

A study based on the interest of women in learning Income Generating Activities(IGA) in Participatory Group Training (PGT) and the reasons of their interest

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in two villages of Kashi Vidyapeeth block of Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh in India. Namely Amara Khera Chak and Awaleshpur. There were total 1040+798=1838 families in the both the villages. The female of every seventh house, one of the each house, total 15 per cent =270 females were randomly selected for the study. The study was conducted with the major objectives of finding the interest of respondents in learning Income Generating Activities through Participatory Group Training and their reasons of taking and not taking interest in learning IGA in PGT. According to the objectives of the study a structured interview schedule was prepared and administered on respondents with personal interview method and observation method of data collection. Data were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tools like Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation and χ^2 Test. The computer software SPSS was also used to find results. The B.G. Prasad's Scale of Socio Economic Status revised for 2015 were also used to know the socio economic status of respondents. The study reveals that Participatory Group Training method for learning Income Generating Activities can be more interesting for rural women. They had giving many reasons for taking interest in learning IGA through PGT. Majority of women said that they felt social security and it was interesting for them to come and work together in group. It was easy for them to reach at training spot together and their family had no objection, if they participate with the other women of their village and society. Some respondents were not interested in learning IGA in PGT. They gave their reasons that they had no experience of this type of training and had family pressure. Many of them had no social contact and communication and were unable to adjust with other women in participatory group. The findings of the study is very helpful for the makers of the development programme. They can implement their programmes through Participatory Group Training method, as women were interested to learn through it and for the success of any development programme, comfort and interest of beneficiaries were very important.

Key Words : IGA-Income Generating Activities, PGT-Participatory Group Training

INTRODUCTION

We cannot deny the fact that women in India have made a considerable progress in all sphere of life. They were working hard not only to improve their life but they were working day and night without taking rest for the development of their family and society. Directly or indirectly they are

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contributing for the development of nation. The status of women in India basically in rural India is not satisfactory. Devi and Rao (2005) said that the status of women can be elevated only when they will be made economically, socially and psychologically independent in the society. In support with the empowerment of women they had emphasized the economic empowerment of women by pointing this fact that providing them new skills for income generation is needed and is more essential for them. And government of India were continuously working for it. Government and non-government organization with other development institutions of the society were making various plan and programmes and implement it with their full efforts but they were not getting the result of their expectations. One of the main reason of their failure is the lack of interest of women in participating in the programmes. They had their own personal and social reasons of not taking interest in the programmes. In rural India women were facing many problems and social pressures which stop them to give their best. Sharma and Verma (2008) in their study pointed out that women were found technologically less empowered, they are able to be improved to the technologies which are labour saving and drudgery reducing and are income generating and productivity increasing. Making them technologically improved and economically empowered for their overall development it was very necessary to train them with some income generating activities through training. And Participatory training method can be very interesting and successful method to train them. Keeping this in view the study was conducted with the following objectives :

Objectives of the Study :

- To Study the socio economic background of respondents.
- To find out the interest of respondents in learning IGA through PGT and its relation with their age, caste and educational status.
- To find out the opinion of respondents about the reasons of taking and not taking interest in learning IGA through PGT.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in two villages of Kashi Vidyapeeth block of Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh in India. The name of the two villages were Amara Khera Chak and Awaleshpur. There were total 1838 families in the both the villages. 1040 families in Amara Khera Chak Village and 798 in Awaleshpur village. The female of every seventh house one of the each house were selected through random sampling method .Total 15 per cent of the total families, total 270 females selected for the study. The study was conducted with the major objectives of finding out the interest of respondents in learning Income Generating Activities through Participatory Group Training and their reasons of taking and not taking interest in learning IGA through PGT. A structured interview schedule was prepared and administered on respondents through personal interview method and observation method of data collection. Data were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tools like Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation and χ^2 Test. The computer software SPSS was also used to find results. For finding out the socio economic background of respondents The B.G Prasad's Scale of Socio Economic Status revised for 2015, revised by Guru Raj M.S., Shilpa S. and Maheshwar R. were used and results were drawn from it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the study were discussed according to the objectives of the study under following

sub headings.

