



Socio-Economic Profile of the Krishi Vignan Kendra Rural Youth Trainees in Western Part of Uttar Pradesh, India

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The present research study was carried out during 2022-23 to know the Socio-economic profile of the Krishi Vignan Kendra rural youth trainees in Western part of Uttar Pradesh. Out of 20 Krishi Vignan Kendras (KVKs) under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut, three KVKs were selected purposively for the study. From each KVK, 60 rural youth trainees were selected randomly constituting a sample of 180 respondents. Structured interview schedule was used to collect data through personal interview method. The study reported that

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majority (45.56%) of the rural youth trainees belonged to middle aged group of 25 to 30 years were male (83.90%) belonging to other backward caste (53.33%), educated up to high school (45.56%) with marginal land holding (49.40%) and (76.10%) had social participation. Majority (52.78%) of the rural youth trainees were involved in mushroom production having medium (43.30%) annual income of 1 to 4 lakhs, medium (51.11%) information source utilization, low experience (66.67%) of up to 5 years in mushroom cultivation, medium (54.44%) achievement motivation and medium (52.78%) economic motivation. Majority (70.56%) rural youth trainees received on campus training and (72.22%) of the rural youth trainees participated in one fortnight training programmes.

Keywords: Krishi Vignan Kendra; training; trainees; achievement motivation; economic motivation.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Krishi Vignan Kendras are composite training institutions that deal with all agricultural subjects including home science. With the help of subject matter specialists /scientists in the KVKs, training is provided to the farmers, rural youth and farm women on various activities according to their needs and interests. Both for quality as well as quantity services, it has been emphasized to link each discipline of the KVK to its respective department of host institution either SAUs or the ICAR research institutes. To bridge the gap between modern agricultural techniques and rural practices, KVKs are dedicated for transfer of technology (TOT) knowledge through methodologies such as on-farm testing (OFT), front-line demonstration (FLD), and comprehensive training programs aimed at enhancing the skills of farmers, farm women and rural youth. Nazir et al. [1] emphasized that KVKs play an important role in providing both short- and long-term vocational training courses that are tailored to the specific needs of the community, fostering skill-oriented development. Venkatasubramanian et al. [2] in their study listed out various trainings such as training for rural youth (both on and off campus), vocational training programmes, sponsored training programs at KVKs which are aimed at improving skills of farmers, rural youth, and extension personnel. He also categorized trainings as short-duration trainings (1-7 days), medium-duration trainings (8-14 days), and long-duration trainings (3-4 weeks).

Modern agricultural technologies and relevant skills are crucial components in driving agricultural advancements and empowering rural youth to become successful entrepreneurs. The acquisition of knowledge and the mastery of contemporary agricultural practices have a profound impact on rural development. There is need to shed light on the profound impact of

KVKs trainings on rural youth by investigating the status of knowledge retention and skill application following vocational training. By understanding the intricacies of this relationship, we can discern the pivotal role played by KVKs in shaping the agricultural landscape and driving the transformation of rural communities. Based on the above views an attempt was made in assessing the profile of KVK rural youth trainees in Western part of Uttar Pradesh with the following specific objective:

- 1) To assess the socio-economic profile of the rural youth trainees.
- 2) Types of training received by the rural youth trainees from KVKs.

2. METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted during 2022-2023 in western part of Uttar Pradesh which was selected purposively because the researcher was studying at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Out of 20 KVKs under the jurisdiction of the university, three KVKs were selected purposely namely, Swami Kalyan Dev K.V.K., Hastinapur, Meerut, Krishi Vignan Kendra Muradnagar, Ghaziabad and Krishi Vignan Kendra, Khajuri Bagh, Saharanpura as these KVKs are working best in providing training in the area of Mushroom Production. From each KVK, 60 rural youth trainees were selected randomly. Thus, a total of 180 rural youth trainees were selected for the study. The socio-economic profile of rural youth trainees was studied using the following variables namely, age, gender, caste, education status, land holding, social participation, occupation, annual family income, information source utilization, mushroom cultivation experience, achievement motivation and economic motivation. The statistical tools used for the study were frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio-Economic Profile of the Trainees

Age: The data from the Table 1 indicates that majority (45.56%) of the rural youth trainees belonged to middle age group of 25 to 30 years, followed by old age group (28.89%) of above 30 years. One quarter (25.56%) of the rural youth trainees were in the young age group up to 24 years. In general, middle-aged people are more capable, passionate and responsible than younger and older age groups. In comparison, they appear to be more interested in development and want more money. This could be the cause for the bulk of rural youth trainees being in the medium age group who took training from the KVKs. The results were in line with the findings of Biswas et al. [3] and Sunil and Manjula [4].

Gender: By analyzing the data presented in the Table 1, it is evident that a majority (83.90%) of the rural youth trainees were male, while a smaller proportion (16.10%) were female. The participation of women was low as it is difficult for them to spare time to attend and stay in the campus. The results were in line with the findings of Mishra and Kumar [5] and Radhakrishnan [6].

