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Socio-Personal and economic characteristics of rural women

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Abstract

The findings led to conclude that the literacy among the respondents is not very encouraging. Family showing the declining trend of joint family. Majority of the respondents possessed marginal size of land. Most of the beneficiaries were having 1 to 4 animals under possession, income of respondents was low. It has to be increased by providing income generating activities and encouraging the practices of improved agricultural technologies social participation among the majority of respondents are only in one organization and cosmopolitaness of the respondents were having low to medium level. This might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents was illiterate, low monthly income who might not be having access to mass media such as magazine, radio, newspaper.

Keywords: Rural women, socio-personal and economic characteristic.

Introduction

One of the best epidemiological findings is that the prevalence and distribution of diseases is strongly influenced by economic factors. With the improvement in economic conditions, people are better able to take care of their health problems. Social and educational development also improves the living condition and the health status of the population. Present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To study the socio-personal and economic characteristics of rural women.

Materials and Methods

The present study was undertaken in the Khodawanpur of Begusarai District of Bihar state. For the study only three villages were selected in Khodawanpur block randomly. Twenty five women from each training programme had been selected from three sampled villages. Therefore, the total trainees were 75. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule. Interview schedule was formulated to elicit information about the age, education, caste, type and size of family, occupation, land holdings, livestock possession, income type of house social participation and cosmopolitans.

Result and Discussion

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Table 1: Socio-personal and economic profile of the respondents.

Sl. No.	Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Range
1	Age group of respondents			31.69	18-45
	18-26	44	58.66		
	27-35	23	30.66		
	36-45	08	10.66		
2	Education of respondents			2.10	
	Illiterate	27	36.00		
	Can read only	08	10.66		
	Can read and write only	12	16.00		
	Primary	06	8.00		
	Middle	07	9.33		
	High	10	13.33		
3	Above Matric	05	6.66	04.04	
	Education of the respondent's husband				
	Illiterate	04	5.33		
	Can read only	00	0.00		
	Can read and write only	11	14.66		
	Primary	13	17.33		
	Middle	15	20.00		
4	High	10	13.33		
	Above Matric	22	29.33		
	Caste				
	General	30	40.00		
5	Backward (Annexure – I , Annexure- II)	42	53.33		
	Schedule caste	03	46.33		
	Type of family				
6	Nuclear	14	18.66	7.6	
	Joint	30	40.00		
	Size of the family				
7	Small (up to 4 members)	14	18.66	7.6	
	Medium (5-8 members)	30	40.00		
	Large (more than 8 members)	31	41.33		
8	Occupation of the respondents				
	Agriculture labour	3	4.00		
	Cast occupation	2	2.66		
	Business/independent profession	4	5.33		
	Service	3	4.00		
9	House wife	75	100.00		
	Occupation of respondent's husband				
	Agriculture labour	23	30.66		
	Cast occupation	12	16.00		
	Business/independent profession	11	14.66		
10	farming	29	38.66	3.39	
	Service	27	36.00		
	Size of land holding				
	Landless	27	36.00		
	Marginal (up 2.5 acres)	31	41.33		
11	Small (2.51-5.00 acres)	14	18.66	1.41	
	Medium (5.1-10.00 acres)	03	4.00		
	Large (more than 10.00 acres)	00	0.00		
	Live stock possession				
12	No animal	19	25.33	6026.66	
	1 to 4 animal	53	70.66		
	5 to 8 animal	3	4.00		
	Family income per annum				
13	Below poverty line 11,000	1	1.33	6026.66	
	Very low 11,000 to 25,000	11	14.66		
	Low 25,001 to 50,000	43	57.44		
	Medium 50,001 to 75,000	13	17.33		
14	High 75,001 and above	7	9.33		
	Type of house				
	Katcha	30	40.00		
15	Mixed	12	16.00		
	Pucca	33	44.00		
	Social participation				
16	No membership	31	41.33	0.74	
	Members of one organization	32	42.66		
	Members of more than one organization	12	16.00		
17	Cosmopolitaness			4.33	
	Low	33	44.00		
	How	36	48.00		
	High	06	8.00		

Age

It is clear from the table that a maximum of 58.66 percent of the respondents are in the age group of 18-26. The lowest percentage of respondents is in the age group of 36-45. Thus, on the while, 90 percent respondents are not more than 35 years. The table further indicates that mean age of respondents is 31.69.

Education

Education in rural areas is one of the most important factors, which assesses the success and failure of the implementation of rural development programme.

The table 1 reveals that 36.00 percent of the respondents were illiterate, 16.00 percent respondents can read and write, 13.00 percent respondents of them were matriculated followed by 10.66 percent can read only, 9.33 percent and 8.00 percent respondents who were educated up to middle and primary level respectively. While only 6.66 percent of them were above matric. Thus, altogether only 20 percent of the respondents are matriculate and above. The literacy among the respondents is not very encouraging.

Education of the respondent's husband

The table 1 reveals that 29.33 percent of respondents husband were above matrix, 20.00 percent were middle level and 17.33 percent were primary, 14.66 percent can read and write only, followed 13.33 percent and 5.33 respondents husband who were matriculate and illiterate respectively. Thus, altogether 44 percent of the respondents husband are matriculate and above. The literacy among them is also not very encouraging.