Socio economic status (SES) of respondents:

The socio economic status of the respondents were presented in following tables.

Table 1a reveals the age of respondents, majority of respondents 48.9 per cent were belonged to the age group of 31 to 40 years followed by 33.0 per cent respondents belonged to the age group of less than equal to 30 years, respectively. 18.1 per cent respondents were belonged to the age group of 40 years. Table 1b reveals that majority of respondents 97.0 per cent were Hindus and only 3.0 per cent respondents were Muslims. Table 1c reveals that majority of respondents 73.0 per cent were belonged to the other backward caste and 23.3 per cent were of schedule caste category. Very few respondents were of schedule tribes and general caste categories. Table 1d presents the marital status of respondents it was shown in the table that majority of respondents 90.0 per cent were married and 7.0 per cent respondents were unmarried. Very few respondents were widow and divorced. Table 1e shows that majority of respondents 56.6 per cent were illiterate. 16.7 per cent respondents had middle class education. 14.0 per cent respondents had high school level education and 7.8 per cent respondents had intermediate level education. Very few less than 2 per cent respondents had primary and undergraduate level education.

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their age, religion, caste, marital status and educational status

Table 1	Title	Sr. No.	Categories	Number	Percentage
a	Age (in years)	1.	≤30	89	33.0
		2.	31-40	132	48.9
		3.	>40	49	18.1
			Total	270	100.0
Average Age ±SD=34.69±8.56 Range=(18-67)					
b	Religion	1.	Hindu	262	97.0
		2.	Muslim	08	3.0
c	Caste	1.	Schedule Tribes	06	2.2
		2.	Schedule Caste	63	23.3
		3.	Other Backward Caste	197	73.0
		4.	General	04	1.5
d	Marital Status	1.	Married	243	90.0
		2.	Unmarried	19	7.0
		3.	Widow	07	2.6
		4.	Divorced	01	0.4
e	Educational Status	1.	Illiterate	153	56.6
		2.	Primary	05	1.9
		3.	Middle	45	16.7
		4.	High School	38	14.0
		5.	Intermediate	21	7.8
		6.	Undergraduate	08	3.0

Table 2 a reveals that majority of respondents 51.1 per cent were earning and 48.9 per cent respondents were not earning. Table 2 b presents that majority of respondents 49.3 per cent were

earning less than equal to 200 rupees per month followed by 21.1 per cent respondents were earning 201-400 rupees per month, respectively. 13.0 per cent respondents were earning 801 to 1000 rupees per month. Less than 10 per cent respondents were earning rupees 601 to 800 per month followed by 07.2 per cent respondents were earning Rs. 401 to 600 per month, respectively.

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their status of earning and earning amount per month					
Table 2	Title	Sr. No.	Status of Earning	Number	Percentage
a	Status of earning	1.	Earning	138	51.1
		2.	Not earning	132	48.9
			Total	270	100.0
b	Earning amount per month	1.	≤200	68	49.3
		2.	201-400	29	21.1
		3.	401-600	10	7.2
		4.	601-800	13	9.4
		5.	801-1000	18	13.0
	Total		138	100.0	

Table 3 reveals that majority of respondents 86.3 were belonged to upper lower socio economic status. 10.0 per cent respondents were belonged to lower socio economic status. 02.6 per cent respondents were belonged to lower middle socio economic status followed by 01.1 per cent belonged to upper middle socio economic status, respectively.

