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Extent of Utilization of Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion (IBDLP) Programme by Garo Farm Women in Garo Hills of Meghalaya, India

Mikkimchi Gabil Momin, Puspita Das* and Ranjan S. Karippai

Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, College of Community Science, Central Agricultural University, Tura, Meghalaya, 794005, India

**Corresponding author*

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A B S T R A C T

The present study was an attempt to assess the extent of utilization of IBDLP by Garo farm women in Garo Hills Of Meghalaya as IBDLP is a mission mode programme which focuses to alleviate the poverty and imparts knowledge to farm women through different training programme to become self-independent and increase their livelihood. The study was conducted in Rongram block of West Garo Hills and Betasing block of South West Garo Hills Meghalaya. Total 100 numbers of women beneficiaries were taken and their socio economic characteristics were studied. Data were collected through interview method. The respondents are interviewed with a pretested interview to assess their awareness level and up to what extent they utilized the program. Findings revealed that 66 per cent of farm women have medium awareness level, followed by 21 per cent have high level and 13 per cent have low level of awareness. The utilization of IBDLP mission was identified and rank based on the mean scores. Sericulture with least mean scores rank last which shows less utilization of sericulture mission by Garo farm women in selected areas. The problems faced by farm women were identified. Delay in financial support (43%), Unable to attend the training due to daily routine work (23%) and unable to access the information needed (12%) are the main problem faced by farm women. Study further indicated the relationship between variables. The relationship between level of awareness and extent utilization of IBDLP is positively significant at 1 % level. Hence it can be concluded that increasing in awareness level can increase the utilization of different mission of IBDLP by Garo farm women.

Introduction

Garo Hills of Meghalaya is situated near Assam and Bangladesh borders. The Garo tribes are inhabited of Garo Hills of Meghalaya which belong to a matrilineal society. Garo women are treated as head of the family and inherit all the property (Marak and Sahana, 2009). The Garo tribes highly depend on natural resources for their livelihood. The main livelihood activities of Garo Tribes is through Jhum cultivation and other commercial crops produced in the districts like cashewnut, arecanut, tuber crops,

paddy, maize and ginger etc. The major sources of water for cultivation are rivers, streams and rainfall (Samajdar *et al.*, 2016).

Garo Hills is blessed with natural biodiversity and numerous water bodies despite that tribal population lives below poverty line because they earn income only from cultivation which is not sufficient for the family. Therefore, the Government of Meghalaya launched "Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion (IBDLP)" on April, 2012 which aims to develop sustainable and inclusive entrepreneurship through an extensive system of training and capacity building, credit linkage and supply chain development for the people of Meghalaya (Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, 2012).

IBDLP is a mission mode livelihood programme aiming to alleviate the poverty by imparting many livelihood activities for people of Meghalaya. This programme provides trainings, credit facilities, and information facilities for the rural people. It works with different components to fulfil the need of people. Both male and female can get registered and avail the benefits from programme. Necessary information, trainings and credit facilities are provided through Enterprise Facilitation Centres which is located in each block and Basin development unit in each District of Meghalaya. Different missions of programme are introduced to rural people and derived the benefits from the programme. IBDLP impart training for women under different mission of IBDLP to become self-independent and help the family to increase their livelihood security. Garo farm women can avail the benefits without any cost from the programme. So, far no systematic study has been conducted on this topic to assess the programme and hence a research study was undertaken with the following objectives.

The main objectives of this study includes, to assess the level of awareness and utilization of IBDLP programme. And also to ascertain the problems faced by Garo farm women in availing the benefits provided by IBDLP.

To identify the relationship between socio economic characteristics, awareness and utilization of IBDLP programme.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Garo Hills of Meghalaya as the study focused on Garo farm women beneficiaries of IBDLP programme which is one of the livelihood programmes in Meghalaya. Garo Hills consist of five districts out of which two districts were selected for study i.e. West Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya. West Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills Districts were selected purposively due to easy accessibility of researchers.

Blocks and villages covered under IBDLP programme were considered for selection of blocks and villages. Rongram block from West Garo Hills and Betasing block from South West Garo Hills were the selected blocks for the study. Four villages were selected from each block (two villages from one block). Gondenggre and Asanang were the two villages selected from Rongram block and Purasingga and Adugre were the two villages selected from Betasing block of Garo Hills. Selections of the Villages were done through simple random sampling method. List of farm women were prepared from four selected villages. Twenty five numbers of respondents from one village total hundred respondents were taken for study. Respondents were taken from selected villages because more women beneficiaries were found in selected villages.

