

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF FARM WOMEN ABOUT HOME SCIENCE INNOVATIONS IN NAINITAL DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Women are responsible for most of the inside and outside activities. To reduce their workload and for improvement in their health many technologies have been introduced. The present investigation was done to study the factors, which are associated with the knowledge of Home-Science innovations by the farmwomen. The findings indicate that majority of the respondents were having low level of knowledge about Methods of food preservation, Use of germinated, fermented and mixed food, Rug weaving, Tomato chutney preparation and Embroidery. However, hundred percent of the respondents were having low level of knowledge about the Use of smoke less chulha. Positive and significant co-relation was found between knowledge of nutritive value of green leafy vegetable with education, social participation, mass media exposure and material possession. Study further revealed that knowledge of methods of cooking vegetables was found positively and significantly correlated with material possession and change agency contact. Knowledge of tomato chutney preparation was positively and significantly related with caste, material possession and change agency contact. It means as the contact with change agency increases the knowledge of tomato chutney preparation also increases.

Key word: Preservation, Germinated, Fermented, Rug Weaving, Tomato Chutney, Smoke Less Chulha

INTRODUCTION

The prosperity and the growth of a nation depend on the status and development of its women, as they constitute nearly half of its population. Rural women lived with scarcity of resources and threat of economic deprivation. In many cases, where caste and family taboos are not strong, women joined the secondary stream of the work force in order to raise supplementary resources. Women are responsible for most of the inside and outside activities. They are carrying workload on their shoulders. To reduce their work load and for improvement in their health, many technologies has been introduced. But more than two third population of rural women are illiterate because of this factor, women are unable to understand the modern technologies. Hence, a study on the factors, which are associated with the knowledge of home science innovation of farmwomen, has been undertaken with the following objectives-

- (i) To ascertain the knowledge levels of home science innovation.
- (ii) To study the relationship of demographic, socio-economic and communication characteristics with knowledge level of home science innovations.

METHODOLOGY

Danpur village of Rudrapur block, District Nainital in Udham Singh Nagar was purposively selected being a lab-to-land project area, as a locale of the study. The

random sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents. Total number of respondents selected were seventy-five. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule, which was developed with the help of different standards, reliable and valid scales. The exploratory research, design was used to conduct the study. After collecting, the data were tabulated and analyzed. The literal meaning of knowledge is to know something or in other words an intimate acquaintness of facts of a person. Measurement of knowledge in present study included the test situation which emphasizes the recalling of ideas or information received on the selected practices. Total questions included, to test the knowledge level of the respondent, were 125 and for each 'correct' answer 1 score and for each 'incorrect' answer 0 scores was given. Thus, a respondent could score maximum 125. On the basis of these scores obtained by the respondent, the knowledge level was calculated in terms of percentage. For this total scores obtained by the respondent for a particular practice were divided by the actual scores of that practice on multiplied by 100. Three categories of knowledge level were made as high (67-100%), medium (34-66%) and low (0-33%).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table-1 indicates that majority of the respondents were having low level of knowledge about methods of food preservation (77.3%), use of germinated fermented and mixed food (66.6%), rug weaving (60%), tomato chutney preparation (74.6%) and embroidery (73.3%).

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However, 100 per cent of respondents were having low level of knowledge about the use of smokeless chulha. Whereas 49.3 per cent and 62.6 per cent of the respondents were having medium level of knowledge about the nutritive value of green leafy vegetables and methods of cooking vegetables, respectively. Similar findings were also reported by Jamal and Singh (1984), found that majority of the respondents were having low knowledge level about the practices like nutritive value of green leafy vegetable, methods of cooking vegetables, use of smokeless chulha, method of food preservation and use of germinated, fermented and mixed food.

Table 1. Distribution of Respondent According to Levels of Knowledge

S. No.	Practices	Knowledge		
		Low	Medium	High
1	Nutritive value of green leafy vegetable	31 (41.3)	37 (49.3)	7 (9.3)
2	Methods of cooking vegetables	28 (37.3)	47 (62.6)	- (0)
3	Tomato chutney preparation	56 (74.6)	19 (25.3)	- (0)
4	Use of smokeless chulha	75 (100.0)	- (0)	- (0)
5	Methods of food preservation	58 (77.3)	17 (22.3)	- (0)
6	Use of fermented, germinated and mixed food	50 (66.6)	25 (33.3)	- (0)
7	Rug weaving	45 (60.0)	19 (25.3)	11 (14.6)

Figure in parenthesis indicates the percentage.

