Himachal Journal of Agricultural Research Vol. 32(2) : 106-111, 2006

Attitude of rural women towards rural development programmes and some anxious problems

Suman Chandel, Rekha Chaubey and K.S.Chandel*
Centre for Geo-informatics Research and Training
CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur-176 062.

Abstract

The aim of this study was to determine the attitude of rural women towards Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) and the perceived problems facing rural women while involving them in different development programmes. The interviews were conducted with 112 rural women in two blocks of Una District of Himachal Pradesh. Women were categorized on the basis of income for further description of results. The results revealed that 59.00 percent of the respondents had favorable attitude towards development programmes offered by Government in rural areas. Twenty five per cent and 16 per cent had neutral and unfavourable attitude towards development programmes respectively. A variety of problems were experienced by these rural women while they involve in Rural Development Programmes. The problems faced by women beneficiaries manifested that majority of respondents manifested that majority of respondents faced socio-psychological problems, infrastructural, situational and organizational problems and marketing problems.

Introduction

Rural development is a multi-dimensional process to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the rural masses and to encourage and inculcate in them a sense of participation in the process of development by fuller utilization of physical and human resources and make life worth living far a state like Himachal Pradesh having nearly 92.00 per cent of its population living in a villages. Any programme for rural development is immense job and involves human factors, particularly when it proposes to change the set pattern of life style of people.

In Himachal Pradesh around three-fourths of the women population resides in rural areas. Therefore, it is essential to accord due recognition to the contribution of women in the various socio-economic, political and cultural spheres. The five decades have seen ceaseless efforts among the planners and the programmes executives to bring about a change in the Indian countryside through various programmes of rural development. But the crucial point is that whether the aim of these rural development programmes (RDPs) is to understand development in terms of fulfillments of certain physical targets or to bring about any qualitative change in the life style of the rural population in general and the betterment of rural women in particular. The different Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) have made special efforts to uplift women status. These programmes lead to the emergence of a variety of strategies and model through policies and programmes among women by making use of natural resources, skill and involvement with feeling of competitiveness. These programmes have been providing opportunities for the beneficiaries to take innovative activities at individual or group level through participatory development approach. In present study attempt has been made to determine the attitude of rural women towards development programmes and investigate the problems faced by rural women.

Methodology

The present study was carried out purposely in Himachal Pradesh because it is considered as a leading/model state for agriculture development among all hill areas of the country. Two blocks (Amb and Una) from Una District having highest number of women beneficiaries under IRDP were selected for the present study (Table 1). Five villages from each selected block with maximum women beneficiaries were selected. In all, there were 112 women beneficiaries in the ten selected villages and as such these were selected and interviewed for this study.

*Seed Production Unit, CSK HPKV, Palampur-176 062.

Table 1. Block-wise number of women beneficiaries in Una district (1999-2000 to 2000-2001)

Sr. No.	Block	1999-2000	2000-2001	Grand Total
1.	Amb	31	113	144
2.	Bangana	30	51	81
3.	Gagret	18	28	46
4.	Haroli	*	30	30
5.	Una	135	98	233
	Total	214	320	534

*Source: Block Development Office, Una, * Block was not Present.*

For the convenience of presentation of findings pertaining to the study, three income groups of women beneficiaries viz., (i) Low Income Group (LIG), (ii) Medium Income group (MIG) and (iii)High Income Group (HIG) were categorized on the basis of annual family income by employing the following type of Cumulative Frequency Root Method of Stratification. Block wise problems faced by these respondents were also been observed.

Results and Discussion

Attitude of women beneficiaries towards rural development programmes.

Attitude has been defined as the degree of positive or negative effects associated with some psychological object (Thurstone, 1946). The rural women's favourable, neutral and unfavourable attitude towards RDPs had been assessed as given in Table 2.

