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Impact of Poultry Training Organised by Gujarat Agricultural University

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ABSTRACT

Impact of poultry training organised by GAU was assessed through teacher's made questionnaire for selected trainees. Youth with education up to or above Higher Secondary Level took advantage of the training. Majority (61 per cent) of the trainees were from Kaira. Majority of the respondents perceived that all the theoretical as well as practical courses were useful and they acquired important skills required for poultry farming. Majority (78 per cent) of them had positive attitude towards the training. After the training, the trainees were either self-employed (34 per cent), able to run their poultry farm more efficiently (23 per cent) or employed (10 per cent) on poultry farm.

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INTRODUCTION

Poultry production has come-up as an independent occupation and shown a tremendous growth in Surat, Valsad, Kaira, Anand and Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat. For such an important rural occupation, trained man-power is a basic requirement. In order to impart skill oriented vocational training to practicing and prospective poultry farmers, Poultry Training Centre has been established at Anand in 1963-64. During 10 weeks of training, important subjects related to farm poultry production viz., care and management, feeding, housing, marketing etc. are covered and a certificate is given to successful trainees. Work experience for various operations is an integral part of this vocational training to develop confidence and necessary skill in the field of farm poultry production.

Now, the time is mature to measure the effectiveness and practical utility of this training programme. Further, it is also necessary to know the opinions and suggestions of the trainees trained in this programme, so that in future, necessary planning and modifications may be made. In this context, the study was conducted with the following major objectives :

1. To know the personal characteristics of the trainees.
2. To know the sources of information regarding poultry training.
3. To determine the utility of the theoretical and practical course content of the poultry training.

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4. To know the various skills acquired through the poultry training.

5. To know the attitude of the trainees towards the poultry training.

6. To sought opinions of the trainees regarding poultry training.

7. To seek the suggestions of the trainees to improve the poultry programme.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The trainees who have received the training during the year 1990-91 to 1995-96 at Poultry Training Centre, Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand were the responding population of the present study. Appropriate teacher's made questionnaire was developed for the purpose. The data were collected through mailing questionnaires to the randomly selected 150 trainees, of which 55 trainees responded.

A. Source of Information

Every respondent was asked to indicate the source/sources from which they got the information regarding the poultry training programme. Their frequencies were counted and percentages were worked out.

B. Utility of the Theoretical and Practical Courses of Poultry Training

The utility of various theoretical and practical courses taught during the poultry training was measured with the help of 3 points rating scale `Most useful, Useful and least useful' with the score value of 3, 2 and 1, respectively. To assign the rank, the mean score for each item was calculated.

C. Attitude Towards Training

Attitude of the respondent towards poultry training was measured by teacher's made attitude scale. The selected `8' statements for final format of the attitude scale were randomly arranged. There were five

TABLE 1

Distribution of the trainees according to their age, education and caste.

Sr. No.	*Character*	*Groups*	*Number of trainees admitted*	*Per cent*
1.	Age	16 to 20 years	106	23.45
		21 to 30 years	319	70.57
		Above 30 years	27	05.98
2.	Education	Upto 9th Std.	16	03.50
		New S.S.C. passed	57	12.60
		HSC passed	190	42.10
		Above HSC	189	41.80
3.	Caste	Scheduled caste	59	13.05
		Scheduled tribe	38	08.41
		OBC	95	21.02
		Other	260	57.52

response columns representing a 5 point agree-disagree continuum as followed by Likert (1932) in his summated rating technique. The points on the coninuum were strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with score weightage of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, respectively, for positive and 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively, for negative statement. Based on the mean and standard deviation, the respondents were classified into three groups as low (< Mean - S. D.), medium). > Mean - S. D. and < Mean + S. D.) and high (> Mean + S. D.).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Personal characteristics

Profile of age, previous education and caste of trainees admitted during the year 1991-92 to 1995-96 is given in the Table 1.

Data presented in table 1 revealed that nearly 95 per cent of the trainees were below 30 years of age, indicating that youth has got the advantage of the training. It is also revealed that the majorities (83.90 per cent) of trainees were having HSC and higher education as against minimum requirement of passing seventh standard. This indicates that the minimum requirement for admission in the training may be raised to HSC, if not, at least to New S.S.C. Regarding caste of the trainees admitted, majority (57.52) of the trainees were of general categories against 13.05 per cent from the scheduled caste and 21.02 per cent from the other than backward class.

B. Districtwise distribution of trainees

Majority (61.28 per cent) of the trainees admitted from 1990-91 to 1995-96 were from Kaira District followed by 11.06 per cent from Ahmedabad and 7.52 per cent from Panchmahal district. It is worth noting that practically no trainee was coming from Banaskantha, Kutchh, Junagadh, Amreli, Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Bharuch and Dang districts, whereas a limited (less than 4 per cent) trainees were from Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar, Surat

TABLE 2

Distribution of the respondents according to their sources of information regarding poultry training.

Sr. No.	*Source of Information*	*Number*	*Per cent*
1.	Extension worker	13	23
2.	Friends/Neighbour	11	20
3.	Advertisement in Newspaper	25	45
4.	Visit of training centre/letter	07	12
5.	Others	00	00

TABLE 3

Mean utility scores of theoretical courses.

Sr. No.	*Areas/subjects*	*Mean score*	*Rank*
1.	Poultry management and Economics	2.66	III
2.	Poultry, nutrition and feeding	2.67	II
3.	Poultry health care	2.81	I
4.	Anatomy & physiology of poultry	2.14	IV

and Valsad districts. These might be due to remotness of the training centre from the above districts and/or poor development of poultry farming. It is suggestive that atleast one poultry training centre may be established in South Gujarat which is also a pioneer and good pocket for poultry production.

