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To study the socio-economic profile of farm women undergoing KVK training

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Abstract
This study conducted in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, delves into the socio-economic profiles of women in agriculture, with a focus on the transformative impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) training. Utilizing an ex-post facto design and statistical tools, the research examines diverse attributes, including age, education and family structure, income, and land holdings. The majority of participants, particularly middle-aged women, are actively engaged in agriculture, reflecting varied family structures and income brackets. The study highlights the substantial influence of KVK training, resulting in heightened motivation and efficiency among participants. Ownership patterns of modern farming tools underscore the successful adoption of mechanized equipment. In conclusion, the research contributes valuable insights into the socio-economic dynamics shaped by KVK initiatives, emphasizing their pivotal role in empowering women in agriculture.

Keywords: Socio-economic profile, farm women, KVK training

Introduction

In India, there is something called Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), also known as the Farm Science Centre. KVK is very important for the development of agriculture. It helps women by providing training and demonstrations, and it also runs programs to develop various skills. KVK organizes vocational training, especially for women. This helps them start businesses like vermicomposting, kitchen gardening, preserving fruits and vegetables, mushroom cultivation, floriculture, fish farming, dairy farming, beekeeping, and processing pearl millet. KVK has both short and long-term training programs for women in agriculture. The focus is on learning by doing, which means practical learning for better production on farms. The goal is to create self-employment and quickly transfer scientific technologies. Research and training for women are recognized based on their needs (Singh. *et al.,* 2010) [4]. The government, along with institutions like State Agriculture Universities and NGOs, plays a crucial role in developing the capabilities of women. They do this through training programs and other creative initiatives. It's all about empowering women in agriculture and related fields. This study endeavors to comprehensively examine the diverse socio-economic profiles of these women, offering insights into their financial and social backgrounds. By focusing on the impact of KVK training, the research seeks to understand how these programs influence and shape the economic standing and societal dynamics of the participating farm women. Through a detailed exploration of their socio-economic attributes, this investigation aspires to contribute valuable knowledge to the broader understanding of the role of agricultural training initiatives in enhancing the lives of women engaged in farming activities. The influence of KVK training has motivated the agri-business community to perform their tasks more efficiently. They express high levels of motivation and satisfaction, feeling energized by the acquisition of new skills, awareness, and approaches. This positive impact has made their jobs faster and easier (Medhi *et al.*, 2017) [2]. In accordance with KVK directives, various activities have been organized for women, including Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs), On-Farm Testing (OFT), and vocational training courses. The focus is on practical learning to encourage self-employment among school dropout rural youths. Additionally, KVK ensures the widespread availability of quality seeds and planting materials across the entire district.

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Methodology

This study, conducted in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, employed an ex-post facto design. District, block, village, and respondents were selected through a combination of purposive and random sampling. Mainpuri district was chosen purposively due to the researcher's personal connection. Three blocks Ghiror, Barnahal, Bewar and four villages Taharpur, Nagla Puse, Muradpur, and Banakiya were purposively selected based on higher women participation. Respondents (30 per village) were randomly sampled. An interview schedule, developed through a pilot study, was used to gather information aligning with study objectives. Individual interviews were conducted, and collected data underwent processing and analysis using statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, percent increase, means score, gap percentage, and rank order. The research methodology aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic dynamics influenced by KVK training while acknowledging potential limitations such as recall bias.

Result and Discussion

The survey results highlight the distribution of respondents according to age, as summarized in Table 1. The majority of participants fall within the middle-aged category 31 to 50 years, constituting 49.16% of the total respondents and securing the top rank I. The young age group <30 years follows, representing 19.16% of the participants and securing the third rank III. The old age group >50 years comprises 31.66% of the respondents, securing the second rank II find the similar study (Dubey *et.al.* 2017) [3]. The highest frequency of respondents is found in the primary level education category, comprising 38.83% of the total participants and securing the first rank I. Illiterate participants represent 24.16%, securing the second rank II, while those with a high school education constitute 23.33%, securing the third rank III. The category of "Intermediate and above" education has the lowest frequency, accounting for 14.16% and securing the fourth rank IV. In family size, Nuclear families emerge as the predominant family structure, constituting 69.16% of the total respondents and securing the top rank I. In contrast, joint families account for 30.83%, securing the second rank II (Kundal *et al.* 2019) [5]. Families with more than 5 members constitute the majority, representing 64.16% and securing the top rank I. Families with fewer than 5 members account for 35.83%, securing the second rank II. Agriculture is the predominant profession, with 40.83% of respondents engaged in farming, securing the top rank I. Wage income earners constitutes 25.83%, securing the second rank II. Individuals involved in household activities represent 19.16%, securing the third rank III. Entrepreneurs, comprising 14.16%, secure the fourth rank IV. Kachha houses are predominant, representing 65.83% of respondents and securing the top rank I. Pakka houses constitute 34.16%, securing the second rank II. Low-income households (5000-25000) are the majority; constituting 57.5% and securing the top rank I. Medium-income households (25000-50000) represent 27.5%, securing the second rank II. High-income households (50000 and above) constitute 15%, securing the third rank III find the similar study (Singh *et. al.* 2010) [4]. Land holdings up to 1 hectare are the most common, representing 39.16% and securing the top rank I. Land sizes ranging from 1.1 to 2 hectares constitute 32.5%, securing the second rank II. Land sizes ranging from 2.1 to 4 hectares represent 17.5%, securing the third rank III. Land sizes exceeding 4 hectares constitute 10.83%, securing the fourth rank.