Relationship of Demographic & Socio-economic Variables with Knowledge Level—The association of

Table 2. Relationship of Demographic and Socio-economic Variables with Knowledge

Knowledge on Practice	Age	Caste	Occupation	Education	Social participation	Land	House	Farm Power	Material Possession	Family Type	Family Size	Socio-economic status
Nutritive value of green leafy vegetables	-0.220	0.124	0.104	0.279*	0.506*	-0.51	0.079	-0.044	0.247*	-0.34	0.083	0.195
Methods of cooking vegetables	-0.067	0.103	0.008	0.077	0.120	-0.183	0.058	0.006	0.229*	-0.148	-0.193	0.109
Tomato chutney preparation	-0.073	0.260*	-0.025	0.077	0.095	-0.117	0.175	0.055	0.271*	-0.073	-0.130	0.192
Use of Smokeless Chulha	-0.085	0.236*	0.012	0.066	-0.112	0.009	0.154	0.082	0.115	-0.010	-0.011	0.170
Methods of Food Preservation	0.014	0.305*	-0.012	0.178	0.049	0.028	0.223	0.006	0.195	0.077	-0.087	0.268*
Use of germi-nated, fermented and mixed food	0.074	-0.013	0.046	-0.042	-0.062	-0.095	0.000	-0.187	-0.097	0.136	-0.066	0.097
Rug Weaving	-0.019	0.133	0.177	0.071	0.096	-0.092	0.079	-0.113	-0.128	-0.066	-0.158	0.068
Embroidery (Patch work)	-0.066	0.175	-0.087	0.101	0.055	-0.003	0.080	0.116	0.092	-0.081	-0.133	0.063

*Significant at 5 percent level of significance.

It can be seen from the table-3 that knowledge in tomato chutney preparation was positively and significantly related with caste, material possession and

different demographic and socio-economic variables with knowledge was studied by computing the zero order correlation.

Table-2 and 3 reveals that knowledge level of farm women about nutritive value of green leafy vegetable was found negatively but non significantly co-related with age, land holding, farm power and family type whereas caste, occupation, possession of house, family size, training, change agency contact, information source utilization and socio-economic status were found positively but non significantly co-related with it. Positive and significant co-relation was found between knowledge of nutritive value of green leafy vegetable with education, social participation mass media exposure and material possession. It may be due to the fact that as the education standard increases, social participation and mass media exposure also increases. Malhotra (1947) also reported that younger women gained more knowledge than older women when exposed to the message on nutrition through combination of media. Size of land holding had no significant difference in gain in knowledge. A significant difference was noted between literate and illiterate women respondents. Table further revealed that knowledge of methods of cooking vegetables was found positively and significantly correlated with material possession and change agency contact. It may be due to the fact that, as the frequency of contacts with the different change agents increase, farm women try to adopt more new technology which will enhance the knowledge level of farm women whereas Prema and Menon (1974) reported that education level of women and age have positive influence in not following methods of cooking rice and vegetables.

change agency contact. It means as the contact with change agency increase the knowledge of tomato chutney preparation also increase. It may be due to the fact that,

because of the more contact with change agencies, farmwomen try to seek more information about the new preparation. Table further shows that knowledge of use of smokeless chulha was positively and significantly co-

related with caste and change agency contact, further significant correlation was found between knowledge of methods of food preservation with caste and socio-economic status.

Table 3. Relationship of Communication Variable with Knowledge

Knowledge	Independent Variables			
	Training	Change Agency Contact	Mass Media Exposure	Information Source Utilization
Nutritive value of green leafy vegetables	.144	.199	.308*	.184
Methods of Cooking Vegetables	.203	.414*	.079	.029
Tomato Chutney Preparation	.221	.541*	.116	-.079
Use of Smokeless Chulha	-.049	.257*	-.064	-.011
Methods of Food Preservation	-.044	.229	-.012	.081
Use of germinated, fermented and mixed food	.121	.168	-.025	-.026
Rug Weaving	.095	.207	-.071	-.020
Embroidery (Patch work)	.111	.062	.018	.180

However, knowledge of use of germinated, fermented and mixed food, rug weaving and embroidery did not reveal any relationship with independent variables.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority of the respondents were having low level of knowledge about methods of food preservation, use of germinated, fermented and mixed food, rug weaving, tomato chutney preparation and embroidery. Whereas hundred percent of respondents were not aware about the use of smokeless chulha. But they were having medium level of knowledge about the nutritive value of green leafy vegetables and methods of cooking vegetables. Further it was observed that embroidery, rug weaving, and use of germinated, fermented and mixed food did not revealed relationship with any independent variables. Whereas knowledge of

nutritive value of green leafy vegetable was found positively and significantly co-related with education, social participation, material possession and mass media exposure. Material possession and change agency contact were having positive and significant relation with knowledge of methods of cooking vegetable. Positive and significant relation was found between knowledge of tomato chutney preparation, caste, material possession and change agency contact. Whereas knowledge of use of smokeless chulha was found positively and significantly co-related with caste, and change agency contact. Further knowledge of methods of food preservation was found positively and significantly co-related with caste and socio-economic status. Study focused that a literacy programme should be started to educate the farmwomen for home science innovations and a special cell of home science extension service should be created in each community development block to cater the needs of farmwomen.

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