



Awareness Level of Rural Women about Water Saving Methods used in Household Activities- A study in Western Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the awareness level of rural women about water saving methods in western Rajasthan. Twenty women were selected from six villages of two panchayat samities Bikaner and Kolayat of Bikaner district. Results revealed that the rural women had awareness of water saving methods used in different household activities. The overall awareness level regarding water saving methods of rural women was medium. They were using water saving methods in household activities.

Key words: Water saving methods, Household sector.

INTRODUCTION

Water is a vital resource for the survival of all living things. Without water, life on planet Earth would not exist. According to recent studies, more than 508 million people in 31 countries face water scarcity in the world today. It is predicted that by the year 2025, the number of people dealing with water scarcity will be over 3 billion a year. If this cycle of overconsumption, pollution, and wastefulness does not subside, our water supply will be severely diminished.

As world population is constantly growing, the demand of water increases each and every day. The luxuries of domestic uses of water have become a necessity to people in their homes and backyards. Domestic water is

normally characterized by its use inside and outside the home: washing the dishes, cooking a meal, laundry, bathing, watering the lawn or garden, and other household activities. Water covers 71% of the Earth's surface. It is vital for all known forms of life. Only 2.5% of the Earth's water is fresh water, and 98.8% of that water is in ice and groundwater. Saving water at home does not require any significant cost outlay. Although there are water-saving appliances and water conservation systems such as rain barrels, drip irrigation and on-demand water heaters which are more expensive, the bulk of water saving methods can be achieved at little cost. For example, 75% of water used indoors is in the bathroom, and 25% of this is for the toilet.

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The average toilet uses 4 gallons per flush (gpf). We can invest in a ULF (ultra-low flush) toilet which will use only 2 gpf. Water conservation at home is one of the easiest measures to put in place, and saving water should become part of everyday family practice. Human beings cannot survive more than 3 days without any source of water. Neither can other animals or plants. Water is life. Water is needed to move, eat, reproduce, work and think, in other words, to survive and to live. Water resources are challenged in our world today due to pollution and overuse of the local resources. There are also fights for water between different users: farmers, people in cities and industries. There also rivers that cross frontiers, and thus there some problems in the sharing and use of the water between different countries. We are using much more water than what is really needed and available in many locations around the world. This is due sometimes because of lack of water, but more often it is due to a bad management of the water resources available, bad or non-existent urban planning and bad or non-existent population planning. We are also wasting our water resources when we are discharging our wastes and sewage into it, making the receiving waters unsuitable for life.

Therefore, study was conducted to assess the “Awareness Level of Rural Women about Water Saving Methods used in Household Activities-A study in Western Rajasthan” in Bikaner District of Rajasthan was undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To assess the socio-economic background status of the respondents
2. To find out water saving methods used in household activities:

- (a) Traditional methods
- (b) Modern methods

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Six villages. Three villages with scarcity of water selected from Kolayat panchayat for find out traditional methods. These villages were Lumbasar, Hda and Ranasar. Three villages given a modern impact was selected from Bikaner panchayat for find out modern methods. These villages were Deshnok, Gajner & Napasar. Bikaner and Kolayat selected purposively because of highly water scared panchayat samities among all seven panchayat samities. For selection of respondent, random sampling method was used. From the selected villages a list of farm women using water saving methods were prepared. Then from these families sample of twenty women from each village was selected randomly, thus making a sample size of 120 respondents. The interview method was used for data collection. Interview schedule was divided into two major parts. Frist section included profile of respondents and second section was included questions related to Different Traditional and Modern water saving methods which used by farm women in household activities. Data were analysed by using frequency, percentage, mean score, standard deviation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table-1 reveals that majority of rural women were used water after day of collection and dipt their awareness about importance of water in our life.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of using water for drinking purpose (N=120)

S. No.	Using of drinking water	f	(%)
1.	Same day/fresh water	28	23.30
2.	After day of collection	92	76.67

The primary goal of awareness of water saving methods is to spread knowledge and awareness to rural women. Water saving methods was used by rural women as the better management and conservation over many scarce months seasonal. Probably this scarcity might have greatly influenced the rural women to used and

more aware about water save and saving methods in household activities.

From the result presented in Table 2, it can be inferred that a great majority of the rural women had high awareness level and they were used about re-use of kitchen waste water.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of re-use of kitchen waste water

(N=120)			
S.No.	Re-use kitchen waste water	F	(%)
1.	Yes	99	82.5
2.	No	21	17.5

Majority 82.5 of rural women were using re-use of kitchen waste water. One of the main reason to undertake kitchen waste water re use was the declining availability of fresh water. Only 17.5 per cent of the respondents did not re- use of kitchen waste water. The regular supply of water was the main reason of this category.

Since time immemorial, with dissemination of modern way of life up to the

Indian learnt i.e. villages. 54.17 respondents have started using modern methods of toilet which is a good sign of overall development front. But still with prevalence of poverty and illiteracy 33.3 per cent respondents are going for open defecation. Though “Swachh Bharat Mission” has done a lot to improve sanitation system in rural India but a campaign to change a deep rooted thought of Indian village women requires to be change. (Table3)

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of used water in different toilet

(N=120)			
S. No.	Types of toilet	f	(%)
1.	Indian toilet with half turn valve (Modern cum traditional method)	59	49.17
2.	In Open field (Traditional method)	46	38.33
3.	European toilet (Modern method)	15	12.5

Majority (49.17%) of the respondents used Indian toilet with half turn valve, and 38.33 per cent of the respondents used open field for it. Only 12.5 per cent of the respondents used European toilets.

Overall awareness level of respondents about the water saving methods in household activities

The awareness of respondents with regard to water saving methods in household activities were measured in term of Mean score, Mean score percent, Standard deviation.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents on the basis of awareness level about water saving methods in household activities

(N=120)					
S. No.	Level of awareness	f	(%)	MS	SD
1.	Low (<3)	20	16.67	19.80	16.5
2.	Medium (3-8)	86	71.67	86.52	72.1
3.	High (above 8)	14	11.67	13.68	11.4

Mean percent = 6.60 mean percent score= 8159.57 SD= 1.80

Study regarding wastage of water in different aspects like agriculture, household and others community places studies show that more than 50% water is wasted in agriculture field, 84% in household activities⁵.

CONCLUSION

The overall awareness level of rural women as respondents about household activities appeared to be medium. majority of the respondents 86 (71.67%) possessed to medium level of awareness followed by 16.67 per cent of respondents possessed low level of awareness and 11.67 per cent of the respondents with frequency 14 belonged to high level of awareness regarding water saving methods in household activities. Responds have realized the importance of water which led to adoption of saving of water in household activities. Water used in various household activities like cooking, bathing etc. is being reused for appropriate purpose.

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