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## **The Impact of Training Interventions on Women Development: A Report from Balochistan**

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The Study was carried out to assess the impact of the major activities of the project on women beneficiaries. In all 63 women on six schemes were interviewed by using a questionnaire. The respondents mostly belonging to the age group of 25-40 have been divided into owner, cultivator and tenants preferably of equal weight. The women were found to be benefiting from the Potable Water Supply PWS, providing them clean drinking water within the house compound. The PWS caused reduction in their work load and the spare time availed is being utilized for other productive purposes and enabling them to create hygienic situation through more water use by the households. The women have also more or less, benefited from the health and Hygiene training where on average the children, women and houses look cleaner than before and water related diseases have decreased on average. The impact of training on malaria was assessed mainly through determining the incidence of malaria which indicates that on average, the incidence has lowered slightly but the knowledge gained by women is the most important benefit accrued. The kitchen gardening training has little impact mainly because of drought. The safe handling of agro chemicals practice trained for has been adopted by women to a greater extent while the grain storage type of practice has not been given much attention as the women on schemes do not realize it a major issue. Though rigorous efforts have been undertaken in terms of women activities in the scheme areas by the project yet the impact on women could be seen more on the knowledge side, gained through training but on adoption side, to cross the psychological barrier requiring trust and confidence built over time, the results are modest. The women could have improved to a satisfactory level provided ample time could have been spent by the project staff to guide, motivate, involve them and sense of ownership created within them. The women within the male dominated society could not develop strength in their voice to influence male counterparts in development process. However, a realization to both male and female has been given about the importance of women involvement in development process but the process thus initiated has been left half way due to the phasing out of the project from the area leaving the women to be on the mercy of the tribal set up in future too.

**Keywords:** women development, potable water, kitchen gardening, health and hygiene

The Balochistan Community Irrigation and Agricultural Project (BCIAP) completed 34 perennial minor irrigation schemes (PIS) in the province. In addition, the project also completed 4 flood irrigation schemes (FIS) and 6 mini- PIS. The project started with the overall objective of achieving sustainable growth in per capita income from irrigated agriculture, improved rural standard of living and poverty. The development process envisaged by the project was to involve communities (beneficiaries of the schemes) in all stages of development so that sustainable growth is ensured. Considering it an essential prerequisite for development, the empowerment, strengthening and self reliance of the community (both male and female) was considered to be central to the process. For that purpose the project components were the vehicles deployed to bring about this change.

The Project's Women and Development Unit (WDU) tried to ensure that the participation of women in development process is based on their needs and requirements, and should be achieved

through not only project extension programmes, washing structures and locations of potable water supply stands but also through training programmes related to health and hygiene, safe handling of agro-chemicals, grain storage and kitchen gardening.

This study has been conducted to assess; the impact of training activities such as; health, hygiene and safe water usage, safe placing of agro-chemicals and kitchen gardening on women development.

### **Objectives**

The study objectives, in the light of assessing the project interventions have been presented below;

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- To develop indicators to assess effectiveness of gender related activities of BCIAP.
- Analyse data available with project, including screening reports, baseline data, progress reports, impact evaluation reports, staff appraisal report, PC1 etc.
- Conduct field work for additional data collection on the indicators developed.
- Analyse data and determine the extent to which the project's community development and gender related activities have contributed to the development of women beneficiaries of the project.

#### **Method**

Keeping in view the scope of the study and to give a proper coverage to the indicators highlighting realistic impact assessment of the interventions by the project, the methodology followed is as under:

#### **Selection of Schemes**

The time constraint compelled the team to limit itself to six schemes, all perennial type, A Stratified Sampling technique has been used taking into consideration the following criteria; (i) The Potable water system being the major women activity has been given proper weight in the selection of schemes. (ii) As per information available, 90% of the schemes are drought affected but with varied intensity. The schemes selected are those not severely hit by the prevailing drought. (iii) The consideration of schemes in mountainous, plain and in between areas was also accommodated to have a different comparable situation regarding the scheme structure, maintenance and other related problems. (iv) The north and south distribution in the context of cultural difference, topographical situation and climatic condition was also taken into consideration.

#### **Selection of Respondents**

In all 63 women on six schemes could be interviewed due to harsh climatic condition in hot areas resulting in slight migration. A detailed questionnaire was designed for individual respondent in all the six schemes. The respondents mostly belonging to the age group of 25-40 have been divided into owner, cultivator and tenants preferably of equal weight.