Table 2. Attitude of women beneficiaries towards rural development programmes

Block/income Groups	Unfavourable	Neutral	Favourable	Total
Amb				
LIG	02 (14.28)	04 (28.57)	08 (57.15)	14 (100)
MIG	04 (17.39)	07 (30.43)	12 (52.17)	23 (100)
HIG	02 (14.28)	02 (14.28)	10 (71.44)	14 (100)
Total	08 (15.69)	13 (25.49)	30 (58.82)	51 (100)
Una				
LIG	03 (16.67)	05 (27.78)	10 (5.55)	18 (100)
MIG	05 (16.13)	09 (29.30)	17 (54.84)	31 (100)
HIG	02 (16.67)	01 (8.34)	09 (79.99)	12 (100)
Total	10 (16.39)	15 (24.59)	36 (59.02)	61 (100)
Overall				
LIG	05 (15.63)	09 (28.12)	18 (56.25)	32 (100)
MIG	09 (16.67)	16 (29.63)	29 (53.70)	54 (100)
HIG	04 (15.38)	03 (11.54)	19 (73.08)	26 (100)
Total	18 (16.08)	28 (24.99)	66 (58.93)	112 (100)

Figures in parentheses are percentages

It was observed that in both blocks Amb and Una 58.82 per cent and 59.02 per cent of respondents had favourable attitude followed by neutral attitude 25.49 per cent in Amb and 24.59 per cent in Una. 15.69 per cent in Amb and 16.39 per cent had unfavourable attitude. On overall basis more than half (58.93%) had favourable, 24.99 per cent had neutral and 16.08 per cent had unfavourable attitude towards RDPs. It is heartening to observe these encouraging trends which suggest that if the RDPs are planned and delivered effectively, can improve the status of women.

Problems faced by rural women

In present section attempt has been made to investigate the problems faced by rural women while involving them in different rural development programmes. The problems faced by the women beneficiaries are studied under the following sub heads.

1. Socio-psychological and personal problems

The personal and socio-psychological problems (Table 3) indicated that problem of non-cooperative attitude of the family members faced by 44.64 per cent of the respondents. Poor risk taking ability and tension due to added responsibility was reported by 32.14 per cent of the respondents' vis-à-vis by lack of leisure time 28.57 per cent, lack of motivation from family members and society 24.99 per cent, lack of confidence 21.43 per cent lack of self motivation 16.07 per cent.

The percentage of personal and socio-psychological problems varied 10.71 per cent to 44.64 per cent, which indicated that majority of the respondents have little personal and socio-psychological problems. Nikhade and Patwardhan, (1990), who had also observed great physical and mental exertion among the women beneficiaries.

2. Situational and organizational problems

The situational and organizational problems revealed (Table 4.) that lack of timely guidance was reported by 32.14 per cent of the respondents followed by scarcity of space 30.36 per cent, biased attitude of the officials 26.78 per cent , harassment by officials in releasing fund 23.21 per cent and delay in supply of loan 14.28 per cent were the situational problems in order of magnitude (Table 4).

Table 3. Socio-psychological and personal problems faced by rural women

Sr.No.	Problems	Amb	Una	Total
1.	Non-Cooperative attitude of the family members	29 (56.84)	21 (34.44)	50 (44.64)
2.	Poor risk taking ability	19 (37.25)	17 (27.88)	36 (32.14)
3.	Tension due to added responsibility	17 (33.32)	19 (31.16)	36 (32.14)
4.	Lack of leisure time	25 (49.00)	07 (11.48)	32 (28.57)
5.	Lack of motivation from family and society	17 (33.32)	11 (18.04)	28 (24.99)
6.	Lack of confidence	15 (29.40)	09 (14.76)	24 (21.43)
7.	Lack of self motivation	11 (21.56)	07 (11.48)	18 (16.07)
8.	Health problem	09 (17.64)	07 (11.48)	16 (14.28)
9.	Heavy work load and responsibility	07 (13.72)	05 (8.20)	12 (10.71)

