

Cognitive Access of Men and Women Regarding Modern Animal Husbandry practices in rural haryana

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INTRODUCTION

India is the top country in the world having largest number of cattle. More than 90 per cent of the cattle population belongs to rural families. About 94 per cent of the total country's milk is produced by small, marginal and landless agricultural labourers (Sohi and Kherde, 1980).

Animal Husbandry is, thus, an integral part of farmer's life and it is the women folk who look after this activity. The women are involved in many cattle raising operations viz. feeding, housing, milking, taking care of various categories of animals etc.

Chakravarti (1975) further reported that in a day rural women spent 3-4 hours in taking care of cattle. It is true that all the activities related to, care of animals are performed by women.

Efforts have hitherto been directed towards bringing about change in men, by and large, ignoring their opposite sex counterparts. There is no denying the fact that women have suffered utter neglect and deprivation over centuries. But they have still made significant contributions in all walks of life. The contribution of women

in animal husbandry activities is significantly higher than that of the men folk, yet they have little access to the knowledge of modern animal husbandry practices. The present investigation was, therefore, designed with the specific objectives.

- (1) To study the knowledge of men and women regarding modern animal husbandry Practices.
- (2) To study the relationship between socio-economic and psychological variables with knowledge of men and women regarding animal husbandry practices.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Haryana State. Haryana State has been divided into three zones i.e. hot-arid, semi-arid and hot-humid zone. Two districts namely: Hisar and Kurukshetra from two regions i.e. hot-humid and hot-semi-arid, respectively of state were purposively selected for this study. One village from each district i.e. Shahpur and Bhorsainda of Hisar and kurukshetra districts, respectively were randomly selected. For the collection of data fifty men and women from each of the selected villages were selected randomly.

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In order to test the knowledge of animal husbandry practices held by women and men, a knowledge test was developed for the purpose. The reliability of the knowledge test was .72 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance. The data were collected with the help of a structural interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge of men and women regarding modern animal husbandry practices

Attempts have been made in this study to find out the significant difference in the knowledge of men and women of various socio-economic strata in modern animal husbandry practices. The mean scores of the knowledge of rural men and women in animal husbandry with 't' values have been incorporated in Table I and II.

The data presented in Table I reveal that in all the animal husbandry practices (breeding, feeding, management, clean milk production, health care practices) mean scores of men's knowledge in all the three socio-economic strata were higher than women.

The overall knowledge mean scores of women towards modern animal husbandry practices were found to be lower than that of men irrespective of socio-economic strata. There was significant difference between men and women's knowledge in high and medium socio-economic strata and among the total

respondents. It may be inferred that men and women of low socio-economic stratum have almost similar level of knowledge. But men of high and medium socio-economic strata have higher level of knowledge. This may be due to the fact that men of high and medium socio-economic strata are more educated as well as have more contacts with extension personnel.

The data reported in Table 2 reveal that knowledge mean scores of men irrespective of socio-economic status was higher than women in all the animal husbandry practices. There was significant difference between men's and women's knowledge in the animal breeding and health care aspects irrespective of socio-economic status categories as well as among total respondents.

The overall knowledge score of men was higher than women in all the socio-economic status categories as well as among pooled data but there was no significant difference. This might be to the fact that male members were more educated as well as have more mass media exposure.

Farm women were so much involved in animal husbandry activities, but they do not hold adequate knowledge of modern animal husbandry practices. However, they learnt about animal husbandry practices is by way of their involvement in dairying. There had been no deliberate attempt were made to give them education about the modern technology.

The relationship between socio-economic and psychological variables with knowledge of men and women in modern animal husbandry practices have been presented in Table-3. In case of Hisar district only one variable that is age was found to be negatively but significantly correlated with knowledge regarding animal husbandry in case of sampled men respondents. Old age men do not possess scientific knowledge about modern cattle care practices. Rest of the variables were found to be non-significant. In case of women respondents none of the variables were found to be significantly correlated with knowledge.

In kurukshetra district, in case of women respondents, occupation, land holding, farm powers, milch animals and socio-economic status yielded negative but significant correlation coefficient with knowledge of respondents. It implies that sampled women respondents of high socio-economic status with cultivation as their

primary occupation, large land holding, having more farm power and possessing large number of animals have lesser knowledge. This may be due to the fact that are not so much involved in animal husbandry activities. They used to employ hired casual labour for these tasks. In case of men respondents none of the variable were found to be significantly correlated with knowledge regarding animal husbandry practices.

