

Original Research Article

Socio-Economic Profile of the Rural Youth Trainees on Mushroom Production in Western part of Uttar Pradesh

ABSTRACT

The present research study was carried out during 2022-23 to know the Socio-economic status of the rural youth trainees on mushroom production in Western part of Uttar Pradesh. Three KVKs were chosen for the study. From each KVK, 60 respondents were chosen constituting a sample of 180 respondents. Structured interview schedule was used to collect data through personal interview method. The study reported that majority (57.78%) of the respondents belonged to middle aged group of 25 to 30 years, male (83.90%) belonging to other backward caste (53.33%), educated upto middle school (29.40%), married (77.80%) with marginal land holding (49.40%) and 76.10% had social participation. Majority (52.78%) of the respondents were involved in mushroom production, were having medium (43.30%) annual income of 1 to 4 lakhs, medium (51.11%) information source utilization, low experience (66.67%) of upto 5 years, medium (54.44%) achievement motivation and medium (54.44%) economic motivation. Majority (70.56%) of the respondents received on campus training and maximum (66.67%) respondents participated in three days training programmes.

Keywords: Krishi Vignan Kendra, Mushroom Production, Rural Youths, Training, Socio-economic profile, Achievement motivation, Economic motivation

INTRODUCTION:

The KVKs are composite training institutions. They deal with all agricultural subjects including home science. The experiences support that with the limited subject matter specialists /scientists provided in the KVKs, the massive demand for training the farmers and farm women is not being met. Both for quality as well as quantity, it has been emphasized to link each discipline of the KVK to its respective discipline of the department of host institution either SAUs or the ICAR research institutes. To bridge the gap between modern agricultural techniques and rural practices, KVKs are dedicated for transfer of technology (TOT) knowledge through methodologies such as on-farm testing (OFT), front-line demonstration (FLD), and comprehensive training programs aimed at enhancing the skills of rural youth. Nazir *et al.* (2013) emphasized the importance of KVKs in providing both short- and long-term vocational training courses that are tailored to the specific needs of the community, fostering skill-oriented development. Venkatasubramanian *et al.* (2009) in his study listed out various trainings such as training for rural youth (both on and off campus), vocational training programs (both on and off campus), sponsored training programs (both on and off campus) at KVKs which are aimed at improving skills of farmers, rural youth, and extension personnel. He also categorized trainings as short-duration trainings (1-7 days), medium-duration trainings (8-14 days), and long-duration trainings (3-4 weeks).

Modern agricultural technologies and relevant skills are crucial components in driving agricultural advancements and empowering youth to become successful entrepreneurs. The acquisition of knowledge and the mastery of contemporary agricultural practices have a profound impact on rural development. This research endeavours to examine the profile of the KVKs trainees and the duration of trainings they have under. This study seeks to shed light on the profound impact of KVKs on rural youth by investigating the

status of knowledge retention and skill application following vocational training. By understanding the intricacies of this relationship, we can discern the pivotal role played by KVKs in shaping the agricultural landscape and driving the transformation of rural communities. Based on the above views an attempt was made to understand the functioning and assessing the profile of KVK trainees in Western part of Uttar Pradesh with the following specific objective:

- 1) To assess the socio-economic profile of the trainees
- 2) Types of training imparted by KVK staff to the trainees

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted during 2022 in western region of Uttar Pradesh which was selected purposively because the researcher is studying at SVPUA&T Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Out of 20 KVKs under the jurisdiction of the university, three KVKs were selected purposely namely, Swami Kalyan Dev K.V.K., Hastinapur, Meerut, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Muradnagar, Ghaziabad and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Khajuri Bagh, Saharanpur as these KVKs are working best in providing training in the area of Mushroom Production. From each KVK, 60 respondents were chosen randomly from the list of rural youth trainees provided by the KVK personnel who had taken on-campus rural youth training programmes during 2017-2021. Thus, a total 180 respondents were selected for the study. The socio-economic profile of trainees was studied using the variables namely, age, gender, caste category, education status, marital status, social participation, land holding, occupation, milch animal possessions, annual family income, information source utilization, mushroom cultivation experiences, achievement motivation and economic motivation. The statistical tools used for the study were frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Socio-economic profile of the trainees

Age:

The data table 1 indicates that the majority (57.78%) of the respondents belonged to middle age group of 25 to 30 years followed by old age group of above 30 years (24.44%). Only 17.78% of the respondents were in the young age group up to 24 years. In general, middle-aged people are more capable and passionate than younger and older age groups. Middle-aged people are also more responsible than younger people. In comparison to older people, they appear to be more interested in development and to want more money from side jobs. This could be the cause of the bulk of respondents being in the medium age group. The results were in line with the findings of Biswas *et al.* (2008) and Sunil and Manjula (2010).

