

Technological Empowerment of Farm Women in Terms of Gain in Skill of Selected Animal Husbandry Technologies Related to Drudgery Reduction

Dr. Neha Tiwari*, Dr. Jiju N. Vyas**

*Assistant Professor * and Associate Professor**
Polytechnic in Home Science JAU, Amreli Gujarat, India*

Abstract: -The present study was conducted in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of the study was to assess the technological empowerment of farm women in terms of gain in skill in selected drudgery reducing technologies related to animal husbandry. The 100 farm women were randomly selected for technological empowerment through training from two purposively selected panchayatsamities. Personal interview technique was used for collecting data. The findings of the study reveal that very few respondents (4%) could handle the rake correctly before exposure of training. However none of the respondents were able to handle the shovel and moving stool initially. The post training data indicated tremendous gain in skill as majority of the respondents were able to use all the selected animal husbandry technologies as shown by MPS ranging between 84.6-91.0. Intervention further improved knowledge as most of the respondents gained skill in correctly handling the technologies as indicated by MPS of 94.3-97.0.

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is accounting for 14 per cent of the nation's GDP, about 11 per cent of its exports, about half of the population still relies on agriculture as its principal source of income and it is a source of raw material for a large number of industries. Indian agriculture is predominantly part of a mixed crop-livestock farming system. The livestock sector supplements income of the farmers, provides employment, draught power and manure. The development of livestock sector is more inclusive and can result in a sustainable agriculture system. India is the largest producer of milk in the world, with an estimated milk production of 127.9 million tonnes in 2011-12 (Kekane, 2013).

It is established beyond doubt that women always participated in dairy and animal husbandry activities in addition to their daily household chores. Although the role and contribution of women members of every rural family to dairying is not documented yet is well as known significant. About 75 million women as against 15 million men are engaged in dairying in India (Chander and Thakur 2006). Women play an important role in animal husbandry activities as manager, decision makers and skilled workers. They help in farm operations, take their animals for grazing, look after the sale of milk, and in addition, perform the functions related to house management. Rural woman contributes a share of more

than 75 per cent in animal husbandry operations (Census 2011). In many places the entire management of livestock viz., chopping of fodder, feeding, milking, preparation of milk products, cleaning of cattle shed, collection of cow dung for manure pits and their storage is done by women alone. The amount of work done in these activities ranged from 75-100 per cent.

Drudgery is generally conceived as physical and mental strain, agony, monotony and hardship experienced by human being, while all these result in decline in living and working conditions affecting men and women alike. Drudgery is a term used to represent the dissatisfaction experiences that constrain work performance.

Almost all women suffer physical drudgery in various operations like hard physical work in care and management, harvesting, threshing/ processing, marketing and bartering of produce, harvesting by bending, weeding with conventional implements by hand in hot sun, rain and cold for long hours, dehusking/ shelling, pounding, grinding of cereals and pulses by hand, collecting and carrying fuel over long distance, fetching of water from cooking and drinking from distant places.

Most of these tasks performed by women are tedious as well as time consuming. As most of these operations are done manually (using hand, foot or head) or by using traditional tools, they are slow and cause considerable fatigue and drudgery. Also many of these operations are traditionally done in varying body posture some of which if done for long duration are not only inconvenient but also cause body pain. The farm women put in hard physical labour beyond their capacity. All these factors result in physical and mental fatigue, monotony hardship, exploitation, pain, economic stress etc. The plight of the women in this regard is alarming as they are constrained by illiteracy, poor health, unemployment and low technical knowhow and skill. The result is that women's needs for comfortable work participation remain neglected. Drudgery reduction is possible outcome that makes women work with improved productivity capacity and health. A desired change in the life of rural women, which is full of drudgery, can be brought by the use

of application of simple, scientific and appropriate technologies. Such an outcome needs location specific package of technologies and a systematic approach of intervention. Technological empowerment refers to acquiring awareness, knowledge and understanding about new technologies, obtaining new skills, experience and greater confidence and competence in using these technologies. It can help women to better equip themselves for more fruitful and result oriented participation in different activities. therefore the present study was conducted to access the technological empowerment of farm women in terms of gain in skill of selected animal husbandry technologies related to drudgery reduction.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in two purposively selected panchayatsamities of Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh, namely Paraspur and Jhanjhari. For technological empowerment of farm women in selected drudgery reducing technologies, 3 technologies related to animal husbandry were selected. Five training programme each of 4 days duration were organized for a group of 20 farm women. Thus 100 farm women were covered for technological empowerment of farm women through training. The training were organized at KrishiVigyan Kendra, Gonda as per plan for technological empowerment of

farm women through different training methods like interactive lecturette, interactive demonstration and practice session supplemented with leaflets, folders and a film. Post test was conducted to find out gain in skill of farm women in selected drudgery reducing technologies related to animal husbandry. After one month of training intervention was organized. During intervention period all the technologies were given to the women to use for at least 8-10 days.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Skill in handling a technology or implement is important. If a person acquires skills, he feels very confident in handling an equipment. This helps in taking a decision in favour of adoption of technology. Thus once a person becomes aware of technology and develops a favorable attitude, he wants to try it by using the technology in his own situation. Skill is important in this stage of trial which will lead to conviction and finally, adoption of the technology.

