



Effect of vocational training program on the knowledge, skill development and income generation of tribal farm women and rural youth of Shahdol.

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ABSTRACT:

This objective of the study is to evaluate the effect of vocational training programs on knowledge, skill, and income level of tribal farm women and rural youth in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. A total of 120 tribal farm women and rural youth beneficiaries who had completed various vocational training courses made up the study sample. The purpose of the study was to determine the effect of training programs on the empowerment of rural women in Shahdol in the years 2022-2024. The results of the study showed that most respondents had medium to high levels of knowledge and that most them acquire medium skill levels in all three activities. The maximum average income from mushroom cultivation and value addition is Rs 9700, and the least income was from organic farming i.e. Rs 5100. The trainees' socioeconomic status had improved as a result of their vocational training programmes on organic farming, vermicomposting, and mushroom production and its value addition.

KEYWORDS : Effect, Knowledge, Skill , Income, Vocational training

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INTRODUCTION:

Farmwomen are highly exploited because of their reliance on the farm economy. Women's emancipation is a crucial prerequisite for social and economic advancement, particularly from a socioeconomic standpoint. Women who are economically independent are able to confront injustice and discrimination and bring about significant social change (Santhi P and Muthu S 2005). In India, women have a significant influence on the nation's economy and are mostly involved in agriculture, food provision, and subsistence farming (Singh et al., 2010).



Achieving economic independence, owning productive assets, managing capital and assets, asserting oneself as a woman, being able to defend oneself, and taking on leadership roles at all levels within the community are all considered components of the empowering process. Building awareness and capacity results in increased participation and decision-making authority, which is the process of empowerment. Through the acquisition of knowledge, power, and experience, the empowerment process fortifies their inherent capacity (Murugan and Dharmalingam 2000). Participating in a variety of agriculture-related activities may make a substantial contribution, especially for rural women (Sharma and Vishwakarma, 2014). As they augment their family's income, money-generating activities are important for rural women (Indoria, 2018). No amount of scientific or technological advancement will be complete unless our farm women, who are the true users and beneficiary of this technology, adopt it (Kumari et al., 2015).

Women should be reminded that they are logical, perceptive, and thinking human beings rather than just being empowered in a technical sense. Women who are reliant do not possess empowerment. It is a misconception if women believe that the only thing that gives them power is to be well educated and employed (Banga 2010).

The idea of vocational training was born out of the necessity for farm women to be empowered in terms of knowledge acquisition, skill development, and revenue generating. A specific kind of training with the primary goal of getting people ready for the workforce is called vocational training. If women are given the right tools, training, and technological packages, they can produce vegetables more effectively than men can (Mansoor Ahmad et al 2007).

For the benefit of farm women and young people living in rural areas, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Shahdol (M P) has effectively arranged several vocational training programmes in agriculture and related fields. For tribal farm women and rural youth, the following occupational training was arranged between 2022 and 2024:

(a) Mushroom cultivation and its value addition. (b) vermicomposting (c) Organic farming

The following goals guided the study's implementation: i) To determine how much trainees enrolled in vocational training programs have learned. ii) To determine how much the skill level of learners enrolled in vocational training programs has increased. iii) To investigate how trainees enrolled in vocational training programs have effect in their income.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

The purpose of the study was to determine how KVK Shahdol's (M.P.) vocational training programs affected the knowledge, skill, and income levels of farm women and rural youth. The study's sample group was limited to tribal farm women and rural youth who had completed various vocational training programs. Using a random selection technique, a sample of 50% of the total number of farm women and rural youth beneficiaries covered by the various vocational training programs in the KVKs was chosen. 120 people made up the sample that was chosen for data gathering. Primary data was gathered using a structured interview schedule since rural women frequently lack literacy and do not correctly answer to questionnaire techniques. Instead, an interview and observation strategy was employed. Ten pre-tests were conducted using the planned structured interview schedule.