Gender:

Analyzing the data presented in the table 1, it is evident that a majority (83.90%) of the respondents identified as male, while a smaller proportion (16.10%) identified as female. The participation of women was low due to long duration on campus training programmes as it is difficult for them to spare time to attend and stay in the campus and mostly, they attended home science programme. The results were in line with the findings of Radhakrishnan (2013).

Caste:

Table 1 show that the majority (53.33%) of the respondents identified with the other backward caste category, followed by the General caste (32.22%), the Schedule caste (08.89%) and Schedule tribes (05.56%). The probable reason for the result was to improve their

socio economic status they took training from the KVKs. These findings align with the research of Kailash *et al.* (2017).

Educational Status:

Analyzing the data presented in the table 1, it becomes evident that the majority (93.10%) of the respondents were literate, whereas only a small percentage (06.90%) identified as illiterate. The range of education among literate respondents varied from primary to postgraduate levels. Among literate respondents, the highest percentage (29.40%) had completed education up to middle school, followed by high school (27.80%), intermediate (13.30%), graduate (06.70%), literate (06.70%), and postgraduate (05.60%).

These results correspond with the findings of Biswas *et al.* (2008).

Marital Status:

The data is presented in table 1. represents that majority (77.80%) of the respondents were married followed by unmarried (22.20 %). Such a high level of marital status was because of their family commitments and to improve and bring their family through sustainable livelihood activities. Rural communities frequently see a lot of early marriages. These are the primary causes of the high level of married status in the study area. The results were in line with Seema prakalpa and Jadoun (2014).

Land Holding:

The results presented in the table 1. indicates that the majority (49.40%) of respondents fell under the category of marginal farmers, followed by small farmers (36.70%), medium farmers (11.10%), and large farmers (02.80%). The probable reason for having small holding was fragmentation of the land between the family members. Similar results have been reported by Prashad *et al.* (2017) and Medhi *et al.* (2020).

Social Participation:

An analysis of the table 1 shows that majority (76.10%) of the respondents were affiliated with one or more organizations, whereas the remaining (23.90%) were not members of any organization. These findings demonstrate the general interest in social organizations among respondents. It can be because of Krishi Vigyan Kendra's initiatives or awareness. Most of the rural youths may have participated in social activities because of their willingness to volunteer their time, knowledge of KVK training programmes for income-generating enterprises, and family support for social mobility and self-confidence. The results were in line with Sharma *et al.* (2020).

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their age, gender, caste, educational status, marital status, land holding and social participation.

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age			
1.	Young (upto24 years)	32	17.78
2.	Middle (between25to30 years)	104	57.78
3.	Old(above30 years)	44	24.44
Gender			
1.	Male	151	83.90
2.	Female	29	16.10
Caste			
1.	General	58	32.22
2.	Other Backward Caste (OBC)	96	53.33
3.	Schedule Caste (SC)	16	08.89
4.	Schedule Tribe (ST)	10	05.56

Educational Status			
1.	Illiterate	11	06.10
2.	Literate	15	08.30
3.	Primary School (up to 3 class)	5	02.80
4.	Middle School(4 to 7 class)	53	29.40
5.	High School(8 to 10 class)	50	27.80
6.	Intermediate (10+2)	24	13.30
7.	Graduate	12	06.70
8.	Post Graduate	10	05.60
Marital Status			
1.	Married	140	77.80
2.	Unmarried	40	22.20
Land Holding			
1.	Marginal (< 1 ha)	89	49.40
2.	Small (1-2 ha.)	66	36.70
3.	Medium (2-4 ha.)	20	11.10
4.	Large (>4 ha.)	05	02.80
Social Participation			
1.	Member	137	76.10
2.	Non-Member	43	23.90

Occupation:

As depicted in Table 2, a significant majority (52.80%), of the respondents were engaged in mushroom production which was the most prevalent occupation. This was followed by

farming (26.67%), wage earning (11.10%), a combination of farming and mushroom production (08.89%), and lastly, service-oriented roles (00.56%) respectively. The probable reason was most of the respondents took trainings related to mushroom and they took it as their career.