Data were collected through Interview

method using the semi structured interview schedule to collect the primary information. Predesigned and pretested interview schedule is a tool used in study area.

Appropriate statistical techniques were used for analyzing the data. Statistical software like SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science) and MS-excel spreadsheet were used for analysis. Suitable tables were prepared with the appropriate statistical analysis namely percentage, frequency, mean, standard deviation, Spearman rank correlation and etc. were incorporated wherever necessary for analysis.

Results and Discussion

The table 1 revealed that (45%) of farm women belonged to middle age group (45-52 years) followed by (40%) of young age group (26-39 years) and (15%) belonged to old age group (53-65) respectively. Thus, it is stated that highest percentage belonged to middle age group (45-52 years) and lowest percentage belonged to old age group (53-65).

Educational status of Garo farm women helps in gaining more knowledge and decision making process. Table 1 clearly indicates that (31%) of Garo farm women studied up to matriculation, (26%) up to middle school (5-8 class) followed by 16 per cent primary school (up to 4 class) and (13%) studied up to higher secondary level. Only 3 per cent of farm women studied up to graduation and above level. Only (11%) of farm women were illiterate.

Marital status helps to know the relationship status of the person. Table 1 revealed that (81%) of farm women were married followed by 11 per cent of unmarried and 6 per cent of farm women were widows. Only 2 per cent of farm women were divorcee.

Garo tribe is one of the tribal communities in Northeast India that belonged to scheduled tribe and followed the Christian religion. Thus, the table 1 clearly stated that 100 per cent of respondents belonged to scheduled tribes and Christian community. The study was focused on rural areas of Garo Hills. Hence, the data in table 1 revealed that 100 per cent of Garo farm women beneficiaries belonged to rural background.

Occupation is one important aspect to know the economic condition of the people. Table 1 stated that (54%) of farm women primary occupation is agriculture followed by (10%) of business, (12%) of handicraft and (13%) were housewife. It also indicates that only 4 per cent of farm women were wage earner and 7 per cent were service holder respectively.

Annual income is the yearly income earned by the individual in terms of occupation or any livelihood activities. The table 1 indicates that (28%) of farm women have annual income of (100001 - 150,000) whereas (20%) have annual income of (150,001 – 200000), (19%) have (81,000 – 100000) followed by (11%) have (200001 – 250000) and (7%) have annual income of (250001 and above). Only 15 per cent have annual income of 80,000 respectively.

Maximum of farm women (90%) belonged to nuclear families and (10%) belonged to joint family which is indicated in table 1. Hence, the result can be concluded that maximum of farm women families belonged to nuclear family followed by 10 per cent of joint family.

Family sizes depend on the total number of members in the family. It was observed from table 1 that (53%) of farm women have medium size family (3-6 members) followed by (30%) and (17%) have big size family (More than 6 members) and small size family

(up to 2 members) respectively.

Table 1 revealed that (49 %) of farm women had land holding of below 1 hectare, (30%) had land holding of 1.1 to 2 hectare. Likewise, (7%) and (3%) had land holding of 2.1 to 4 hectare and above. The table also indicates that 11% of farm women had no land holding**.**

Livestock possession indicates rearing pattern of animals or poultry by farm women. The data in tables 1 found that 30 per cent of farm women reared cattle, 26 per cent reared piggery followed by 12 per cent goat farming while 13 per cent reared poultry and 10 per cent reared all the animals or poultry. It also indicates that 9 per cent did not rear animals or poultry respectively.

From table 1 it was observed that 48 per cent reared animals for both consumption and marketing while 30 per cent reared animals for marketing purposes followed by 12 per cent reared animals for consumption purposes whereas 9 per cent did not rear animals or poultry.

The above table 2 and figure 1 clearly indicate that 66 per cent of farm women have medium level of awareness on different missions and functions of programme followed by 21 per cent have high level of awareness on different mission. Only 13 per cent have low level of awareness level regarding the function and missions of IBDLP programme.

