

Original Research Article

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Awareness Generation among Rural Women for Recycling of Discarded Fabrics to Develop Bio-Fertilizer

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ABSTRACT

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To generate awareness of developed technology among rural women, knowledge test was assessed on the basis of pre and post knowledge of rural women about developed technology. The awareness training programme was launched to sensitize rural women on issues related to developed bio-fertilizer and related aspects. MPSs of the respondents ranged between 75 to 95.83 in post test which indicates good to excellent knowledge in all the components, with the overall knowledge MPS as 91.66. Highest knowledge was possessed by the respondents about concept of developed technology followed by worm bed preparation, watering and earthworms with the rank I, II, III and IV respectively, as reflected by majority of respondents in good category. Further in the remaining components i.e. raw material, pre-treatment & filling of bed, maintenance of bio-fertilizer, harvesting of bio-fertilizer, care during transportation, uses and advantages indicates good knowledge of respondents in these components also.

Introduction

Management of discarded fabric has become one of the problems we are facing today. The huge amount of discarded fabric generated mostly by textile mills, manufacturing units, boutique, tailor's shop and household sectors. Considerable amount of discarded fabric is dumped in open areas and incinerated after removing small percentage for recycling and reuse. This accumulation of discarded fabric from all over the country causes certain serious environmental problems and health hazards. Looking into the above facts, the researcher got an innovative idea of using

these discarded fabric to develop bio-fertilizer. This grassroots level, replicable, measurable, adoptable, sustainable and economical, innovative idea will be advocated with a holistic approach to the common women that they have organic bio-fertilizer to use. What is most important is the resultant benefit an answer to a global problem of arresting as much of discarded fabric from circulation as possible and converting the dangerous waste into products of utility without intervention of high technology or million dollars investment. This idea will be of great help in preserving and protecting our delicate earth. This innovative idea to

overcome environmental hazards of discarded fabrics, a biodegradable product, would like to be protector and preserver of mother earth and further generation and immediate environment will be a much better place to live in. The scope of the research encompasses of benefitting the farmers, industrialists, boutiques and tailors shop owners and to the ecology and future generations to come keeping this in view, the present research was conducted in Udaipur city with objective to generation Awareness among rural women about Recycling of discarded fabrics to develop bio-fertilizer.

Materials and Methods

Sixty rural women were selected to generate awareness and to find out the impact of training in terms of gain in knowledge about developed bio-fertilizer technology. Two villages i.e. Lakawali and Dangiyo ka Guda of Girwa panchayat samitti of Udaipur district were selected from already selected village of the University for convenience. Seven days training was conducted in each village to impart the developed technology. For the training, 30 rural women of 20-35 years of age with lower middle income group were selected on the basis of their interest and willingness to participate in the training in each village. To find out the knowledge of respondents about developed bio-fertilizer technology, knowledge test was used. This test was consist of questions related to concept of bio-fertilizer technology, raw materials, discarded fabrics, vermicomposting, earthworms, water, harvesting of bio-fertilizer, care during transportation, uses and advantages. The questions were close and open ended.

Results and Discussion

The awareness training programme was launched to sensitize rural women on issues

related to developed bio-fertilizer and related aspects. Mean per cent scores on each aspects was calculated and reported below.

Components wise knowledge of developed technology

An effort was also made to find out the component wise knowledge of the respondents regarding developed technology. Perusal of Table 1 reveals that MPSs of the respondents ranged between 75 to 95.83 in post test which indicates good to excellent knowledge in all the components, with the overall knowledge MPS as 91.66. Closed observation of the table shows that highest knowledge was possessed by the respondents about concept of developed technology followed by worm bed preparation, watering and earthworms with mean percent scores 95.45,94.44,95.45,89.42 respectively and ranked I,II,III and IV respectively, as reflected by majority of respondents in good category. Further the mean percent score in remaining components i.e. raw material, pre-treatment & filling of bed, maintenance of bio-fertilizer, harvesting of bio-fertilizer, care during transportation, uses and advantages ranged between 75 to 95.83 which indicates good knowledge of respondents in these components also.

Results in the Table 1 indicates the knowledge gain of the respondents, that is, rural women regarding the developed technology. The developed technology made up of discarded cotton and silk fabrics using vermin culture. The knowledge gain was measured by distributing it into various sub-components. The knowledge gain was calculated with the difference between pre and post tests MPS.

