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Relationship between selected profile characteristics and training needs of rural women of Almora district in Uttarakhand, India

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Abstract

The excessive rate of male out migration has changed the demography and socio-cultural system of Uttarakhand leading to a number of changes in the lives of rural women. This study attempted to find the relationship between selected profile characteristics of rural women and their training needs. The study was conducted purposively in Almora district and two villages from Dwarahat block were chosen randomly and Descriptive research design was used to carry out the investigation. The findings revealed that age has significant negative relationship with training needs. Education, size of the land holding, monthly income, mass media ownership and access, cosmopolitaness, innovativeness, change proneness and economic motivation have significant positive relationship with training needs. There is no significant relationship between family size, risk preference and training needs of rural women.

Keywords: Rural women, socio-cultural system, profile characteristics, significant relationship, training needs

Introduction

India is an emerging economy and a developing country. The increasing trend of urbanization has significant implications for development process and migration is one of the most common outcomes of development process. Migration from rural to urban areas is a major challenge in Uttarakhand. The state has witnessed significant changes in its demographic structure with slow decadal growth of population in the hilly regions during the period 2001-2011 (Census, 2011) [12]. In Uttarakhand, the increasing trend of male out-migration has affected the overall quality of rural life by increasing the responsibilities, hardships and workload of women. They act as the primary resource developer and back-bone of economy and have led to greater feminization of agriculture. Women make significant contribution towards subsistence economy and socio-ecological sustainability of hill systems. Rural women also face greater vulnerability on various fronts due to male out-migration and limited livelihood opportunities. Their ability and capacity to cope with the uncertainties and vulnerabilities in the hill settings is determined by the knowledge and skills they have. It is essential to provide educational facilities, training and motivation to women in this region to cope with male out migration. Training of rural hill women helps in bridging the skill and knowledge gap, and also provide them with new opportunities for off

farm activities. Training can also give a sense of self worth and confidence among rural women. It can help them in efficient and optimal use of limited resources available in the hilly region. Training not only imparts skills and knowledge, but can also change their attitude leading to empowerment. Several reviews reported that socio-economic characteristics have both positive and negative correlation with the training needs. In a study conducted by Rajput *et al.* (2005) [9] found the correlation between training needs and profile characteristics of farm women and concluded that education, caste, land holding, annual income, and economic motivation were positively and significantly related with training needs. A study on role of rural women in agriculture and their training needs by Iftikhar *et al.* (2007) [4] concluded that there was a strong negative relationship between age and training needs of rural women. Daver (2009) [10] in a study on the training needs of farm women in wheat production technology reported that socio-economic factors like age, education, size of land holding, socio-economic status, social participation, extension participation and information seeking behavior had positive and significant correlation with training needs. On the other hand, economic motivation was found to have positive but non-significant relationship with the training needs. The study conducted by Mande and Nimbalkar (2010) [7] reflected that training needs

of farm women in post harvest technologies has significant positive correlation for education and size of land holding with training needs while age of the respondent was negatively correlated with training needs of farm women. Uplap *et al.* (2010) ^[11] conducted a study on the training needs of farm women in food grain storage practices and revealed that farm size had positive and significant relationship, while family size of the respondent had a non significant relationship with training needs of farm women on storage of food grains. The study on training needs of dairy farmers in improved dairy farming practices in Bundelkhand region by Rajput (2010) ^[1] found that education, land holding, herd size, income, type of house, extension contact and mass media exposure were positively and significantly correlated with knowledge level at one per cent level of significance. Education had significant negative correlation with perceived training needs at one percent level of significance. Social participation, extension contact, mass media exposure, and knowledge of respondents had significant negative correlation with perceived training needs at five percent level of significance. Kandeegan and Velusamy (2016) ^[6] conducted a study on training needs of rural women in the hilly areas and found that educational status, communication status, farm power status and economic motivation were positively and significantly correlated with training needs at one percent, while marital status and occupational status were positively and significantly related at five percent. A study by Rawal (2017) ^[5] on extension needs of vegetable growers of Kumaon region of Uttarakhand revealed that age, caste, gender, income, education, farming experience, media exposure, extension agency contact and information sharing behavior had non-significant relationship with extension needs of vegetable growers while information seeking behavior had a significant relationship with extension needs of vegetable growers. A study conducted on training need assessment of farm women by Manohar (2018) ^[13] observed that there exists significant negative correlation between age, education and training needs; while size of land holding, social participation, and annual income had significant positive relationship with the training needs of farm women. Shahjar *et al.* (2018) ^[9] conducted a study to find out the relationship between socio-economic profile and perceived training needs of dairy farmers in Jammu district and found that age had a significant and positive correlation, while mass media exposure, extension contact, education and social participation had a significant and negative correlation with perceived training needs of dairy farmers. In a study to find relationship between training needs of farm women and their selected independent variable about improved animal husbandry practices by Sharma *et al.* (2020) ^[2] it was found that social participation, extension participation, mass media exposure, adoption, attitude and risk orientation had negative and highly significant correlation with training needs of rural women. Age, size of land holding, herd size and economic motivation had non-significant association with training needs of rural women while annual income showed positive and significant correlation with the training needs.

