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Training need identification of fisherwomen involved in post-harvest activities of marine fisheries in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

This study investigates the training requirements of fisherwomen involved in post-harvest activities in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, India. The research, conducted during 2020-21, utilized a random sampling method to select 120 women respondents and employed a pre-tested interview schedule for data collection. Results indicate that a significant portion of respondents were middle-aged and predominantly illiterate. The majority of these women fall into the low-income category. The study reveals a strong demand for training in income-generating activities, marketing, and value addition. The women expressed a preference for short-duration training programs (1-2 days) conducted within their villages to accommodate their mobility constraints. Addressing these training needs could significantly enhance the economic resilience and empowerment of fisherwomen in this region.

Keywords: Fisherwomen, post-harvest activities, training needs, income generation

Introduction

The coastal inhabitants rely primarily on fishing as their main source of income. Male members of the fishing community mostly participate in fish harvesting activities, while their female counterparts are active in post-harvest activities and the marketing of fish. Sriharsha *et al.* (2022) [2]. Fisherwomen have a crucial role in the livelihood of fisherman families as they contribute to both home and fisheries activities. Nevertheless, fisherwomen in India, as a whole, encounter numerous challenges such as insufficient vocational expertise, gender discrimination, susceptibility to climate change, and restricted availability of financial services. These issues can be resolved by the implementation of training programs for female fishers. Vocational and proficiency-based trainings have a crucial role in enhancing the effective management of marine resources, advancing fishing practices, fostering resilience, and promoting the preservation of cultural heritage and economic empowerment of women engaged in fishing activities. This study article investigates the training requirements of female fishers in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Methodology

The research was carried out in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2020-21. A random sampling method was used to choose a sample of 120 women respondents that are involved in marine fisheries. A pre-tested interview schedule was utilized to gather data on

frequency percentages, and correlation analysis was employed to analyse the results.

Results and Discussion

1. Age

According to the study, 50.00 per cent of the women were categorized as middle-aged, while 40.83 per cent were classified as young. Merely a minute fraction (09.17%) were categorized as being inside the old age group. The results are consistent with the findings of Kavi *et al.* (2022) [1].

2. Education

Majority of the respondents (57.50%) were illiterate, while around one fifth (19.17%) had achieved a high school level of education. Only 10.00 percent of respondents had a middle school education, while 09.17 percent had finished primary education. Only 3.00% of individuals had successfully finished their PUC (Pre-University Course), while a mere 0.83% had attained formal education up to the degree level.

3. Annual Income

The findings revealed that 88.33 percent of the women belonged to low-income category, whereas a small proportion (16.67%) belonged to the medium-income category (. None of them had a high income.

Training need assessment

Table 1: Training needs and duration of training programmes as expressed by women participating in post-harvest activities of marine fisheries n=120

| Sl. No | Topics for training | f (%) | One day f (%) | Two days f (%) |
|--------|--|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Marketing of fish | 19 (15.83) | 07 (05.83) | 02 (01.67) |
| 2 | Income generating activities along with post-harvest activities of marine fisheries. | 17 (14.17) | 04 (03.33) | 15 (12.50) |
| 3 | Value addition | 05 (04.17) | 00 (00.00) | 13 (10.83) |

Training needs expressed in Table 1 showed that 15.83 per cent of the respondents indicated their need for training on marketing, 14.17 per cent expressed training on income generating activities and only (04.17%) of the respondents expressed training on value addition to prepare fish products.

It also showed that 12.50 per cent of respondents need two days and 03.33 per cent need one day training on income generating activities. Very few (10.83%) said need for two days training on value addition. Similarly, 05.83 per cent need one day and 01.67 per cent need two days training programme on marketing of fish.

It was observed from Table 1 that, women expressed the need for training on income generating activities. The reason might be that the women income was very low and not enough to meet all the family requirements. During fish ban period if they have other entrepreneurial activities, they get additional income.

Some of the respondents need training on marketing of fish and value addition. They need training regarding marketing price, fixing price to fetch more profit. Training in value addition aspect helps them to prepare products like fish pickle/prawn pickle etc. during when fish available in abundance with different varieties. These value-added products can be sell during of season (fish ban period). By adding value to fish women can earn more money by using their time efficiently. The women expressed they need 1-2 days training at their villages. Only as they cant go to training centers. The results are in line with findings of Geethalakshmi *et al.* (2012)^[3].

Conclusion

The findings of this study underscore the critical need for targeted training programs to support fisherwomen in post-harvest activities in Andhra Pradesh. By focusing on income-generating activities, marketing strategies, and value addition techniques, these programs can help mitigate the financial vulnerabilities faced by these women. Implementing short-term, village-based training sessions will ensure greater accessibility and participation. Ultimately, these efforts can contribute to improved livelihoods, economic empowerment, and sustainable fisheries management in coastal communities.

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