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ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE LEVEL AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFILE OF TRAINED YOUTH OF THE ARYA PROJECT ABOUT GOAT FARMING

Kamlesh Choudhary[1], Shobhana Gupta[2] and Vishal Dadheech[3]

1&3 Ph.D. Research Scholar, Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Communication, SKRAU, Bikaner- 334006
2 Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Communication, RVSKVV, Gwalior- 474002
Email: kamleshchoudhay123456789@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Agriculture and related industries are the driving force behind our country's socioeconomic growth. What is particularly concerning in the current situation is that educated rural young, even agricultural graduates are not interested in pursuing a career in agriculture or its related sectors. Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) was launched in 2015, Krishi Vigyan Kendra will execute this initiative in 25 states throughout the country. The ARYA project aims to attract and empower rural youth to engage in various agriculture, allied, and service sector enterprises for long-term income and meaningful employment. For present study all 120 trained youth in goat farming were selected, trained youth were selected purposively who have obtained training on goat farming under ARYA project and 20 trainers were selected for suggestions for better run his program of the study area. Thus, a total of 140 respondents were included in the study. It was revealed that majority of trained youth (80.00%) had a medium level of knowledge, followed by 10.83 percent who had a low level of knowledge, and (09.67%) who had a high level of knowledge on appropriate goat rearing practices. The trained youth profiles viz., namely family size, social participation, livestock possession, training experience, mass media utilization behaviour, innovativeness, extension contact, scientific orientation had significant relationship with knowledge of trained youth at 1 % level of probability.

Keywords**:** *ARYA, innovativeness, knowledge level, correlation coefficient*

INTRODUCTION

The foundation of the Indian economy has historically rested upon agriculture, with a significant population depending on it for their livelihood (Singh and Thakur, 2022). The livestock sector in India's economy is a significant sub-sector of agriculture. In the form of vital inputs, it is a significant source of income for most of farmers. According to the 20th Livestock Census, the country's total livestock population is 535.78 million. The per capita milk availability in the 12th Five Year Plan increased from 299 gm/day in 2012-13 to 394 gm/day in 2018- 19. (BAHS, 2017). Goat farming is the best choice for the rural people in developing countries because of the low investment, wide adaptability, high fertility and fecundity, low feed and management needs, high feed conversion efficiency, quick pay-off and low risk factors. Goat therefore has been described as a 'Poor Man's cow' (Patel et al., 2018). Rajasthan has the second-largest livestock population, with 56.8 million animals. Under such circumstances, goat farming can play pivotal role in the food and nutritional security of the tribal households because of its lower initial investment, low input need, increased prolificacy, early sexual maturity, and ease of sale. According to 20 censuses, Goats provide around 27.8% of total livestock. With a population of 20.84 million goats, Rajasthan took top place in the 20th census for goat population. Goats are responsible for 14.22% of all meat output.

Banswara is a tribal-dominated region, goat rising has long been practised alongside other livelihood-based measures. Goats are a cash economy resource for the tribes in this district, and when they are in need of urgent cash, they are sold and the demands are satisfied.

Recognizing the critical importance of rural youth in agricultural development, particularly in terms of the country's food security, the ICAR has launched the "Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)" initiative. In 2015, Krishi Vigyan Kendra will execute this initiative in 25 states throughout the country. Special efforts will be made to recruit rural young under the age of 35 years to the agricultural and allied sector under this programme, which was announced by the Prime Minister on the founding day of ICAR, so that the growth in the migration of rural youth to cities may be prevented. The ARYA project aims to attract and empower rural youth to engage in various agriculture, allied, and service sector enterprises for long-term income and meaningful employment in selected districts, as well as to facilitate farm youth to form network groups to engage in asset and resource investment activities such as sorting, value added, and marketing, and to demonstrate functional. Till date

KVK Banswara has trained many rural youths in commercial goat and poultry farming over a period of last five year and no study has been conducted to assess its impact.

OBJECTIVE

To assess the knowledge level and relationship between profile of trained youth of the ARYA project about goat farming

METHODOLOGY

The research study coeducated in the Banswara district of Southern Rajasthan, which covers 4522 square kilometres and is bordered by the Aravalli Mountains. There were 11 tehsils in Banswara district of Rajasthan. Banswara KVK has been chosen for the research study due to following reasons: 1. ARYA project was implemented through KVKS in 25 states of the country. In Rajasthan, Banswara is the only district in which this project has started initially. 2. ARYA project has successfully completed more than three years in the district hence the impact of the study can be observed.

140 beneficiaries were selected for the research study out of 140 beneficiaries 120 respondents where all 120 youth were trained under ARYA project for goat farming and 20 trainers were selected for suggestions for better run this program of the study area. Thus, a total of 140 respondents were included in the research study. Data and information were collected by the investigator through personal interview techniques with the help of the interview schedule. Thereafter, data were tabulated and various statistical measures *viz.* per cent, frequency, mean per cent score, standard deviation, ranking and Karl Pearson's correlation were used to arrive at specific inference. The mean and standard deviation of all respondents score were computed for classifying the knowledge level into different categories. Accordingly, the members were categorized into low, medium and high-level group based on the knowledge score of the individual respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Distribution of trained youth according to their existing knowledge about goat farming practices

(n = 120)

Knowledge level	Trained youth	
	F	%
Low (<27.187)	13	10.83
Medium (27.186to 32.647)	96	80.00
High (>32.647)	11	09.67

Mean=29.917, S.D. = 2.730

Table 1 shows that the majority of trained youth (80.00%) had a medium level of knowledge, followed by 10.83 percent who had a low level of knowledge, and 09.67 percent who had a high level of knowledge on appropriate goat-rearing practices. This could be because the trained youth under the ARYA project were young, highly educated, and had more mass media utilization behaviour, training experience, and livestock, all of which help them understand the importance of goat farming practices. As a result, they may have attended all of the project's trainings to gain as much knowledge as possible in to be successfully trained youth. The present findings are also supported by the findings of Meena *et al* (2009), Jadav and Raval (2019) and Tajpara *et al* (2020).