Concept of developed technology

It was encouraging to note that at the time of pre-test 360 scores (54.54% MPS) were

obtained while afterwards in post-test it was 630 (95.45 % MPS) and aware about name of the technology. That mean, there was a mean difference between pre and post test (knowledge gain) was 40.90 per cent MPS and it comes under 'I' rank (Table 1). Findings indicated that in post test majority of respondents (95.45%) had an understanding about developed technology. Respondents stated that the local name i.e. "Alsia-ki-khad". It is different from the conventional method of preparing compost, i.e. rodi-ki-khad, in the manner that here the bio-fertilizer is prepared by earthworms and gets ready within three months time. It involves, questions related to name of the technology, only heard name, seen established bio-fertilizer unit using vermin-culture technology, interaction with the person preparing and using bio-fertilizer, understanding about bio-fertilizer making technology, prepared by worms and ready in 3 months, various requirements in preparation like shady place, it's raw materials, earth worms, water etc. Each component had its score and the maximum score for this concept was 660.

Worm bed preparation

Table 1 interprets that the rank of knowledge gain in this component was 'II'. It can be observed that the second component was "worm bed preparation". In this questions regarding to worm bed preparation i.e. worm bed can be of any size or shape, depending upon the availability and quantity of waste to be composted. Preparation of worm bed is one of the most important aspects of the whole process of bio-fertilizer making. It had 7 sub-components with their subsequent details and scores. The maximum score of this component was 1080. In pre-test 660 scores (61.11% MPS) were obtained which was increase in post-test with a remarkable difference range of 1020 scores (94.44%). The difference in MPS that is knowledge gain was 33.33 per cent.

Raw material

In vermicomposting, almost all type of biologically degradable and decomposable organic wastes can be used as raw material i.e. animal dung (cattle, sheep, horse, goat and poultry dropping), agriculture waste (large roughage, cereals straws, dry leaves, foliage, husk, leaf litters, coir and processed food waste.), bio-gas slurry, mushroom spent, city garbage, kitchen waste, forestry wastes (wood shavings, peels, saw dust), industrial waste (food processing, distillery), waste paper, cotton and silk fabric, leather, etc. Regarding raw material required for the preparation of bio-fertilizer using vermin culture technology.

It has sub-components with further details as well as their scores. It was found that at the time of pre-test 840 scores (58.33% MPS) were obtained while afterwards in post-test it was 1260 (87.50 % MPS). That mean, there was a mean difference between pre and post test was 29.17 per cent MPS and it comes under 'VII' rank.

The results are in conformity with the results of Kour (2002) that all the farm women had good knowledge about the basic material required for preparing vermicompost such as, animal waste, agriculture waste and green neem leaves.

Earthworms and their feedstock

Earthworms have intrinsic capabilities for physiological, behavioural and biochemical adoptions. They can even detoxify the soil. There are over three thousands species of earthworms. It is important to select right type of earth worm species to have optimal results. In general, country like India, species to be used for vermin-composting should have high temperature- tolerance and high growth rate (protein conversion). In lieu of above points, the popularity used species with fasts growing

nature is *Eisenia foetida*. The data revealed that in Table 1, the results of the fourth component “earthworms” were also worth obvious. The maximum score for this was 1740. The gain in knowledge of rural women was ranked ‘IV’ with 31.55 per cent MPS. In pre-test scores obtained were 1007 (57.87 % MPS) while the scores of post-test were 1556 (89.42 % MPS).

Watering of bed

Watering of bed is an important activity in preparation of vermin-compost. It creates moist and cold condition for earthworms, essential for compost and to increase vermin activities. It also makes raw material soft and eatable for earthworms, protect them from its enemies especially from ants & white ants. Water is used for preparation of vermin-compost should be clean and free from chemicals, insecticide and soap. It is clear from Table 1 that fifth and important component was “role of water” with its minute facts like what type of water is used and its season wise requirement etc. It had maximum score of 660. The result indicated that in pre-test 420 scores (63.63% MPS) were obtained which was increase in post-test with a remarkable difference range of 630 scores (95.45%). The difference in MPS that is knowledge gain was 31.82 per cent and it comes under ‘III’ rank.

Pretreatment and filling of beds

In the pre test 66.66 percent and in post test 95.83 percent respondents knew about the pre-treatment of bed, to make bed free from insects, harmful for earthworms like termite & ants. Data of Table 1, also shows that sixth component was “pre-treatment and filling of beds” further had particulars with maximum scores of 720. The gain in knowledge of rural women was ranked ‘VII’ with 29.17 per cent MPS. In pre-test scores obtained were 480

(66.66% MPS) while the scores of post-test were 690 (95.83 % MPS).