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their Socio Economic Status (SES)			
Sr. No.	SES Category	Number	Percentage
1.	Lower	27	10.0
2.	Upper Lower	233	86.3
3.	Lower Middle	07	02.6
4.	Upper Middle	03	01.1
	Total	270	100.0

Average MPCII=1171.10±402.74
Range=(416.67-5000)

Interest of Respondents in Learning Income Generating Activities (IGA) in Participatory Group Training (PGT) :

Findings of the interest of respondent in learning IGA in PGT and its relation with their age, caste and educational stature were shown in the following table.

Table 4a reveals that majority of respondents 60.4 per cent were interested in learning IGA in PGT followed by 24.8 per cent respondent who were unable to say about their interest, respectively. 14.8 per cent respondents were not interested in learning IGA in PGT. It also reveals that majority of respondents 83.1 per cent were belonged to the age group of above 40 years and statistical test χ^2 shows that there was a significant difference in proportion of women interested in learning IGA in PGT among different age group. Table 4b shows the caste wise distribution of respondents and its relation with their interest. Majority of respondents 62.2 per cent who were interested in learning IGA in PGT, belonged to the SC/ST caste followed by 59.7 per cent respondents who belonged to the Other Backward Caste, respectively. The statistical test χ^2 shows that there is a variation in the interest of respondents in learning IGA in PGT with their caste but statistically the variation was not

Table 4 : Distribution of respondents according to their interest in learning IGA in PGT and its relation to their age, caste and educational status

Table 4	Title	Sr. No.	Age in Years	Interest Level						Total	
				Interested		Cannot say		Not interested		No.	%
				No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
a	Age	1.	≤ 30	45	50.6	31	34.8	13	14.6	89	100.0
		2.	31-40	92	69.7	23	17.4	17	12.9	132	100.0
		3.	> 40	26	83.1	13	26.5	10	22.4	49	100.0
			Total	163	60.4	67	24.8	40	14.8	270	100.0
$\chi^2 = 11.69, df = 4, P < 0.05$											
b	Caste	1.	SC/ST	46	62.2	15	20.3	13	17.5	74	100.0
		2.	OBC	117	59.7	52	26.5	27	13.8	196	100.0
			Total	163	60.4	67	24.8	40	14.8	270	100.0
$\chi^2 = 1.43, df = 2, P > 0.05$											
c	Educational status	1.	Illiterate	94	61.4	31	20.3	28	18.3	153	100.0
		2.	Literate	69	59.0	36	30.8	12	10.2	117	100.0
			Total	163	60.4	67	24.8	40	14.8	270	100.0
$\chi^2 = 5.99, df = 2, P < 0.05$											

significant. Table 4c reveals the interest of respondents in learning IGA in PGT and its relation with their educational status. It was presented that majority of respondents 61.4 per cent who were interested in learning were illiterate followed by 59.0 per cent respondents who were literate, respectively. Respondents who were not interested in learning IGA in PGT, 18.3 per cent of them were illiterate and 10.2 per cent were literate. The statistical test χ^2 shows that there was a significant difference in proportion of their interest in learning IGA in PGT among different educational status.

Reasons of taking and not taking interest in IGA in PGT :

Table 5 reveals the opinion of respondents about the reasons of taking or not taking interest in learning income generating works in participatory group training.

Table 5 : Distribution of respondents opinion about their reasons in taking interest in learning IGA in PGT

Sr. No.	Reasons for taking interest	Opinion						Total	
		Yes		Can not say		No		No.	%
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
1.	Easy to reach	113	69.3	45	27.6	05	3.1	163	100.0
2.	No objection to family	108	66.3	38	23.3	17	10.4	163	100.0
3.	Interest in coming and working together	126	77.3	27	16.6	10	6.1	163	100.0
4.	Social Security	142	87.11	09	5.52	12	7.37	163	100.0

Table 5 presents the opinion of the respondents about the reasons of taking interest in learning IGA in PGT. It shows that majority of respondents 87.11 per cent said that they felt social security in it, followed by 77.3 per cent respondents reported that it was interesting to come and work together, respectively. 69.3 per cent respondents said that it was easy for them to reach at the training spot and 66.3 per cent respondents said that their family had no objection if they go to learn together in group with other women.

