



Adoption of Environmental Sanitation and Drudgery Reduction Technologies by the Rural Women

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the present study was to find out the adoption of rural women about homestead technologies in Chittorgarh district. The study was conducted in *Bhadesar* and *Bassipanchayats* of Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan state. From each panchayatsamiti, two villages where the homestead technologies have been promoted by the KVK since last five years were included in the study. The sample consisted of randomly selected 100 rural women, 25 from each village. Personal interview method was used for data collection. Frequency distribution, percentage and mean per cent score were used for analysis of data. The adoption of the respondents about homestead technologies revealed that majority of the respondents (36.92%) possessed medium adoption about environmental sanitation component. However, their adoption was found to be 58.18% adoption in drudgery reduction components.

Key Words: Rural women, adoption, drudgery reduction, environmental sanitation, Homestead technologies

INTRODUCTION

Indian rural women who fulfill multifarious responsibilities daily without any hue and cry, is the mother, wife or sister responsible for family's well being as well as a farmer producing food for the family. She does not hold any apparent and discrete identity of her own on world platform but undoubtedly perform the most arduous and time consuming work behind the curtain without much resources and technologies at her disposal. Although she does all the multiple productive functions from bearing the children to performing

house hold chores, her role has often been underestimated or ignored. It is a matter of great concern that in spite of magnificent tradition of women's participation in the affairs of the family, women still lag behind men in every sphere. In spite of the rapid strides made in scientific and technological development women has not yet received due importance in transfer of technology programmes. Technological innovations and their reach to the rural women can result in enhancing women's welfare and their empowerment. Low cost, reliable homestead technologies related to nutrition, health and sanitation, drudgery reduction, post harvest technologies etc. can provide a great leap forward for meeting rural women's practical needs for reducing their drudgery, increasing their efficiency and improving family's health condition.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan state. The district has 11 Panchayat Samities out of these, two Panchayat Samities namely *Bhadesar* and *Bassi* were selected purposively where the homestead technologies have been promoted by the KVK since last five years (2009- 2013). Total four villages from two selected panchayatsamities were included in the study. Sample for the study consisted of 100 rural women, 25 from each village. Personal interview method was used to collect the data from the respondents. Frequency, percentage, mean percent score were used for analysis of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Background information of the respondents:

More than 40 per cent respondents belonged to the age group of 18-30 years and 38 per cent were from 31-45 years of age. Majority of the respondents (60%) were under upper caste category. Regarding education, 29 per cent respondents were illiterate and 24 per cent were educated up to middle level. Only 15 per cent respondents were graduates. Farming was the main family occupation of 89 per cent respondents. All the respondents were involved in some subsidiary occupations like farm labor, business and service. Majority (63%) belonged to nuclear family. More than 40 per cent respondents had small size family consisting of up to 4 members. Majority of the respondents (62%) were small and marginal farmers. Majority of the respondents (75%) were residing in *pucca* houses.

Adoption of the respondents about environmental sanitation and drudgery reduction technologies:

Fig. 1 clearly reveals that in two components i.e. environmental sanitation and drudgery reduction the respondents had medium adoption with adoption index 36.92 and 58.18 per cent, respectively.

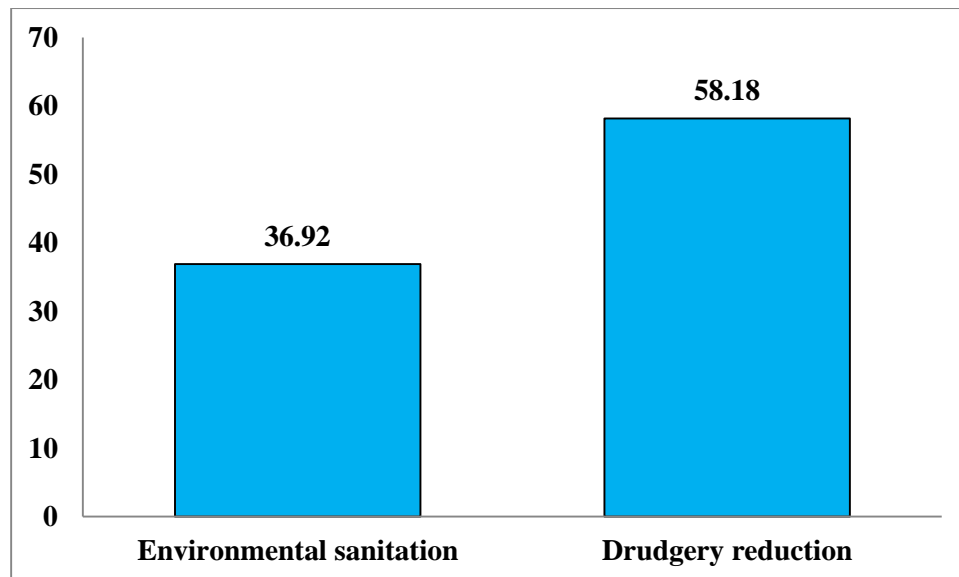


Fig. 1: Adoption of respondents regarding homestead technologies

(i) Environmental Sanitation

Health of people is largely determined and is affected by the environmental in which they live. Proper disposal of waste and other household garbage is one of the prime laws of health. Clean living is an important step in the prevention of diseases. Similarly clean water is necessary for maintaining good health as consumption of dirty water can cause various diseases. This section emphasizes extent of adoption of environmental sanitation practices by the respondents.

