Original Research Article

RAWEP - A Tool for Need Assessment among Rural women

ABSRACT:

A need assessment is the process of identifying and determining how to bridge the gap between an organization's current and desired state. It is part of a planning process to determine gaps, or "needs," and address areas for improvement or development. It can help decide where and how resources may be directed, for a specific intervention or method which works well in a rural context. Policymakers and funding agencies who are into rural community developmental activities assess the needs first, to understand the situation and make effective interventions. Rural awareness work experience programme (RAWEP) is an integrated component of B.Sc. (Hons.) Community Science introduced to give the real-life exposure to the students aiming at improving the quality of life of rural families. It also offers a firsthand experience to students to utilize knowledge gained in first three years and transfer simple and improved practices to the rural women. RAWEP is an effective tool to access the needs of rural folk, their challenges and opportunities, their changed role in household work and allied fields. Students get a unique opportunity to initiate knowledge, transfer skills to the rural women, which ultimately contributes to the overall development of their families. This article presents findings in identification of ground reality and original problems, seek greater understanding, discover inventive answers and suggest methods to overcome the problems. Data was gathered based on fieldwork conducted at Meenavolu, Sudhaguda, Madhanpalli, Gundampalli,Kowta(B),Madhapur,Chennayapalem,Goliyathanda,Manuguru,Dowthabad,Vedira,Mandhamarri,Kamaripet, villages from Peddapalli, Thadiparthi districts. The study perceives how RAWE programme was engaged to identify the needs and problems of the adopted villages.

Keywords: RAWEP, Need Assessment, Rural women, Villages

INTRODUCTION:

Need assessment is a systematic process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps" between current conditions and desired conditions or "wants". The discrepancy between the current condition and wanted condition must be measured to appropriately identify the need. The need assessment is a way of gathering information to decide on a development plan that meets the needs of the community. Rural participatory assessment is a method used to assess rural life and conditions in order to collect data based on community involvement and their needs. Heaver (1992) opines that the method of rural participatory evaluation enhances the understanding of villagers in understanding their problems and opportunities and monitors them in their choices and programs and initiates a process of participation that can continue through program implementation or management of local initiatives and minimal community oversight of government projects. The practical knowledge and experience thus gained is being recognized as the backbone for development process.

Rural awareness work experience programme (RAWEP) is an integrated component of B.Sc. (Hons.) Community Science introduced by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. The objective was to develop and understand rural life and the different situations of villages with special reference to household activities (Mann and Sachan, 2017). It aims at bringing improvement in quality of life of rural families through proper identification of their needs and plan appropriate interventions/strategies accordingly. RAWE helps students primarily to understand the rural situations, status of technologies adopted by rural women, prioritize their problems and to develop skills & attitude working with farm families for overall development in rural area. Ramesh R et al, 2014, suggests that academics /researchers begin their research process by systematically collecting and interpreting the data in order to provide an analysis of the existing problems and unwrap a pathway for probable communal transformation. It helps in identification of ground reality and original problems, seek greater understanding, discover inventive answers and suggest methods to solve them.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Winnegge, (2005) stated that (PRA) is a process of understanding people, their resources, their socio-economic conditions and a process of exploring their problems, their aspirations and potentials in partnership with people themselves.
2. Li et al., (2005) reported that it is in response to perceive problems of local people in the context of development work.
3. Amrit Kumar Sarkar (2019) the data collected through RAWE is untiled for solving the problems of local area after analyzing and blending them with the scientific information.

