Socio-Economic Profile of the Krishi Vignan Kendra Trainees in Western part of Uttar Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

The present research study was carried out during 2022-23 to known the Socio-economic profile of the Krishi Vignan Kendra trainees in Western part of Uttar Pradesh. Out of 20 Krishi Vignan Kendras (KVKs) under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, meerut, three KVKs were selected purposively for the study. From each KVK, 60 respondents were selected randomly 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 were male (83.90%) belonging to other backward caste (53.33%), educated upto middle school (29.40%) with marginal land holding (49.40%) and 76.10% had social participation. Majority (52.78%) of the respondents were involved in mushroom production 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 in mushroom cultivation, medium (54.44%) achievement motivation and medium (54.44%) economic motivation. Maximum (70.56%) respondents received on campus training and (66.67%) of the respondents participated in three days training programmes.

Keywords: Krishi Vignan Kendra, Training, Trainees, Achievement motivation, Economic motivation

INTRODUCTION:

The Krishi Vignan Kendras are composite training institutions. They deal with all agricultural subjects including home science. With the help of subject matter specialists /scientists in the KVKs, training are provided to the farmers, youth and farm women on various activities according to their needs and interest. 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 farmers, farm women and rural youth. Nazir *et al*. (2013) emphasized that KVKs play an important role 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 their study listed out various trainings such as training for rural youth (both on and off campus), vocational training programmes, sponsored training programs 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 gone. 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 in 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

METHODOLOGY:

The present study was conducted during 2022-2023 in western region of Uttar Pradesh which was selected purposively because the researcher was studying at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, 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, Saharanpura. These KVKs are working best in providing training in the area of Mushroom Production. From each KVK, 60 respondents were selected randomly from the list provided by the KVK personnel who had taken training programmes during 2017-2021. Thus, a total of 180 respondents were selected for the study. The socio-economic profile of trainees was studied using the following variables namely, age, gender, caste, education status, social participation, land holding, occupation, annual family income, information source utilization, mushroom cultivation experience, 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 from the table 1 indicates that majority (57.78%) of the respondents belonged to middle age group of 25 to 30 years, followed by old age group (24.44%) of above 30 years. Only 17.78% of the respondents were in the young age group up to 24 years. In general, middle-aged people are more capable, passionate and responsible than younger and older age groups. In comparison, they appear to be more interested in development and to want more money. This could be the cause for the bulk of respondents being in the medium age group who took training from the KVKs. 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%) were 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. The results were in line with the findings of Mishra and Kumar (2008) and Radhakrishnan (2013).

Caste:

The data from the Table 1 represents that majority (53.33%) of the respondents belonged to other backward caste, followed by general caste (32.22%), schedule caste (08.89 %) and schedule tribes (05.56%). The probable reason for the result was more number of backward class people participated in the trainings in order to improve their socio economic status. These findings align with the research of Balu (2000) and 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%) was identified as illiterates. 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%). As education is important for an individual to improve the intellectual capabilities most of them had basic education and were unable to go for higher studies as there were no higher education institutions in the villages and nearby towns.

These results correspond with the findings of Biswas *et al*. (2008) and Patel *et a*l. (2017).

Land Holding:

The results presented in the table 1 indicates that majority (49.40%) of respondents were 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 of participation 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 to gain knowledge about various income-generating enterprises, technologies, family support for social mobility and self-confidence through KVK training programmes. 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)	05	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
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, majority (52.80%) of the respondents were engaged in mushroom production, 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. The results were in line with Awasthi *et al*. (2015) and Acharya *et al*. (2018)

Annual Family Income:

The results from Table 2 shows that majority (43.30%) of the respondents had medium family income of 1 to 4 lakhs, followed by 35.60% and 21.10% with low family income of less than 1 lakh and high family income of above 4 lakhs, respectively. The results

were in line with Kumar and Aski (2016)

Information source utilization:

The data from the table 2 reveals that maximum (51.11%) of the respondents reported medium level of information source utilization, followed by low (20.56%) and high (28.33%) level of information source utilization, respectively. 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 yeluri (2002).

Mushroom Cultivation Experience:

The results from table 2 indicates that majority (66.67%) of the respondents had low mushroom cultivation experience of up to five years, followed by medium (24.44%) cultivation experience between 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 took trainings related to mushroom cultivation recently which leads to have a low experience.

A**chievement Motivation:**

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

Economic Motivation:

Table 2 results indicates that majority (52.78%) of the respondents exhibited high level of economic motivation whereas 32.78% and 04.44% indicated medium and low level of economic motivation, respectively. The reason for having high economic motivation was the respondents were oriented towards gaining more profits and improve their economic status. The results were in parallel with the findings of Priyanka and Ghadei (2022).

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 data reveals 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.Distributionofthe respondentsaccordingtotheir place of trainingreceived

(N= 180)

Sr. No.	TypeofTraining	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Oncampus	127	70.56
2.	Offcampus	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%) training, respectively. The probable reason for the results was for any training programme to be purposeful, effective and to gain in-depth knowledge three days duration training programme was found to be sufficient. Similar results were reported by Deshmukh and Singh (2022)

Table 4. Distributionofrespondentsaccordingto duration of trainingreceived

(N= 180)

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

CONCLUSION:

The study on the socio economic profile of the rural youth reports that majority of respondents were in the age category of 25 to 35 years, male belonging to other backward classes. Maximum respondents were educated upto middle school, engaged in mushroom production and farming, possessed marginal land holding, 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. They had an experience of up to five years in mushroom cultivation, 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 respondents preferred on-campus training programme and found three days of training method helped in improving their knowledge. A look into the study of the KVK training programmes, it is heartening to note that the trainees had shown an overall satisfaction and high regard for the KVK training, the subject matter specialists and the facilities.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE LINE OF WORK:

The present study was conducted at only three KVKs of the university. It should be done on larger scales to make generalizations. Kind of trainings need by the respondents and their perception towards the training programmes can also be studied.

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