



Original Research Article

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Availability and Accessibility of Different ICTs hardware of Farm Women Knowledge Groups

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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The study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan State. The sample consisted of 100 farm women. Frequency and percentage were used for analysis of data. The study reveals that television, mobile and internet facilities were available to majority of the respondents and the reason for not having mobile phone reported i.e. other members of the family had phones which were used by them. Respondent had (91.0%) without internet facility mobile set because they require for connecting with their relatives/friends and 31-35 per cent respondents having mobile with internet. A sample selected from Gudli and Vijan was villages making a total sample of 100 rural women. Data were collected with the help of questioner. Frequency and percentage were used for analysis of the data.

Introduction

Women farmers in India perform most of the big farming jobs, from sowing to harvesting, yet their access to resources is less than their male counterparts. All the decisions whether political, social, economic, cultural and behavioural today depends on the ability to access, gather, analyse and utilize information and knowledge (Jakhar, 2015). For the women farmers, it is also easy to come out of their household as the member of knowledge group in which they share their group identity. Productivity and sustainability of small scale farm is an area where ICT can make a significant contribution. ICT is not only a powerful media of mass communication which speedily disseminates agriculture

information but also help to bridge the gap between scientists and farmers. This paper will contribute information regarding availability and accessibility to different ICTs hardware of Farm Women Knowledge Groups.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in village Gudli and Vijanwas of Mavli block from Udaipur district of Rajasthan State. The study was purposively planned for situational analyse on knowledge and use of ICT in agricultural and allied sector. For this, the data was collected from 100 farm women. Availability and access of ICT tool was studied in the study.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 reveals that television, mobile & internet facilities were available to majority of the respondents (80-100%) with complete accessibility (72-75%), while internet was partially accessible (43%). The kiosk, internet, email & even radio were available to very few respondents (6-22%) with partial accessibility.

It was because radio is almost out dated & replaced by Television now a days where electricity is a problem, time is not available there television also is partially used. Mobile has become a source of entertainment and communication. The kiosk services are not directly relevant to them & thus had limited use. Similarly whosoever had computer was used mainly for viewing photographs or clipping of entertainment.

Jain *et al.*, (2012) also observed that radio and TV is accessible to nearly one-third of women farmers up to medium size farms while 4 out of 5 women farmers of large farms have access to ICT tools. Access to more modern

means of ICT like phones and mobiles is less than 10 per cent for women having no land or very small farms while it increases to 67 per cent for large farm size women. Access to computers is virtually nil in all categories barring few cases (10 per cent each) among large farm size categories.

Table 2 shows that 89 percent respondents owned mobile sets while 11 percent didn't have as they were not requiring it. Alex (2016) also reported in there study the most available ICT equipment was mobile phone indicating 90.7 per cent.

The table 3 shows different reasons for owning a mobile phone. The responses were gathered in two categories i.e. respondents without internet and respondent with internet. It was observed that majority (91.01%) of the respondents had mobile because they require for connecting with their relatives/friends. Whereas 38 to 46 percent had it due to the reasons i.e. other women have it, due to prestige /status, other family members have it and sometimes it was gifted.

Table.1 Distribution of respondents according to availability and Accessibility to different ICTs hardware

n= 100

ICTs hardware	Availability		Extent of Access		
	Yes	No	Complete	Partial	No access
Television	96	4	75	21	4
Radio	11	89	0	11	89
Mobile	100	0	72	28	0
Kiosk / common service centres	22	78	0	17	83
Computer	6	94	0	6	0
CD/VDV	0	100	0	0	100
Internet	80	20	21	43	36
e- mail	15	85	0	13	87

Table.2 Percent distribution of respondents according to their ownership of mobile
n= 100

Ownership of mobile	
Yes	No
89	11

Table.3 Percent distribution of respondents according to their reasons for
Owning a mobile phone
n= 89

Statements	Respondent without internet		Respondent with internet	
	f	%	f	%
Prestige/status	37	41.57%	16	17.97%
Other women have it	34	38.20%	18	20.22%
Other family members have it	38	42.69%	28	31.46%
It was gifted	41	46.06%	19	21.34%
It is required for connecting with relatives/friends	81	91.01%	32	35.95%
Social networking	0	0	30	33.70%
Seeking information	0	0	30	33.70%

Table.4 Percent distribution of respondents according to their reasons for not
Owning a mobile phone
n= 11

Statements	f	%
Cannot afford	0	0
Women are not allowed	0	0
I do not need it	9	81.81 %
I can use my family member’s mobile	11	100 %
One common phone in the family is enough for everyone	0	0

The reasons reported by 31-35 per cent respondents having mobile with internet that they required for connecting with relatives/friends and for social networking, for seeking information and their family members also have it. Very few of them (17-21%) reported that they have it due to prestige/status, other women have it & it was gifted.

Table 4 shows that cent per cent respondents reported the reason for not owned mobile as other members of the family had phones which were used by them also. While 81.81

per cent mentioned that they didn’t require it. The other reasons were not at all reported by them.

Cherie Blair foundation of women also reported the reasons women cite for not owning a mobile phone include the cost of handsets and service, a lack of need for a mobile phone and fear of being able to master the technology. Cultural issues, such as the traditional roles of men and women, are also a factor in women’s mobile phone ownership and can delay or even prevent a woman’s

acquisition of a mobile phone. Strategies that address these concerns are essential to encourage more women to own a mobile phone and are included in the recommendations of the report.

On the basis of findings it could be concluded that television, mobile & internet facilities were available to majority of the respondents (80-100%) with complete accessibility (72-75%), while internet was partially accessible (43%). mobile sets owned by 89 percent of the respondents. respondent had (91.0%) without internet facility mobile set because they require for connecting with their relatives/friends and 31-35 per cent respondents having mobile with internet. The reason for not owning mobile as other

members of the family had phones which were used by them also by 100 percent.

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