METHODOLOGY:

Primary data collection was done with the help of interview schedule, Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) tools & techniques, personal interview & Focus Group Discussions Transect walks, Social Mapping, Resource Mapping, Venn diagram and Mobility Mapping. Evaluation of available resources was done and need assessment areas were marked where transfer of scientific and simple household technologies related to all disciplines of Community Science required at grass root levels was taken up. This helped to create awareness among the rural and farm women of respective villages to attain the overall development of the rural farm families. Secondary data regarding village and block profile including crops grown, land holdings, sources of irrigation etc. were collected from Panchayat office, Anganwadi and Agriculture Development office. Field work was conducted in 15 different villages Meenavolu, Sudhaguda, Madhanpalli, Gundampalli, Kowta (B) Madhapur, Chennaya palem, Goliyathanda, Munuguru, Vedira Mandamarri, Kamaripet, Dowthabad, Peddapalli Thadiparthi of Telangana State by a group of twenty one RAWE students of Community Science College, presented under different heads. According to the needs identified, different capacity building and awareness programmes were arranged for imparting simple household technologies related to all disciplines of Community Science.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Information collected on various aspects such as demographic details, socio economic profile, major crops, land holding, prevailing conditions, available resources, dominant farming system etc. through PRA techniques and Focused Group Discussion is presented here.

Data Collection through

Fig 1: Focused Group Discussion

Fig 2: Personal Interview

Fig 3: Social Mapping

Fig 4: Venn Diagram

Fig 5: Resource Mapping

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF VILLAGES

Table1. Demographic profile of the villages

Name of the village	Number of Households	Population			Children (0-6yrs)		
		Number of persons	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Sudhaguda	90	453	216	237	23	35	58
Kamaripet	150	491	235	256	17	15	32
Goliyathanda	362	1200	614	586	36	22	58
ChennayaPalem	500	600	250	250	50	50	100
Gundampalli	558	2232	1011	1221	130	170	300
Madhanpalli	586	2928	1539	1189	112	88	200
Dowthabad	618	3374	1666	1708	1431	1456	2887
Meenavolu	621	3379	1579	1800	80	70	150
Thadiparthi	717	2356	1242	992	72	50	122
Madhapur	835	2908	1561	1347	73	69	142
Kowta (B)	1000	3500	1300	2200	120	90	210
Vedira	1063	4670	2320	2350	172	164	336
Peddapalli	7837	36221	18106	18115	3200	2800	6000
Manuguru	18689	72117	25800	21736	3533	3380	6913
Mandhamarri	26149	123233	62902	60331	4092	3674	7766

The above table gives a clear picture of the demographic profile of the villages with details regarding the number of households in each village, their population along with male and female configuration and composition of children under age group of 6 years. Among all the 15 villages Mandhamarri has large (26,149) number of households followed by Manuguru (18,689) households while Sudhaguda is having least (90) number of households. While the data on population shows that Mandamarri has highest (1, 23,233) population comprising of 62902 males and 60331 females. Sudhaguda village has least (453) total population with males accounting for 216 and females 237 of population. In the context of children under 6 years, Mandhamarri shows highest of all the villages containing 7766 children under 6 years followed by Peddapalli village with 6000 count of children population under age of 6 years. Whereas Kamari pet shows the least no (32) of children under the age group of below 6 years.

Table 2: SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE VILLAGES

Name of the Village	Caste Structure				
	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Backward class	Other categories	Minorities
Meenavolu	1600	100	50	629	1000
Sudhaguda	0	453	0	0	0
Madhanpalli	102	326	129	0	29
Gundampalli	198	--	70	94	5
Kowta (B)	40	20	30	10	0
Madhapur	60	12	32	1.2	1
Chennaya palem	25	450	25	100	0
Goliyathanda	21	79	200	600	300
Manuguru	1132	13935	65334	1322	5293
Dowthabad	325	162	0	2887	0
Vedira	30	5	30	35	0
Mandhamarri	26187	4768	3562	2087	4875
Kamaripet	333	0	158	0	0
Peddapalli	19.44	1.89	69	10	0
Thadiparthi	33	13	60	2	1

The above table gives the caste structure of the villages. Existence of Scheduled caste population is high in Mandhamarri village (26187) among all the villages, followed by Meenavolu (1600) and Manuguru (1132) villages and Sudhaguda village has no (0) SC population. While coming to the occurrence of Scheduled Tribe population Manuguru village is the highest with 13935 people, followed by Mandhamarri village with 4768 ST people in it and Kamaripet village has reported to have no (0) ST population at all in the village.

