

Impact of Vocational Training Programmes at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ganderbal – A Case of Home based Entreprises as Sustainable Livelihood Options for Women

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SUMMARY

An important mandate of Krishi Vigyan Kendras is strengthening farming community through trainings, demonstrations and vocational education and training. Women are at the core of these programmes. Vocational Education Trainings are best tools to build skill set for income generation. The current article sums up impact of vocational training programmes conducted by KVK Ganderbal that witnessed 100% adoption by women. These young women are now master trainers of sorts and are training their counterparts in their community. Such a case, presents a perfect case for ripple effect as intended by a typical extension endeavour.

INTRODUCTION

Development of a country can't be fully achieved as long as its women are confined to subordinate positions. The talents of women remain unexplored without their empowerment. It is also true that poverty in both developing and developed countries has a predominantly female face. Hence, empowerment of women plays a vital role in the progress of the nation community and especially in their families. (1) Empowerment is a multi-dimensional process which provides different opportunities to a group or an individual to work in various spheres of life. It helps to create the ability of knowledge and resources, provides autonomy in decision making that enable them to enrich their lives (2) Strengthening women at grass-roots is at the core of philosophy of Krishi Vigyan Kendras operating under the State Agricultural Universities. The women empowerment is an outcome of achieving gender equality, gaining self-confidence, building productive capacity, getting power in taking decisions, and gaining control over resources (3). Self-employment is a way for becoming self-dependent in form of finance that leads to economic empowerment of women (4). This is largely achieved by imparting awareness programmes on felt needs of women regarding food, childrens diet, homestead cultivation and food processing at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). Demonstrations of food processing deploying scientific technologies as suggested by university are also strictly followed in order to ensure positive results and minimal wastage. Similarly, vocational skills trainings are also imparted with the view to strengthen skill set of women in order to strengthen their economical position. Training is one of the important aspects of human resource development. It is a means to reduce the obsolescence among people and organization in the face of relentless technological innovation. Vocational education in agriculture and allied subject aims at building skills among the farm folk in order to strengthen their skill set for income generation. (5) In such cases, technology, implementation and support is provided by KVKs in a particular geographical area for maximum output.

In winter of 2019, KVK Ganderbal executed a hands-on training programme on Traditional Kashmiri Embroidery – *Sozni* on shawls, in village Dachh Mohalla, Yaar Muqam, essentially a Tribal Area, where 15 young girls undertook training for a period of two month. Preferrably, trainings are conducted in winter month, being a passive agricultural period for farm women and therefore ensuring maximum participation. The cost of the training material and trainer was borne by the Kendra and saw active participation from all trainees. This training translated into a livelihood option for them as all of them adopted this skill as an income generating endeavour and continued to embroider other appparallel like shawls, stoles, sarees scarves. Post training, the Kendra fostered linkages for these women to obtain raw –material for the same and selling the same to retailers in market. Witnessing a 100% adoption at grassroots, the training may rightly be deemed successful. The training provided an opportunity to fend for themselves and supplement family income to purchase routine household items, clothes etc. The USP of this enterprise was the nature of execution of tasks. The whole enterprise was homebound. The raw material is brought to the village which is then worked upon within the thresholds of the house as per ones own time availability. This gives the entrepreneur the freedom to choose their routine household jobs as per priority and allocate suitable time to their livelihood. Today, these young girls train other girls in thier vicinity to learn the craft and establish a skill for livelihood generation. The *Sozni* embroidery training undoubtedly transformed the lives of these girls who now earn anywhere between Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000 per shawl depending upon the expanse of embroidery on shawls. A shawl embroidered on panels can be charged

anywhere between Rs 5000-10,000. Similarly, for a full embroidered shawl or a *Pur Matan*, as it is called in Kashmiri, Rs 25,000 or above may be charged. A brief account of the Impact has been tabulated below.

Impact of Training

S.No	Income Prior Training (per head)	Income Post Training (per head)
1.	-Nil-	Rs 5000 to 10,000 per month

Income Generated

S.No	Item	Input cost	Amount earned
	Stole	-Nil-	Rs 1500 to 2000
	Scarf	-Nil-	Rs 2000 to 3000
	Shawl	-Nil-	Rs 5000 to 25000 or more
	Saree	-Nil-	Rs 10,000 to 15,000

Similarly, another vocational training conducted in Repora B in the year 2020, in District Ganderbal yielded similar results. Technology, Implementation and Support for a 2 month training course on Stitching and Tailoring was rendered to a batch of 15 girls during the winter of the November 2020. The Kendra facilitated the training by providing a trainer and training material in order to impart basic stitching skills of sewing traditional apparel like *Kameez shalwar and Pheran*. This basic training of stitching gave them an opportunity to experiment with clothing and are now stitching apparel for self and community. The training provide an opportunity to these women to fend for themselves and support their education. They are also able to purchase household merchandise from the income generated. This livelihood option suits them because it doesn't incur much capital in terms of establishment or a physical space. Many of them are able to pursue her studies, assist mothers in household tasks and simultaneously take orders and earn. This training has transformed their lives in terms of income and social standing. They are looked up to among their peers in Repora. They also trains accomplices and are therefore contributing significantly to society and self.

Impact of Training

S.No	Income Prior Training (per head)	Income Post Training (per head)
1.	-Nil-	Rs 5000 to 10,000 per month

Income Generated

S.No	Item	Input cost	Amount earned
1	Kameez Shalwar (Adult)	Rs. 50	Rs. 300
2	Kameez shalwar (Kids)	Rs. 10	Rs 200
3	Pheran (Adult)	Rs. 20	Rs. 600
4	Pheran (Kids)	Rs. 10	Rs. 300

CONCLUSION

Vocational trainings on stitching and tailoring, local craft, basketry is a popular endeavour and most successful among women folk. While KVKs often face criticism for conducting vocational trainings mostly on stitching or local embroideries and not on food processing a single alibi would be the nature of operation and minimal input cost. Women or girls can stay at home, continue daily life activities along with stitching and embroidery while also earning. Women in India, are largely homebound and this formula works perfectly for them in tandem with social and cultural set-ups and thus may aptly be encouraged.

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