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Knowledge Level of Rural Women about Scientific Backyard Poultry Farming in Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we described knowledge level of rural women about scientific backyard poultry forming. This study carried out on eighty backyard poultry rearing rural women of Hamirpur and Banda districts of Bundelkhand region Uttar Pradesh. To measure the knowledge level of rural women with regard to scientific backyard poultry farming, a structured interview schedule was developed consisting of fifty objective type questions related to backyard poultry farming (Breeding, Housing, Feeding, Health management). The total knowledge score of the rural women was obtained by adding scores of all the correct answers out of fifty questions. On the basis of overall knowledge score, the respondents were classified into three categories as low, medium and high on the basis of equal interval between maximum and minimum knowledge score. 46.25 percent of backyard poultry rearing rural women had medium level of knowledge about scientific backyard poultry farming, followed by low (41.25%) and high (12.50%) knowledge level. Average scientific knowledge level of backyard poultry rearing rural women was 17.27. Due to lack of scientific knowledge of backyard poultry, the production performance of backyard poultry in this area was below the desired levels. So, state government should take initiatives to develop training programmes, which would help rural women to change their attitude, improve their knowledge and enhance their skills about backyard poultry arming.

Key words: *Knowledge level, Rural women, Backyard poultry, Interview schedule*

INTRODUCTION

The agriculture and allied sector contribution in National GDP is about 17.32 per cent with annual growth of 4.1 per cent. Among various agriculture and allied farming, Poultry farming is one of the most efficient components of the farmer's economy as it provides eggs, meat, feathers and manures with small capital investment and fewer workforces. In agriculture and allied sector, Indian poultry sector is the major game changer with an overall growth of about 7-8 per cent per annum[3,4].

According to the 19th livestock census, total poultry population is 729.2 million in which backyard poultry contributed 29.8 percent. Desi fowl shared 28 percent in layer population in India. Total egg production of India is around 88139 million in which backyard poultry contributed is 21 percent of total egg production. The total meat production is estimated to be about 7.4 million tones and poultry contributed 47.32 percent of total meat production. The per capita availability of eggs is around 69 eggs per annum in 2016-17. Backyard poultry production is an old age profession of rural families of India. Backyard poultry keeping is practiced by majority of the poor and marginalized rural households all over India. It is the most potent source for subsidiary incomes for landless and poor farmers. It is an enterprise with low initial investment but higher economic returns and can easily be managed by women, children and old aged persons of the households. Feeding of the backyard poultry is made easy by using household wastes, farm products and green vegetation, besides free scavenging for waste grains and insects. Now-a-days, poultry meat and eggs have been the best and cheapest sources for meeting out the per capita requirement of protein and energy for rural areas of India. In villages, individuals reared indigenous type of birds which have low productivity and low hatchability. Rural individual have low knowledge and skill about scientific poultry farming. Hence there is need to study "Knowledge level of rural women about scientific backyard poultry farming in Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh"

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in the purposively selected Banda and Hamirpur district. Banda and Hamirpur comprising eight and seven block, respectively, out of these four blocks were selected purposively as they had more poultry population. Further, four consolidated sampling frame for each selected block was prepared. Twenty rural women from the four sampling frames, rearing five to ten

backyard poultry for last two years or more were selected. Thus 80 rural women were selected for the present study. To measure the knowledge level of rural women with regard to scientific backyard poultry farming, a structured interview schedule was developed consisting of 50 objective type questions related to backyard poultry farming (Breeding, Housing, Feeding, Health and brooding management). The total knowledge score of the rural women was obtained by adding scores of all the correct answers out of 50 questions. On the basis of overall knowledge score, the respondents were classified into three categories as low, medium and high on the basis of equal interval between maximum and minimum knowledge score.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Education

Table 1 reveals that majority (75%) of the rural women were literate and remaining 25 percent were illiterate. Among the literates, highest percentage of rural women (26.25%) were functional literate followed by primary (23.75%), middle school (16.25%), high school (7.5%) and higher secondary (1.25%). None of the rural women had graduation level education. The data further indicates that backyard poultry rearing rural women were not highly educated in this study area. Shanaz *et al.*[6], had also reported similar finding where majority of the respondents were literate.

Family education status

A perusal of data in table 2 reveals that highest percentage (58.75%) of rural women belonged to medium family educational status followed by low (31.25%) and high (10%). Average family education status of rural women of Hamirpur and Banda districts were 2.36 and 2.04 respectively. This shows the educational backwardness in the Bundelkhand region, which might be due to lack of educational facility in the area. Chaturvedani *et al.*[2], reported that majority of families belonged to low family educational status.

Knowledge level of rural women about scientific backyard poultry farming

The data given in table 3 reveals that highest percentage of backyard poultry rearing rural

women (46.25 %) had medium level of knowledge about scientific backyard poultry farming, followed by low (41.25 %) and high (12.5%) knowledge level. Average scientific knowledge level of backyard poultry rearing rural women was 17.27. Average knowledge level of poultry rearing rural women of Hamirpur and Banda districts were 16.9 and

17.65 respectively. It indicates that rural women had poor knowledge about backyard poultry, which led to poor performance of the birds. Razzaq *et al.*[5], revealed that majority of the poultry farmer's knowledge fall between the range of low and average level of knowledge.

Table 1: Distribution of rural women according to their education

Classification	Hamirpur (n=40)	Banda (n=40)	Pooled (N=80)
Illiterate	14 (35.00)	3 (07.50)	17 (21.30)
Functional literate	5 (12.50)	19 (47.50)	24 (30.00)
Primary School	9 (22.50)	10 (25.00)	19 (23.75)
Middle school	7 (17.50)	6 (15.00)	13 (16.20)
High School	4 (10.00)	2 (05.00)	6 (07.50)
Intermediate	1 (02.50)	0 (00.00)	1 (01.25)
Graduate	0 (00.00)	0 (00.00)	0 (00.00)

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

Table 2: Distribution of rural women according to their family education status

Family education status	Hamirpur (n=40)	Banda (n=40)	Pooled (N=80)
Low (<1.66)	9 (22.50)	16 (40.00)	25(31.20)
Medium (1.66-3.33)	25 (62.50)	22 (55.00)	47(58.80)
High (>3.33)	6 (15.00)	2 (5.00)	8 (10.00)
Mean±SD	2.36±1.05	2.04±0.76	2.20 ± 0.93

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

Table 3: Distribution of rural women according to knowledge level of Scientific backyard poultry farming

Knowledge level	Hamirpur (n=40)	Banda (n=40)	Pooled (N=80)
Low (12-16.33)	18 (45.00)	15 (37.50)	33 (41.25)
Medium (16.33-20.66)	19 (47.50)	18 (45.00)	37 (46.25)
High (20.66-25)	3 (07.50)	7 (17.50)	10 (12.50)
Mean±SD	16.9±2.49	17.65±2.70	17.27±2.61

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

CONCLUSION

The backyard poultry rearing rural women had poor scientific knowledge about backyard poultry farming. Due to lack of scientific knowledge of rural women about backyard poultry, the production performance of poultry

in this area was below the desired levels. So, state government should take initiatives to develop backyard poultry farming training programmes, which would help rural women to change their attitude, improve their knowledge and enhance their skills toward

backyard poultry farming. The educational institute and SDAH should organize short duration off campus training programmes on backyard poultry farming. Training camps in the villages on backyard poultry rearing could improve the technical knowledge of the rural women about backyard poultry, economic efficiency and productivity of the birds.

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