Indian Journal of Extension Education
Vol. 48, No. 3 & 4, 2012 (84-86)

Knowledge of Self Help Group Women Members Regarding Food Processing and Dairy Management Practices

S. S. Kadu[1] and R. R. Kotikhane[2]

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state to study knowledge level of Self-Help Group (SHG) women and their profile. Parbhani and Gangakhed talukas of Parbhani district were purposively selected. A sample of 120 respondents was purposively selected, based on their involvement in food processing and dairy management, considering 60 respondents from each taluka. The respondents were interviewed with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The findings revealed that majority of the respondents had medium level of knowledge in food processing and dairy management practices.

Key words: Knowledge, profile, food processing, dairy management practices

INTRODUCTION

Recently, empowerment of women has been central issue in determining the status of women. Recognizing importance of women as a major workforce of the society, Government of India and various state governments along with a number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have implemented several programmes for upliftment of women. In many areas, NGOs are working at the grass roots to help women and meet their economic objectives as priority. There was a new approach to the whole concept of women empowerment and over the country SHGs sprang up. The basic objectives of SHG is to develop the saving capacity among the poorest sections of the society which in turn reduces dependence on financial institutions and develop self-reliance, self-confidence, social and economic empowerment among women members.

SHGs enable the poor especially the women from the poor households, to collectively identify priorities and tackle the problems they face in their socio-economic environment. The rural women of SHG undertake various income-generating activities like agro-based processing units i.e. preparation of pickle, papad, fruit jam, jelly, tomato ketch-up, sauce, *etc.*

SHG women are also involved in dairy management and dairy technology as their side business. They are also involved in preparation of dairy products like, *basundi, pedha, curd, paneer, etc.* The food processors are also involved as repositors of knowledge about food and agriculture product quality, fine gradation in the flavour of products and raw materials, shelf-life of products under various handling conditions and nutrition characteristics.

Dairy is the income-generating source for women in SHG. A woman plays multiple role with regional differences. Women takes care of animal production. Their activities vary widely ranging from care of animals, grazing, fodder collection, cleaning of animal sheds and processing milk. In livestock management, indoor jobs like milking, cleaning etc. are done by women in 90 per cent families. As woman members of SHG are entering as entrepreneurs particularly having opportunity in food processing and dairy management, it is felt to determine the extent of knowledge of food processing and dairy management practices, also studying their profile and its correlation with their knowledge level.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. Parbhani and Gangakhed taluka of Parbhani district were purposively selected for the study. A sample of 120 respondents, 60 respondents from each taluka based on their involvement in food processing and dairy management was purposively selected. The respondents were interviewed with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The collected data were analysed by using suitable statistical techniques like, mean, frequency, percentage, standard deviation and correlation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present study as well as relevant discussion are presented here.

Profile of woman members of selected SHGs

Majority (54.17 %) of respondents belonged to young age group (up to 35 years), 30 per cent were educated up to

[1]. Student M.Sc. (Agriculture), Department of Extension Education, MKV, Parbhani, Maharashtra [2]. Chief Extension Education Officer, MKV, Parbhani, Maharashtra

secondary school level (5th to 10th class) and 89.20 per cent were from medium income group. Majority of them (46.67%) had medium exposure to mass media. About 67.50 per cent and 62.50 per cent had medium market orientation and risk orientation respectively. This findings confirm results of Kadam (2002), Bhamare (2006), Chole (2007), Sajesh (2009) and verma (2011). About 74.17 per cent were from higher caste category, while 60.00 per cent of them had low social participation in other organizations.

Practice-wise knowledge of SHG woman members about food processing

The data from Table 1, revealed that majority of the respondents (80.00 %) had knowledge about the processing of agricultural crops. About 100.00 per cent respondents had knowledge about preparation of potato chips. About 100.00 per cent and 96.00 per cent respondents had knowledge about preservation of papad and pickles respectively. About 84.00, 64.00 and 46.00 per cent of respondents, had knowledge about fruits used for preparation of tomato ketchup, jelly and squash respectively.

Table 1: Knowledge level of SHG women members about food processing

n=120

Food-processing practices	Knowledge level	
	Frequency	Per cent
Processing of agricultural crops	40	80.00
Percentage in India of processed products	6	12.00
Preservation of pickles	48	96.00
Preservation of papad	50	100.00
Preparation of potato wafers	50	100.00
Fruit used for preparation of jelly	32	64.00
Fruit used for predation of squash	23	46.00
Type of fruits used for tomato ketchup preparation	42	84.00
Preparation of natural gum	8	16.00
Natural preservatives	42	84.00
Preparation of tooty-fruity	32	64.00
Chemical used for drying in green leafy vegetables	10	20.00
Processed soybean products	45	90.00
Preparation of natural dye from safflower	2	4.00
Preparation of ethanol from black jowar	4	8.00

It was also observed that 90.00 per cent and 84.00 per cent respondents had knowledge about processed soybean products and natural preservatives respectively. About 64.00 per cent respondents possessed knowledge about preparation of tooty-fruity; also 8.00 per cent respondents and 4.00 per cent respondents had knowledge about preparation of ethanol from *black jowar* and preparation of natural dye from safflower respectively.