Caste: The data from the Table 1 represents that majority (53.33%) of the rural youth trainees belonged to other backward caste, followed by general caste (32.22%), schedule caste (14.45%). The probable reason for the result was more number of backward class people participated in the trainings in order to improve their socio economic status. These findings align with the research of Balu [7] and Kailash et al. [8].

Educational Status: By analyzing the data presented in the Table 1 it becomes evident that the majority (93.10%) of the rural youth trainees were literate, whereas only a small percentage (06.90%) was identified as illiterates. Among literate rural youth trainees, the highest percentage (45.56%) had completed high school, followed by intermediate (29.40%), graduation (13.30%) and postgraduate (05.60%). As education is important for an individual to improve the intellectual capabilities most of them

had basic education and were unable to go for higher studies as there were no higher education institutions in the villages and nearby towns. These results correspond with the findings of Biswas et al. [3] and Patel et al. [9].

Land Holding: The results presented in the Table 1 indicates that majority (49.40%) of the rural youth trainees were having marginal land holding, followed by small land holding (36.70%), medium land holding (11.10%), and large land holding (02.80%). The probable reason for having small holding was fragmentation of the land between the family members. Similar results have been reported by Prashad et al. [10] and Medhi et al. [11].

Social Participation: An analysis of the Table 1 shows that majority (76.10%) of the rural youth trainees were affiliated with one or more organizations, whereas the remaining (23.90%) were not members of any organization. These findings demonstrate the general interest of participation in social organizations among rural youth trainees. It can be because of Krishi Vigyan Kendra's initiatives or awareness most of the rural youths may have participated in social activities because of their willingness to volunteer their time to gain knowledge about various income-generating enterprises, technologies, and self-confidence through KVK training programmes. The results were in line with Sharma et al. [12].

Occupation: As depicted in Table 2, majority (52.78%) of the rural youth trainees were engaged in mushroom production, followed by farming + mushroom production (27.22%), and lastly, farming + services (20.00%) respectively. The probable reason was most of the rural youth trainees had taken trainings related to mushroom and took it as their career. The results were in line with Awasthi et al. [13] and Acharya et al. [14].

Annual Family Income: The results from Table 2 shows that maximum (43.30%) of the rural youth trainees had medium family income of 1 to 4 lakhs, followed by 35.60% and 21.10% with low family income of less than 1 lakh and high family income of above 4 lakhs, respectively. The results were in line with Kumar and Aski [15].

Table 1. Distribution of rural youth trainees according to their age, gender, caste, educational status, land holding and social participation (N=180)

| Sr. No. | Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age | | | |
| 1. | Young (up to 24 years) | 46 | 25.56 |
| 2. | Middle (between 25 to 30 years) | 82 | 45.56 |
| 3. | Old (above 30 years) | 52 | 28.89 |
| Gender | | | |
| 1. | Male | 151 | 83.90 |
| 2. | Female | 29 | 16.10 |
| Caste | | | |
| 1. | General | 58 | 32.22 |
| 2. | Other Backward Caste (OBC) | 96 | 53.33 |
| 3. | Schedule Caste (SC) | 26 | 14.45 |
| Educational Status | | | |
| 1. | Illiterate | 11 | 06.10 |
| 2. | High School | 82 | 45.56 |
| 3. | Intermediate (10+2) | 53 | 29.40 |
| 4. | Graduation | 24 | 13.30 |
| 5. | Post Graduation | 10 | 05.60 |
| Land Holding (in hectares) | | | |
| 1. | Marginal (< 1 ha) | 89 | 49.40 |
| 2. | Small (1-2 ha.) | 66 | 36.70 |
| 3. | Medium (2-4 ha.) | 20 | 11.10 |
| 4. | Large (>4 ha.) | 05 | 02.80 |
| Social Participation | | | |
| 1. | Member | 137 | 76.10 |
| 2. | Non-Member | 43 | 23.90 |

Information Source Utilization: The data from the Table 2 reveals that maximum (51.11%) of the rural youth trainees reported medium level of information source utilization, followed by high (28.33%) and low (20.56%) level of information source utilization, respectively. The probable reason was the rural youth trainees were in regular contact with the information sources to get latest information related to various activities. The findings align with the observations of Rosaiah yeluri [16].

Mushroom Cultivation Experience: The results from Table 2 indicates that majority (66.67%) of the rural youth trainees had low mushroom cultivation experience of up to five years, followed by medium (24.44%) cultivation experience between 5 to 10 years, while a smaller percentage (08.89%) possessed high experience exceeding 10 years. The probable reason for the result was most of them took trainings related to mushroom cultivation recently which leads to have a low experience.