A- Gain in skills of the respondents in using selected drudgery reducing technologies in animal husbandry

Skill test was conducted before training to know initial skills and after training and intervention to find out the gain in skills of the respondents in use of selected drudgery reducing technologies, for which identical skill test was used.

Table: 1.1 Initial, post training and post intervention skill of the respondents about selected drudgery reducing technology related to animal husbandry

n=100

S. No.	Items	Skill(f/%)		
		Initial	Post training	Post intervention
1.	Rake			
	a) Holding the upper part of the handle.	4.0	87	95
	b) Move the rake for collecting agriculture waste.	4.0	85	94
	c) Putting the dung and fodder in the garbage cottage.	4.0	82	94
2.	Shovel			
	a) Holding the upper part of the shovel handle.	0.0	89	94
	b) Move the shovel for collecting cow dung, fodder etc.	0.0	89	95
	c) Putting the dung and fodder in the garbage collector/ bin.	0.0	86	94
3.	Moving stool			
	a) Proper sitting posture.	0.0	92	97
	b) Move the stool backward and forward according the work.	0.0	90	97

Rake-It can be seen from Table 4.29 very few of the respondents (4%) could handle the rake correctly before training. The post training data reveal that training helped majority of the respondents (82-87%) to correctly perform the steps like holding the upper part of the handle, move the rake for collecting and putting fodder in a garbage bin. The post intervention data show further improvement in skill. Most of the respondents (94-95%) were able to use rake correctly after one month of intervention. For few respondents (5-6%), more practice was required to correctly handle the rake.

Shovel- Data in Table 1.1 shows that initial skill of all the respondents regarding shovel was nil. The post training data reveal tremendous gain in skill. Majority of the respondents (86-89%) could able to handle the shovel correctly i.e. Holding the upper part of the shovel handle, move the shovel for collecting cow dung, fodder etc. and putting the dung and fodder in the garbage collector/ bin. After one month of intervention remarkable gain in skill was observed. Most of the respondents (94-95%) could able to handle the shovel correctly. The respondents perceived the benefits of using the shovel, so they were keen to learn about it.

Moving stool- Perusal of Table 1.1 indicate that none of the respondents were able to handle the moving stool initially. The post training data reveal that most of the respondents (90-92%) could handle the moving stool correctly. The skill required for using moving stool were proper sitting posture and move the stool backward and forward according to work.

The post intervention data show that most of the respondents (97%) were able to use moving stool properly. Probe into the matter revealed that moving stool helped to avoid wastage of milk, animal attack and drudgery.

B. Overall skill of the respondents in selected drudgery reducing technology related to animal husbandry

Table 1.2 : Categorization of respondents on the basis of their overall skill of selected drudgery reducing technology related to animal husbandry

n=100

S. No.	Technologies	Skill (f/%)								
		Initial			Post training			Post intervention		
		Good	Average	Poor	Good	Average	Poor	Good	Average	Poor
1.	Rake	0.0	0.0	100	86	2.0	12	95	5.0	0.0
2.	Shovel	0.0	0.0	100	89	4.0	9.0	95	5.0	0.0
3.	Manger	0.0	0.0	100	92	0.0	8.0	97	3.0	0.0