Table 6 presents the opinion of respondents about the reasons for not taking interest in learning IGA in PGT. It show that majority of respondents 45.0 per cent reported that they had no experience about this. 27.5 per cent respondents said that they had family pressure followed by 20.0 per cent

Table 6 : Distribution of respondents opinion about their reasons in not taking interest in learning IGA in PGT

Sr. No.	Reasons for not taking interest	Number	Percentage
1.	Had no experience	18	45.0
2.	Family pressure	11	27.5
3.	Lack of social contact/communication	08	20
4.	Unable to adjust	03	7.5
	Total	40	100.0

respondents reported the reasons that they were unable to adjust in group and 7.5 per cent respondents reported that they had lack of social contact /communication, respectively.

Summary and Conclusion :

The findings of the present study reveals that majority of respondents were belonged to the age group of 31-40 years followed by respondents of less than equal to 30 years of age group, respectively. Majority of respondents 97.0 per cent were Hindus and 73.0 per cent respondents were belonged to the other backward caste. 90.0 per cent respondents were married and 56.6 per cent were illiterate. According to their economic status majority of respondents 51.1 per cent were earning and 49.3 per cent earning less than 200 rupees per month to support their family. It was found that majority of respondents 86.3 per cent belonged to the upper lower Socio economic status. According to the findings about the interest of respondents in learning IGA in PGT and its relation with their age, caste and educational status. Majority of respondents 60.4 per cent were interested and majority of them were of above 40 years of age group. Majority of respondents were SC/ST caste category and majority of them who were interested in learning IGA in PGT were illiterate. The statistical test χ^2 shows there was a significant difference in proportion of women interested in learning IGA in PGT among different age group in proportion of their interest in learning IGA in PGT among different educational status. It also shows that there was a variation in the interest of respondents in learning IGA in PGT with their caste but statistically the variation was not significant. Respondents were asked about their interest in learning IGA in PGT. Majority of respondents 87.11 were reported that they had social security followed by 77.3 per cent respondents said that it was interesting for them to come and work together about 66 to 70.0 per cent respondents said their family had no objection to go to training place together and they felt it was easy to reach there together. 14.8 per cent respondents reported that they were not interested in learning IGA in PGT. Majority of them 22.4 per cent were belonged to the age group of above 40 years. 17.5 per cent respondents were belonged to SC/ST caste and 18.3 per cent of them were illiterate. The findings of the study also reveals the opinion of respondents about the reasons of not taking interest in learning IGA in PGT. It was found that 45.0 per cent respondents had no experience about this type of learning, 27.5 per cent respondents were reported that they had family pressure and 20.0 per cent of them reported that due to lack of social contact/communication they were not interested. 7.5 per cent respondents said that they were unable to adjust in participatory training group for learning IGA.

Finally the study reveals that majority of respondents were interested in learning Income generating activities in participatory group and they gave their opinion about the reasons of it they felt social security and it was interesting for them to come and work together, it was easy to reach at training spot together and their family had no objection if they go together with the other women

in group. It was also found in the study that some women were not interested in learning IGA in PGT they gave their reasons and said that they had no experience of learning IGA in PGT and had family pressure. Many of them were reported that there was lack of social contact/communication and they were unable to adjust with other women in group. Sharma and Verma (2008) were also reported in their study that taking participation with interest in IGA helps the overall empowerment of women. So that for making women more empowered the findings of the study were very supportive and through it success of any development programme and action could be ensured.

Suggestions :

The findings of the study would help any government, non- government and voluntary agencies and institutions that make plan and action for women empowerment. Before making and implementing any development programme they should consider the interest of women and the reasons which ensure their interest in programme. They should minimize the difficulties of women and try to create their interest in programme so that the better learning and success of the programme could be ensured.

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