

Assessing Awareness of Women Sarpanchs towards Various Developmental Programmes in Bilaspur District of Chhattisgarh.

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ABSTRACT

The present research was carried out during the year 2015-16 in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh state. In this district, 336 Gram Panchayat were having women sarpanchs, from which one-third panchayats viz. 112 (56 tribal and 56 non-tribal) were selected randomly for the collection of data. Regarding the awareness about agriculture programmes and activities, 73.21 per cent non-tribal respondents had full awareness of sources of supply inputs and 63.39 per cent of the tribal respondents were fully aware about transplanting of seedlings. In case of dairy and other programmes, 57.14 per cent respondents had full awareness about mushroom cultivation. Comparison of tribal and non-tribal respondents about their awareness in agriculture sector showed that out of 12 programmes 7 programmes were positive and significant. In dairy sector, out of 9 programmes, significant difference were found in 6 programmes among the respondents.

Key words: Awareness, activity, programmes, panchayat, sarpanchs, women.

INTRODUCTION

India operates a three-tier panchayat system, which is intended to bring government closer to the people. Chhattisgarh has 10,796 Gram Panchayats at the village level, 146 Janpad Panchayat at the intermediate (block) level and 27 Zila Panchayat at the district level (Source: URL <http://lgdirectory.gov.in>). With a view to further enhancing the participation of women in the public sphere and making Panchayats more inclusive institutions, the Government moved the Constitution (One Hundred and Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2009 in Parliament on 26th November 2009 for enhancing the reservation for women in Panchayats (Source: Ministry of Panchayati Raj).

This Amendment to Article 243 D of the Constitution envisages 50 per cent reservation for women in the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in the offices of chairpersons and in seats/offices of chairpersons reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in all tiers of Panchayats. This topic let the social being to understand the importance of women among the society. It shows graph of Indian economy which has been drastically increased with the involvement of women leaders. Their stepping out of the

house has tried to make courageous decision among the females of our society to speak up for their need and deed. This has led to understand the present scenario of the women panchayat leaders. The study also focuses towards the village upliftment as compared to those past male leaders.

METHODOLOGY

There are 7 blocks in Bilaspur district, namely Belha, Kota, Masturi, Takhatpur, Pendra, Marwahi and Gaurela. All of them were being selected randomly for the study in accordance to the easy contact and nearby to the Zila panchayat. For this study 112 women sarpanchs were selected randomly, out of which 56 were tribal and 56 were non-tribal women sarpanchs. The awareness shows the extent of knowledge an individual is having related to any of the topic. This leads to proper acquisition and dissemination of the information among oneself and others in the society. The awareness of the respondents about different developmental programmes/activities were analysed under three point continuum namely 'Fully Aware', 'Partially Aware', 'Not Aware' with score of '2', '1' and '0' respectively.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Awareness about programmes/activities

The findings related to awareness of respondents towards developmental programmes/activities in agriculture sector are presented in table 1. The data about the non-tribal respondents shows that majority (73.21%) of the respondents had awareness about sources of supply of inputs, followed by 66.07 per cent of agriculture implements and transplanting of seeds, 64.28 per cent of insecticide and pesticide usage, 60.71 per cent of soil sample collection and testing and raising of nursery, 57.14 per cent of marketing information, 54.46 per cent of maintenance of machinery, 51.78 per cent of IPM activities, 47.32 per cent of kitchen gardening, 46.42 per cent of preservation and 45.53 per cent of off season production of vegetables.

The data about the tribal respondents presented in Table 1 showed that maximum respondents (63.39%) had awareness of transplanting of seedlings, followed by 60.71 per cent of sources of input supply and agriculture implements, 58.03 per cent of use of insecticides and pesticides, 55.35 per cent of nursery raising, 43.75 per cent of IPM activities, 38.39 per cent of maintenance of machinery, 34.82 per cent of marketing information, 31.60 per cent of soil samples collection and testing, 18.75 per cent of preservation, 17.85 per cent of off season production of vegetables and 16.07 per cent of kitchen gardening. This is contrary to the findings of Kumari *et. al.* (2019) who reported that farm women of Uttar Pradesh were unaware of improved farm tools and implements which may reduce drudgery.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their awareness about various agriculture activities

