

Constraints Faced by Trainees and Resource Persons during Virtual Training Programme on Poultry Production Management

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ABSTRACT: There are many virtual platforms for teaching and distance learning exist and being used but after occurrence of Covid -19, these online platforms got sudden rise. Teachers and students used these virtual platforms to cope up with situation aroused of Covid -19. Most of the resource persons and learners (students, farmers, and youths) used them first time and they were not familiar with this methodology hence they are bound to face certain constraints while using this methodology. The present study was conducted to identify constraints faced by trainees and resource persons during virtual training programmes on poultry production management and other virtual activities. Structured questionnaire (Google form) was developed and sent to 220 successful trainees of different training programmes and out of that, only 143 trainees had responded and on the other hand, 18 resource persons responded. The results revealed that major constraint reported by trainees was “lack of operational (practical) knowledge” (I Rank) as trainees cannot see practical physically followed by “power failure, poor and interrupted data connectivity” (II Rank), “high cost of data (recharge) for internet connectivity” (III Rank), Various constraints were also faced by resource persons viz; poor and interrupted internet connectivity, noise by participants during lecture due to unmute again and again. Conclusively the constraints are related to communication technology and infrastructure, which can be resolved by developing or improving infrastructure and frequent use of virtual platforms.

Keywords: Poultry, trainee, resource person, constraints.

INTRODUCTION

The livestock and poultry sectors are the major contributors to the growth of agriculture and the primary livelihood sources for most of the farmers. Indeed, the agriculture growth enhanced by these sectors in the form of critical inputs, contributes to the medical health facilities and food for the family members, generates income and employment opportunities. Contribution of the livestock in the total Gross Value Added was 4.2 per cent in 2018-19. As far as poultry sector is concerned, it is fastest growing sub-sector of livestock sector with near about 6-7% annual growth rate of layer and 10-11% in broiler production. It contributes to nearly 1% to national GDP while 14% to livestock GDP. It provides employment to more than six million people (Economic Survey 2020-21). The training in poultry farming is a pre requisite for successful venture. It is being provided by few Government Organizations. ICAR-Central Avian

Research Institute is one of them, a leading research and development organisation that caters the training needs of poultry farmers and youths by organising specialized and short-term training programmes on poultry production. up-to March-2020, these training programmes were organised as residential ones. But after March- 2020, the occurrence of Covid-19 throughout the country, lockdown was imposed, physical contact was prohibited for the months. Activities which require physical presence could not be started even after following unlock standard operation procedures (SOP). The non-physical interaction was the only way to run essential activities through online mode. In such a situation digital means took place. The educational activities adopted digital mode to avoid Covid-19 using various online platforms. CARI also switched over to online mode for capacity building of farmers. The course content of training programmes on poultry production management was converted into digital form and all the formalities were completed

through online. Since the virtual mode was adopted first time by the majority of persons the constraints/problems are bound to occur on both ends teacher and learners. So, their study is essential and need of the hour.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out at the Central avian research institute, Bareilly with 220 trainees who completed training successfully and 18 resource persons who were involved in online training and other similar virtual activities. A structured questionnaire was developed and converted into google form. It was pre tested with 10 respondents, modified, and then sent to all the trainees. A separate questionnaire (google form) was prepared for resource persons and send to them for data collection. Out of that only 143 trainees and 18 resource persons had responded, which were considered for the study. The data after collection were coded, compiled, tabulated, and analysed. Major statistical tools- frequency distribution, average score, and ranking order were used for analysing and interpreting the data. The Garret ranking was specially used for ranking of constraints

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by trainees. Table 1 reveals that “lack of operational practical knowledge about poultry farming” was major constraint reported by trainees with first rank followed by “power failure, poor and interrupted data connectivity” (II Rank), “high cost of data (recharge) for internet connectivity” (III Rank), “high cost of devices like smartphone, laptop, tablet etc. because of poor purchasing capacity” (IV Rank), “lack of subject matter information in local language (different dialect)” (V Rank), “lack of confidence due to lack of operational procedure of online platform” because first time user (VI Rank), “lack of knowledge about online platform” (VII Rank), “difficulty in completing online formalities” for fee payment and registration (VIII Rank), “difficulty in online reading during training” (IX Rank), and “fear for connecting online training technology platform” (X Rank). Kalio (2020); Sahoo (2020) in their studies revealed that major constraints were insufficient power supply, internet connectivity issues, poor digital knowledge.