To know the extent of utilization of IBDLP benefits or mission, the ordinal scale consisting of 5 point is considered i.e. 5 (Extremely utilized), 4 (Highly Utilized), 3 (Utilized), 2 (Less Utilized), and 1 (Never Utilized). The data in the table 3 clearly indicates that livestock mission rank first with mean scores of (3.48) followed by horticulture mission (3.39), Forestry and Plantation (2.79), apiculture (1.83), water (1.36), rural energy (1.25), tourism (1.24), apiculture (1.2) and sericulture (1.18) with lowest mean scores respectively. Probable reason for high rank of livestock and Horticulture mission might be the prevailing common non vegetarian food habit of this Garo region. So there is high and regular demand for livestock product and organic vegetables.

Thus, it can be concluded that maximum of Garo farm women beneficiaries highly utilized livestock, horticulture, forestry & plantation and aquaculture mission followed by less utilized of water, rural energy, and tourism and apiculture mission. It is evident from the table that sericulture mission with lowest mean scores (1.18) can be concluded that Garo farm women never utilized sericulture mission in selected areas.

The table 4 clearly revealed that 65 per cent have faced problem in availing benefits and 35 per cent have no problems in availing benefits from IBDLP programme.

Table 5 clearly depicts the types of problem faced by farm women in availing benefits from IBDLP programme. It was observed that delay in financial support or any material in kind rank first with 43 per cent followed by unable to attend the training due to daily routine work (23%), unable to access the information needed (12%), lack of awareness to availed the benefits from the programme (8%) and lack of time to availed the benefits (6%). Likewise, 5 per cent faced problems due lack of resources, 3 per cent due to unavailable of officers. The probable reason that delays in financial support or any material in kind rank first might be due to their less participation in training programmes and resultant in lack of demanding nature to the authorities as they are unable to attend the

training due to daily routine work which indicated as a second rank problem.

To know the relationship between socio economic characteristics and level of awareness of Garo farm women the correlation analysis is conducted between the variables. Spearman rank correlation was used to measure the significant relationship between the variables. The significant of coefficient is tested at 1% level. Thus, it is evident from the table 6 that variables Age, educational status, occupation, types of training attended and numbers of training attended were positively significant at 1% level.

Table.1 Distribution of socio economic characteristics of farm women (N = 100)

Sl.no	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1	Age	Young age (26-39)	40	40
		Middle age (40-52)	45	45
		Old age (53-65)	15	15
2	Education	Illiterate	11	11
		Primary school (up to class 4)	16	16
		Middle school(5-8 class)	26	26
		Matriculation	31	31
		Higher secondary school	13	13
		Graduate and above	3	3
3	Marital status	Married	81	81
		Unmarried	11	11
		Widow	6	6
		Divorcee	2	2
4	Caste	Scheduled tribe	100	100
5	Religion	Christianity	100	100
6	Background	Rural	100	100
7	Occupation	Agriculture	54	54
		Business	10	10
		Service	7	7
		Wage earner	4	4
		Handicraft	12	12
		Housewife	13	13
8	Annual income	80,000	15	15
		81,000 – 100000	19	19
		1,00001 -150,000	28	28
		1,50,001 – 200000	20	20
		200001 – 250000	11	11
		250001 and above	7	7
9	Family type	Nuclear	90	90
		Joint	10	10
10	Family size	Small (up to 2 members)	17	17
		Medium (3-6 members)	53	53

		Big (More than 6 members)	30	30
11	Land holding	No land	11	11
		Below 1 hectare	49	49
		1.1 to 2 hectare	30	30
		2.1 to 4 hectare	7	7
		Above 4 hectare	3	3
12	Livestock possession	Goat farm	12	12
		Cattle	30	30
		Piggery	26	26
		Poultry	13	13
		All of these	10	10
		None of these	9	9
13	Purpose of rearing	Consumption	12	12
		Marketing	31	31
		Both consumption and marketing	48	48
		None of these	9	9

Table.2 Overall awareness level of IBDLP programme

Awareness level	Category	Frequency	Per cent	Mean	S.D
High level	12.50-14.00	21	21	13.238	0.436
Medium level	9.60-12.49	66	66	10.787	0.734
Low level	8.00-9.59	13	13	8.846	0.375
	Total	100	100	-	-