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentages

Table 4. Situational and organizational problems faced by rural women

Sr. No.	Problems	Amb	Una	Total
1.	Lack of timely guidance	13 (25.49)	23 (37.70)	36 (32.14)
2.	Scarcity of space	15 (29.41)	19 (31.14)	34 (30.36)
3.	Biased attitude of official	19 (37.25)	11 (18.03)	30 (26.78)
4.	Harassment by official in releasing funds	11 (21.57)	15 (24.59)	26 (23.21)
5.	Delay in supply of loan	09 (17.65)	07 (11.47)	16 (14.28)

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentages

Conclusively, results revealed that lack of timely guidance and scarcity of time and biased attitude were the major situational and organizational problems faced by the respondents. Guatam and Singh (1990) also observed that the major reasons for the non-functioning of units were due to situational and organizational problems of women beneficiaries.

3. Educational and communicational problems

The educational and communicational problems (Table 5) showed clearly that lack of communicational facilities at village level reported by 58.93 per cent of the respondents followed by more illiteracy 46.32 per cent lack of knowledge about training facilities 41.96 per cent, limited guidance 28.57 per cent, lack of knowledge about procurement of loan 24.99 per cent, and lack of knowledge about running the unit, 18.75 per cent were the educational and communicational problems in order of magnitude.

Hence, it may be concluded that lack of communicational facilities, high illiteracy, and lack of knowledge about training facilities was the major problems faced by the respondents, Yadav (1989) reported that large number of educational and communicational problems at village level compelled the rural women for non-adoption of technology and participation in scheme.

4. Infrastructural problems

The perusal of the result regarding infrastructural problems (Table 6) exhibited that lack of knowledge about advance technology regarding diary was indicated by 34.82 per cent of the respondents followed by lack of knowledge about handing diary units 33.03 per cent, lack of supply of electricity at village level 14.28 per cent distant location of head quarter/offices from village 14.28 per cent and lack of specialized skill for running unit 14.28 per cent.

These results are in agreement with the findings of Sharma (1993), who had also observed infrastructural problems among the women beneficiaries.

Table 5. Educational and communicational problems faced by rural women

Sr. No.	Problems	Amb	Una	Total
1.	Lack of communication facilities at village level	30 (58.82)	36 (59.02)	66 (58.93)
2.	High illiteracy	30 (58.82)	23 (37.70)	53 (46.32)
3.	Lack of knowledge about training facilities	27 (52.94)	20 (32.78)	47 (41.96)
4.	Limited guidance	15 (29.41)	17 (27.87)	32 (28.57)
5.	Lack of knowledge about procurement of loan	17 (33.33)	11(18.03)	28 (24.99)
6.	Lack of knowledge about running the unit	11 (21.57)	10 (16.39)	21 (18.75)

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentages

Table 6. Infrastructural problems faced by rural women

Sr. No.	Problems	Amb	Una	Total
1.	Lack of knowledge about advance technology regarding dairy	18 (35.29)	21(34.42)	39 (34.82)
2.	Lack of knowledge about handling dairy unit	16 (31.37)	21 (34.42)	37 (33.03)
3.	Lack of supply of electricity in village	12 (23.53)	04 (6.56)	16 (14.28)
4.	Distant location of headquarter/offices from village	07 (13.72)	09 (14.75)	16 (14.28)
5.	Lack of specialized skill for running the dairy unit	07 (13.72)	09 (14.75)	16 14.28)

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentages

5. Economic problems

The economic problems faced by respondents manifested that insufficient financial help provided by the Government was reported by 46.43 per cent followed by frequent need of money for purchasing material (feed, grass, straw) upto 31.25 per cent respondents, vis-à-vis high investment at the initial stage reported by (30.36%), lack of subsidy in the credit 28.57 per cent and delay release of money from buyer 26.78 per cent (Table 7) of the respondents. Hence, it may be concluded from the results obtained that financial problems in terms of inadequate amount of loan sanctioned by the Government, high investment at the initial stage, and lack of subsidy on the credit were the major economic problems faced by the women beneficiaries. Yadav *et al.* (1989) also reported that major problems faced by rural women were the lack of financial resource availability and skill regarding income generating activities.