#### **Demographic Characteristics of Sample**

Out of the total respondents the majority were found to be married and living in a joint family system. Although the age group of the respondents ranged between 15-20 to 60-65 but most of the women were reported to be in the age bracket of 25-40. Most of the women were illiterate. Only a small number (3%) were reported to be spending their additional income on education of their children in future.

#### **Data Collection**

The indicators for all the components have been devised as per requirement of the impact assessment. The data

collection was through; (a) A Questionnaire containing all possible questions (b) A pro-forma designed for recording observations not covered by the above mentioned questionnaire. The information/data both quantitative and qualitative collected from the field has been supplemented by the data available in the Project office. Pre-testing of the questionnaire was also carried out to adjust the questionnaire to the unknown realities to avoid embarrassment in the field during data collection process.

#### **Data Analysis & Report Writing**

The data has been presented in a tabular form to better express the indicators set for the various components of the project. The analysis has been confined to simple percentages and averages of the responses for comparison of the opinions of the beneficiaries as informants. Tables have mostly been structured on the basis of the required information across schemes. The data analysis for both the quantitative and qualitative variables explaining the related indicators has been done to assess the impact of the project components. The text of the report has been kept short to make it precise and meaningful to be read by the concerned rather than a lengthy one usually is decorated in shelves.

#### **Women and Development**

The rural women being a marginalized group in this society, is restricted to participate in development process under the social milieu of the tribal set up in the province. The support from the male counterparts is essential which the project had sought at the outset. The Community Support Group (CSG) of the project provided a thorough to gender activities to ensure that the initial commitment materializes and it encourages participation of women in women related development activities, it accommodates women's proposals for identifying and resolving issues, and facilitates them in implementing the more feasible and viable courses of action. In order to involve the womenfolk of all scheme areas in the development process so as to expand the circle of their welfare, various types of training and awareness initiatives were launched and completed by the project. These include: water-taps operation & maintenance, health and hygiene, malaria awareness, grain storage, safe handling of agro chemicals and kitchen gardening. In this section, the impact of potable water supply schemes (PWS) and various other types of trainings is being assessed on women's welfare and attitudinal change in the scheme villages.

The women groups are expected, after training, to be capable of ensuring that the water taps are in proper working condition, the stand-posts are in proper standing position, and the drainage channel is in appropriate shape and condition that does not permit contamination of potable water. This could be verified, of course, only in those PIS schemes where PWS was included as an added feature. The drainage channel, as expected and trained for, must be maintained by the women themselves. In the case of a major breakdown, restoration should be done through the assistance of FO members as per commitment with the

project. The assessment team verified the position of tap stands and drainage of channels.

Table 1  
*Status of Tap Stands and Drainage Condition*

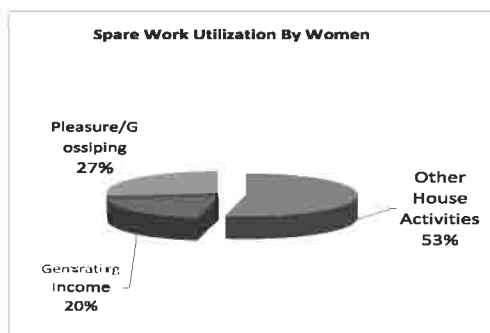
Name of Schemes	Tap Stands		Drainage Position	
	Proper Order	Poor Condition	Satisfactory	Poor
Wala Viala	10	-	10	-
Sazoo	11	-	11	-
Pandran	10	-	8	2
Mushkaf	9	-	9	-
Wahar	No PWS	-	No PWS	-
Wandr	No PWS	-	No PWS	-
Total 40	40	-	38	2
Percent	100	-	95	5

Two of the six sampled schemes did not have the PWS feature. Therefore the assessment sample was four (4 PWS) out of a total of 12 PWS constructed under the project. The overall situation presents a very healthy status: The tap stands position has been satisfactory in 93 % cases, the stands were found to be in proper order indicating no inefficiency of the Women Groups. The most appropriate condition was found in Wala Viala where due to an alternative system of water supply recently provided by a gas company, the taps were not being used. This however was an exceptional case. The condition and position of drainage channel was also found to be also satisfactory, on an average, in 88% cases.