Annual Family Income:

The results from Table 2 shows that majority (43.30%) of the respondents reported a medium family income of 1 to 4 lakhs, followed by a significant share (35.60%) indicated a low family income, while a comparatively smaller portion (21.10%) reported a high family income, respectively.

Information source utilization:

The data from the Table 2 reveals that a significant portion of the respondents (51.11%) exhibited a medium level of information source utilization, followed by low (20.56%) and high (28.33%) level of information source utilization. The probable reason was the respondents were in regular contact with the information sources to get latest information related to various activities. The findings align with the observations of Rosaiah (2002).

Mushroom Cultivation Experience:

Table 2 shows that majority (66.67%) of the respondents reported having low mushroom cultivation experience of up to five years, followed by notable proportion with medium (24.44%) cultivation experience spanning above 5 to 10 years, while a smaller percentage (08.89%) possessed high experience exceeding 10 years. The probable reason for the result was most of them joined the trainings of KVKs recently and took trainings related to mushroom cultivation which leads to have a low experience.

Achievement Motivation:

Table 2 reports that a majority (54.44%) of the respondents exhibited a medium level of achievement motivation, followed by (27.23%) with high level of achievement motivation, while a smaller segment (18.33%) indicated a low level of achievement motivation. The probable reason was the respondents were highly motivated towards achieving higher positions. These results parallel the findings of Kumar (2001) and Bortamuly (2015).

Economic Motivation:

Table 2 indicates that majority (52.78%) of the respondents exhibited a high level of economic motivation whereas (32.78%) displayed a medium level of economic motivation, and a smaller portion 04.44% indicated low level of economic motivation. The reason for having high economic motivation was the respondents were oriented towards gaining more profits and improve their economic status.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their occupation, milch animal possessions, annual family income, source of information, mushroom cultivation experience, achievement motivation and economic motivation (N=180)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Occupation			
1.	Wage earners	20	11.10
2.	Services	01	00.56
3.	Mushroom production	95	52.78
4.	Farming	48	26.67
5.	Farming+ mushroom production	16	08.89
Annual Family Income			
1.	Low (upto1 lakh)	64	35.60
2.	Medium (1 to 4 lakhs)	78	43.30

3.	High (above 4 Lakhs)	38	21.10
Information source utilization			
1.	Low (up to 42)	37	20.56
2.	Medium (42-58)	92	51.11
3.	High (above 58)	51	28.33
Mean = 49.58		SD = 8.11	
Mushroom Cultivation Experience			
1.	Low (up to 5 years)	120	66.67
2.	Medium (5 to10 years)	44	24.44
3.	High (above 10 years)	16	08.89
Achievement Motivation			
1.	Low (up to 13)	33	18.33
2.	Medium (13to 18)	98	54.44
3.	High (above18)	49	27.23
Mean = 15.74		SD = 2.25	
Economic Motivation			
1.	Low (up to 17)	26	14.44
2.	Medium (17 to 24)	95	52.78
3.	High (above 24)	59	32.78
Mean = 20.95		SD = 3.37	

2.Types of training imparted by KVK staff to the trainees

Place of training programme:

Table 3 shows that majority (70.56%) of the trainees received on campus training from the KVK because all training facilities and trainers are available at training center followed by off campus (29.44 %), respectively. The probable reason for having high result for on campus trainings was it will be easy for the trainees to attend the trainings from their homes reducing troubles of travelling and they can do other activities at the home and farm rather than visiting out of town to attend trainings. Similar results were reported by Dubey *et al.* (2008) and Deshmukh and Singh (2022)

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to their place of training received

(N= 180)

Sr. No.	Type of Training	Frequency	Percentage
1.	On campus	127	70.56
2.	Off campus	53	29.44

Duration of training programme:

Table 4 shows that majority of respondents (66.67%) took three days training programme followed by one week (19.44%) and one day (13.89%), respectively. The probable reason for the results was for any training programme to be purposeful, effective and to gain in-depth knowledge they want minimum three days duration training programme which was found to be sufficient. Similar results were reported by Deshmukh and Singh (2022)

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to duration of training received

(N= 180)

Sr. No.	Duration of Training	Frequency	Percentage
1.	One day	25	13.89
2.	Three days	120	66.67
3.	One week	35	19.44

