

AQUACULTURE TRAINING: A LIVELIHOOD AVENUE FOR WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS AT COASTAL TAMIL NADU

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INTRODUCTION

India has 8,118 kilometres of marine coastline, 3,827 fishing villages, and 1,914 traditional fish landing centres. The Country has vast potential for fisheries in view of our long coastline of about 8,000 kms apart from the inland water resources. As per the estimates of Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the value of output from fisheries sector at current price was about Rs. 76,699 cores during 2011-12 which is about 4.15% of the value of agricultural and allied sector output at current price. Fish production has increased from 41.57 lakh tonnes (24.47 lakh tonnes for marine and 17.10 lakh tonnes for inland fisheries) in 1991-92 to 86.66 lakh tonnes (33.71 lakh tonnes for marine and 52.95 lakh tonnes for inland fisheries) in 2011-12. (Annual Report 2012-13).

Fisheries sector contributes significantly towards income and employment generation and thereby growth of the economy by providing livelihood to approximately 14.49 million people in the country. It has been recognized as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries and is a source of cheap and nutritious food besides being a source of foreign exchange earner.

India is the second largest producer of fish in the world contributing to about 5.43% of global fish production. India is also a major producer of fish through aquaculture and ranks second in the world after China. The total fish production during 2011-12 is at 8.67 million tonnes with a contribution of 5.30 million tonnes from inland sector and 3.37 million tonnes from marine sector respectively. Fishery being one of the promising sectors of agriculture and allied activities in India, a growth target rate of 6 per cent was fixed so as to achieve the overall growth rate of 4.1 per cent for Agriculture during the 11th Five year Plan. During 2010-11, the volume of fish and

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fishery products exported from India was 8,13,091 tonnes worth 12,901.47 crores and during 2011- 12 for the first time export earnings have crossed USD 3.5 billion. Export aggregated to 8, 62,021 tonnes in volume valued at '16,597.23 crores. As per the estimates of Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the value of GDP from fisheries sector at current price during 2011-12 was '76699 crores which is about 4.15 per cent of the total GDP of Agriculture and allied sectors.

Aquaculture Training for livelihood plays a distinct role in developing the coastal women both socially & economically. Training simply refers to the process of acquiring the essential skills required for performing a certain job. It also assists in eliminating the weaknesses, by strengthening workers' skills. A well organized training program helps people in gaining skill, knowledge and experience, thus bringing them all to a higher uniform level. They also gain new tactics of overcoming challenges when they confront them. Training makes trainees more confident, self reliant and requires little guidance at work. It, in turn, results in high quality output and optimum utilization of resources and thereby minimizing wastage.

LITRATURE REVIEW

Training and development programs for rural women aim at three things: economic development of women; improvement of social status and generating livelihood opportunities. Today, the women development process is undergoing a paradigm shift: the old top-down approach is being replaced by a bottom-up approach in which the women are empowered and mobilized for implementing sustainable development projects (Loveson Edward, L., 2005).

Self Help Groups (SHGs) play a significant role in the entire process. Self Help Group is a small homogenous group of 10 to 20 persons who unanimously agree to save small amounts regularly to start a livelihood, have collective decision making, or resolve conflicts through collective leadership and mutual discussion (Ramanathan, 2007). The institution such as banks, welfare trusts, co-operative unions, NGOs or the members of the community themselves have motivated to form and organize the SHGs. Several research has revealed that SHGs played a vital role in the poverty eradication, empowerment, social status renovation (Anand, 2002; Chavan and Birajdar, 2009; Nedheesh, 2009 Aruna and Joythimayi, 2011) SHG training provides a platform for coastal women to manage with stres, problem and providing an opportunity to empower themselves. It is proven that these groups uplift themselves and influencing government decisions as well. (Medvene and Krauss, 1989). The marginalized coastal women do not have enough capital to start up any livelihood activity on an individual basis. It is observed that instead of individual centric projects group centric development projects is more successful for the rural development. It makes available the collective wisdom and combined resources for any job (Moin Qazi, 1999). Training and Micro credit is an important tool in promoting livelihood opportunities in the rural areas especially for the women who are considered to be very low economic and

social status (Jayaraman, R., 2008). SHGs are considered as feasible option for accomplishing the objective of rural development and group participation in all rural development programmes (Ramesh.D., 2006). The main aim of SHGs is to encourage savings habit among coastal women to provide small and short-term loans to its members at lower interest to meet their needs and livelihood activities (Danida, 2004). Training provides skill support and commercial awareness, it enable SHGs a better understanding of their opportunities and how they might be managed (Davis Ekboir, Mekasha, Ochieng, Spielman, & Zerfu, 2007). Moreover, training can help SHGs to introduce progressive production techniques. Davis (2007) recommended that training focused on livelihood skills, such as product development, market analysis and distribution, would facilitate in identifying the business and technologies that would benefit them most, and would help them to participate in business innovation. Dr. Muthumani (2014) in their article pointed out training influences on the Development of women employees working in Industrial sectors. Training women in Self Help Groups enabled groups to function effectively, and complemented technical training in both agriculture and enterprise skills (Chaturvedi & Gray, 2001; Barwa, 2003). Training specifically designed to support the functioning of groups may also be a valuable complement to technical training, enabling more effective delivery (Joy, Prema & Krishnan, 2008).