Whereas situation of minorities people, Manuguru (5293) Mandhamarri (4875) have been described to have highest population of minorities and unlike few villages Sudhaguda, Goliyathanda Chennayapalem and Madhanapalli had no minority people abode in them.

Table 3: MAJOR CROPS OF THE OPERATIONAL VILLAGE

Name of the village	Major crops grown	Water Resources
Meenavolu	Cotton, paddy	Pond, lake, under ground
Sudhaguda	Soybean, green gram, black gram, red gram, cotton	Water tank, bore wells
Madhanpalli	Paddy, cotton	Bores, lakes
Gundampalli	Turmeric, maize, sugarcane, mustard, paddy	Borewells.
Kowta (B)	Paddy, cotton, green chilli	Bore wells, water tanks
Madhapur	Ground nut, maize, paddy	Wells, ponds
Chennaya palem	Paddy	Wells, canals
Goliyathanda	Paddy, cotton, chilli, turmeric	Bore Wells, canals water
Munuguru	Paddy, cotton, maize, pulses, chilli	Tanks, rivers, bore wells

Dowthabad	Paddy cotton	Tanks, wells
Vedira	Cotton, paddy, maize	Wells, rain
Mandhamarri	Paddy, cotton, maize, other veg	Ground water, rivers, lakes
Kamaripet	Paddy, cotton, maize	Ground water, rivers
Peddapalli	Paddy, cotton, maize	Water tanks, ground water
Thadiparthi	Paddy, cotton, ground nut	Ponds, wells, borewells

In all the RAWE organized villages, the main occupation is Agriculture and the major crops grown were: Paddy (Cereal) and pulses like red gram, green gram black gram and millets like maize. Cotton was the main cash crop grown in almost all the villages. Vegetables like Chilly were grown only in three villages of Kowta, Goliyathanda and Munuguru.

Table 4: LAND HOLDING WISE IN THE OPERATIONAL VILLAGES

Village	**Land holding**		
	Small (1-4 acres) %	**Medium (4-10)) %**	**Large (>10) %**
Meenavolu	10	60	10
Sudhaguda	0	0	0
Madhanpalli	280	200	58
Gundampalli	402	--	--
Kowta (B)	20	40	10
Madhapur	70	1	0
Chennaya palem	0	20	20
Goliyathanda	20	50	10
Munuguru	2	6	11
Dowthabad	15	1	1
Vedira	60	30	10
Mandhamarri	32	67	27
Kamaripet	20	20	10
Peddapalli	10	30	10
Thadiparthi	10	40	0
Total	**951**	**565**	**177**

Majority of the inhabitants (951) belong to small land holding category from one to four acres. Whereas 565 of dwellers belong to medium land holding category and only 177 of the total populace belongs to large land holding (above 10 acres).

Problems identified

1. Lack of drinking water facility, improper road facility.
2. Child marriages, dowry.
3. Lack of knowledge in modern technologies.
4. College dropouts, transportation.
5. Defunct Self Help Groups and conflicts on loan repayments.
6. Transportation, improper sanitization, social media technology awareness.
7. Improper sanitization, no water facility.
8. Nutritional needs, employment opportunity, basically sanitization.
9. Nutritional education, nutritional needs.
10. Low availability of organic manures.
11. Lack of storage facilities at community level.

CONCLUSIONS:

This article has mainly stated to know the ground realities of the selected villages and has been considerably succeeded to do the assigned in the region where it was conducted. According to the identified problems, different training and capacity building trainings programmes in the perspective of improved home science practices for enhanced quality life of rural families were organized. It can be involved as a guiding example to be assessed and replicated, may also be used to suggest solutions according to the identified problems.

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