training programme take into account all methods and means, which will result in skill

development in trainees in the areas of their interest. It can be formal, informal and non-formal or a combination of all the three, depending upon the needs and resources of the farmers. Each KVK has been provided with a training organizer about a dozen scientific technical staff and an equal number of office and supporting staff. The discipline of agricultural extension, agronomy, horticulture, veterinary, animal science, home science and plant protection are normally represented in the KVKs.

Impact assessment has emerged as an important aspect to measure the effectiveness of training programmes for the improvement of livelihood and living standards of people in order to bring a more sustainable change. Along with qualitative effects of programmers it also measures the extent to which its goals are attained, so that suitable changes can be made to make the programme more effective.The present study was conducted with the specific objectives to assess the Decision Making Power of Women in Raebareli and Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.

MATERIALSAND METHODS

Locale and subject of the study

The present study is focused on impact of vocational training programme conducted by KVKs at the grass root level. There are 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, out of these districts Raebareli andPratapgarh were selected purposively for the selection of the respondents.Out of Eighteen Blocks from Raebareli and Seventeen blocks from Pratapgarh one block each viz., Rahi and Sadar were selected. One hundred sixty trainees, who had attended the vocational training programmes of the KVKs were selected as respondents thus a total number of 320 respondents (women trainees) represented the main sample of the study.

Tools for data collection

Keeping in view the objectives and the variables under study, a well-structured interview schedule was prepared and pre-tested in a non-study area to locate any ambiguity in the questions. After pre-testing certain modifications were made in the schedule by consulting experts and finalized schedule will be used for data collection.

Measurement of the Variables

- **Independent variables**
  Age, Education, religion, caste, type of family, size of family, size of land holding, housing pattern, social participation, occupation, family income, material possession, economic motivation, information source utilization, risk orientation.
- **Dependent Variables**
  Level of knowledge, Level of Skills, Level of practices

Statistical Analysis

After collecting the interview schedule, the data were converted into numeral codes and then tabulated into tabulation sheet. Variables were categorized into different tables and their frequencies and per centage were worked out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Factors affecting decision making power of women

There are many factors which affect the decision making power of women such as age of women, size of the family, size of land holdings, women's participation in agricultural and other work, etc. Household decision making was associated with the size of land holding and age of the women. Women's decision making power is expected to be higher in small farmers' household as compared to large farm households. If a woman is aged or head of family as grandmother, mother-in-law, mother, her advice is taken, but daughter-in-law or daughter are not expected to exercise independent decision making. Size of family and type of family also affect the women decision making power. In nuclear families men and women jointly take decision but in joint family decision are taken mostly taken by male head of household. Level of education also affects women decision making power. If woman is educated and she is economically active in any work then her decision making power is higher as compared to illiterate or non working women.

Socio-personal characteristics and their relationship with the decision making pattern of beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarh

Factors affecting involvement of beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarh in decision making process were identified and presented in table given below:

Table 1: Relationship between socio-economic characteristics and decision-making pattern of the respondents

S. No.	Independent Variable	Beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli	Beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarh
1.	Age	0.321**	0.263*
2	Education	0.560**	0.408**
3	Caste	0.307	0.021
4	Marital status	0.129^{NS}	0.098 ^{NS}
5	Family Type	-0.203 ^{NS}	0.067 ^{NS}
6	Family Size	0.088 ^{NS}	0.093 ^{NS}
7	Annual Income	0.102**	0.082 ^{NS}
8	Occupation	0.432*	0.073 ^{NS}
9	Land holding	0.220*	0.223*
10	Mass Media Exposure	0.652**	0.424**
11	Extension Contacts	0.521**	0.023**
12	Economic Motivation	0.273	0.078**
13	Scientific Orientation	0.853**	0.743**
14	Risk Preference Orientation	0.426**	0.816**
15	Progressiveness	0.225*	0.241*

** Denotes one per cent significance level.
*Denotes five per cent significance level.

The table communicates that there is positive and significant correlation between age of beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarh. It may be due to the fact that majority of the beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhwere from medium to old age group. It is natural for them to acquire new knowledge by mutual help, personal experiences and interaction with other sources. Thus, it indicates that age has positive bearing on the decision making power of rural women. As the age of women' increases, their power of decision making also increases.

Educational level of the beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhhas been found to be positively and significantly correlated with decision making power of rural women. Educational level of the beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhhas high relationship with decision making power of rural women.

There is negative and non-significant correlation between caste and decision making power of rural women. It means caste of beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhdid not facilitate them towards decision making power. It seems that caste is no decisive factor. Caste is other factor, which stimulate and enhance the ability and capability to learn to know the information.

The beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarh have been found to be negative and non-significantly correlated between marital status and decision making power of rural women. It means marital status of beneficiaries of both the KVKsdid not facilitate them towards decision making power. It seems that marital status is also no decisive factor.

