



Impact of Mushroom Cultivation on Socio-economic Status of Rural Women in Samastipur District of Bihar

Kumari Shipra, Maya Kumari and Renu Kumari

1. Assistant Professor, Dept. of H.Sc. Extension and Communication Management. RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar.
2. Scientist, KVK, Sahibganj, Ranchi.
3. Instructor, Dept. of H.Sc. Extension and Communication Management. RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar.

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Samastipur district of Bihar. Total 75 rural women were selected from adopted villages to study the impact of mushroom cultivation. Relevant data were collected with the help of personal interview. The data were analyzed using appropriate statistical tools. Keeping in view the above facts the present study was conducted to find out the impact of mushroom cultivation on socio-economic of rural women in Samastipur district of Bihar and constrain faced by them during mushroom cultivation. The finding indicate that majority of the respondents i.e 44% were 15-35 years aged, belonged to backward caste having medium educational level and medium size of land holding. Keywords: Mushroom Cultivation, Samastipur District

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INTRODUCTION

Mushroom cultivation is most important tools for convincing the farmers about its utility for income generation and also brining desirable behaviour change in rural women. Mushroom cultivation being an indoor activity, labour intensive and high profit venture provides namely opportunities for gainful employment of small marginal farm women, landless labourers and unemployed youth in rural areas. Therefore commercial utilization of mushroom cultivation shall a step to meet nutritional and medicinal needs to reduce malnutrition and providing livelihood to rural poor farm women. Oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus sp.*) belonging to class Basidiomycetes and family Agaricaceae is properly known as "dhingri" in India and grows naturally in the temperate and tropical forests on dead and decaying wooden logs or sometimes on dying trunks of deciduous or coniferous woods. It may also grow on decaying organic matter [1]. It is one of the most suitable fungal organisms for producing protein rich food from various agro-based or forest wastes without composting. Cultivation of oyster mushroom was initiated on experimental basis in Germany during the year 1917 on tree stumps and wood logs [2]. It is an economical crop to cultivate, requiring low resources and area, can be grown throughout the world and all over the year from low-cost starting materials. There is tremendous potential and appeal for growing a highly nutritious food with excellent taste from substrates that are plentiful and not very expensive [3]. Also, it is very environmental friendly, capable of converting the lingo cellulosic waste materials into food, feed and fertilizers [4, 5].

Rural women play a vital role in farm and home system. She contributes substantially in the physical aspect of farming, livestock management, post harvest and allied activities. Women contribute 50-60% of labour in farm production in India. There is evidence to suggest that if agriculture were focused on women, outputs could increase by as much as 10-20%, the ecological balance could be restored, and food security of communities improved.

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economic of rural women in Samastipur district of Bihar and constrain faced by them during mushroom cultivation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Samastipur district of Bihar. There are 38 districts in state and the dissemination of mushroom technology is fast in all districts of state. Out of 38 districts, Samastipur district was selected purposively for the study because of the fact that RPCAU is located in same district and there is a training centre at RPCAU pusa. All together there are 20 blocks in Samastipur. Out of which pusa and kalyanpur blocks have been selected for study purpose based on assumption that these block have the largest number of trained beneficiaries. Out of these only three villages were selected two from Pusa namely Birauli and Deopar and one from Kalyanpur namely Ladhaura. A complete list of the beneficiaries who have undergone through training on mushroom cultivation from RPCAU was obtained from training centre. 25 beneficiaries respondents from each of three villages were purposely selected. Hence all total 75 respondents were selected. The respondents were selected through random sampling, the data were collected by using pre structural interview schedule and were subjected to statistical analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Social background of respondents:-

An effort was made to find out the profile of the selected respondents from the selected village of the study area. Results were calculated by simple percentage, frequency, mean and paired t-test.

Age

Age is an important variable from the centre of study in social science searches. On the basis of age of the respondents rural women were categorized into three categories. i.e. young(15-35years), middle(up to 36-45years) and (45-60years).

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their age-

Age group	No. of responds	percentage
(15-35 years)	33	44.00
(36-45 years)	27	36.00
45-60 years)	15	20.00
total	75	100.00

Table indicates that out of total 75 respondents maximum i.e. 44 per cent were in between 15-35 years of aged groups followed by 36 percent were between 36-45 years. Only 20 percent of respondents were between 45-60 years age group. It may be concluded that all aged groups of women were involved in mushroom cultivation.

Education

Education is considered as one of the most important factors, which determines as degree of success or failure of any training program. The success and failure of the training program depends to a large extent on the level of education and understanding ability of respondents. On the basis of education, respondents were grouped into five categories namely, illiterate, primary, middle pass, high school, graduate and above.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their level of education:-

categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	14	18.67
Primary	21	28.00
Middle	26	34.67
High school	09	12.00
Graduate/ above	05	6.66
total	75	100.00

This table revealed that maximum percent of respondents i.e. 34.67 had middle school education followed by 28 percent of the respondents up to primary school, 18.27 percent of them having illiterate, 12 percent of respondents were high school and only 6.66 percent of the respondents were graduate and above, hence it may be concluded that there is lack of proper education in that area.

