

Original Research Article

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Problem Faced During Use of Information and Communication Technologies by Farm Women of Udaipur (Rajasthan), India

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ABSTRACT

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Farmers are more desirous and become anxious to get quick, exact and authentic information in the changing scenario of agriculture at global level. Transfer of technology to farmers is not a one-time exercise because new farm technology is being constantly evolved. The ICTs included in the study radio, mobile phone, basic phone, computer and internet. The study was conducted in Girwa Panchyat samiti of Udaipur District with randomly selected a sample of on 100 Farm Women. The Findings revealed that majority of the farm women were middle aged, married, and belonged to schedule caste and schedule tribe, nuclear family, medium family size and had no membership in any organization. Majority of the respondents reported the problems as not having own ICTs tools, lack of interest, financial problems, lack of confidence in operating ICTs, lack of time, lack of technical knowledge, signal problem, non-functioning of ICTs, inadequate physical facilities, lack of electricity and inadequate repair facilities.

Introduction

The mobile phone is start, but ICT goes beyond receiving and making calls on the mobile phones. ICTs are those technologies that can be used to interlink information technology devices. ICT means application of innovative way to facilitate information and communication technology in the rural domain. The advancement in ICT can be utilized for providing relevant information and services to the farmers, there by facilitating an environment for more rewarding agriculture. Farmers of rural areas can be educated for modern means of cultivation through ICTs. In

recent time, ICT is playing a role of catalyst in rural development. It is used in every aspect Farmer of information, management and governance of development. There is an increasing realization about the potentialities of ICT in dissemination of agricultural technologies among the farmers. ICT as an effective and efficient information support tool would lead to stronger conviction and efficient extension programme planning.

Most of the respondents opined that media is important in spreading new possibilities and practices but at the stage where decisions were being made about what to do and what not to,

the role of interpersonal channel was mostly admired. The study also has brought forth the fact that media had played a praiseworthy role in extending information to the rural people regarding various welfare oriented schemes of the government. In case of family welfare measures, the role of media to change the attitude of the mass was felt significant. Media have been influencing extensively the level of socio-political awareness among the respondents. In the field of child welfare and health and sanitation also, the role of media could not be denied.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in one randomly selected panchayat samiti Girwa from Udaipur district of Rajasthan state. From the panchayat samiti, 4 villages namely Sakroda, Buzda, Kaladwas and Debari were selected and 25 farm women were selected randomly from each village between 20 -40 years with minimum secondary education. The total sample of study was 100 Farm Women. Data were collected by personal interview using developed interview schedule. Frequency and Percentage were calculated for analyzing the data.

Results and Discussion

Problems faced by respondents in use of ICTs

Problems work as bottleneck and restrict an entity project system from achieving its potential goal. Problems in use of ICTs were categorized in three groups as technical problems, resource problems and personal problems.

Technical problems

Data regarding technical problems presented in Table 1 reveal that majority of the

respondents (75%) reported for lack of technical knowledge to use ICT, followed by 70 per cent respondents faced signal problem in use of ICT.

Further 54 per cent respondents faced problem of non-functioning of ICTs. Lack of technical guidance to use ICTs was also reported by 33 per cent respondents.

The reason behind such findings might be that respondents possess the tools but cannot understand the operating manual and many a times people do not read the material and just start using so may not be able to use the technology perfectly and accurately. Further advancement in the technologies may not be known to people therefore little or no guidance is available and problem in proper care and maintenance also occurs, due to which ICT tools may be come non-functional.

Ghasura *et al.*, (2012) revealed the problem faced by dairy entrepreneur in using ICT were did not know the benefits of ICT, they did not know have skill in using ICTs and lack of time for ICT and poor broadband connectivity in rural areas were important constraints faced by dairy entrepreneur in the use of ICT.

Resource problems

Information with regard to resource problems presented in the Table 2 reveal that majority of the respondents (69%) reported for lack of electricity. Further 30 per cent respondents reported for inadequate physical facilities and 25 per cent respondents reported for inadequate ICT repair facilities.

The reason for such findings could be that the respondents having ICTs like TV, mobile but not having furniture for keeping and maintenance was a problem, as there were no repair shops in the village and uncertain power cut is a big problem.

Table.1 Technical problems faced by the respondents in use of ICTs

n = 100

S. No.	Technical Constraints	f/(%)
1.	Lack of technical knowledge to operate	85
2.	Lack of signal/network problem	70
3.	Non-functioning of ICT tools	54
4.	Lack of technical guidance	33

Table.2 Resource problems faced by the respondents in use of ICTs

n = 100

S. No.	Resource problems	f/(%)
1.	Lack of electricity/poor power supply	69
2.	Inadequate physical facilities	30
3.	Inadequate ICT repair facilities	25

Table.3 Personal problems faced by the respondents in use of ICTs

n= 100

S. No.	Personal problems	f/(%)
1.	Do not have own ICT tools.	80
2.	Lack of interest	78
3.	Financial problem/High cost of ICTs	77
4.	Problem in understanding language/message	77
5.	Inadequate literacy skills to use ICTs	75
6.	Lack of confidence in operating ICTs	75
7.	Lack of time	70
8.	Lack of permission from family members to use ICTs	30

The findings are in line with the results of the study conducted by Arokoyo and Orokoyo (2005) who reported that the constraints severely restrict the use of ICTs in agricultural extension are poor ICT infrastructure, erratic power supply, high illiteracy among information users (farmers) and low computer literacy of information providers (researchers and extensionist).

Personal Problems

Data presented in Table 3 depicts that 75 to 80 per cent of the respondents reported the personal problems in use of ICTs as- not having own ICT tools (80%), lack of interest (78%), financial problem (77%), problem in understanding language (77%), inadequate

literacy skills to use ICTs (75%), and lack of confidence operating ICTs (75%), followed by lack of time as personal constraints was also reported by 70 per cent respondents. Lack of permission from family members to use ICTs as personal problems was reported by 30 per cent respondents.

The reason for such findings could be that the respondents may not aware about the use of ICT tools and further language was a big barrier.

Further use of ICT requires special skills and respondents may not be having required skills to use ICTs tools that are why respondents have no confidence in operating ICTs. And also respondents might be busy in agriculture

and animal husbandry activities so have little or no time to use ICTs.

The findings get support of the results of study by Natruju *et al.*, (2011) beneficiaries. Revealed that electricity problem first, while low affordability occupied the second position in the problem hierarchy.

The study further indicated that technology fear, problem of foreign language, lack of infrastructure facility and technical problem were the other major constraints faced by the beneficiaries in the study area.

ICT can play a key role in providing extensionists and rural people with all information needed for their work including crop production, credit, input supply, pest and disease control, post-harvest techniques and improving market access.

The effective use of ICTs would not only improve the performance of farm women at work but also help them to do more better work in a shorter time. Thus there is a need to know that up to what extent farm women are utilizing Information and Communication Technologies for onward transfer of technology.

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