There is positive and significant correlation between family type and decision making power of rural women. Family type of any individual depends upon many supporting and helping factors which coordinates the individual's activities solid with their job.

The family size of the respondent has been found non-significantly related with decision making power of rural women. It means that this variable does not affect considerably in acquisition of knowledge, they have permanent settlement in the village and thereby their outlook and thinking are bound to be influenced.

The annual income of the beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhhas been observed statistically positive and significantly correlated with decision making power of rural women. It may be inferred from the table that annual income possessed by beneficiaries of both the KVKs through passing many years, is responsible for

enhancing decision making power.
The further examination of the table indicates that there was a positively correlated between occupation and decision making power of rural women. Since most of them were cultivators, they go for more income like business and caste occupation.

The mass media exposure found to be positively and significantly correlated with decision making power of rural women. As majority of the beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhwere more social, they frequently contact and interact with officials of the agriculture and line department to which they are concerned in addition to service provided under the system, which also help and enhance their information level in relation to development of their interest.

The size of land holding of the beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhhas been observed positive relationship with decision making power of rural women. Majority of the beneficiaries of KVK Raebareli and beneficiaries of KVK Pratapgarhwere marginal and small size land holders. The small holding did not permit them to know the efficiency of the practice through experiment and trail of new practices.

Table clearly reveals that economic motivation, scientific orientation, risk preference orientation and progressiveness with literacy are significant for explaining decision making power of women. The coefficient on literacy implies that a literate woman enjoys more decision-making power as compared to an illiterate woman. Hence women literacy has the expected impact on their decision making. This brings no change in the level of significance of the other factors. Caste and female participation rate remain the insignificant variables. It was observed that fit of the model improved by dropping female participation rate and all the caste categories.

Decision Making Index (DMI)

The DMI score was grouped as low (0-40), medium (41-70) and high (71-100) based on range of DMI score. The details of the results are presented in table given below. It is observed from the table that 56.25 per cent women fall in the medium category in decision making index (DMI Score 41 to 70) whereas 40.62 per cent farm women were in the high category of DMI (DMI score 70-100).

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by Decision Making Index

Decision Making Index (DMI) Score	Farm Women
Low (0-40)	5 (3.17)
Medium (41-70)	90 (56.25)
High (71-100)	65 (40.62)
Total	160 (100.00)

Regression Analysis

Regression analysis confirms our findings. Thus, age and mass media exposure are found to have a strong positive impact on DMI, while monthly income has a negative impact. Caste, education, occupation and marital status of women and education have an expected positive impact on DMI, but regression coefficients are not significant. Size of family also has a negative impact, but not statistically significant. The value of R square is 0.68. This indicates that the factors determining women participation in decision making are quite complex and depend upon a number of socio-economic factors including traditional social and cultural values.

Table 3:Linear Regression between decision making index and socio-economic variables

Independent Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err.	'T' value	P>t
Age	20.292890	7.016450	2.890	0.004
Caste	0.640798	0.090154	6.110**	0.000
Marital Status	2.199857	2.029740	1.080	0.280
Education	1.602343	1.171908	1.570*	0.173
Size of family	0.821884	0.582760	1.410	0.160
Monthly Income	0.506255	0.381336	1.630*	0.186
Occupation	0.000013	0.000006	2.310**	0.022
Mass Media Exposure	0.006194	0.001291	5.800**	0.000

No. of observations=320, F (7, 232) =14.37, R-square=0.68

It is clear from the results of this study that age of rural women was positively and significantly correlated with level of involvement of women in decision making. Many authors also reported that older women participated more in decision making process in the different areas than their younger age

group counterpart. Education of farm women was found effective in the participation of farm women in agricultural decision-making process. Respondents of forward caste participated in decisions with a greater frequency than SC and ST; and so, caste was found to have significant influence on the level of women's involvement in farming decisions. From this study it may be suggested that in rural families, type and size of the family, caste, size of land holding, socio-economic status of the families, education level of rural women have significant influences on the involvement in decision-making.

CONCLUSION

Women are silent workers and good partners of the socioeconomic development of the country in general and the family in particular. They can contribute more to the socioeconomic upliftment of the family if proper environment and facilities can be ensured. Economic pressure is forcing them to break away their traditional roles of housewives into wage earners. The contribution of women in different activities as well as in total family income was substantial. The pattern of women's contribution to household income and decision making is changing now. In order to improve the overall economic condition and to reduce their economic, social and political constraints, logistic supports such as health care facility, credit facility, input supply, agricultural extension services, need-based training, etc. need to be provided in order to increase their participation in income generating activities and different household decision making events. The potential of women must be tapped for the socioeconomic improvement of the families and development of the nation as a whole. Women should be organized and be made aware that they have equal right of participation. This study may give an indication that women's income may be a tool of women empowerment.

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