In a study on “Sanitation practices and safe drinking water technology in rural homes of Mewat (Haryana)” Chawla *et al.* (2006) concluded that exposure to health and sanitation education had enabled the beneficiaries to acquire certain desirable health and hygiene practices in daily living. The trend towards adoption of desirable hygiene practices was positive. Regarding adoption of *Janta* water filter, majority of the families showed willingness to adopt this technology provided the inputs be given free of cost or constructed water filters be given to them for use.

Perusal of Table 1 indicates that 46 per cent respondents always used covered dustbin for disposal of garbage, 29.0 per cent respondents used compost pit while, 35 per cent respondents use to burn the garbage. The adoption index (6.5-51%) clearly shows that the practices related to proper disposal of household garbage were not adopted by majority of the respondents. Regarding disposal of sullage, it was observed that majority of the respondents (58%) diverted flow of sullage towards kitchen garden whereas, 42 per cent respondents reported that they use to throw sullage in streets or in front of their houses. None of the respondents used smokeless *chullha*.

Table 1 Adoption of improved environmental sanitation practices by the respondents

n= 100

S. No.	Practices	Extent (f/%)			Adoption index (%)
		Always	Sometimes	Never	
1.	Disposal of household garbage				
	a) covered dustbin	46	10	44	51
	b) Compost pit	29	0	71	29
	c) Burning of garbage	35	0	65	35
	d) Dumping of garbage	0	13	87	6.5
2.	Disposal of sullage				
	a) Use of soak pit	0	0	100	0
	b) Towards kitchen garden	58	0	42	58
3.	Source of drinking water				
	a) Tap water	100	0	0	100
4.	Domestic methods of cleaning water				
	a) Boiling				
	b) Use of double layer filter cloth	0	0	100	0
	c) Use of alum	87	13	0	93.5
		2	53	45	28.5
5.	Wash filter cloth after use	87	13	0	93.5
6.	Keep water container covered while bringing it home from the source of water	100	0	0	100
7.	Keep water container covered	100	0	0	100
8.	Use of handle <i>laddle</i> for taking out water from pot	85	15	0	92.5
9.	Use of separate utensil for drinking water	100	0	0	100
10.	Keep water container above ground level	100	0	0	100
11.	Use of smokeless <i>chulha</i>	0	0	100	0

With respect to practices related to water sanitation, it was found that tap water was used by all the respondents as a source of drinking water. Similarly double layered filter cloth was used by majority of the respondents (87%) regularly and they also use to wash the filter cloth after its use. Use of alum as a domestic method of cleaning water was used occasionally by more than 50 per cent respondents. The women reported that when the tap water appears dirty specially in rainy season they use alum for purification of water. All the respondents use to cover water container while bringing it home from the source of water and also kept water covered above the ground level. They also used separate utensil to take out water from the container.

(ii) Drudgery Reduction

Rural women are involved in multifarious work in the farm as well as home which leads to drudgery and fatigue on part of the women. Use of small kitchen tools and appliances like potato peeler, chips maker, lemon squeezer, grater, *poori* making machine, pressure cooker, electric butter churner, electric mixer grinder etc. can simplify the work of women and also saves her energy and time.

Perusal of Table 2 clearly shows that majority of the respondents (75%) were always using electric churner for churning curd, grater (62%) for fine grating of vegetables and pressure cooker (62%) for cooking pulses, vegetables, *dalia*, *rabet* etc. Other kitchen tools/ appliances viz. electric mixer grinder, potato peeler, chips maker and lemon squeezer were adopted to the extent of 40-58.50 per cent by the respondents. It was found that though all the respondents had knowledge about *poori* making machine however, in practice only 18 per cent respondents used it regularly. The respondents reported that it is not possible to have thin *poori*'s by use of *poori* making machine and 35.5 per cent stated that it takes more time to rolling pin *poori* by use of *poori* making machine.

The results are inconformity with the findings of Sant (2006) observed that the majority of the respondents were observed to use pressure cooker (65%) and grater (63%). Butter churner was used by 45 per cent respondents followed by electric mixer grinder (38%). Nearly one fourth of the respondents (20-24%) were reported to use potato peeler, chips maker and lemon squeezer.

Table 2 Adoption of improved kitchen tools and appliances by the respondents**n = 100**

S. No.	Practices	Extent (f/%)			Adoption index (%)
		Always	Sometimes	Never	
1.	Potato peeler	27	43	30	48.5
2.	Chips maker	33	42	25	54
3.	Lemon squeezer	50	17	33	58.5
4.	Grater	62	8	30	66
5.	Poori making machine	18	35	47	35.5
6.	Pressure cooker	62	32	6	78
7.	Electric butter churner	75	20	5	85
8.	Electric mixer grinder	20	40	40	40

Conclusion:

Based on the findings it could be concluded that the respondents had medium adoption about environmental sanitation component however, their was found to be average in drudgery reduction components. Hence, in order to improve knowledge of the rural women about homestead technologies it is utmost important to educated and train them in the environmental sanitation and drudgery reduction components.

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