Caste

Caste structure is one of the important aspect of social system in our country and it is more pronounced in the state of Bihar and effects the adoption of any new technology among rural women. Traditionally the

village social system has been divided into various caste categories. On the basis of their caste, respondents were classified into three groups viz, schedule caste, backward caste and forward caste.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their caste-

categories	no. of respondents	percentage
Schedule	20	26.47
Backward	36	48.00
General	19	25.33
Total	75	100.00

It is clear from table that maximum number i.e. 48 percent of respondents belonged to backward caste followed by schedule caste i.e. 26.67 only 25.33 percent of respondents were from forward cast. So it can be concluded that mushroom cultivation was adopted by most of the backward classes, it was not influenced caste system of the society.

Occupation

Occupation of beneficiaries was considered as important function which largely effect the economic condition of the family, flow of fund, decision making process and attitude of the family members towards the training program. All the respondents of mushroom cultivation training had categorized into different groups. On the basis of their main occupation the respondents have been categorized as follows.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to their occupation

Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
Unemployed	26	34.67
Agricultural labour	18	24.00
Artisan work	14	18.67
Privet job	11	14.66
Gov. job	06	08.00
Total	75	100

It has been observed from table that 34.67% of respondents were unemployed followed by 24% of them were engaged in agricultural labour, around 18.67% had their source of livelihood artisan work and 14.66% were private job and only 8.00% of the respondents were able to the absorbed in government job.

Land Holding

On the basis of size of land holding by the hand of the family respondents were categorized into 5 major groups as follow.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to their land holding

Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
Landless	17	22.67
Marginal	20	26.67
Small	19	25.34
Medium	11	14.66
Large	08	10.67
Total	75	100.00

An examination of the table reveal that 26.67% of the respondents were marginal land holder followed by 25.33% reported under small land holder. Around 22.67% of the respondents belong to landless and 14.66% of respondents were medium land holder only 10.67% of the respondents accounted as larger land holders.

Annual Income

The finding collected for their annual income revealed that the income of family leads to have significant influence on socio-economic status of the respondents. It is clear that the family income is the most important factor in determining the socio- economic condition of rural women.

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to their annual income

Categories	No.of respondents	Percentage
Below poverty line(up to 1200)	32	42.67
Low(1200to15000)	22	29.33
Medium(25000to50000)	15	20.00
High(above50000)	06	8.00
total	75	100.00

It can be inferred from table that about 42.67 percent of the respondents has belonged to poverty line income group followed by 29.33 having low income. Around 20 percent of the respondents had medium income level while only 8.00 percent come under high level. it may be say that most of the women were involved in mushroom cultivation belonged to below poverty.

Family type

Family type is one of the important social factors which affects the types of activities as well as decision making process in the family it has been assumed that nuclear family make decisions more quickly and take more responsibilities.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to their type of family

Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
Nuclear	29	38.67
Joint	46	61.33
Total	75	100.00

It can be observed from table that 61.33 percent of respondents belonged to joint family and the rest 38.67 percent of them preferred nuclear family. Hence it can be inferred that most of the rural mass still prefer joint family.

Family size

Size of the family affects the economic behaviour of the family relating to the income and expenditure. A family of large size can adversely affect economic activity of their member and they are expected to be enthusiastic to participate in mushroom cultivation training programme. On the basis of the total number of the family members families have been categorized as follow.

Table 8: Distribution of respondents according to their family size

Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
Small family (up to 4 members)	20	26.67
Medium family(4 to 8members)	13	17.33
Large family(8 and above)	42	56.00
Total	75	100.00

An observation of table indicated that 56 percent of respondents were large family size group while 26.67 percent distributed to small family size and the rest 17.33 percent belonged to medium in family size

Types of house

Types of house means the house in which the respondents reside. The respondents were asked about the types of their house in which they live which has been categorized as four groups.

Table 9: Distribution of respondents according to their types of house.

Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
Thatched house	14	18.67
Katchha house	23	30.67
Semi pucca house	20	26.66
Pucca house	18	24.00
Total	75	100

Above table revealed that 30.67of the respondents had *katchha* house followed by 26.66% of them got *semipakka* house. About 24% of the respondents had *pakka house* and 18.67% of them constructed *Thatched* house.

Problems faced by respondents during the mushroom cultivation

After collecting the data it was found that the beneficiaries of this training programme too had to face a lot of problems in its production which has been depicted through Table

Table 10: Distribution of Respondents Problem faced during the mushroom cultivation

Si.No.	Particulars	No. of respondent	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of resource available	28	37.33	III
2.	Lack of money	35	46.66	II
3.	Non availability of market	47	62.66	I
4.	Lack of time and energy	25	33.33	IV
5.	Lack of technical advice	23	30.66	V

This table revealed that majority of respondents were non-availability of market to sell mushroom i.e. 62.33 percent followed by 46.66 per cent were lack of money. Around 37.33 per cent were lack of

resource available, 33.33 per cent of respondents had lack of time and energy only 30.66 per cent were lack of technical advice. Hence it may be say that major problems arises during mushroom cultivation was due to marketing facilities among the respondents.

CONCLUSION

The finding indicate that majority of the respondents i.e 44% were 15-35 years aged , belonged to backward caste having medium educational level and medium size of land holding . Majority of them were from large family size with medium level of family income and large family size. it can be concluded that if training will be imparted properly and consequently as follow up programme will be taken place and if proper marketing facilities will be available then undoubtedly mushroom will be proved a boon to the society.

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