Caste

It is clear from the table 1 that 56.00 percent belong to backward caste. Backward caste include both Annexure-I and Annexure-II 40.00 percent of the respondents belong to general caste. But, representation of other caste is also conspicuous as represented by 4 percent of schedule caste on the criteria for the selection of respondents was willingness to participation in training. The data reveals that backward caste category women gave showed much interest in participating in nutrition training. Whereas very negligible percentage in schedule caste had felt need for participation in nutritional training. It may be attributed due to low literacy rate among them.

Type of family

Family type is one of the important factors which affects the type of activity as well as the decision making process in the family. It has been assumed that nuclear family makes decision more quickly and takes more responsibilities and risk as compared to joint family resulting in larger participation of nuclear family in nutrition training programme. Therefore, this variable was also included in the study. Conforming this fact the Table 1 reveals that a majority of 53.33 percent respondents belonged to nuclear type of family and rest 46.33 percent had joint family showing the declining trend of joint family system even among rural society.

Size of family

An observation of this Table 1 indicates that 41.33 percent of the respondents have medium size family i.e. having more than 8 members in the family. While 40.00 percent have medium and only 18.66 percent have small family.

Hence, it can be inferred that majority of respondents have large and medium size family.

Occupation of the respondents

Occupation of the beneficiaries was considered as an important factor, which largely affects the economics condition of the family.

It has been revealed from the Table 1 that all most respondents have engagement in their household activities, while 5.33 percent of there were also engages as business/independent profession. It was followed by 4.00 percent who were service holders. 4.00 percent respondents engaged in agricultural labourer and only 2.66 percent of them were engaged in their respective caste occupation.

Occupation of respondent's husband

Occupation of the husband is also one of the major components which affect the economics condition of the family.

It is clear from the Table 1 that majority of the respondent's husband 38.66 percent were engaged in farming while 36 percent of them were service holders. It was followed by 30.66 percent engaged in agricultural labourer, 16 percent who had their own business of other independent profession and 14.66 percent were engaged in their respective caste occupations.

Size of land holding

Land is used as income generation asset in rural areas. It serves as a base for successful implementation of nutrition training programme, because it provides cushion to respondents in taking risk in participating in new programme. It is observed in the Table 1 that majority of the respondents 41.33 percent possessed marginal size of land while 36.00 percent were landless i.e. they did not have land at all for found small and medium farm families respectively. None of the respondents have large size of land holding.

Livestock possession

Possession of animals as a variable was also included in the study. It is evident from the table that majority of the respondents 70.66 percent possessed 1 to 4 animals. While 25.33 percent of them did not possess any animal like, cow, buffalo, goat and hen. Only 4.00 percent of them possess 5 to 8 animals. Hence, it can be concluded that most of the beneficiaries were having 1 to 4 animals under their possession.

Family income per annum

The findings reveal that the income of family led to have significant influence on socio-economic status of the respondents. It is considered that family income is the most important factor in determining the socio-economic condition of nutrition training programme beneficiaries.

The income of the respondents family ranged from 11,000 to more than 75001 maximum percentage of the respondents 57.33 percent belonged to low income group followed by 17.33 percent respondents belonged to medium income group. 74.66 percent respondents belong to very low income group while 9.33 respondents had their annual income ranged from 75001 and above. Only 1.33 percent respondent had their annual income up to 11,000.

Hence it is concluded that more than half of the respondents were having income level 25001 to 50000 per annum.

Type of house

Type of residential house is one of major components to judge the socio-economic status of the respondents and their family.

From the Table 1 it is clear that 44.00 percent respondents had pucca type of house followed by 40.00 percent respondents had katcha type of house only 16.00 percent respondent had mixed type of house.

Social participation

Participation of respondents had been seen in different organization such as panchyat, co-operative society, youth club, Mahila Mandal and others.

The findings revealed that majority of respondents 42.66 were the members of one organization 41.33 percent respondents were not the members of any organization only 16.00 percent respondents were members of more than one organization.

Therefore, it can be said that the amount of social participation among the majority of respondents are only in one organization.

Cosmopolitaness

It refers the degree of mass media exposure and extension contact of the respondents. Cosmopolitaness considered as an important factor which largely affect the nutrition training programme.

It can be observed from the table that 48.00 and 44.00 percent respondents had medium and low level of cosmopolitaness score respectively. Only 8.00 percent respondents had high level of cosmopolitaness scores. The mean of 4.33 is indicative of the fact that the farmers in general low level of cosmopolitaness.

Conclusion

The findings led to conclude that the literacy among the respondents is not very encouraging. Family showing the declining trend of joint family. Majority of the respondents possessed marginal size of land. Most of the beneficiaries were having 1 to 4 animals under possession, income of respondents was low. It has to be increased by providing income generating activities and encouraging the practices of improved agricultural technologies social participation among the majority of respondents are only in one organization and cosmopolitaness of the respondents were having low to medium level. This might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents was illiterate, low monthly income who might not be having access to mass media such as magazine, radio, newspaper.

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