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PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF FARM WOMEN KNOWLEDGE GROUPS (FWKGS)

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Abstract: The present study was conducted to know the profile characteristics of farm women knowledge groups (FWKGs). The present study was conducted in village Gudli & Vijan was of Mavli block from Udaipur district of Rajasthan State. The data was collected from 100 farm women. Majority of the respondents (70%) belonged to young age group and 80 per cent were married & had farming (81%) as their main occupation. Nearly three fourth of the respondents (79-100%) didn't have any participation in other organization viz. Mahilamandal, zila Panchayat and taluk Panchayat. Television set and newspaper owned by the respondent 96 per cent and 80 per cent respectively.
Keywords: Farm Women, Knowledge Groups.

Introduction

The world is changing at a very fast pace. The changes can be seen in every aspect of life, i.e. in politics, society or economy. One of the most important factors of change is technology. For the development of technology, information is essential. Information is the collection of facts gathered through various means of communication (for example, people, newspaper and television) and plays a vital role in fast growing generation. At the same time, technology makes information gathering fast and easy. Information along with technology has created a new branch called Information Technology (IT). Information Technology involves the processing of information by a computer. This is possible through the user of hardware, software, services and supporting infrastructure to manage and deliver information. All the decisions whether political, social, economic, cultural and behavioural, today depends on the ability to access, gather, analyse and utilize Information and Knowledge (Jakhar, 2015). Information Technology has changed our daily lives radically over the recent years, for example, the user of mobile phones to make calls and send text messages, use of internet for searching information, use of email for communication over the internet etc.

Farmers are more desirous and become anxious to get quick, exact and authentic information in the changing scenario of agriculture at global level. The use of mobile phones provide new

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opportunities for farmers to obtain access to agricultural information, such as market prices, weather reports, transport information and agricultural technique, in various formats like audio, video and text (Aker, 2011). A continuous flow of technologies in an appropriate manner is vital to provide quick benefit of this development to the farmers.

Productivity and sustainability of small scale farm is an area where ICT can make a significant contribution. Farming involves risks and uncertainties, with farmers facing many threats from poor soils, drought, erosion and pests. Key improvements stem from information about pest and disease control, especially early warning systems, new varieties, new ways to optimise production and regulations for quality control. ICT is not only a powerful media of mass communication which speedily disseminates agriculture information but also help to bridge the gap between scientists and farmers.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in village Gudli & Vijanwas of Mavli block from Udaipur district of Rajasthan State. The study was purposively planned for situational analyses on knowledge & use of ICT in agricultural & allied sector. For this, the data was collected from 100 farm women. Availability and access of ICT tool was studied in this research.

Result and Discussion

Table 1 Distribution of the respondents according to their profile

n= 100

S.No.	Characteristics /Attributes	Category	f / (%)
1	Age	Young (18-35yrs.)	70
		Middle (36-50 yrs.)	30
		Upper middle (50 yrs. and above)	0
2	Caste	Gen	10
		OBC	61
		ST	2
		SC	27
3.	Education	Illiterate	13
		Can read and write	6
		Primary	22
		Middle	24
		Up to class x	9
		HSLC passed	0
		Higher secondary passed	12
		Graduate	8
		Post Graduate	6
4.	Marital status	Married	86
		Unmarried	11
		Widow	3

		Divorcee	0
5.	Occupation		
	i) Main occupation	Farming	81
		Service	7
		Farm allied	0
		Business	12
		Daily wage earner	0
	ii) Subsidiary occupation	Farming	18
		Service	31
		Farm allied	0
		Business	35
		Daily wage earner	16
6.	Type of family	nuclear	37
		joint	63
		extended	0
7.	Size of family	Small	23
		Medium	71
		large	06
8.	Organizational participation(n=79)		
	i) Type of membership	Member	51 (64.55%)
		Office bearer	28 (35.44%)

Data presented in table 1 reveals that a majority of the respondents (70%) belonged to young age group, had OBC caste, nearly one fourth of them (22-24%) had education up to primary & middle level subsequently. Majority (80%) were married & had farming (81%) as their main occupation. Nearly one third of them had service (31%) & business (35%) as their occupation. They belonged to joint family (63%) however 37 percent were from nuclear family. A majority of them (71%) had medium sized family. More than half of the respondents (64.55%) were members and 35.44 percent of the respondents were office bearers of different organizations i.e. self-help groups, Aangawadi, manila mandal, gram panchayat & Zila panchayat.

Kumawat, 2017 also reported in their study, 47 per cent respondents belonged to age group of 31-45 years. Majority of the respondents were married (88%) and illiterate (55%). Majority of the respondents (70%) belonged to the category of low socio-economic status.

Table 2: Percent distribution of respondents according to organizational participation

n= 100

Organization	Extent of participation		
	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Self Help Group	54	0	46
Anganwadi centre	4	0	96
Mahilamandal	0	0	100
Gram Panchayat	8	13	79
Zilapanchayat	0	0	0
Talukpanchayat	0	0	0

Perusal of table 2 reveals that more than half of the respondents were participating regularly in self-help groups, very few of them (4-8%) in anganwadi centre and gram panchayat while a majority of them (79-100%) didn't have any participation in other organization viz. Mahila mandal, zila panchayat and taluk panchayat.

Rangi et al. (2002) in a study conducted in Fatehgarh Sahib district of Punjab reported that women participated in planning, implementation and monitoring activities of village level bodies such as panchayats, zillaparishads, village committees and samities. Similarly Dayya et al. (2016) reported 89 per cent of the respondents had no organizational membership whereas, 11 per cent respondents were member of formal organization (SHGs).

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their Mass media ownership and frequency of use

n= 100

Mass media	Owned %	Other Source (use owned by others)%	Frequency of use			
			Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Radio	11	0	0	5	6	89
Television	96	0	70	26	0	4
News paper	20	0	15	5	0	80
Magazines	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others (Journals, leaflets, booklets etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data presented in table 3 reveals that majority of the respondent (96%) owned television set, 20 percent newspaper and 11 percent respondents owned radio. Television was used by 70 percent respondents always while 26 percent used it sometimes. While radio was not used by majority of respondents, 6 percent respondents used it rarely and only 5 percent respondents used it sometimes. Newspaper was used by 15 percent respondents always and sometimes by 5 percent and 80 percent respondents never used, respectively.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according extension contact

n= 100

Extension Agent	**Regularly**	**Occasionally**	**Never**
	f / (%)	**f / (%)**	**f / (%)**
VLEW	29	54	17
Extension Officer	0	49	51
University Personnel	0	0	100
NGO Personnel	11	57	32
Bank Personnel	10	44	46
Block Personnel	0	48	52

Table 4 reveals that nearly half of the respondents (44-57%) occasionally contacted various extension officials. VLEW were contacted regularly by 29 per cent of respondents. But the university officials were not at all contacted by them.

Conclusion

Thus, it could be concluded that the majority of the respondents (70%) belonged to young age group and belonged to joint family (63%). A majority of them (71%) had medium sized family. More than half of the respondents (64.55%) were members and 35.44 percent of the respondents were office bearers of different organizations. Than half of the respondents were participating regularly in self-help groups and 96 percent respondents used television set. Half of the respondents (44-57%) occasionally contacted various extension officials.

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