Table 2: Extent of knowledge of trained youth about goat farming practices (n = 120)

Knowledge level	Trained youth	
	MPS	Rank
Housing practices	68.80	III
Feeding practices	70.93	II
Breeding practices	72.50	I
Health practices	66.20	IV
Marketing practices	63.06	V

MPS = Mean Percent Score

According to the results in Table 2, the trained youth had 72.50 MPS of knowledge of-breeding practices. The trained youth's level of knowledge on feed intake was 70.93 MPS, according to the results. In contrast, trained youths with an MPS of 68.80 have an awareness of housing practices. In the case of health practices, the trained youths had a knowledge score of 66.20 MPS. The trained youths had 63.06 MPS of marketing knowledge; the extent of knowledge possessed by the trained youth had 63.06 MPS. Their extensive knowledge of breeding, feeding, and housing may be related to their extensive goat farming experience in these areas. One of the primary reasons for gaining greater information about these techniques may be the regular training exposure provided by this initiative. It's possible that trained youths were unaware of health practices since they relied heavily on veterinary professionals for any health-related issues. Because they are ignorant of the marketing element, trained youths may face challenges such as a lack of organized marketplaces or market sites that are too far away. It might be because they are raising indigenous breeds for their use and have little interest in selling.

A high level of knowledge regarding breeding,

feeding and housing, which may be attributable to their extensive goat farming expertise in these areas, one of the primary reasons for gaining greater information about these techniques may be the regular training exposure provided by this initiative. Similar outcomes have been seen by Kumar et al., (2011). Pal et al., (2018) found that farmers possessed more knowledge about recommended breeding and feeding practices of goat farming.

The relationship between the profile of trained youth and their knowledge

Table 3: The relationship between the profile of trained youth and their knowledge (n = 120)

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation-Coefficient ('r' value)
X_1	**Education**	0.078
X_2	**Family size**	0.561**
X_3	**Category**	0.092
X_4	**Social participation**	0.512**
X_5	**Livestock possession**	0.605**
X_6	**Training experience**	0.324**
X_7	**Mass media utilization behavior**	0.480**
X_8	**Innovativeness**	0.628**
X_9	**Extension contacts**	0.469**
X_{10}	**Achievement motivation**	0.075
X_{11}	**Scientific orientation**	0.645**

** Significant at 1% level of significance

Table 3, shows the correlation coefficients of each trained youth profile with the relationship of knowledge as shown by the trained youth. The correlation coefficient values revealing the relationship between the profile of trained youth and their knowledge are displayed in Table 3. The data indicate that trained youth profiles viz., namely family size, social participation, livestock possession, training experience, mass media utilization behaviour, innovativeness, extension contact, scientific orientation with the value of (0.561**), (0.512**), (0.605**), (0.324**), (0.480**), (0.628**), (0.469**) and (0.645**) had a significant relationship with the knowledge of trained youth at 1 % level of probability. The remaining did not have any relationship with the knowledge of trained youth. The values of the correlation coefficients demonstrating the link between the profile of trained youth and their knowledge were seen. The findings show that trained youth characteristics, such as family size, social participation, livestock possession, training experience mass media utilization behaviour, innovativeness, extension contact, and scientific orientation with the value of (0.561**), (0.512**), (0.605**), (0.324**), (0.480**), (0.628**), (0.469**) and (0.645**) had a significant relationship with the knowledge of goat farming techniques, the remaining had no relationship with the knowledge of trained youth. The remaining had no connection to the adoption of trained youth. The present findings are also supported by the findings of Asiwal et al., (2002), Roy and Tiwari (2018), Meena et al., (2020), Anusha and Sharma (2022), Channappa et al., (2022), Tajpara et al. (2020), Patel et al. (2023), Jatav et al. (2023), Patel and Vinaya, (2022), Patel et al. (2022).

CONCLUSION

The majority of the youth in the research had finished secondary school, had a medium-sized family, and belonged to the Schedule Caste/ Schedule Tribe (SC/ST) category. The majority of them had a medium level of social participation, medium-sized goat flocks, medium-level training experience, medium-level mass media usage behaviour, medium-level innovativeness, medium-level extension contacts, medium-level achievement motivation, and medium-level scientific orientation, as well as medium-level goat management knowledge. A majority of trained youth (80.00 percent) were found to have a medium degree of understanding about improved goat breeds, feeding, housing, health, and marketing management techniques. It was determined that trained youth profiles had a positive significant link with knowledge of trained youth in terms of family size, social participation, livestock possession, training experience, mass media utilization behaviour, innovativeness, extension contact, scientific orientation; however, the remaining did not have any relationship with knowledge of trained youth.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors have no conflict of interest to declare. We certify that the submission is original work and is not under view at any other publication

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