

Impact of Training Programs on Knowledge and Attitude of Trainees in Ranchi District

ANJALI CHANDRA¹, AJEET KUMAR SINGH¹, RAJESH KUMAR ¹ AND ARUNAVA SENGUPTA²

¹ *Divyayan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ranchi*

² *Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University
 Morabadi, Ranchi 834008, Jharkhand, India*

Abstract

The study was undertaken among 300 randomly selected ex-trainees (150 on-campus and 150 off-campus trainees) of Divyayan KVK, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Morabadi, Ranchi. The trainees were selected from five blocks of Ranchi district representing ten purposively selected adopted villages of the KVK. Two variables namely change in knowledge of trainees about improved farming methods and change in attitude of trainees towards improved farming practices were measured by pre-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. The study indicated that majority of the on-campus had high level of knowledge (69.33%), followed by medium level of knowledge (26.6%) and low level of knowledge (4%), whereas in off-campus trainees (61.33%) respondents had medium level of knowledge, 27.33% had high level of knowledge followed by 11.33% who had low level of knowledge. The finding also substantiates changes in attitude among majority of on-campus trainees (86%) towards new technologies compared to 53% amongst the off-campus trainees. The study revealed a significant difference between on-and off-campus trainees with regard to change in knowledge attitude and.

Key words : Training, Knowledge, Attitude, Scale, Practices.

Imparting training to farmers, rural youth and extension functionaries is one of the mandates of Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Divyayan Krishi Vigyan Kendra (DKVK), Ramakrishna Mission, Ranchi has been imparting training to farmers for change in attitude, knowledge and skill transfer through various on campus and off campus training programmes since its inception. DKVK works for the uplifting of farmers by providing them the latest technologies of agriculture and allied fields by different methods. On-campus and off campus training programme, front line demonstration, on farm trials etc are the methods by which knowledge and skill of improved farming methods is imparted to the farmers. Once the farmers or Divyayan trainees gain knowledge of improved practices, they change their attitude towards scientific methods of agriculture and thus adoption of technology takes place. It raises the level of farm productivity, income and employment with application of agricultural technologies. Knowledge may be defined as those behavior and test situations, which emphasises upon memorization, either by recognition or recall of ideas. One of the main tasks of Krishi Vigyan Kendra is to provide and improve the level of knowledge of

the trainees about the improved farm practices, because individuals mind and plays an important role in convert and overt behavior of technical information would lead to a high adoption possibly because knowledge is not inert. Once knowledge is acquired and retained, it undergoes and produces changes in the thinking process and of mental setup. This study was therefore conducted to ascertain the level of knowledge and attitude of the off-campus and on-campus trainees of DKVK. The matter of importance in the field of motivation is the attitude, for they influence the process of learning fundamentally. If one were to use a simple definition of attitude, it probably would be that attitudes are learned responses. Attitudes may reflect one's central values, show his consistency in ways of reading, or his ways of gratifying his needs or they may form a part of his attempt to constrict for himself a meaningful world within which he can order his life, or can express his identification with or promote his acceptance by his favored social groups. An attitude is an emotionalised system of ideas which predisposes us to act in a certain way under certain conditions much of our learning involves changes in our attitude. Our disposition to

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge gained. Z value (0.05) = 5.931.

Category (Level of knowledge)	On-campus trainees		Off-campus trainees	
	F	Per cent	F	Per cent
Low (0 to 15)	6	04	17	11.33
Medium (15 to 30)	40	26.6	92	61.33
High (30 to 45)	104	69.33	41	27.33

give favorable or unfavorable responses to objects persons, situations or abstract ideas.

Methods

A list of participants who undergone various on-campus and off-campus training programs from 2007 to 2009 was prepared. Out of the total participants 150 each from off-campus and on-campus training programs were selected randomly; thus the whole sample consisted of 300 participants. The data were collected simultaneously with the on-campus and off-campus trainees. The data obtained thus is transformed into normal scores. The level of knowledge was categorized as low, medium and high on the basis of scores obtained after performing a written test. Similarly change in attitude was measured by the data thus obtained. It was measured by using the scale (1). A 5 point scale was assigned the scores at 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree for positive and in reverse order with negative statement.

Results and Discussion

Knowledge of On-Campus and Off-Campus Trainees

Knowledge of the on-campus and off-campus trainees about KVK training programs was determined by using a question set of 45 questions. The scores of the respondents were computed and their distribution is given in Table 1.

The values show that the knowledge gain is more in on-campus trainees than the off-campus trainees, because 69.33% of on-campus trainees fall under high level of knowledge category while only 27.33% of off-campus trainees fall under this category. Simulta-

Table 2. Changes in attitude of trainees.

Category (Level of attitude change)	On-campus trainees		Off-campus trainees	
	F	Per cent	F	Per cent
Strongly agree	69	46.00	16	10.66
Agree	60	40.00	65	43.33
Neutral	35	23.33	63	42
Disagree	2	1.30	8	5.3
Strongly disagree	1	0.60	6	4.0

neously, more (11.33%) of the off-campus trainees fall under low knowledge category and less (4%) number of on-campus trainees come under this category. Table 1 also reveals that majority of the on-campus trainees had high level of knowledge (69.33%) followed by medium level of knowledge (26.6%) and low level of knowledge (4%), whereas in off-campus trainees maximum (61.33%) respondents had medium level of knowledge, followed by 27.33% of respondents had high level of knowledge and 11.33% of respondents had low level of knowledge. Hence it may be concluded that on-campus trainee's high level of knowledge than off-campus trainees.

The calculated value of Z was found to be 5.931 which was greater than the table value of Z (1.96) at 5% level of significance for 298 degree of freedom. This indicates that there was significant difference between on and off-campus training regarding their knowledge gained. The findings tally with those of Kumar et al. (1), Murthy and Veerabhadraiah (2) and Dubey et al. (3).

Attitudinal Change of the On-Campus and Off-Campus Trainees

Changes in attitude of the trainees of on-campus and off-campus trainings of KVK were tested by 5 point scale. A set of 10 questions were asked to the trainees towards their attitude to improved technological practices. Their responses were graded on 5 scale as strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree.

Table 2 reveals that majority of respondents from on-campus training (46%), strongly agree with the technology followed by 40% in agree category. The other fact revealed by the data obtained is that more respondent were neutral in off-campus compared to

on-campus trainees. The number of off-campus respondents, who disagree and strongly disagree with the new farming practices, is 5.3 and 4% respectively compared to the on-campus trainees (1.3% and 0.6% respectively).

Conclusion

It can be concluded that Divyayan KVK is able to bring significant changes in knowledge and attitude of trainees through its training programmes. The study reflects that on-campus training have more impact on trainees than off-campus training. The reasons behind being that the trainees of on-campus training are needier, as they come from distant places to take training and the other reason may be that the on-campus trainees reside in KVK campus and are

exposed to the extension philosophy of seeing is believing and learning by doing which changes the attitude and knowledge of most of the rural tribal youth who come for taking training in Divyayan.

References

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