Table.3 Extent of Utilization of IBDLP

Mission Of IBDLP	Ranking of extent of utilization of IBDLP mission						
	Extremely utilized 5	Highly Utilized 4	Utilized 3	Less Utilized 2	Never Utilized 1	Mean	Ranking
Livestock	7	51	30	7	5	3.48	I
Horticulture	12	34	39	11	4	3.39	II
Forestry and Plantation	-	14	58	21	7	2.79	III
Aquaculture	-	-	4	75	21	1.83	IV
Water	-	-	-	36	64	1.36	V
Rural Energy	-	-	-	25	75	1.25	VI
Tourism	-	-	-	24	76	1.24	VII
Apiculture	-	-	-	20	80	1.2	VIII
Sericulture	-	-	-	18	82	1.18	IX

Table.4 Problems faced in availing benefits

Category	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	65	65
No	35	35
Total	100	100

Table.5 Types of problems faced by farm women

Category	Frequency	Per cent	Ranking
Delay in financial support or any material in kind	28	43	I
Unable to attend the training due to daily routine work.	15	23	II
Unable to access the information needed	8	12	III
Lack of awareness to availed the benefits from the programme	5	8	IV
Lack of time to availed the benefits	4	6	V
Lack of resources	3	5	VI
Unavailable of officers	2	3	VII
Total	65	100	-

Table.6 Relationship between socio economic characteristics and level of awareness of IBDLP

Variables	Correlation Coefficient	p value
Age of the respondents	0.319**	0.001
Educational status	0.268**	0.007
Marital status	0.185	0.066
Occupation	0.345**	0.001
Income of the family	0.028	0.783
Family size	0.173	0.085
Land holding	0.070	0.490
Types of training attended	0.297**	0.003
Numbers of training attended	0.290**	0.003

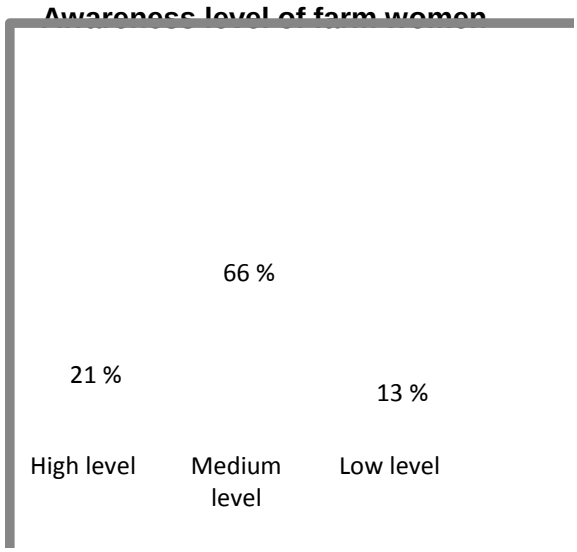
* Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Table.7 Relationship between level of awareness and extent of utilization of IBDLP

Variables	Correlation coefficient	P value
Level of awareness * Extent of Utilization Of IBDLP	0.291**	0.003

* Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Fig.1 Awareness level of Farm women



This implies that when the age of person increases the awareness level also increases. They show more interest on different income generating activities and aware of different programme or scheme to increase their livelihood security. If educational status of farm women increases obviously the awareness level also increases. More the farm women are educated they gain more information and knowledge. The significant relationship between occupation and level awareness indicates that when farm women are involve in agriculture or related activities. Their natural tendency to seek and obtain better awareness on livestock, horticulture, forestry & plantation related activities.

The positive and significant relationship between participation in training and level of awareness is also obvious due to increase information seeking and obtaining behavior of the participant farm women.

The above table 7 shows that level of awareness have positively significant at 1% level with extent of utilization because increase in awareness of IBDLP programme increases in extent of utilization of IBDLP programme, mission and benefits by farm women. Higher the awareness level higher the utilization of programme benefits or different mission of programme.

Thus, it can be concluded that level of awareness of farm women have relationship with extent of utilization of programme as evident from the results of the analysis.

In conclusion, utilization of IBDLP by Garo Farm women is severely affected by different types of problems faced in availing benefits. Delayed in financial support, unable to attend the training due to daily routine work and unable to access the information needed is the main problems face by farm women. Hence

there is a need to improve in financial support and provide the information needed to the women farmers.

The providing of information on different missions to women farmer can increase the awareness level and utilization of benefits from programme. Higher the awareness levels of farm women higher the participation in training programme. Garo farm women only utilized livestock, horticulture, forestry& plantation and aquaculture mission. Different mission should be introduced so that the women farmers can become aware and utilize other mission as well to increase their livelihood security.

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