Table 1: Present the distribution of respondents: (n=120)

Sr. No.		Frequency	Percentage	Rank
	Age			
1.	Young (<30 Years)	23	19.16	III
2.	Middle aged (31 to 50 Years)	59	49.16	I
3.	Old (>50 Years)	38	31.66	II
	Education			
1.	Illiterate	29	24.16	II
2.	Primary level	46	38.83	I
3.	High school	28	23.33	III
4.	Intermediate and above	17	14.16	IV
	Family type			
1.	Nuclear Family	83	69.16	I
2.	Joint Family	37	30.83	II
	Family size			
1.	> 5 members	77	64.16	I
2.	< 5 members	43	35.83	II
	Profession			
1.	Agriculture	49	40.83	I
2.	Household activities	23	19.16	III
3.	Entrepreneur	17	14.16	IV
4.	Wage income	31	25.83	II
	House shape			
1.	Kachha house	79	65.83	I
2.	Pakka house	41	34.16	II
	Annual Income			
1.	Low Income (5000-25000)	69	57.5	I
2.	Medium Income (25000-50000)	33	27.5	II
3.	High Income (50000 and above)	18	15	III
	Agriculture land size			
1.	Up to 1ha.	47	39.16	I
2.	1.1 to 2 ha.	39	32.5	II
3.	2.1 to 4 ha.	21	17.5	III
4.	More than 4ha.	13	10.83	IV

Table 2: Ownership of tools or draft animals among the respondents: (n=120)

Sr. No.	Varieties of Tools and Working Animals	Ownership of Tools and Draft Animals			
		Yes		No	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Buffalo	97	80.83	23	19.16
2.	Tractor	73	60.83	47	39.16
3.	Iron plough	69	57.5	51	42.5
4.	Sprayer	76	63.33	44	36.66
5.	Duster	39	32.5	81	67.5
6.	Weeder	53	44.16	67	55.83
7.	Thresher	47	39.16	73	60.83
8.	Planter Machine	54	45	66	55

In table 2. The data on the ownership of tools and draft animals, specifically focusing on buffaloes, provides insights into the prevalence of these resources within the surveyed community, 80.83% of respondents reported owning buffaloes, while 19.16% did not find similar study (Santhi *et al.* 2005) [6]. 60.83% of respondents reported owning a tractor, indicating a substantial presence of this modern farming equipment. However, 39.16% of respondents do not own a tractor. 57.5% of respondents own an iron plough, with 42.5% not having one. This indicates a moderate presence of mechanized ploughing tools. 63.33% of respondents own a sprayer, while 36.66% do not. This suggests a considerable adoption of modern pest control practices. 32.5% of respondents own a duster, while 67.5% do not. The majority not owning a duster may indicate reliance on alternative methods for pest control. 44.16% of respondents own a weeder, while 55.83% do not. This suggests a varied adoption of weed control tools within the community. 39.16% of respondents own a thresher, while 60.83% do not. The prevalence of threshers may indicate mechanized harvesting practices find similar study (Kumari *et al.* 2015) [7]. 45% of respondents own a planter machine, while 55% do not. This indicates a moderate adoption of mechanized planting equipment.

Conclusion
In conclusion, the socio-economic profile of women engaged in agriculture in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, reflects diverse age groups, education levels, family structures, and income brackets. The majority of respondents, particularly those in the middle-aged category, exhibit active involvement in agriculture, predominantly in nuclear families residing in kachha houses. The study also sheds light on the significant impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) training, with participants expressing heightened motivation and satisfaction, leading to increased efficiency in their agri-business endeavors. The ownership patterns of modern farming tools and draft animals reveal a noteworthy adoption of mechanized equipment among the surveyed women. Overall, this research contributes valuable insights into the socio-economic dynamics influenced by KVK initiatives, emphasizing their role in empowering and transforming the lives of women engaged in agricultural activities in the region.

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