C. Sources of Information regarding Poultry Training

The respondent trainees had varied sources of information (Table 2) regarding the training on poultry. Important sources for the information were advertisement published in Newspaper (45 per cent) extension worker (23 per cent) and friends/neighbour (20 per cent).

D. Usefulness of theoretical courses

Mean scores worked out for usefulness of the theoretical courses taught during the training as perceived by the respondents are given in Table 3.

It can be seen from the Table 3 that among the four theoretical courses, poultry health care got the highest mean score and secured first rank followed by poultry nutrition and feeding. Majority of the respondents perceived that all the four theoretical courses were useful.

E. Usefulness of practical courses

Mean scores worked out for usefulness of the practical courses contents taught during the training as perceived by the respondents are given in Table 4.

It is revealed from Table 4 that as perceived by the trainees the practicals on housing, brooding and vaccination and health care are the most useful. Majority of the respondents opined that all the practicals were useful.

F. Skills acquired

It is one of the objectives to develop the different skills required in poultry farming. Six important skills were identified to know skills acquired by the trainees.

TABLE 4

Mean utility scores of practical course contents.

Sr. No.	*Areas/subjects*	*Mean Score*	*Rank*
1.	Housing of poultry	2.85	I
2.	Brooding of chicks	2.75	II
3.	Vaccination and health care programme on poultry farm	2.65	III
4.	Records of poultry farm	2.12	VIII
5.	Equipments of poultry farm	2.38	V
6.	Methods for selection of birds	2.46	IV
7.	Hatching of fertile eggs	1.98	X
8.	Poultry feeds	2.37	VI
9.	Judging the quality of eggs	2.02	IX
10.	Anatomy of birds	2.15	VII

TABLE 5

Distribution of the respondents according to the different skills acquired after the poultry training.

Sr. No.	*Skills*	*Number*	*Per cent*
1.	Preparation of poultry feeds	18	40.90
2.	Debeaking	37	90.24
3.	Giving medicine to poultry birds	38	79.16
4.	Vaccination	38	80.85
5.	Brooding of chicks	39	86.66
6.	Maintenance of records	31	73.80

The table 5 indicates that in general majority of the trainees acquired important skills viz., debeaking (90.24 per cent), brooding of chicks (86.66 per cent), vaccination (80.85 per cent), giving medicines (79.16 per cent) and maintenance of records (73.80 per cent) required for poultry farming during the training.

G. Attitude towards training

The distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards the poultry training is depicted in Fig. 1. Majority (78.18 per cent) of them and medium to high attitude towards the training.

The attitude score obtained by the respondents varied between 25 to 40 with average value of 31.6 having 4.24 standard deviation and 13.42 co-efficient of variance suggesting that the group was homogenous in this respect.

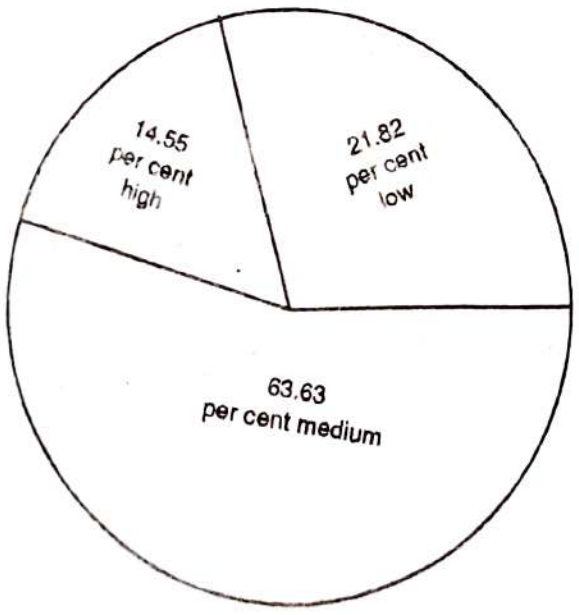


Fig. 1 : Attitude towards poultry training

H. Utility of the poultry training

The utility of the poultry training was found useful in different ways. After the training 34 per cent of the respondent could start their own poultry farms for self-employment, whereas, 23 per cent of the respondents who were already having their poultry farms could do their business more efficiently. About 10 per cent of the respondents could get job on poultry farm. Surprisingly 10 per cent of the respondents opined that though they were not practicing poultry farming, but the training was found useful in their present business.

I. Suggestions of the respondents

To an open question there were suggestions to add following theoretical topics in the training course.

1. Marketing management of poultry produce.
2. Broiler production.
3. Strains breeds of poultry birds.
4. Purchase and maintenance of equipments required on poultry farm.
5. Financial facilities and project preparation for getting finance.

The trainees also suggested that following topics may be included or given more weightage in the practicals during the poultry training.

1. Different parts of eggs and judging egg quality.
2. Vaccination and health care.
3. Cares in preparation of poultry feed.
4. Detail study of important poultry diseases.
5. Post mortem of poultry birds.
6. Sanitation and disinfecting of poultry farm.

While giving their suggestions they opined that the duration of the training may be extended and more time may be allotted for practicals or work experience on farm. The certificate for the successfully completing the training should be given at the earliest.

From the study it can be concluded that the poultry training is very useful and well oriented. However following suggestions are to improve the training :

1. Syllabus for the poultry training may be revised looking to the suggestions of the respondents and development in the science. If necessary, the duration of the training may be increased.
2. A poultry training centre may be established in South Gujarat.
3. Minimum requirements for admission in the training may be raised to S.S.C. Exam. passed.

REFERENCE

Likert, R. (1932). A technique for the measurement of attitude, psycholo., Stud., 5 (2) : 106-107.