IMPLICATIONS

It can be concluded that the involvement of women were found to be significant in animal care practices but their knowledge level being so low speaks of the magnitude of their ignorance of modern animal care practices. Thus, there is an obvious need to provide planned exposure modern animal care practices to the women who are so heavily involved in animal care practices to set the pace of agricultural development in the area.

REFERENCES

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Table 1 : Knowledge of men and women regarding modern animal husbandry practices in hisar district

Sr. No.	Areas	Socio-economic Categories	Women's knowledge (Mean-scores)	Men's knowledge (Mean-scores)	't' value
1.	Breeding	High	14.30	20.30	2.454*
		Medium	16.56	24.31	3.613*
		Low	14.87	20.63	2.695*
		Total	15.30	21.18	4.267*
2.	Feeding	High	18.30	20.90	1.835
		Medium	19.06	21.00	1.987
		Low	17.79	19.92	1.836
		Total	18.30	20.46	3.076*
3.	Cattle Management	High	13.70	14.80	1.351
		Medium	12.43	14.81	3.612*
		Low	11.42	13.79	4.827*
		Total	12.00	14.32	6.121*
4.	Clean milk production	High	5.70	6.30	1.535
		Medium	5.00	5.94	2.405*
		Low	4.83	5.42	2.070*
		Total	5.06	5.76	3.280*
5.	Health care	High	9.00	9.40	0.725
		Medium	8.56	9.06	1.244
		Low	7.87	9.00	2.506*
		Total	8.32	9.10	2.796*
6.	Overall knowledge regarding cattle care	High	60.00	71.70	3.591*
		Medium	61.63	75.13	4.498*
		Low	56.79	67.58	1.818
		Total	59.18	70.82	3.814*

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 2 : Knowledge of men and women regarding modern animal husbandry practices in Kurukshetra district

Sr. No.	Areas	Socio economic Categories	Women's knowledge (Meanscores)	Men's knowledge (Mean scores)	't' value
1.	Breeding	High	4.00	11.44	3.465*
		Medium	5.48	11.22	6.073*
		Low	7.78	10.61	2.118*
		Total	6.04	11.04	6.530*
2.	Feeding	High	6.44	10.11	3.219*
		Medium	6.60	9.48	3.919*
		Low	7.50	8.72	1.307
		Total	6.90	9.32	4.686*
3.	Cattle Management	High	8.44	12.44	3.780*
		Medium	10.35	11.74	1.550
		Low	10.11	12.06	2.474*
		Total	9.92	11.98	3.810*
4.	Clean milk production	High	4.22	5.44	1.680
		Medium	4.30	5.22	1.810
		Low	4.67	5.44	1.400
		Total	4.42	5.34	2.800*
5.	Health care	High	2.89	7.22	6.260*
		Medium	3.52	6.52	5.410*
		Low	5.56	6.72	2.310*
		Total	4.14	6.72	7.030*
6.	Overall knowledge regarding cattle care	High	25.89	46.67	0.750
		Medium	30.13	44.65	1.130
		Low	35.61	43.39	0.340
		Total	31.34	44.56	1.200

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 3 : Relationship between socio-economic and psychological variables with knowledge of men and women regarding modern animal husbandry practices.

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Hisar		Kurukshetra	
		Women 'r'value	Men 'r'value	Women 'r'value	Men 'r'value
1.	Age	0.0406	-0.3044*	-0.1932	-0.0740
2.	Caste	0.2646	0.2346	-0.2497	0.1568
3.	Occupation	0.0659	0.2657	-0.2927*	0.0554
4.	Education	-0.0415	0.1041	-0.2110	0.1882
5.	Social participation	0.0000	0.0000	0.1889	-0.0844
6.	Land holding	0.0489	-0.0318	-0.4145**	0.1043
7.	Farm powers	-0.0156	-0.0342	-0.3011*	0.0226
8.	Type of family	-0.0399	0.0063	-0.1056	0.1553
9.	Socio-economic status	0.0936	0.0809	-0.3390*	0.1813
10.	Milch animals	-0.0361	-0.0039	-0.3046*	0.1987
11.	Gross income	0.1811	0.2155	-0.1377	0.2124
12.	Decision-making	-0.1906	-0.1841	0.2042	0.1053

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance.

** Significant at 0.01 level of significance.

Always imitate the behaviour of the winners when you lose.

- GEORGE MEREDITH