In order to show the data in a relevant way, it has been thoroughly examined, reduced to a master chart, and tallied using statistical methods. The numerical values that represented the data were categorized. We calculated frequencies and percentages using the following formula.

$$P = \frac{X}{N} \times 100$$

where, P = percentage

X = Frequency of respondents

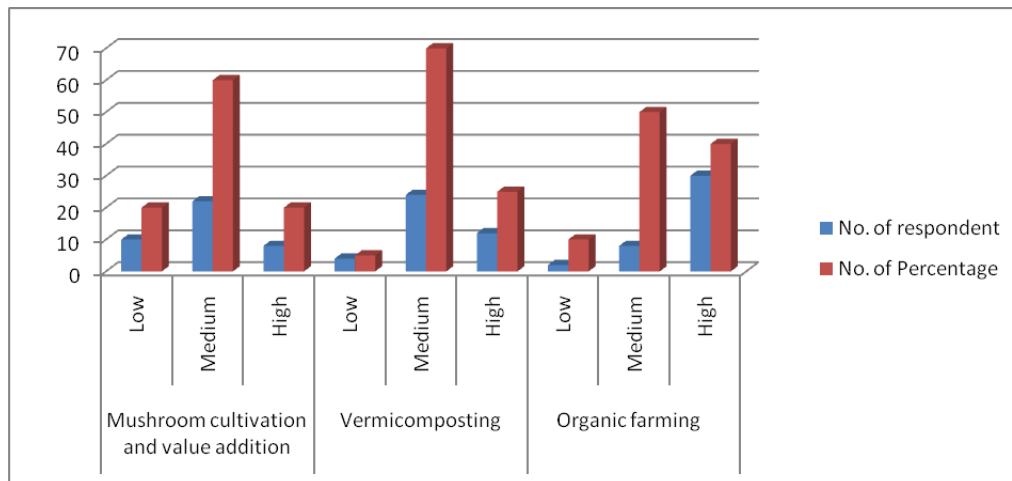
N = Total number of respondents.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Effect of Vocational training Programme on knowledge acquisition

Twenty percent of the trainees involved in mushroom cultivation and value addition have high knowledge, compared to the majorities (55%) who have medium knowledge and only (25%) have low level of. In terms of vermicomposting, 60% had a medium level of expertise, 30% had a high level, and 10% had a low level of knowledge acquisition. Regarding organic farming, 75% of respondents reported having good knowledge, 20% having medium knowledge, and 5% having low of knowledge.

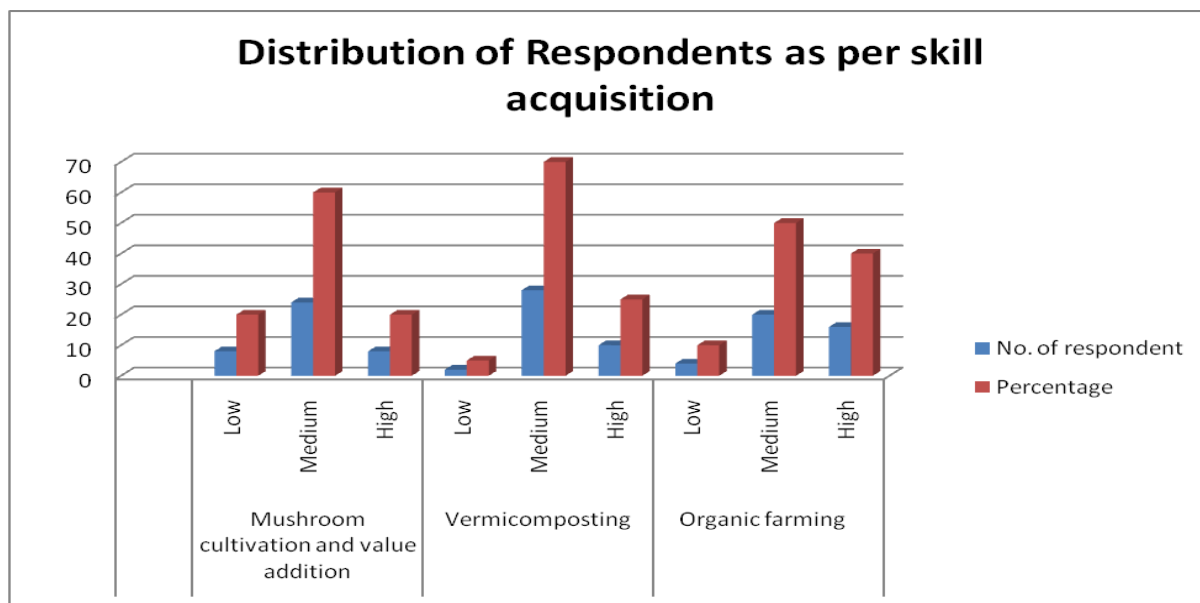
Figure 1. Respondent distribution based on knowledge acquisition



