



Identification of Practices Followed by Women Regarding Minimal Processing of Vegetables

Charanjeet Kaur

Demonstrator (Home Science), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malwal Road, Ferozepur, Punjab

ABSTRACT

The present study was primarily designed to know the practices followed by women regarding minimal processing of vegetables. The study was conducted in Ludhiana district of Punjab. Four villages namely Sierra, Dhaula, Khaojke and Magant were selected purposively from Magant block of Ludhiana district. A sample of 120 respondents comprising of 30 rural women from each selected village who actively participating in vegetable growing were selected randomly for the purpose of study. The study revealed that majority of the respondents have very low level of knowledge regarding minimal processing of vegetables.

KEYWORDS: Practices, Rural women, Minimal, processing, and vegetables

Women population in India constitutes nearly half of the population in our country and play multiple roles in the development process. During the last decade women cultivators have increased by 2.3% and as a agriculture labourers by 0.99 % (Roy and Pathak 2000). Though the farm women actively participate in all types of agriculture activities. Khodaskar (2001) also reported that as more than two thirds of manual work on the farm is done by rural women it is essential that they are trained in scientific agricultural practices and imparted the requisite information with regards to high yielding varieties, irrigation facilities, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, post harvesting and storage methods. He further stated that post harvest technologies are to be given more emphasis as it is in this sphere that the role of rural women is more important.

Keeping in view the above facts the study entitled "Identification of practices followed by women regarding minimal processing of vegetables" has been undertaken with following objectives:

1. To know the socio economic characteristics of the respondents.
2. To explore the existing practices followed by women regarding minimal processing of vegetables.

METHODOLOGY

Ludhiana district of Punjab was selected purposively for the purpose of study. Four villages namely Sierra, Dhaula, Khaojke and Magant were selected randomly from Magant block of Ludhiana district as maximum number of women were participating in vegetable growing. A sample of 120 respondents comprising of 30 rural women from each selected village who actively participating in vegetable growing were selected for the purpose of study and respondents were divided into 4 groups. An interview schedule was prepared after reviewing the literature and consultation of experts to collect the data, it consisted of two parts:

Part I: it dealt with the socio economic characteristics of the respondents

Part II: it dealt with the knowledge of respondents regarding minimal processing

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their socio economic characteristics

Sr. no.	Characteristics	n=30 group I F %	n=30 Group II F %	n=30 group III F %	n=30 group IV F %
1	Age				
	15-30yr	10(33.33)	11(36.67)	9(30.00)	9(30.00)
	30-45yr	13(43.33)	13(43.33)	20(66.67)	19(63.33)
	>45yr	7(23.33)	6(20.00)	1(3.33)	2(6.67)
2	Education				
	Illiterate	24(80.00)	20(66.67)	17(56.67)	13(43.33)
	Primary	3(10.00)	2(6.67)	5(16.67)	8(26.67)
	Middle	3(10.00)	7(23.33)	5(16.67)	5(16.67)

	Matric	0	1(3.33)	3(10.00)	4(13.33)
3	Religion				
	Sikh	20(66.67)	23(76.67)	20(66.67)	22(73.33)
	Hindu	10(33.33)	7(23.33)	10(33.33)	8(26.67)
4	Type of family				
	Nuclear	24(80.00)	29(96.67)	26(96.67)	28(93.33)
	Joint	6(20.00)	1(3.33)	4(13.33)	2(6.67)
5	Family occupation				
	Agriculture	1(3.33)	9(30.00)	9(30.00)	8(26.67)
	service	1(3.33)	1(3.33)	1(3.33)	4(13.33)
	labour	28(93.33)	15(50.00)	15(50.00)	15(50.00)
	Caste occupation	0(-)	5(16.67)	5(16.67)	3(10.00)
6	Per capita income(Rs per month)				
	Up to 500	14(46.67)	15(50.00)	13(43.33)	15(50.00)
	500-1000	13(43.33)	11(36.67)	10(33.33)	12(40.00)
	>1000	3(10.00)	4(13.33)	7(23.34)	3(10.00)
7	Family size				
	Up to 4	16(53.34)	16(53.34)	16(53.34)	19(63.33)
	5-8	13(43.33)	14(46.66)	14(46.66)	11(36.67)
	>8	1(3.33)	0(-)	0(-)	0(-)
8	Caste				
	SC	1(3.33)	0(-)	1(3.33)	0(-)
	BC	27(90.00)	20(66.67)	19(63.34)	17(56.67)
	General	2(6.67)	10(33.33)	10(33.33)	13(43.33)
9	Food Habits				
	Vegetarian	22(73.33)	26(86.67)	20(66.67)	24(80.00)
	non vegetarian	4(13.33)	1(3.33)	3(10.00)	0(-)
	ova vegetarian	4(13.33)	3(10.00)	7(23.33)	6(20.00)

