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Extent of Knowledge and Utilization of Medicinal Plants of Rural Women in Seoni District of Madhya Pradesh

Savita Marko[1], Jaydev Haldar[2] and K. K. Singh[3]

[1, 2]M.Sc. Ag. Extension, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot, Satna (M.P.)

[3]Department of technology transfer, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot, Satna (M.P.)

*****Email ID- *savitamarko1993@gmail.com*

Abstract

The present study was carried in Lakhnadone block of Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh covering 6 villages and 120 respondents. The data were collected through personal interview method by the researcher himself with the help of pre- structured schedule specially. Majority of the respondent had old age group and Most of respondents were found to secondary education and most of the respondents had medium socio-economic status and most of the respondents were in the medium category regarding innovativeness mass media exposure and extension participation. Majority of the respondents had high level of knowledge and information seeking regarding improved medicinal plant production practices followed by medium category and low level of knowledge.

Keyword- Knowledge, participation, behavior, rural woman.

Introduction

India has rich medical heritage with a large number of traditional practices, systems and medicines as a part of its total health care scenario, some of them are more than 3,000 years old[3]. Vedic literature stands to the proof of their vast knowledge on herbal medicines. Although the ancient system of herbal medicine was prevalent throughout the country, it suffered a severe setback with the introduction of Allopath. But currently there is a reawakening which has resulted in a more scientific approach to the Vedic day's store of knowledge of medicinal plants. In spite of remarkable achievements of modern medicines and research, these ancient systems continue to play a major role in the control or alleviation of diseases. The Indian systems of medicine use around 8,000 species of plants which include trees (33%), herbs (32%) shrubs (20%), climbers (12%) and epiphytes, grasses, lichens, ferns and algae put together (3%). Among 2,000 drugs being used in curing human ailments in India, only 200 are of animal origin, 300 of mineral origin and the rest 1500 drugs are extracted from various plants. Medicinal plants as a group comprise approximately 8000 species and account for around 50% of all the higher flowering plant species of India. However, the great block in promoting the use of herbal drugs are the lacking of the scientific evaluation and standardization. Further, confusion in the identification of medicinal plants and their substitutes, adulteration, lacking of valid and reliable scientific information for their therapeutic efficacy are some of the major problems concerned. Plants used in traditional medicine have stood up to the test of time and contributed many novel compounds for preventive and curative medicine to modern science. India is

sitting on a gold mine of well recorded and traditionally well practiced knowledge of herbal medicine. Specially, plants growing at high altitude in Himalayan pastures are time-honored sources of health and general well-being of local inhabitants. As of today, Himalayan plants are a major contributor to the herbal pharmaceutical industry both of India and other countries.

Material and Methods

The study was regulating in Lakhnadone block in Seoni district which is situated in the center of Madhya Pradesh. The Seoni district is located in the southern part of Madhya Pradesh. There are 65 villages in the block out of them 6 villages were selected as simple random sampling techniques were chosen for the study.From prepared list 20 medicinal plant growers as Respondents were selected. a total of 120 Respondents constituted as sample size.The primary data were collected with personal interview schedule. The interview was conducted in the most formal and friendly atmosphere without any complications. frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and correlation coefficient were used for analyzing and interpretation of the data.

Result and Discussion

Socio-economic profile of the respondents: The data in Table 1 exhibit that, the majority of woman respondent 35.84 percent belonged to old age group, whereas 33.33 percent were from middle and 30.83 percent Were from young age group. 33.33 percent were found to be in up to Secondary education, 25.00 percent up to middle and only 23.33 percent are Illiterate and18.34 percent Graduate that most of the respondent 37.50 percent were found to medium economic motivation category followed by 34.17 percent high category and 28.33 percent are low economic motivation category. the respondent 44.17 percent were in medium level of innovativeness, 29.17 percent respondent are high innovativeness and 26.66 percent are high innovativeness category. 40.83 percent high level of information seeking behavior, 31.67 percent in medium category, and 27.50 percent respondent had low category. Then 35.84 percent are medium mass media exposure category, 32.5 percent high category and 31.67 percent low mass media exposure category respectively.

Table 1 Socio-economic profile of rural women growing medicinal plants

Age	**Frequency**	**%**
Young(18-30)	37	30.83
Middle(31-55)	40	33.33
Old(above55)	43	35.84
Education		
Illiterate	28	23.33
Up to middle school	30	25.00
Secondary education	40	33.33
Graduate& above	22	18.34
Economic motivation		
Low(5-12)	34	28.33
Medium (13-19)	45	37.50

High (20-25)	41	34.17
Socio- economic		
Low (6-10)	34	28.33
Medium (11-14)	46	38.33
High (15-18)	40	33.34
Innovativeness		
Low (9-15)	32	26.66
Medium (16-21)	53	44.17
High (22-27)	35	29.17
Information behavior		
Low (12-20)	33	27.50
Medium (21-28)	38	31.67
High (29-36)	49	40.83
Mass media Exposure		
Low (6-10)	36	30.00
Medium (11-18)	47	39.17
High (19-24)	37	30.83

The table 2 shows that most of the respondent 40.00 % were found in high level of knowledge regarding improved Medicinal plant cultivation, medium category 36.67 % and low category 23.33% level of knowledge. By thoroughly studying the level of knowledge of the respondent in the production of medicinal plants, people of different tendencies and their level of knowledge gained the following information.

Table 2 Level of knowledge about distribution of respondent regarding recommended medicinal plant cultivation (N=120)

Knowledge Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low	28	23.33
Medium	44	36.67
High	48	40.00
Total	120	100.0

The result of correlation analysis in above table 3 revealed that characteristics viz. Age, Education, Socio-economic status, Economic motivation, Innovative-ness and Information seeking behavior are positively and significantly at 0.005 per cent level related to level of knowledge about medicinal plant of the respondents. Because the respondents were found to be positively and significantly correlated with level of knowledge of medicinal plant, indicating that higher in frequency of socio-economic profile of the respondents results higher level of knowledge about medicinal plant. The socio-economic profile viz. Mass media exposure And Extension participation were found to positively but non-significant related to level of knowledge of the respondents.

Table 3 Relationship between socio-economic profile and level of knowledge about medicinal plants

S.N.	Characteristics	"r" value
1	Age	0.183*
2	Education	0.285*
3	Socio-Economic profile	0.658*
4	Economic motivation	0.482*
5	Innovativeness	0.31*
6	Information seeking behavior	0.243 *
7	Mass media exposure	0.145NS
8	Extension participation	0.04 NS

* = 0.05 level of significance NS = Non-significance

Conclusion

All above characteristics of the respondents were found to positively but non-significant correlate with level of knowledge, indicating that higher in frequency of socio-economic profile of respondents result higher the level of knowledge of respondents but non-significantly. The findings of the present study will help in determining the appropriate communication, layout and follow the strategy to reach the target group on large knowledge of various factors that affect the orientation, skills, behavior and attitudes of the farmers will do. It will also be helpful for program planners to improve agricultural programs as suggested by farmers for the betterment of agriculture[1,2]. While the demand for medicinal plants is increasing, some of them are at increased risk in their natural habitat. To meet future needs, cultivation of medicinal plants will have to be encouraged.

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