Particulars	Non-tribal (n=56)			Extent of Awareness (%)	Tribal (n=56)			Extent of Awareness (%)
	FA	PA	NA		FA	PA	NA	
Sources of supply of inputs	27 (48.21)	28 (50.00)	01 (1.78)	(73.21)	24 (42.85)	20 (35.71)	12 (21.42)	(60.71)
Collection and testing of soil samples	24 (42.85)	20 (35.71)	12 (21.42)	(60.71)	10 (17.85)	21 (37.50)	25 (44.64)	(31.60)
IPM activities	12 (21.42)	34 (60.71)	10 (17.85)	(51.78)	11 (19.64)	27 (48.21)	18 (32.14)	(43.75)
Agricultural implements	20 (35.71)	34 (60.71)	02 (3.57)	(66.07)	24 (42.85)	20 (35.71)	12 (21.42)	(60.71)
Marketing information	19 (33.92)	26 (46.42)	11 (19.64)	(57.14)	05 (8.92)	29 (51.78)	22 (39.82)	(34.82)
Use of insecticides and pesticides	24 (42.85)	24 (42.85)	08 (14.28)	(64.28)	18 (32.14)	22 (39.28)	16 (28.57)	(58.03)
Maintenance of machinery	16 (28.57)	29 (51.78)	11 (19.64)	(54.46)	09 (16.07)	25 (44.64)	22 (39.28)	(38.39)
Raising of nursery	23 (41.07)	22 (39.28)	11 (19.64)	(60.71)	25 (44.64)	12 (21.42)	19 (33.92)	(55.35)
Transplanting of seedlings	25 (44.64)	24 (42.85)	07 (12.50)	(66.07)	30 (53.57)	16 (28.57)	10 (17.85)	(63.39)
Kitchen gardening	16 (28.57)	21 (37.50)	19 (33.92)	(47.32)	04 (7.14)	10 (17.85)	42 (75.00)	(16.07)
Preservation	13 (23.21)	26 (46.42)	17 (30.35)	(46.42)	04 (7.14)	13 (23.21)	39 (69.64)	(18.75)
Off season production of vegetables	13 (23.21)	25 (44.64)	18 (32.14)	(45.53)	05 (8.92)	10 (17.85)	41 (73.21)	(17.85)

FA-Fully aware, PA-Partially aware, NA-Not aware

The data regarding awareness assessment of respondents in dairy and allied sectors are presented in Table 2. The data of non-tribal respondents shows that majority (57.14%) of the respondents had awareness about mushroom cultivation, followed by 45.53 per cent about management of milch cattle, 39.28 per cent about subsidies and loans, 37.50 per cent of fisheries, 34.82 per cent about liaisons with bank, 33.03 per cent about quality control of milk and milk products and its marketing, 30.35 per cent about bee-keeping and 26.78 per cent about

poultry farming. In case of tribal respondents maximum (48.21%) of the respondents were having awareness related to mushroom cultivation, followed by 38.39 per cent about management of milch cattle, 34.82 per cent about fisheries, 24.10 per cent about subsidies and loans, 17.85 per cent about bee-keeping, 16.07 per cent about liaisons with milk, 12.50 per cent about its marketing, 11.60 per cent about quality control of milk and milk products and 9.82 per cent about poultry farming.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their awareness about dairy and other allied activities

Particulars	Non-tribal (n=56)			Extent of awareness (%)	Tribal (n=56)			Extent of awareness (%)
	FA	PA	NA		FA	PA	NA	
Dairy								
Management of milch cattle	09 (16.07)	33 (58.92)	14 (25.00)	(45.53)	06 (10.71)	31 (55.35)	19 (33.92)	(38.39)
Subsidies and loans	07 (12.50)	30 (53.57)	19 (33.92)	(39.28)	05 (8.92)	17 (30.35)	34 (60.71)	(24.10)
Liaisons with bank	07 (12.50)	25 (44.64)	24 (42.85)	(34.82)	05 (8.92)	08 (14.28)	43 (76.78)	(16.07)
Quality control of milk and milk products	06 (10.71)	25 (44.64)	25 (44.64)	(33.03)	02 (3.57)	08 (14.28)	46 (82.14)	(11.60)
Marketing	06 (10.71)	25 (44.64)	25 (44.64)	(33.03)	03 (5.35)	08 (14.28)	45 (80.35)	(12.50)
Allied activities								
Mushroom cultivation	13 (23.21)	38 (67.85)	05 (8.92)	(57.14)	13 (23.21)	28 (50.00)	15 (26.78)	(48.21)
Bee-keeping	03 (5.35)	28 (50.00)	25 (44.64)	(30.35)	06 (10.71)	08 (14.28)	42 (75.00)	(17.85)
Poultry farming	02 (3.57)	26 (46.42)	28 (50.00)	(26.78)	03 (5.35)	05 (8.92)	48 (85.71)	(9.82)
Fisheries	03 (5.35)	36 (64.28)	17 (30.35)	(37.50)	07 (12.50)	25 (44.64)	24 (42.85)	(34.82)