Effects of vocational training programs on skills acquisition

Regarding mushroom cultivation and value addition, 60% of participants had a medium skill level, 20% had a low skill level, and 20% had a high skill level. In terms of vermicomposting, 70% of respondents had a medium skill level, 5% had a low skill level, and 25% had a high skill level. In case of organic farming 50% had medium skill level, 10% had low skill level, and 40% had excellent skill level.

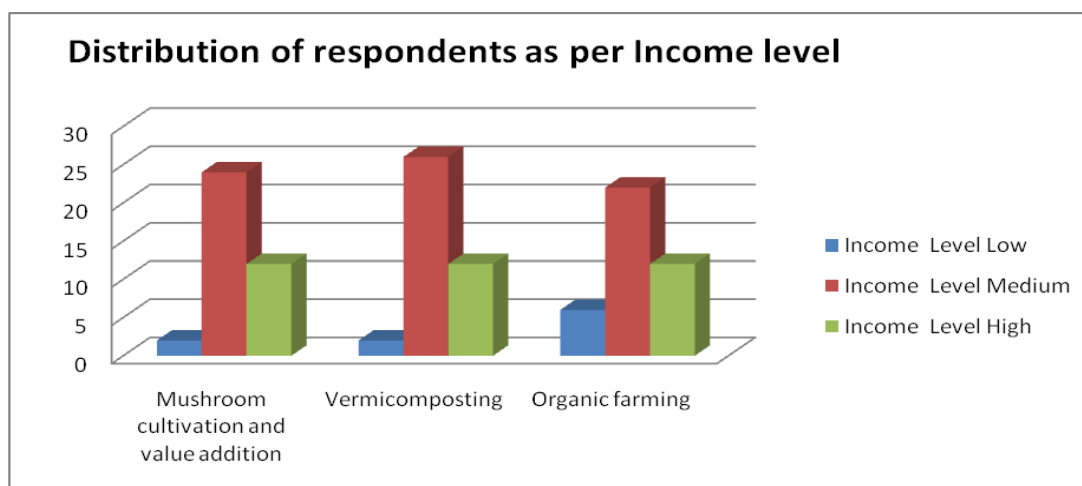
Figure 2. Respondents' distribution based on their skill level



Effect of Vocational training programmes on income

Thirty percent of the forty respondents reported high income from mushroom farming and value addition, sixty percent reported medium income, and ten percent reported low income. Thirty percent of the forty respondents reported high income, five percent reported low income, and sixty-five percent reported medium income via vermicomposting. Out of 40 respondents of organic farming, 55% reported to create a medium income. In terms of generating revenue, vermicomposting appears to have been the most successful venture for tribal farm women and rural youth followed by mushroom cultivation.

Figure 3. Level of income for each of the three activities





Effects of vocational training programme on income.

Out of the three activities, it was found that on an average yielded organic farming (Rs 5100) i.e. the lowest average income, followed by vermicomposting (Rs 6400) and mushroom cultivation and value addition (Rs 9700).

Table 4. Average income generated by each of the three activities

Activities	Average Income generated (Rs.)	Rank
Mushroom cultivation and value addition	9700	I
Vermicomposting	6400	II
Organic farming	5100	III

CONCLUSION:

The majority of respondents possessed medium levels of skill and knowledge in each of the three vocational training traits. In all three categories, the majority of respondents had a medium income in general. In terms of generating income, it can be determined that the best ventures for tribal farm women and rural youth have been vermicomposting and mushroom cultivation with value addition.

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