Materials and Methods

Kumaon Division of Uttarakhand state is the universe for the present study. Agriculture is the backbone of Uttarakhand's economy. The total rural population is 70.37 lakh and urban population is 30.50 lakh as per census 2011 ^[12]. Owing to the constraints of subsistence economy, a large number of men, especially the youth migrates from rural areas in search of employment opportunities and leading to scarcity of farm labour. Lack of proper infrastructure facilities in rural areas affects agriculture leading to low productivity. As men migrate to urban areas in search of jobs, the roles and responsibilities of women increase in farm and non-farm sectors. There are 13 districts in the state Uttarakhand. Out of the six districts in the Kumaon division, the study was conducted in the Almora district of Uttarakhand. The district was selected purposively as it has negative population growth rate of -1.64 percent (Census 2011) ^[12]. Out of the 11 blocks in Almora district *viz.* Dwarahat block was selected randomly. Two villages, Talli Mirai and Kaphara were selected randomly for the present study. All women of migrant households in the age group of 18-55 years were considered for the present study. Descriptive research design was used to carry out the investigation. All the respondents were interviewed personally by the researcher.

Major Findings

To find out the relationship between selected personal, socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of the respondents and their training needs. Coefficient of correlation was calculated to determine the relationship, if any followed by t-test to find out its significance. The relationship was determined between training needs (dependent variable) and 12 independent variables, *viz.* age, education, family size, size of land holding, monthly income, mass media ownership, mass media access, cosmopolitanness, innovativeness, change proneness, economic motivation and risk preference.

Hypothesis: Selected Personal, Socio-economic, Communication and Psychological characteristics has no relationship with the Training needs of Rural Women.

Table 1: Correlation and t_{cal} values of the independent and dependent variables

S. No.	Characteristics of rural women	Correlation of coefficient	t_{cal}
1.	Age	- 0.42 *	4.79
2.	Education	0.31*	3.47
3.	Family size	0.14	1.52
4.	Size of land holding	0.22*	2.36
5.	Monthly income	0.23*	2.46
6.	Mass media ownership	0.29*	3.26
7.	Mass media access	0.34*	3.76
8.	Cosmopolitanness	0.54*	6.67
9.	Innovativeness	0.34*	3.77
10.	Change proneness	0.29*	3.20
11.	Economic motivation	0.22*	2.35
12.	Risk preference	0.06	0.62

* Significant at 0.05 level, $t_{tab} = 1.98$

Table 2: Summary of Inferences

Hypothesis	Statement	Conclusion
H _{0A}	Age has no relationship with the training needs of rural women.	Rejected
H _{0B}	Education has no relationship with the training needs of rural women.	Rejected
H _{0C}	Family size has no relationship with the training needs of rural women	Accepted
H _{0D}	Size of land holding has no relationship with the training needs of rural women	Rejected
H _{0E}	Monthly income has no relationship with the training needs of rural women	Rejected
H _{0F}	Mass media ownership has no relationship with the training needs of rural women.	Rejected
H _{0G}	Mass media access has no relationship with the training needs of rural women	Rejected
H _{0H}	Cosmopolitaness nature has no relationship with the training needs of rural women	Rejected
H _{0I}	Innovativeness has no relationship with the training needs of rural women	Rejected
H _{0J}	Change proneness has no relationship with the training needs of rural women.	Rejected
H _{0K}	Economic motivation has no relationship with the training needs of rural women.	Rejected
H _{0L}	Risk preference has no relationship with the training needs of rural women.	Accepted

- **Age and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was -0.42 ($r = -0.42$) and t_{cal} (4.79) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0A} was rejected. This indicates that there is a significant negative relationship between age of rural women and training needs. It shows that lower the age of respondent higher will be their training needs. This may be due to the fact that as younger people are more enthusiastic and are more inclined towards learning new skills.

