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Relationship between profile of farm women and training needs

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Abstract

The present study aims to identify the relationship between the profile the farm women of the Marathwada region with the training needs to improve the accessibility, relevance, and effectiveness of training initiatives. The study was conducted in Parbhani and Manwath tehsils of Parbhani district, located in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state in India. An ex-post-facto research design was adopted for this study. From the nine tehsils in the district, Parbhani and Manwath were randomly selected based on their agricultural engagement. A list of villages with high female participation in agriculture were selected using simple random sampling, resulting in a total sample size of 120 respondents. Data were collected through structured interviews using a pre-tested questionnaire. Collected data were classified, tabulated and analysed by using statistical Pearson's correlation coefficient. The results of correlation coefficient analysis showed that the independent variables such as education, landholding, annual income, social participation, time spent, farming experience, knowledge level, extent of participation and training preferences were positively and significantly associated with the training needs of the farm women. Variables like, age, farming experience, and decision-making behaviour showed a negative correlation. Non-significant correlation was observed between knowl and training needs of respondents.

Keywords: Farm women, agricultural training, training accessibility, training needs, illiteracy, women in agriculture

Introduction

In India, agriculture is the primary occupation for rural populations and a vital source of livelihood. Women represent nearly half of the population, with 84 per cent of rural women depending on agriculture, comprising 33 per cent of cultivators and 47 per cent of agricultural labourers (Women in agriculture in India, 2025) [8]. Despite legal provisions for equal status, women often assume a subordinate role while bearing substantial family responsibilities both on farms and in households. Rural women influence family socio-economic activities, providing care services and overseeing welfare while engaging in field operations from land preparation to storage. Though they make critical decisions in the family head's absence, their contributions often go unrecognised. Rural women participate extensively in agricultural operations, including manure application, land preparation, sowing, planting, weeding, irrigation, harvesting, storing grains, and managing livestock. They spend 10-12 hours daily on household chores and agricultural work, yet their economic labour remains undervalued. In rural India, the farm and home are inseparable, with women directly involved in agricultural production and decision-making processes related to farm management. Recognising the importance of women in development, the Government of India has prioritised projects to encourage their participation. However, rural women often show limited response to advanced techniques due to restricted exposure. Therefore, providing agricultural training is essential to enhance their knowledge of innovations, build confidence, and improve efficiency.

Training is a systematic process of acquiring knowledge and skills to enhance job performance, productivity, and efficiency (Shyam *et al*., 2016) [7]. A crucial step in any training program is assessing training needs, which involves identifying the gap between current and desired performance levels and exploring ways to bridge it (Deka *et al*., 2020) [1]. Such assessments help determine the changes

in knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviours that can significantly improve individual and organisational outcomes. With this background, the present study was undertaken to assess the perceived training needs of farm women engaged in agriculture in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in Parbhani and Manwath tehsils of Parbhani district, located in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. From a list of villages with high female participation in agriculture, twelve villages, six villages from each tehsil, were randomly selected. In each village, ten farm women actively engaged in agricultural activities were chosen, resulting in a total sample of 120 respondents. Data were collected using a structured interview schedule developed in line with the study objectives. Personal interviews were conducted by the researcher in an informal manner to build rapport and encourage accurate responses. The collected data were tabulated, quantified into frequencies and percentages, and subjected to scoring wherever required. To examine the relationship between socio-economic and personal characteristics of respondents on their perceived training needs, Pearson's correlation coefficient were calculated.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of relationship of profile of farm women with Training needs

Sr. No	Category	Correlation coefficient
1.	Age	-0.33*
2.	Education	0.19**
3.	Landholding	0.26*
4.	Annual income	0.20**
5.	Farming experience	-0.32*
6.	Social participation	0.18**
7.	Time spent	0.18*
8.	Decision making behaviour	-0.26*
9.	Knowledge level	-0.09 ^{NS}
10.	Extent of participation	0.28*
11.	Training duration	0.21*

(**significant at 1%, *significant at 5%, ^{NS}non-significant)

The outcomes of the correlation analysis is showed in Table 1. The results revealed several significant relationships between the profile of farm women and their perceived training needs.

Age exhibited a negative and significant correlation (-0.33*), indicating that as age increases, the inclination toward training needs decreases. This finding aligns with the results of Dutt and Chole (2002) [3]. Similarly, farming experience (-0.32*) and decision-making behaviour (-0.26*) showed negative and significant relationships, suggesting that women with greater farming experience or higher involvement in decision-making may be less receptive to additional training interventions.

Conversely, education (0.19**) showed a positive and significant correlation, in line with the findings of Pal and Gupta (2022) [5]. Landholding (0.26*) was also positively and significantly related, supporting the results of Mande and Nimbalkar (2010) [4]. Annual income (0.20**) demonstrated a similar positive and significant relationship, consistent with the findings of Sharma *et al*. (2020) [2]. Social participation (0.18**) was positively correlated, aligning with the observations of Sharma *et al*. (2020) [6].

In addition, time spent on farming (0.18*), extent of participation (0.28*), and training duration (0.21*) all exhibited positive and significant correlations, suggesting that greater involvement in farming activities and longer training exposure are associated with enhanced training engagement and effectiveness. On the other hand, knowledge level showed a negative but non-significant correlation (-0.09 ^{NS}), indicating no meaningful relationship with training needs in this study.

Conclusion

Farm women play a vital role in Indian agriculture, yet their contributions remain undervalued and their access to modern practices limited. This study, conducted with 120 respondents from Parbhani district using correlation analysis, examined the relationship between socio-economic factors and training needs. The findings showed that education, landholding, income, social participation, time spent, extent of participation, and training duration were positively associated with training needs, whereas age, farming experience, and decision-making behaviour were negatively related. Knowledge level showed no significant association. These results highlight the importance of designing need-based training programmes that consider socio-economic differences to strengthen the role of farm women in agriculture.

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