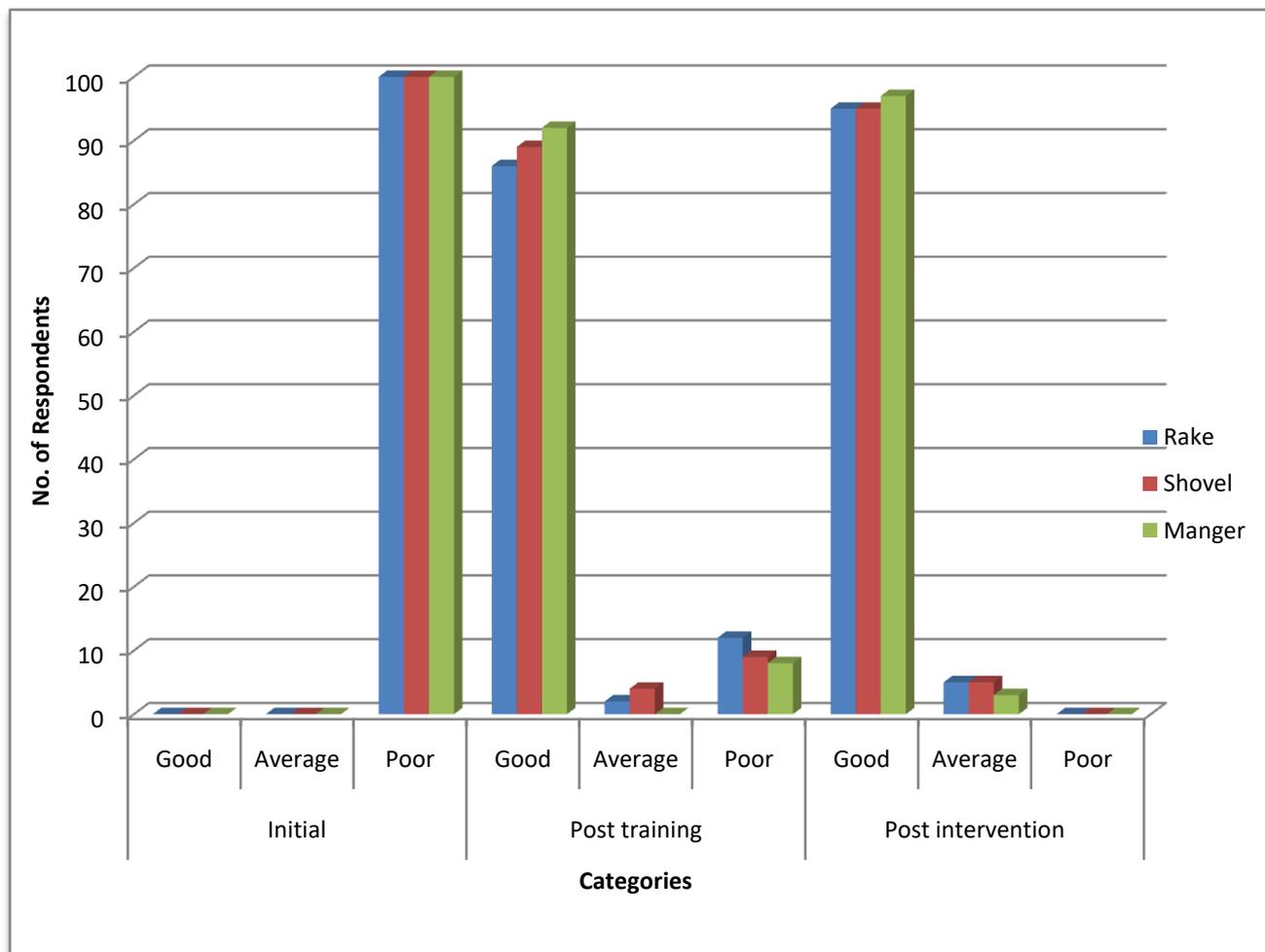


Fig. 1.1 :Categorization of respondents on the basis of their overall skill of selected drudgery reducing technology related to animal husbandry

Data presented in Table 1.2 regarding the overall skill of the respondents in use of selected drudgery reducing technology related to animal husbandry reveal that initially all the respondents (100%) were in poor skill category. Probe into the matter reveal that some of the respondents were never exposed to such type of animal technology in animal husbandry and had unfavorable attitude towards use of these technology. The post training data reveal tremendous gain in skill after training. Majority of the respondents (86-92%) learnt 'good skill' about rake, shovel and moving stool. Very few of them (8-12%) were in 'poor skill' category and rest of the respondents (2-4%) shifted in average skill category. After intervention, most of the respondents (95-97%) were shifted towards 'good skill' category and rest of them were in 'average skill' category. During intervention it was observed that some of farm women who were resistant towards use of technologies were motivated by other farmwomen (Fig.1.1).

IV. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the findings of the present study that initial skill of the respondents regarding all the animal husbandry technologies was poor after exposure of training tremendous gain in knowledge was observed. For improving skill, there is a need to organize skill based training and intervention programme by the Agriculture Department, KrishiVigyan Kendra and other training institution so that farm women are able to use the technologies for drudgery reduction. For exposure of farm women to new technologies, regular visit of farm women should be organized to KrishiVigyan Kendra, Agriculture Technology Information Centre etc.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Chander, M., Thakur, D. 2006. McGrawhill Study Material. Tata McGrawhill Publication, New Delhi. :164.
- [2]. Census, 2011. Cited from <http://agcensus.nic.in/document/agcensus2010/allindia201011H.pdf> retrieved on May 25th 2015.
- [3]. Kekane, M.A. 2013. Indian Agriculture- Status, Importance and Role in Indian Economy. *International Journal of Agriculture and Food Science Technology*. **4**: 343-346.