Practice wise knowledge of SHG woman members about dairy management

The data form Table 2 revealed that majority of the respondents (98.57 %) had knowledge about the time span of feeding colostrums to new born calf, while 92.86 per cent respondents possessed knowledge about gestation period of buffalo. More than 90.00 per cent respondents had knowledge about treatment of urea on dry fodder, whereas 34.29 and 77.14 per cent of respondents had knowledge about feeding of colostrums to infant and feeding of roughages for milch animals respectively.

Table 2: Knowledge level of SHG women members in dairy management practices

n=120

Knowledge about particulars	Knowledge level	
	Frequency	Per cent
Hybrid milch breed of MAU	10	14.29
Feeding of colostrums to infant	24	34.29
Time span of feeding of colostrums to new born calf in days	69	98.57
Heat period of cow and buffalo	31	44.29
Viral diseases of animals	18	25.71
Age of deworming of calf	20	28.57
Feeding of roughages for milch animals	54	77.14
Treatment of urea on dry fodder	63	90.00
Artificial insemination of animals	57	81.43
Hybrid cow breeds	17	24.29
Khoa preparation	59	84.29
Gestation period of buffalo	65	92.86
Fat content of mulched animals	41	58.57
Age of calf during 1st vaccination	13	18.60
Factors affecting milk rate	49	70.00

The data also indicated that 14.29 and 24.29 per cent respondents possessed knowledge about hybrid milch breed of Marathwada Agricultural University (MAU) and other hybrid cow breeds respectively. About 28.57 and 25.71 per cent of respondents had knowledge level about age of deworming of calf and viral diseases of animals respectively. While, 81.43 per cent respondents had knowledge about artificial insemination of animals, only 18.60 per cent respondents had knowledge about vaccination of animals. The information also indicated that 58.57 and 70.00 per cent of respondents had knowledge about fat content of mulched animals and factors affecting milk rate respectively. About 84.29 per cent of them had knowledge about khoa preparation.

Knowledge level of SHG woman members in food processing and diary management practices

The data from Table 3 revealed that about 45.84 per cent of the respondents had medium level of knowledge.

Table 3: Distribution of SHG woman members according to their knowledge level in food processing and dairy management practices

Category	Respondents	Percentage
Low	34	28.33
Medium	55	45.84
High	31	25.83
Total	120	100

Relationship of profile of SHG women members with their knowledge level

It was observed that education, mass media exposure, market orientation, risk orientation and annual income had positive significant relationship whereas, age had negatively significant relationship with knowledge level of SHG women members in food processing and dairy management practices Table 4.

Table 4: Relationship of profile of SHG women members with their knowledge level

Independent	Coefficient of correlation (r)
Age	-0.671**
Education	0.715**
Annual income	0.217*
Social participation	0.189^{NS}
Mass media exposure	0.704**
Market orientation	0.764**
Risk orientation	0.788**

** Significant at 0.01 per cent * Significant at 0.05 per cent NS Non-significant

The caste and social participation had non-significant relationship with the knowledge level of SHG woman members.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to the young age group and educated up to secondary school level with medium income group and maximum members were from higher caste. Majority of them (46.67 per cent) had medium mass media exposure, 57.50 per cent and 62.50 per cent respondents had medium market orientation and risk orientation respectively. The majority of the respondents had medium level of knowledge regarding food processing of dairy management practices.

The respondents had knowledge about fruits used for preparation of ketchup, jelly, tooty-fruity, squash, *etc.* While, majority of them did not have knowledge about preparation of natural gum, ethanol from black jowar and natural dye from safflower. Maximum number of them also did not have knowledge about percentage in processed products and chemicals used for drying of green leafy vegetables.

It was seen that majority of the SHG woman members had knowledge about feeding activities, gestation period of animals, treatment of urea on dry fodder and breeding activities of animals. Majority of them also had knowledge about preparation of milk products.

REFERENCES

Kadam, S.D. 2002. "Study on training needs of farmwoman about post harvest technology of vegetables", M.Sc. (Agricultural) Thesis, Marathwada Agriculture University, Parbhani.

Bhamare, Y.A. 2006. "Monetary utilization pattern of women in self-help groups", M.Sc. Agricultural, Thesis, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani, Maharashtra.

Chole, R.R. and Fatak, U.N. 2007. Empowerment of rural women through SHGs engaged in Agro based enterprises. Agresco Report, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani, : 15.

Sajesh , V. K. and Singh, P 2009, Perceived constraints and suggestions of SHGs in Kerala, *Indian Journal of Extension Education*, 45,(3&4), : 11-15.

Verma, H.N. & Yadav, J.P 2011, knowledge level of ground nut farmers in Jaiput District, Rajasthan, *Indian Journal of Extension Education*, 47(3&4), : 54-56.