Achievement Motivation: Table 2 data reports that majority (54.44%) of the rural youth trainees exhibited medium level of achievement motivation, followed by (27.23%) with high level of achievement motivation, while a smaller segment (18.33%) indicated low level of achievement motivation. The probable reason was the rural youth trainees were highly motivated towards achieving higher positions. The results were in parallel with the findings of Kumar [17] and Bortamuly [18].

Economic Motivation: Table 2 results indicates that majority (52.78%) of the rural youth trainees exhibited high level of economic motivation whereas 32.78% and 14.44% indicated medium and low level of economic motivation, respectively. The reason for having high economic motivation was the rural youth trainees were oriented towards gaining more profits and improve their economic status. The results were in parallel with the findings of Priyanka and Ghadei [20].

Table 2. Distribution of rural youth trainees according to their occupation, annual family income, information source utilization, mushroom cultivation experience, achievement motivation and economic motivation (N=180)

| Sr. No. | Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Occupation | | | |
| 1. | Mushroom production | 95 | 52.78 |
| 2. | Farming+ Services | 36 | 20.00 |
| 3. | Farming+ mushroom production | 49 | 27.22 |
| Annual Family Income | | | |
| 1. | Low (upto1 lakh) | 64 | 35.60 |
| 2. | Medium (1 to 4 lakhs) | 78 | 43.30 |
| 3. | High (above 4 Lakhs) | 38 | 21.10 |
| Information source utilization | | | |
| 1. | Low (up to 42) | 37 | 20.56 |
| 2. | Medium (42-58) | 92 | 51.11 |
| 3. | High (above 58) | 51 | 28.33 |
| Mean = 49.58 | | SD = 8.11 | |
| Mushroom Cultivation Experience | | | |
| 1. | Low (up to 5 years) | 120 | 66.67 |
| 2. | Medium (5 to10 years) | 44 | 24.44 |
| 3. | High (above 10 years) | 16 | 08.89 |
| Achievement Motivation | | | |
| 1. | Low (up to 13) | 33 | 18.33 |
| 2. | Medium (13 to 18) | 98 | 54.44 |
| 3. | High (above18) | 49 | 27.23 |
| Mean = 15.74 | | SD = 2.25 | |
| Economic Motivation | | | |
| 1. | Low (up to 18) | 26 | 14.44 |
| 2. | Medium (18 to 24) | 95 | 52.78 |
| 3. | High (above 24) | 59 | 32.78 |
| Mean = 20.95 | | SD = 3.37 | |

3.2 Types of Training Received by the Trainees from KVKs

Place of Training Programme: Table 3 data reveals that majority (70.56%) of the rural youth trainees received on campus training from the KVK because all training facilities and trainers are available at training center, followed by off campus (29.44%), respectively. The probable reason for having high result for on campus trainings was it will be easy for the trainees to attend the trainings from their homes reducing troubles of travelling and they can do other activities at the home and farm

rather than visiting out of town to attend trainings.

Duration of Training Programme: Table 4 shows that majority of rural youth trainees (72.22%) took fortnight training programme followed by one week (17.77%) and up to 3 days (10.00%) training, respectively. The probable reason for the results was for any training programme to be purposeful, effective and to gain in-depth knowledge three days duration training programme was found to be sufficient and found convenient to attend while doing other works.

Table 3. Distribution of the rural youth trainees according to the place of training received (N= 180)

| Sr. No. | Type of Training | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | On campus | 127 | 70.56 |
| 2. | Off campus | 53 | 29.44 |

Table 4. Distribution of rural youth trainees according to duration of training received (N= 180)

| Sr. No. | Duration of Training | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | Up to Three days | 18 | 10.00 |
| 2. | One week | 32 | 17.77 |
| 3. | A Fortnight | 130 | 72.22 |

4. CONCLUSION

The study on the socio economic profile of the rural youth trainees reports that majority of rural youth trainees were in the middle age category of 25 to 35 years were male belonging to other backward classes. Maximum rural youth trainees were educated up to high school, engaged in mushroom production and possessed marginal land holding, had membership in organizations with medium annual family income of 1 to 4 lakhs. The study underscored the pivotal role of information sources in influencing decision-making, with a considerable proportion of respondents exhibiting medium utilization levels. They had an experience of up to five years in mushroom cultivation, and achievement motivation was reported at medium levels, indicating a balanced pursuit of excellence. Economic motivation was medium with a substantial number of rural youth trainees exhibiting high levels of desire for financial success. Most of the rural youth trainees preferred on-campus training programme and found three days of training method helped in improving their knowledge. A look into the study of the KVK training programmes, it is heartening to note that the trainees had shown an overall satisfaction and high regard for the KVK training, the subject matter specialists and the facilities.

5. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LINE OF WORK

The present study was conducted at only three KVKs of the university. It should be done on larger scales to make generalizations. Kind of trainings need by the rural youth trainees and their perception towards the training programmes can also be studied.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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