- **Education and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.31 ($r = 0.31$) and t_{cal} (3.47) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0B} was rejected. The values indicate a significant positive relationship between education of rural women and their training needs. It may be due to the fact that education is an important factor in building awareness about various things and they want to use these for betterment. It also develops a positive attitude towards training programs.

- **Family size and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.14 ($r = 0.14$) and t_{cal} (1.52) was less than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0C} was accepted. The values indicate a non significant positive relationship between family size of rural women and their training needs.

- **Size of land holding and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.22 ($r = 0.22$) and t_{cal} (2.36) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0D} was rejected. It was found that there is a significant positive relationship between size of the land holding and training needs of rural women. This indicates that women from households owing large size land holdings are more inclined towards training. A woman with more assets knows that she has more opportunity to practice new method of agricultural and allied activities learnt through training.

- **Monthly income and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.23 ($r = 0.23$) and t_{cal} (2.46) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0E} was rejected. The

values indicate a significant positive relationship between monthly income and training needs of rural women. This indicates that rural women with high family income are more likely to attend training. This may be due to the fact that they can invest money in applying newly acquired skills to gain profits.

- **Mass media ownership and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.29 ($r = 0.29$) and t_{cal} (3.26) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0F} was rejected. There was a statistically significant positive relationship between mass media ownership and training needs of rural women. Higher mass media ownership goes hand in hand with greater exposure to new developments. Greater awareness, in turn, may lead to a willingness to try out new things which are learnt during training programs. Training programs helps them acquire new skills and knowledge on topics about which they have heard, seen or read in the mass media.

- **Mass media access and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.34 ($r = 0.34$) and t_{cal} (3.76) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0G} was rejected. This indicated a statistically significant positive relationship between mass media access and training needs of rural women. Mass media access through television, radio, mobile phones with internet, printed media, etc. develop modern orientation and tendency to accept change.

- **Cosmopolitaness and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.54 ($r = 0.54$) and t_{cal} (6.67) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0H} was rejected. This indicated a significant positive relationship between cosmopolitaness nature of rural women and their training needs. Cosmopolitaness indicates a tendency to associate with people outside the immediate social system. Greater cosmopolitaness leads to more chances of getting new information and which can be put into practice through training.

- **Innovativeness and Training Needs**

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.34 ($r = 0.34$) and t_{cal} (3.77) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of

significance. Hence, null hypothesis H_{0I} was rejected. This indicates a significant positive relationship between innovativeness and training needs of rural women. Innovative personalities are more inclined to try out new things. Exposure to innovations often occurs through training program, so they may have greater training needs.

• Change proneness and Training Needs

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.29 ($r=0.29$) and t_{cal} (3.20) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, H_{0J} was rejected. It was found that there is significant positive relationship between change proneness and training needs of rural women. The main objective of training is to impart new skills. A person with high degree of change proneness may be more inclined to participate in training programs as it fulfills their innate need to accept change.

• Economic motivation and Training Needs

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.22 ($r=0.22$) and t_{cal} (2.35) was more than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, H_{0K} was rejected and it was concluded that there is a significant positive relationship between economic motivation and training needs of rural women. Women with higher economic motivation are motivated by monetary returns. Training programs often teaches skills that either lead to higher income or teaches the trainees how to do things in a more efficient manner which saves money. This may explain why women with greater economic motivation are more likely to undergo training. Training also helps them to start their own enterprises.

• Risk preference and Training Needs

The value of coefficient of correlation was 0.06 ($r=0.06$) and t_{cal} (0.62) was less than t_{tab} value at 5% level of significance. Hence, H_{0L} was accepted which indicates a non significant positive relationship between risk preference and training needs of rural women.

Conclusion

The findings regarding relationship between selected personal, socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of rural women and their training needs revealed that age has significant negative relationship with training needs of rural women. Education, size of the land holding, monthly income, media ownership, media access, cosmopolitaness, innovativeness, change proneness and economic motivation have significant positive relationship with training needs. There is no significant relationship between family size, risk preference and training needs of rural women.

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