**Changes in Workload of Women**

A secondary purpose of the potable water supply, other than the provision of safe and clean drinking water, was to help the women to shed their workload and to have spare time. With better skills and training, the women can then utilize the saved time for other activities, such as better household management or for generating income, where possible, or for enjoying the leisure. The women in different schemes overwhelmingly acknowledged gaining extra time due to PWS, as highlighted below:

FIGURE 1



The workload of all those schemes where PWS was added appears to have been reduced. The statement was endorsed by 85% of the respondents. The remaining 15% responded in negative because they did not see a visible difference in their

routine work life. However, even this small minority had biases because the extra time gained through the PWS has been consumed up by newly emerging activities which they have not taken notice of. The spare time of those who have clearly mentioned this advantage is being utilized for better household management (53%), or for generating additional income for the household (20%), or for enjoying the leisure and gossiping (27%). Therefore, over 70% of those women who believed they gained extra time, are using it for productive purposes.

**Maintenance Ability of Women Groups**

The training related to maintenance of PWS system has been imparted in all scheme villages where PWS was installed. The women groups trained for repair and maintenance were supposed to maintain PWS at least when minor repair will be needed, while any major works were to be handled by the male counterparts (FO members). A significant finding on the maintenance practices is that while the conditions of tap stands were mostly satisfactory, the women in rare cases perform their maintenance responsibilities. Their activities are confined only to cleanliness of the taps and they depend on males of the village even in minor repair cases. This indicates that the maintenance training has very little impact in terms of applying the skills learned, or acceptance of the responsibilities related to taps and drainage.

Table 2  
*PWS Training Received by Women Users*

Name of Schemes		PWS Training Received by Women	
		Yes	No
Wala Viala	10	9 (90)	1 (10)
Sazoo	11	6 (55)	5 (45)
Pandran	10	8 (80)	2 (20)
Mushkaf	9	7 (78)	2 (22)
Wahar	11	10 (91)	1 (9)
Wandri	12	-	12 (100)
Total	63	40	23
%age		63	37

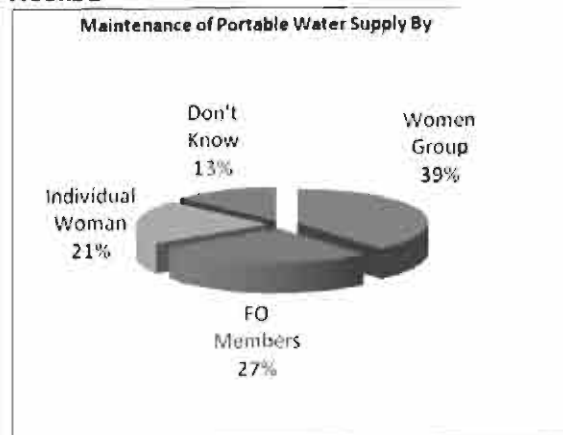
Note: Numbers in parentheses represent percentages

When probed further, a significant number of women (52%) were of the opinion that repair is the duty of the FO members, while 31% were completely ignorant about the responsibility to whom it relates (17% respondents chose not to answer). On the other side when the question was put differently, 39 % women endorsed the fact that maintenance is the responsibility of the women group. This indicates unwillingness of women regarding repair and maintenance of the PWS.

The women see a lot of benefits from PWS system judged through assessing their perception. The women were asked to tell more than one advantage if they wished. On that basis major advantages women have realized from the PWS system resulting in more water availability to households

include; easy access to clean drinking water (67%), time saved to be utilized for other activities (67%), the ease in wash work; clothes, utensils and other household items (67 %), time saved to be utilized as desired (67 %), availability of clean water (50 %) and spare water for kitchen gardening (17%).

**FIGURE 2**



However, these percentages are not empirical. A few points are important to be explained here:(a) the advantages rural women perceive have been based on more than one advantage narrated by the beneficiary women; (b) the responses here under this query may not coincide with the actual finding under the same activity, e.g. kitchen gardening, though mentioned as a realized benefit has not

been picked as an activity by 17 % of the women espondents; And finally (c) the above responses are from four schemes only (Wala Viala, Sazoo, Pandran and Mushkaf) whereas the responses of women from Wahar were knocked out because their households are not covered by the Wahar PWS, and as mentioned earlier, there is no PWS system in Wandri.