6. Marketing problems

The perusal of result s obtained regarding marketing problems (Table 8) revealed that delayed disposal of products were reported by 27.68 per cent of the respondent followed by difficulty in getting money from buyer 24.99, more expenditure on the transportation 19.64 per cent, inability to complete the market products 8.93 per cent, and more distance from village 5.36 per cent. Conclusively, results revealed that marketing problems were reported by more than one fourth of the respondents. Dogra (1988) reported that major problems faced by women beneficiaries in adopting income generation project were marketing problems followed by economic, technical and input problems.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that Rural development is a multi-dimensional process to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the rural mass income groups,

Table 7. Economic problems faced by rural women

Sr. No.	Problems	Amb	Una	Total
1.	Insufficient financial help provided by the Government	25 (49.02)	27 (44.26)	52 (46.43)
2.	Frequent need of money for purchasing	16 (31.37)	19 (31.15)	35 (31.25)
3.	High investment at the intial stage	16 (31.37)	18 (29.51)	34 (30.36)
4.	Lack of subsidy in the credit	14 (27.45)	18 (29.51)	32 (28.57)
5.	Delay relelase of money from buyer	14 (27.45)	16 (26.23)	30 (26.78)

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentages

Table 8. Marketing problems faced by rural women

Sr. No.	Problems	Amb	Una	Total
1.	Delayed disposal of produce	14 (27.45)	17 (27.87)	31 (27.68)
2.	Difficulty in getting money from buyer	15 (29.41)	13 (21.31)	28 (24.99)
3.	More expenditure on the transportation	10 (19.61)	12 (19.67)	20 (19.64)
4.	Inability to compete with the market products	06 (11.76)	04 (6.56)	10 (8.93)
5.	More distance from the village	04 (7.84)	02 (3.28)	06 (5.36)

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentages

and to encourage and inculcate in them a sense of participation in the process of development by fuller utilization of physical and human resources and make life worth living far a country like India having nearly eighty three per cent of its population living in villages. Any programme for rural development is an immense job and involves human factors, particularly when it proposes to change the set pattern of life style of people. Due the positive results of RDPs more than half of the respondents 58.93 per cent had of favourable attitude followed by twenty five per cent neutral and sixteen per cent unfavourable attitude. It was observed that RDPs had encouraging trend and had positive affect on the beneficiaries. The problems face by women beneficiaries manifested that majority of respondents faced educational and communicational problems followed by economic problems, socio-psychological problems, infrastructural, situational and organizational problems and marketing problems. Such type of rural development programmes should be started at macro level in hilly areas to derive valid generalizations. It is imperative to encourage and promote the participation of rural women in development programmes offered by Governments.

References

Dogra, S. 1988. An exploratory study of the constraints in the promotion of income generating project for the rural women in Haryana. *M.Sc. Thesis* (Unpublished) HAU, Hisar.

Gautam, N. and Singh, D.V. 1990. Development of women and children in Rural Areas,. an appraisal. *Kurukshetra* 39 (3):42-46.

Leibenstein, H. 1957. Economic backwardness and economic growth. John Willey and Sons,New York.

Nikadhe and Patwardhan, 1990. Group cohesiveness in DWCRA group: An application of socio-meteric approach. *Kurukshetra* 42 (3): 67-70.

Yadev, A. 1985. An exploratory study on the feasibility of introducing selected income-generating activities for rural women in Mahendragarh district. *M.Sc. Thesis* (Unpublished), HAU, Hisar.

Yadev, A., Sangwan, V. And Singh, S. 1989. Constraints faced by rural women regarding participation in income generating activities. *Indian Journal of Extension Education* 25 (1&2): 80-84.

VIR SOFTECH