FA-Fully aware, PA-Partially aware, NA-Not aware

Comparison of the respondents according to their awareness assessment about development programmes and activities is being presented in Table 3. The data shows that out of 12 developmental programmes of agriculture, 7 programmes *i.e.* sources of supply of inputs, collection and testing of soil samples, marketing information, maintenance of machinery, kitchen gardening, preservation and off season production of vegetables were found significant at 0.05 level of probability. This shows that non-tribal respondents had significantly more awareness of those programmes as compared to the tribal respondents. Other than these programmes *viz.* IPM activities, agricultural implements, use of insecticides and pesticides, raising of nursery and transplanting of seedlings were found to be non-significant which shows no significant difference among

the tribal and non-tribal respondents towards their awareness.

As about dairy development programmes being presented in Table 3 showed that out of 9 developmental programmes, 6 programmes *i.e.* subsidies and loans, liaisons with bank, quality control of milk and milk products, marketing, bee-keeping and poultry farming were found significant. The study shows significantly more awareness of non-tribal respondents towards the programmes as compared to tribal respondents. Other programmes *viz.* management of milch cattle, mushroom cultivation and fisheries were non-significant indicating that the given programmes did not have any significant difference among the tribal and non-tribal respondents.

Table 3: Comparison of the respondents according to their awareness about various agriculture, dairy and allied activities

Particulars	MOS	Non-tribal (n=56)		Tribal (n=56)		Difference in mean score	Z-value
		OMS	SD	OMS	SD		
Agriculture							
Sources of supply of inputs	2	1.46	0.53	1.21	0.77	0.25	1.97*
Collection and testing of soil samples	2	1.21	0.77	0.73	0.75	0.48	3.33*
IPM activities	2	1.03	0.63	0.87	0.71	0.16	1.26NS
Agricultural implements	2	1.32	0.54	1.21	0.77	0.11	0.84NS
Marketing information	2	1.08	0.69	0.69	0.63	0.39	3.13*
Use of insecticides and pesticides	2	1.28	0.70	1.16	0.68	0.12	0.95NS
Maintenance of machinery	2	1.08	0.69	0.76	0.71	0.32	2.41*
Raising of nursery	2	1.21	0.75	1.10	0.88	0.11	0.68NS
Transplanting of seedlings	2	1.32	0.69	1.26	0.86	0.06	0.36NS
Kitchen gardening	2	0.94	0.79	0.32	0.60	0.62	4.67*
Preservation	2	0.92	0.73	0.41	0.65	0.51	3.93*
Off season production of vegetables	2	0.91	0.74	0.35	0.64	0.56	4.20*

Dairy and other activities

Training and management of milch cattle	2	0.92	0.62	0.76	0.63	0.16	1.35NS
Subsidies and loans	2	0.78	0.65	0.48	0.66	0.30	2.44*
Liaisons with bank	2	0.69	0.68	0.32	0.63	0.37	3.00*
Quality control of milk and milk products	2	0.66	0.66	0.23	0.50	0.43	3.83*
Marketing	2	0.66	0.66	0.25	0.54	0.41	3.55*
Mushroom cultivation	2	1.18	0.55	1.14	0.70	0.04	1.34NS
Bee-keeping	2	0.60	0.59	0.35	0.67	0.25	2.08*
Poultry farming	2	0.53	0.57	0.19	0.51	0.34	3.29*
Fisheries	2	0.75	0.54	0.67	0.69	0.08	0.60NS

*Significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS= Non Significant

The findings related to extent of awareness of the overall respondents are being presented in figure 1. The data reveals that maximum respondents (66.96%) were having extent of awareness about sources of input supply, followed by 64.73 per cent about transplanting of seedlings, 63.39 per cent of agriculture implements, 61.16 per cent of insecticide and pesticide use, 58.03 per cent of raising of nursery, 47.76 per cent of IPM activities, 46.42 per cent of machinery maintenance, 45.98 per cent of marketing information, 40.17 per cent of soil sample collection and testing, 32.58 per cent of preservation and 31.69 per cent of kitchen gardening and off season vegetable production.

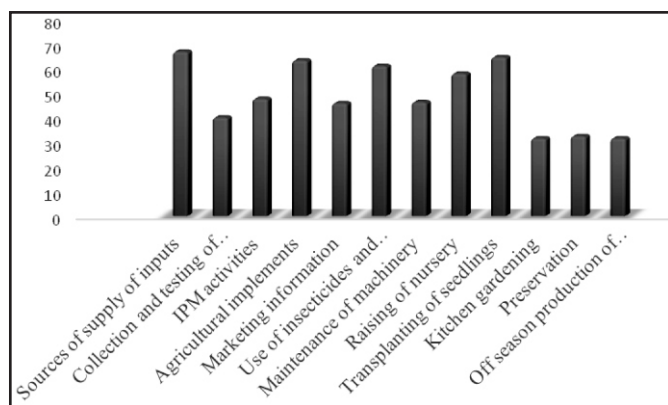


Figure 1: Extent of awareness of the overall respondents about various agricultural activities

About dairy and allied sector the data is given in figure 2 which reveals that majority (52.67%) of the respondents had awareness about mushroom cultivation, followed by 41.96 per cent respondents had awareness related to the management of milch cattle, 36.16 per cent about fisheries, 31.69 per cent of them are aware of subsidies and loans, 25.44 per cent about liaisons with bank, 24.10 per cent about bee-keeping, 22.76 per cent of marketing and 22.32 per cent of quality control of milk and milk products and 18.30 per cent about poultry farming.

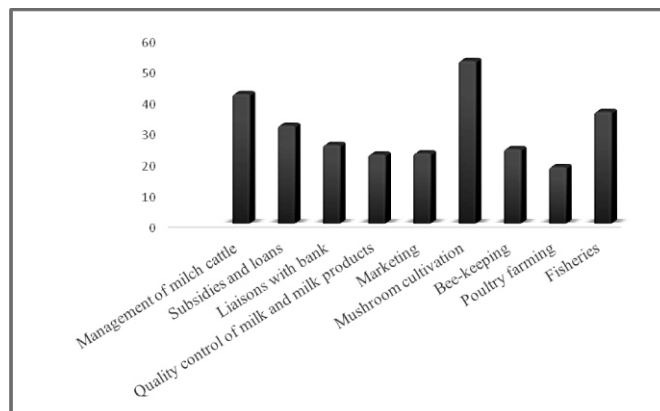


Figure 2: Extent of awareness of the overall respondents about dairy and allied activities

CONCLUSION

About awareness of the programmes in agriculture sector, non-tribal respondents had maximum awareness (73.21%) towards sources of input supply whereas maximum tribal respondents (63.39%) had awareness related to transplanting of seedlings. In case of dairy and other sector, both tribal and non-tribal respondents had maximum awareness about mushroom cultivation with 57.14 per cent and 48.21 per cent respectively. While comparing the awareness of tribal and non-tribal respondents, it has been found that, out of 12 agriculture programmes, 7 programmes showed significant difference among them and rest 5 programmes did not show any type of difference among the respondents. In dairy and other sector, out of 9 programmes, 6 of them showed significant difference among the respondents and rest 3 programmes did not show any difference. There is need of women empowerment these days. Equal participation of male and female leaders requires best of knowledge and awareness about day to day development and information spread around the society. It will further lead to the upliftment of economy of one's own country. Also, encouragement of women awareness leads to

unavoidable communication and sharing of new ideas in the society. Agriculture being the backbone of Indian economy, its awareness is as essential to make the individuals have upcoming information in their practices.

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