Table 1: Constraints faced by trainees during virtual training programme on poultry production management.

Constraints	Average score	Rank
Lack of operational (practical) knowledge of poultry farming.	69.29	I
Power failure, poor and interrupted data connectivity	67.92	II
High cost of data (recharge) for internet connectivity	64.89	III
High cost of devices like smartphone, laptop, tablet etc.	56.38	IV
Lack of subject matter information in local language	51.62	V
Lack of confidence due to lack of operational procedure of online platform	45.94	VI
Lack of knowledge about online platform	40.41	VII
Difficulty in completing online formalities (fee payment, registration etc.)	38.71	VIII
Difficulty in online reading during training	33.61	IX
Fear for connecting online training technology platform	29.20	X

Constraints faced by resource persons. Table 2 reveals that “poor and interrupted internet connectivity” was major constraint reported by the resource persons with the first rank followed by “noise by participants during lecture due to unmute again and again” (II Rank), “sometimes operational difficulty in presentation due to unexpected behaviour (problematic sharing of ppts and slide show mode which consume much time) as the lecture is to be completed in a given

time” (III Rank), “lack of knowledge for fullest use of the online platform” (IV Rank), “disturbance (writing on PowerPoint) by participants” (V Rank). Asif *et al.* (2019); Adnan and Anwar (2020); Dogar *et al.* (2020); Purwanto (2020); Muthuprasad *et al.* (2020) in their studies revealed that “network problem, signals availability/strength, poor connectivity of internet, network instability, connectivity issues were the major hindrance in online learning.

Table 2: Constraints faced by resource persons during virtual training programmes on poultry production management and similar teaching activities.

Constraints	Average score	Rank
Poor and interrupted internet connectivity	79.95	I
Noise by participants during lecture due to unmute again and again	70.14	II
Sometimes operational difficulty in presentation due to unexpected behaviour (not sharing of ppts and presentation in slide show) as lecture is to be completed in given time	62.66	III
Lack of knowledge for fullest use of online platform	58.57	IV
Disturbance (writing on PowerPoint) by participants	53.42	V

CONCLUSIONS

Poultry farming is a worthwhile enterprise with low-cost initial investment, high and early economic return, livelihood and nutritional security among the poor families. Although virtual (online) mode of training is best in many ways but it also has many demerits and operational difficulties posed to resource person and learners.

The most important constraints were lack of operational (practical) knowledge faced by trainees during online training in comparison to residential programmes (offline). In offline mode, trainees are physical present at training venue to see and perform the skill-based activities, which affect the learning of learners. The other economic and infrastructural constraints were also faced by trainees. Technological and operational aspect of online platform also creates problems when users did not have expertise. Various constraints were also faced by resource persons at the time of virtual training programme because of passing through learning phase of virtual training system, the most serious ones were poor and interrupted internet connectivity, noise by participants during lecture due to unmute again and again, sometimes operational difficulty in presentation due to unexpected behaviour of online platform, lack of knowledge for fullest use of the online platform, and disturbance (writing on power point) by participants. From these findings, it may be concluded that these constraints are cropped up because of lack of expertise in use of online platform and weak connectivity due to non-availability of required infrastructure. These constraints can be overcome by developing good digital facilities, expertise (capacity building) and confidence in trainers and trainees.

FUTURE SCOPE

Finding of the study will provide a platform to develop standards for organizing virtual capacity building programmes and help in redesigning and improving the existing virtual training programme on poultry production management at CARI.

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Conflict of Interest. None.

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