**Water Availability and its Use**

The PWS has a visible impact on the workload. Nonetheless, the major desirable impact should be the judicious water use based on the health and hygiene requirement, in as much as meeting the daily household drinking needs. The increased water use for cleaning, washing, health and sanitation, as a minimum standard, indicates a leap forward in creating healthy household environments. The assessment team found that potable water use has increased by 39 % in scheme villages as compared to five years before situation. It may partly be due to the increase in family members during the last 5 years, but more importantly due to better cleaning sense, proper utensils washing, washing cloths more frequently, and cleaning the children regularly were the main reasons quoted for more water use. The increase in water, measured through the buckets use, indicate that in 1997 the highest number of households were using around 10 buckets while 5 years later this use in buckets raised up to around 15 buckets on the average.(Table -3).

**Table 3**  
*Water use change due to PWS in six scheme villages*

USE OF WATER IN BUCKETS	SCHEME/VILLAGE No. Of Women Users													
	WALA VIALA		SAZOO		PANDRAN		MUSHKAF		WAHAR		WANDRI		TOTAL	
	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002
Upto 2	1	1	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	7	3
2 to 5	6	5	2	3	3	2	-	1	3	1	5	3	19	15
5 to 10	1	2	2	2	5	3	3	1	3	3	2	3	16	14
11 to 15	1	1	1	2	2	-	3	2	1	-	2	1	10	6
> 15	-	-	1	2	-	5	2	5	4	7	1	3	8	22

### Improvement in Cleanliness of Women, Children and Households

As a result of the household training, one expects the women to have changed their appearance and that of their children, being clean and neat and also their houses to be tidy. Clean look, tidy dress, houses free from flies, covering properly the food and non food items and their proper placing and storage are some of the impact indicators of the training. The assessment team members (s), therefore, physically observed and verified such attributes. Approximately 5% children were found to be clean in all six

scheme villages, 41.2% were either not so-clean or not-so-dirty, while approximately 54% of the children were found to be dirty. In the case of women, the cleanliness percentage in all six scheme villages was higher (28.6%), about 51% were in between, and 20.6% had an untidy look. There were about 32% clean houses (defined clean by village standard) in a village, 24% dirty, and 44.4% were not-so-dirty. This qualitative method of assessment is though, not very accurate and it covered one non-PWS village and the children of non-connected households to the PWS.

Table 4

*Impact of House Hold Training on cleanliness of children, women and houses in six scheme villages*

NAME OF SCHEME/VILLAGE	CHILDREN (n=63)			WOMEN (n=63)			HOUSES (n=63)		
	CLEAN	DIRTY	IN BETWEEN	CLEAN	DIRTY	IN BETWEEN	CLEAN	DIRTY	IN BETWEEN
Wala Viala PIS	-	10	-	-	5	5	-	3	7
Sazoo PIS	-	11	-	-	5	6	-	7	4
Pandran PIS	-	5	5	4	2	4	4	2	4
Mushkaf PIS	1	-	8	7	-	2	7	-	2
Wahar PIS	1	4	6	4	-	7	4	-	7
Wandri PIS	1	4	7	3	1	8	5	3	4
Percentage	4.8	53.9	41.2	28.6	20.6	50.8	31.7	23.8	44.4

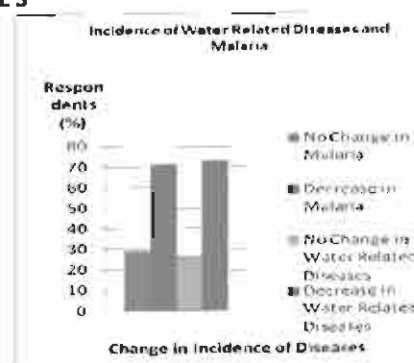
A better comparison, even though more qualitative, was the villages of Pandran and Mushkaf, the two with better organized FOs, where the children were seen comparatively more clean. The cleanliness percentage among the scheme beneficiaries has also been the highest in these two villages (Mushkaf and Pandran) as compared to the rest of villages (Table 4).

It may then be concluded that improvements in cleanliness of children, women and houses can be positively correlated to PWS (more water and women having more spare time) but the effectiveness of training is very slow to permeate.