CONCLUSION

Majority of trainees were in the age category of 25 to 35 years and majority of the trainees who participated in the training programme observed under the study were male belonging to other backward classes and were married. Maximum trainees were educated upto middle school engaged in mushroom production and farming, and possessed marginal land, had membership in organizations with medium family income. The study underscored the pivotal role of information sources in influencing decision-making, with a considerable proportion of respondents exhibiting medium utilization levels. Additionally, their mushroom cultivation experience primarily fell within the range of up to five years, and achievement motivation was commonly reported at medium levels, indicating a balanced pursuit of excellence. Economic motivation was medium with a substantial number of respondents exhibiting high levels of desire for financial success. Most of the trainees preferred the on-campus training programme. Maximum trainees found three days of training method helped in improving their knowledge. A look into the study of the training programme, it is heartening to note that the trainees had shown an overall satisfaction and high regard for the KVK training, the subject matter specialists, the facilities etc.

REFERENCES

1. **Balu, S. (2000).** Appraisal of Janmabhoomi programme by rural people in Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. *M.Sc. (Ag) Thesis*, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
2. **Biswas, S., A. Sarkar and A. Goswami, (2008).** Impact of KVK training on Advance Dairy Farming Practices in changing knowledge and attitude of Pranibandhu. *Journal of Dairying Foods Home Science*, 27: 43-46.
3. **Bortamuly, D. (2015).** A Study on the Role Performance of the Agricultural Extension Personnel in the Revitalized Extension System in the State of Assam. Ph.D. Thesis. Department of Extension Education, Faculty of Agriculture, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam.
4. **Chandrapaul, K. (1998).** A study on entrepreneurial behaviour of vegetable growers in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. *M.Sc. (Ag) Thesis*, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
5. **Deshmukh, S. and Singh, M. (2022).** Assessing Training Need Through Participatory Rural Appraisal and Situational with TWOS Matrix, *The Pharma Innovation*, 11(11): 40-47.
6. **Dubey, A. K., Srivastva, J.P., Singh, R.P. and Sharma, V.K. (2008).** Impact of KVK Training Programme on Socio –economic Status and Knowledge of Trainees in Allahabad District, *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.* 8 (2&3): 61-61.
7. **Kailash, Mishra, O.P., Singh, S.K. and Verma, H. K. (2017).** A study on socioeconomic impact of use the mobile phone technology among the farmers of Rajasthan state. *Agric. Update*,12(3):454-458.
8. **Kumar, K. (2001).** Entrepreneurial behaviour of floriculture farmers in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh *M.Sc (Ag) Thesis*, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.

9. **Medhi, S., Singha, A.K., Singh, R. and Singh, R. J. (2020)** Socio-economic, Psychological Profile and Constraints faced by the KVK Adopted Farmers for Improved Rice Cultivation in West Garo Hills District, *Economic Affairs*,65(3): 379-388.
10. **Nazir, T., Vaida, N and Dar, M. A. (2013).** Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras for empowerment of rural women through vocational trainings. *Basic Research Journal of Agricultural Science and Review*, 2(3): 51-56.
11. **Prashad, N., Verma, S.K., Singh, K.M., Singh, L.B. and Sahu, R.P. (2017).** To Study the Association Between Socio-economic and Communication Characteristics on Knowledge, Attitude and Adoption of the Respondents,*Interaction*, 30 (1): 127-131.
12. **Radhakrishnan, P. (2013).** A Study on Shifting Pattern of Rural Youth and the means for Retention in Agriculture. Unpublished. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, AC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore.
13. **Rosaiah Yeluri, (2002).** An Analysis of Knowledge Gap on IPM Technologies of Cotton A Systems Approach. Unpublished. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, AC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore.
14. **Seemaprakalpa and Jadoun, P. (2014).**Socio-economic status and knowledge and their impact on trainees of K.V.K., *International Journal of Communication & Business Manage*, 7(2): 329-333.
15. **Sharma P.S., Prajapati V.S. and Jadav N.B (2020).** Socio-economic profile of ruralfarmwomen in KVK operational villages of Rajkot district. *Journal of the SocialSciences*,48(3): 4264-4270.
16. **Sunil,N.K.and Manjula,N.(2010).**Socio-economic,psychologicalandextensionattributes of trained and untrained farmers of KVK, Bijapur, *Agriculture Update*,5(1&2): 38-42
17. **Venkatasubramanian, V., Sajeev, M.V. and Singha, A.K. (2009).** Concepts, Approaches and Methodologies for Technology Application and Transfer: A Resource book for KVKs. Umiam, Meghalaya: Zonal Project Directorate, Zone – III.