A careful look at the data in table 1 about Distribution of respondents according to their socio economic characteristics revealed that majority of the respondents were in age group 30-45yr i.e. 43.33% in group I, 43.33% in group II, 66.67% in group III and 63.33% in group IV. Majority of the respondents were illiterate i.e. 80% in group I, 66.67% in group II, 56.67% in group III and 43.33% in group IV and very few respondents who were matric, with regard to religion more than 60% of respondents in all the groups were belong to sikh religion and more than 80% of the respondents in all the four groups were belong to nuclear family. As for as the occupation of the respondents was concerned majority of the respondents were occupied as labour i.e. 93.33% in group I, 50% in group II, group III and group IV. With regard to per capita income about 50% and 40% of the respondents having per capita income upto Rs 500 and Rs 500-1000 in all the four groups. Finding further indicated that respondents having upto 4 member were 53.34% in group I, 53.34% in group II, 53.34% in group III and 63.33% in group IV followed by the respondents having 4-8 members. Majority of the respondents belong to BC category in all the four groups. All most all the respondents were vegetarians.

Table 2: Existing practices followed by women regarding minimal processing of vegetables

Practices	n=30 group I F %	n=30 Group II F %	n=30 group III F %	n=30 group IV F %
Picking of vegetables				
Morning time	21(70.00)	27(90.00)	22(73.33)	30(100)
Evening time	9(30.00)	3(10.00)	8(26.67)	0(-)
Noon Time	0(-)	0(-)	0(-)	0(-)
Bringing of vegetables from field to home				
Boxes	0(-)	0(-)	0(-)	0(-)
Bags	10(33.33)	17(56.67)	14(46.67)	5(16.67)
Baskets	20(66.67)	13(43.33)	16(53.33)	25(83.33)
Washing of vegetables				
Flowing water	5(16.67)	6(20.00)	5(16.67)	3(10.00)
Tap water	5(16.67)	2(6.77)	6(20.00)	9(30.00)
Standing water	20(66.67)	22(73.33)	19(63.33)	18(60.00)
Amount of water used for washing				
2 liters	7(23.33)	10(33.33)	12(40.00)	11(36.67)
5 liters	15(50.00)	18(60.00)	14(46.47)	10(33.33)
5-10 liters	8(26.67)	2(6.67)	4(13.33)	9(30.00)
Temperature of water for washing				
Room temp	25(83.33)	20(66.67)	19(63.33)	17(56.67)
5c	0(-)	5(16.67)	7(23.33)	3(10.00)
cold water	5(16.67)	5(16.67)	4(13.33)	10(33.33)

Data from table 2 about Existing practices followed by women regarding minimal processing of vegetables revealed that majority of the respondents pick the vegetables in morning time i.e. 70% in group I, 90% in group II, 73.37% in group III and 70% in group IV and rest of the respondents pick the vegetables in evening time, none of the respondent pick the vegetables in noon time. With regard to bringing of vegetables from field to home majority of the respondents bring the vegetables in baskets i.e. 66.67% in group I, 43.33% in group II, 53.33% in group III and 83.33% in group IV and followed by bags. Majority of the respondents wash the vegetables in standing water followed by tap water. As for as the amount of water used for washing vegetables was concerned majority of the respondents used 5 liter water for washing 1kg vegetables followed by 2 liter water for 1kg vegetables and majority of the respondents wash the vegetables at room temperature followed by cold water. Data further indicated that as for as amount of chlorine used for disinfection of vegetables, cutting of vegetables, packing of vegetables and weight of packets were concerned all the respondents have no knowledge about these practices.

CONCLUSION:

We can say that practices followed by women regarding minimal processing of vegetables were very poor, they have lack of knowledge regarding amount of chlorine used for disinfection of vegetables, cutting of vegetables, packing of vegetables and weight of packets. So there was an urgent need to impart training regarding minimal processing of vegetables to rural women so that they can able to use this technology as entrepreneur.

REFERENCES

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