#### Change in Incidence of Water Related Diseases

The curtailment in water related diseases as a result of the training is a positive impact of the awareness raised. It would be pertinent to note that level of knowledge gained by the women about these diseases and the related preventive measures itself is a significant contribution of the project. However, it is another matter that the knowledge gained is not put into practice, which puts the onus on the women groups for ignoring the related measures. The assessment found that the incidence of water related diseases, particularly diarrhoea, has decreased slightly as endorsed by 73 % women respondents. The rest, 27% women, believed that the incidence was almost the same as before, particularly in Sazoo.

FIGURE 3



*practices in six scheme villages*

#### Incidence of Malaria

The project has not only facilitated awareness to the community women of malaria causes but has also provided the mosquito nets (at concession rates). Mosquito nets for impregnation was demonstrated frequently to each women group visited. The information from field reveals that the incidence of malaria on average has decreased. The decline in the incidence of malaria was considered to be slight by 71 % of the women respondents, while 29% believed that there was no decline (Table 5).

Table 5  
*Incidence of water related diseases and malaria due to improved practices in six selected scheme villages (N= 63)*

Name of Scheme /Village	Water related Disease		Malaria	
	No Change	Decrease	No Change	Decrease
Wala Viala PIS	5	5	9	1
Sazoo PIS	7	4	4	7
Pandran PIS	2	8	1	9
Mushkaf PIS	-	9	1	8
Wahar PIS	1	9	-	11
Wandri PIS	2	10	3	9
<b>Total number</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>71</b>

**Kitchen Gardening and Consumption of Vegetables**

The women development section of the project through its kitchen gardening training attempted to persuade the women to practice kitchen gardening within the house compounds to grow vegetables for domestic use. The kitchen gardening sounds logical where the vegetables are not available in the main household farm. However, the concept of kitchen gardening was lightly taken by the women on most of the schemes for various reasons: water decrease was quoted to be the main reason, to avoid adding to their load work particularly when there is no chance of pocketing the money income by the women themselves was quoted to be another reason.

Table 6  
*Kitchen Gardening By Women*

Name of Schemes	Kitchen Gardening	
	Practiced	Not Practiced
Wala Viala PIS	1	9
Sazoo PIS	3	8
Pandran PIS	8	2
Mushkaf PIS	1	8
Wahar PIS	2	9
Wandri PIS	2	10
Respondents(N=63)	17	46
Percentage	27	73

In fact, very little interest in gardening was shown by women in Wala Viala and Mushkaf slightly better in Wandri, Wahar and Sazoo, and relatively high interest in Pandran. The assessment team also noticed that only a small area was put under cultivation in almost all houses. One of the qualitative assessment indicators focussed on the consumption of vegetables by the family and non family members. The responses reveal that all family members, everywhere on each scheme, consume such vegetables which were grown under kitchen gardening practice and were also shared with the poorer neighbours free of cost (Table 6).

**Incidents Caused by Mishandling of Agro-Chemicals**

The unsafe placing and handling of agro chemicals causing undesirable incidents due to ignorance in villages within farm households is generally considered to be an emerging issue. The project has trained the scheme beneficiary women in safe handling of agro chemicals. To measure the impact of training, the incidents of mishandling or accidents taking place in the villages due to chemical poisoning should provide a clue. It

appears that the project intervention on this account has been very successful because proper storage has been reported in all villages and no incident in the last few years has been reported in any village.

**Reduction in Grain Losses / Wastage**

The wastage and losses of grains due to improper household storage not only mean quantitative loss but should also be seen in terms of added unhygienic hazards because rotten and spoiled grains are often consumed in the houses. The training in grain storage was aimed at enabling the women to apply the better and proper storage techniques themselves in their own houses. The responses from most women, however, indicate that grains are being stored safely according to the traditional method. Most women consider the new techniques less useful because they do not consider them much different from their own. Although the women do not readily to agree to the clear loss or wastage of grains, they do admit that the grain storage training has put them in better position than before.

**Findings**

- Condition of the tap stands water draining from taps and drainage channel improvement was satisfactory in most of the schemes (80%).
- The PWS repair and maintenance training imparted to women groups has proved to be of little use as the women failed to acknowledge whether any repair, including minor repairs, is to be done by them either due to ignorance or cultural biases. No where the women were found to be ready for it. The women, thought repair of all type and maintenance to be a male activity.
- No major disputes were found on PWS systems on the schemes, except in Sazoo where the rivalry between the head and tail parts of the village men had crawled to the women too. Minor and major both type of disputes were found on this scheme only.
- Major advantages of PWS quoted were; availability of clean drinking water, reduced work load of women, easy access to drinking water and washing places and time saving of women.
- The spare time due to reduced work load of



women is being utilized mainly for other household activities within compound, pointing at the usage of spending the additional time for better management of house activities than before.