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the study is to analyse the effectiveness of aquaculture training programs on skill development of the rural women to uplift their socio economic status and to assess the impact of training on the livelihood avocation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article is based on the data collected from villages of Kanchipuram district in Tamil Nadu in India. The SHGs which have completed three years of formation were selected for the study. From each SHG, five members were selected. Therefore, 22 SHGs are selected. The total number of sample respondents was 110. Simple random sampling is adopted to collect the samples. This study is a qualitative micro-level study of SHGs in these villages. The primary data were collected through a structured schedule, informal interviews using detailed checklists and observation from all respondents in the village. Quantitative information with regard to the training provided, demographic aspects and regarding groups was collected by using household schedules. Chi square, ANOVA and percentage analyses were carried out to draw meaningful interpretations.

HYPOTHESES

HYPOTHESIS1: Age of the respondents and application of knowledge gained by the respondents at training.

HYPOTHESIS2: Income of the respondents and increasing the productivity through aquaculture training

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1
Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Age	No of respondents (N=110)	Percentage
Below 25	32	29.09
26-30	61	55.45
31-35	15	13.64
36 and above	2	1.82
Education qualification		
Degree	5	4.54
12 th pass	28	25.45
10 th pass	33	30
Below 10 th	44	40
Years in livelihood activity		
Less than 5	65	59.09
6-10	25	22.72
11-15	13	11.82
16-20	3	2.73
More than 20	4	3.64
Income/ month (in thousand)		
Less than 5	26	23.64
5-10	46	41.82
10-15	30	27.27
15-20	6	5.45
More than 20	2	1.82

Sources: Survey Result

The demographic profile of the respondents is as follow. From the above table it is clear that most of the respondents (i.e., 55%) are within the age group of 26-30 years. Since SHG members are from very poor background it is observed that maximum respondents (40%) have not completed 10th, they are school dropped out. The livelihood activities are yielding good return, most of the activity fetch 5000 to 10000 income every month to the group.

In the above table we can interpret that the highest weighted average are 4.24, 4.15 and 4.10 which means majority of the entrepreneurs strongly agreed that the trainers have adequate experience in the subject matter, training has helped the entrepreneurs in improving their skills, knowledge & sense of responsibility and there is a measurable increase in the abilities of the entrepreneurs. Lowest weighted average is 3.85 which mean that only fewer entrepreneurs have agreed that the trainees are found to be more confident after the training program.

Table 2
Training Parameters

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Mean Score</i>
Measurable increase in the ability of the trainees	4.10
Improvement in skill, knowledge & sense of responsibility of a trainee	4.15
Increase the productivity of the business	3.95
The content is prepared according to the training needs	4.02
Trainer is aware of skill, knowledge & attitude	4.03
Job profile of the trainees is considered for the selection of trainees	4.10
A sufficient amount of both theoretical & practical content is included	3.98
Training programs help to achieve specific individual goals	3.96
The trainees are found to be more confident after the training program	3.85
The trainers have adequate experience in the subject matter they teach	4.24

Sources: Survey Result

Table 3
Age of the Respondents and Application of Knowledge Gained by the Respondents at Training

Chi-square Test			
	<i>Value</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</i>
Pearson Chi-Square	7.706 ^a	4	.103
Likelihood Ratio	8.721	4	.068
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.400	1	.121
N of Valid Cases	110		

From the above table we can interpret that $P=.103$ which is greater than 0.05 . Hence, H_0 is accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference between age of the respondents and application of knowledge gained by the respondents at aquaculture training. The result of the study interprets that trainees are very enthusiastic in acquiring the training skill therefore their age does not influence in the application of training knowledge. Mostly these training are on vocation so it can be applied very easily by the rural women.

Table 4
Income of the Respondents and Increasing the Productivity through Aquaculture Training

Anova					
	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Between Groups	.000	2	.000	.000	1.000
Within Groups	6.000	6	1.000		
Total	6.000			8	

From the above table we can interpret that $p=1.000$ which is greater than 0.05 . Therefore, H_0 is accepted. There is no significant difference between income of the respondents and increasing the productivity through training. Therefore, we can say that aquaculture training helps the women entrepreneurs to increase the productivity

of the business which helps to increase their income. The women self help groups now are able to achieve better targets in producing fish due to the efficient training.

CONCLUSION

Aquaculture training enhances skill among rural women for upgrading their livelihood opportunities. Self help group members are achieving great success in the field of fish farming at coastal villages in India. The training technology is given by research institutes to the rural women who are members in self help groups. Rural women solely depend on knowledge and skills they learn for their livelihood. Relevant training can help them hone their skills which will uplift them both socially and economically. Aquaculture trained members can act as leaders who can direct and motivate other women who want to venture in to similar livelihood opportunities. In this study, we have observed that aquaculture training has changed the lifestyle of rural women making themselves self sufficient which thereby brings a lot of self-esteem and respect in the society. Aquaculture training can make a difference to the livelihood skill development of rural women and training can make an even greater difference if it is delivered in a way that responds to women's changing needs, and takes into account the varying social, economic and environmental contexts in which they use their skills.

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