Maintenance of worm bed

It is depicted in the Table 1 that “Maintenance of worm bed” was the seventh component. Regarding maintenance of worm bed questions related to daily watering of bed, excess watering should be avoided as it creates anaerobic conditions, 2-3 months are required for the preparation of bio-fertilizer through vermin-composting, ready when it turns to black in colour, granular in form and non sticky matter, becomes light in weight in local terms ‘Nailo’ and becomes odourless etc. It has further information to be asked from the respondents and had maximum score of 960. It was recorded that at the time of pre-test 600 scores (62.50% MPS) were obtained while afterwards in post-test it was 900 (93.75 % MPS) and aware about concept of developed technology. That mean, there was a mean difference between pre and post test was 31.25 per cent MPS and it comes under ‘V’ rank.

Harvesting the bio-fertilizer

Bio-fertilizer is ready for harvesting or collection, when the top layer appears somewhat ‘dark brown’ or ‘black’ color granules. The data heralds in Table 1 that eighth component was “harvesting the bio-fertilizer” which had 1020 maximum score to obtainable with its fine facts. Pre-test scores 600 (58.82 % MPS) were defeated by post-test scores 900 (88.23 % MPS) with rank ‘VI’.

Care during transportation

Care of earthworms during transportation that is the mouth of gunny bag or plastic bag should not be closed, the feed and water should be sprinkle as per requirement. Table 1

deals with care during transportation there were further particulars also with maximum score of only 120. Only 50 per cent MPS was found at the time of pre-test but it was beaten

up by the post-test scores of 90 (75 % MPS). It had 25 per cent MPS mean difference as gain in knowledge. The rank of this component's result was 'IX' (Fig. 1).

Table.1 Percentage distribution of the respondents by components wise knowledge gain n=60

S.No	Components	Pre-Test			Post -Test		Knowledge Pre and Post MPS	Rank
		Total Score	Score obtaine	MPS	Score obtained	MPS		
1.	Concept	660	360	54.54	630	95.45	40.90	I
2.	Worm bed preparation	1080	660	61.11	1020	94.44	33.33	II
3.	Raw Material	1440	840	58.33	1260	87.50	29.17	VII
4.	Earthworms	1740	1007	57.87	1556	89.42	31.55	IV
5.	Watering of bed	660	420	63.63	630	95.45	31.82	III
6.	Pre-treatment & filling of bed	720	480	66.66	690	95.83	29.17	VII
7.	Maintenance of bio-fertilizer	960	600	62.50	900	93.75	31.25	V
8.	Harvesting of bio-fertilizer	1020	600	58.82	900	88.23	29.41	VI
9.	Care during transportation	120	60	50	90	75	25	IX
10.	Uses and advantages	1560	1040	66.66	1454	93.20	26.54	VIII

Table.2 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of their overall knowledge about developed technology n=60

S. No.	Knowledge Categories	Pre-Test		Post-Test	
		Number	%	Number	%
1	Poor (0-33.33)	19	45.46	0	0.00
2	Average (33.34-66.66)	41	54.54	7	8.34
3	Good (66.67-100)	-	-	53	91.66

Fig.1 Awareness training conducted



Uses and advantages of bio-fertilizer

Prepared bio fertilizer can be used as top dressing in crops, use in ornamental plants, lawns and kitchen gardens. As per the data shown in Table 1, last component consists of the uses and advantages of bio-fertilizer with further detail information having maximum score of 1560. Its results were equivalent to 'VIII' rank having 26.54 per cent mean difference MPS of pre and post test knowledge. The pre-test scores were 1040 (66.66 % MPS) which were covered up in post-test with 1454 scores (93.20 % MPS).

Overall knowledge of developed technology among the respondents

Further an effort was made to categorize the respondents on the basis of their overall knowledge about developed technology. Findings in Table 2 show that in pre- test respondents had poor knowledge (45.46%) and average knowledge (54.54%) about developed technology and in post test respondents had average knowledge (8.34%) and good knowledge (91.66%). In pre test, none of them were in the category of good and in post test none of them were in the category of poor.

A study conducted by Kour (2002) supported the results that all the respondents had good knowledge about vermin-culture technology which is indicated from mean percent knowledge score (85.04). From the research study it can be concluded that respondents had good knowledge about developed technology. The possible reasons for good knowledge among respondents might be the effective trainings, regular visits and follow up at village. This study has shown a need to improve the knowledge about developed technology to

protect environment from negative impact of waste. It is recommended to implement the need based training programme for rural women. The use of bio-fertilizer also beneficial for soil loss & degradation

Hence, it can be concluded that the discarded fabric collected from tailors shop and boutiques which is not utilized for any products before can be recycled into bio-fertilizer that can be economical and sustainable. Marketing of cotton and silk bio-fertilizer know potential and flourishing Industry due to the growing awareness among the people about the ill effect of chemical fertilizer and the relative benefit of organic farming. The utilization of cotton and silk bio-fertilizer results in several benefits to farmers, industries, environment and overall national economy.

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