- The water requirement and use in houses, despite the population increase, has increased due to awareness through health and hygiene training in almost all scheme households. The major proportion is utilized for washing utensils and cleaning the children.
- The training in health and hygiene has helped in raising the awareness level among the women particularly in Mushkaf and Pandran whereas in the rest of four schemes it was of moderate level.
- The children and houses looked untidy at almost 60% of the locations and at few places they looked clean. The women looked mostly clean (at over 60% places) and untidy at 33% of the locations. Thus cleanliness, a bit improved, is due to training and better water availability through PWS.
- Water related diseases particularly diarrhea, has lowered down slightly due to non contaminated water on drainage channel and clean water availability for drinking.
- The malaria incidence has also decreased only slightly. It may have been due to non-use or low use of mosquito nets. instead, many of the households use the fans where there is electricity. The net numbers have not multiplied and impregnation lotion use has been abandoned, perhaps due to availability problem, where the nets are used.
- The kitchen gardening practice is slow to pick up because, generally, there is no chance of pocketing the income by women and also it requires extra time of women. On an average, it is practised by 26 % of the total respondents but area cultivated is, in general, being nominal.
- The farm households were quite aware of the dangers of mishandling and misplacement of agro chemicals. No incidents in the past decade have ever taken place.
- The women do not agree to the clear loss or wastage of grains, though they admit that the grain storage put them in better position than before.

#### **Impact Analysis of Women Development**

The assessment of the project's gender program has been based on the indicators explaining the interventions thereof. The potable water supply has solved the problem of

unavailability of clean drinking water which had to be fetched from long distances and the study in this regard, has noticed that 100 % tap stands were in proper condition which is indicative of its proper maintenance by the women groups. Not only the maintenance of the tap stands but also the maintenance of drainage system in 95 % cases reflects on the success of women in availing the support of the FO members required under the situation. A high number of women respondents(85 %) have realized a fall in the women's workload due to the availability of the potable water supply compared to the inception of the project in1997. However, some empirical research is required to determine how much of this saved time is utilized for productive activities that contribute to the household income. The other benefits of PWS include an easy access to clean drinking water and water to be used to wash clothes, utensils etc. Other than the provision of clean drinking water, an important intervention was the provision of health and hygiene education and awareness of causes and prevention of malaria along with impregnated bed nets use. The impact of these interventions has been realized by 71% women respondents who felt a decrease in the incidence of malaria fevers compared to 1997 (base year). A fall in water related diseases has also been felt by the respondents ( 73%) in the result of the above mentioned interventions by the project. The usefulness of impregnated nets has been widely recognized as these were properly used by the recipients but the practice of buying more nets needed and re-impregnation of the old ones has been abandoned where the reasons quoted include higher prices, non availability of the nets and lotion of impregnation. Due to time constraint the team could not ascertain the reasons of failure to purchase new nets and the re-impregnation of the old ones as trained for.

#### **Conclusion**

The Study shows that due to the training activities of the project the women were found to be benefiting from the Potable Water Supply PWS, providing them clean drinking water within the house compound. This resulted in reduction in their work load and the spare time availed is being utilized for other productive purposes and enabling them to create hygienic situation through more water use by the households. The women have also more or less, benefited from the health and Hygiene training where on average the children, women and houses look cleaner than before and water related diseases have decreased on average. The impact of training on malaria indicates that on average, the incidence has lowered slightly but the knowledge gained by women is the most important benefit accrued. Due to the drought the kitchen gardening training has little impact. The safe handling of agro chemicals practice trained for has been adopted by women to a greater extent while the grain storage type of practice has not been given much attention as the women on schemes do not realize it a major issue. Although rigorous efforts have been undertaken in terms of women activities in the scheme areas by the project yet the

impact on women could be seen more on the knowledge side, gained through training but on adoption side, to cross the psychological barrier requiring trust and confidence built over time, the results are modest.

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## **GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS**

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***References** Complete reference list must be prepared according to APA manual.*

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