

USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES BY THE TRIBAL FARMWOMEN

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ABSTRACT

There has been a lot of interest during the last decades in employing information and communication Technologies (ICTs) for achieving development. Many of these initiatives have benefitted rural women by way of access to new information and new employment opportunities. In the present study, an attempt has been made to know Use of Information and Communication Technologies by the tribal farmwomen of Chhotaudepur district. The collected data revealed that tribal farmwomen had television and mobile phones at their homes. Majority of the respondents used the television and mobile for the entertainment purpose; while extension personnel were considered as the most credible source of information.

Keywords : ICT, mobile, internet, tribal farm women

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays a very important role in rural and national development. There is a strong relationship between gender and agriculture. Women are twice as likely to be involved in agricultural related activity as men. Many women experience a life that is a complex web of multiple roles and multi task. This requires an average woman to conduct different roles at different times in a bid to fulfill her family needs. Women in the rural areas are extensively involved in serious farm operation and agricultural activities.

ICTs do play an important role in disseminating a wide range of information and advice leading to knowledge and attitude change among rural communities. It is also supporting rural communities to acquire new skills and is also creating new employment opportunities, so the present study was planned with following objective.

OBJECTIVE

To study the use of information and communication technologies by the tribal farmwomen

METHODOLOGY

The proposed investigation was carried out with farm women of Pavi-Jetpur and Bodeli talukas of Chhotaudepur District who attended trainings held at Training Centre at

Jabugam centre of Anand Agricultural University. Total 100 tribal farm women were purposively selected for the study. The data were collected through an interview schedule using group interview method and analyzed with the help of various statistical tools i.e. frequency and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The facts and findings of the study are presented under the following heads:

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to ownership of ICTs (n=100)

Sr. No.	Owner of ICT source	Frequency	Percent
1	Radio	21	21.00
2	Television	75	75.00
3	Mobile/Telephone	87	87.00
4	News paper	16	16.00
5	Computer	02	2.00

The data presented in Table 1, show that 87.00 per cent of the tribal farmwomen possessed mobile/telephone followed by television (75.00 per cent), radio (21.00 per cent) and news paper (16.00 per cent). Only 2.00 per cent of them possessed computer.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to the purpose of use of ICTs

(n=100)

Sr. No.	ICT source	Information	Entertainment	Education
1	Radio	15(15.00)	03 (3.00)	03 (3.00)
2	Television	18 (18.00)	52 (52.00)	05(5.00)
3	Mobile/Telephone	19 (19.00)	56(56.00)	00 (0.00)
4	News paper	09 (09.00)	00 (0.00)	07 (7.00)
5	Computer	00 (0.00)	00(0.00)	02 (2.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

From the perusal of data in Table 2, it is clear that majority (56.00) percent of the tribal farmwomen used mobile for entertainment, whereas only 19.00 percent of them used mobile for information seeking. Majority (52.00 per cent) of the tribal farmwomen used television for entertainment,

while 18.00 per cent of them used for information. Only 5.00 per cent of them used television for education. Radio, newspaper and computer were used with very low percentage for information, education and entertainment by tribal farmwomen.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to the use of ICTs

(n=100)

Sr. No.	ICT source	Regularly		Occasionally		Rarely	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Radio	17	17.00	04	04.00	00	00.00
2	Television	75	75.00	00	00.00	00	00.00
3	Mobile/Telephone	87	87.00	00	00.00	00	0.00
4	News paper	09	09.00	05	05.00	02	02.00
5	Computer	01	01.00	01	01.00	00	00.00

It is observed from the Table 3 that more than four-fifth (87.00 per cent) of the tribal farmwomen used mobile regularly followed by television (75.00 per cent) and radio (17.00 per cent); while occasionally rare percent of the tribal farm women used news paper and radio.

majority of the tribal farmwomen had television and mobile phones at their homes. Majority of the respondents used the television and mobile for the entertainment purpose. Extension personnel were considered as the most credible source of information followed by television, mobile and news paper. Hence, the use of information and communication technologies is most necessary for the development of the society particularly in tribal area.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to the ICTs credibility

(n=100)

Sr. No.	ICT source	Credible	Less Credible
1	Radio	17 (17.00)	83(83.00)
2	Television	60 (60.00)	40(40.00)
3	Mobile/Telephone	50(50.00)	50(50.00)
4	News paper	25(25.00)	75(75.00)
5	Computer	18(18.00)	82(82.00)
6	Extension Personnel	66(66.00)	34(34.00)

Note : Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

It is evaluated from the Table 4 that majority (66.00 per cent) of the tribal farmwomen believed extension personnel to be credible information source followed by television (60.00 percent), mobile (50.00 per cent), news paper (25.00 per cent), computer (18.00 per cent) and radio (17.00 per cent).

CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the above discussion that

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