

Effectiveness of VAT on Agriculture Safety and Health Hazards among the Farmers at Meerut

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Abstract: *Background of the study:* Agriculture ranks among the most hazardous industries. Farmers are at very high risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries; and farming is one of the few industries in which family members (who often share the work and live on the premises) are also at risk for fatal and nonfatal injuries.¹ *Aim:* The main aim of the study was to assess the effectiveness of Video Assisted Teaching (VAT) on Agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers at Meerut. *Methodology:* The Experimental study was conducted using Pre-Experimental research design (one group pre test post test design) at Ghat village Meerut. The conceptual framework used in the study was General system theory. The total sample size for the study was 60 farmers. Written consent has obtained from the samples. Purposive sampling technique has used and data collection by structured interview questionnaire. *Results:* Overall pre test knowledge scores were 49.16% and post test knowledge scores were 81.08%. Net benefit of the study was 31.92% rise in the knowledge of farmers. The difference between pre and post- test Knowledge score is $t=21.29$ (at $P=0.001$ level of significance) and it was statistically significant. There was a significant association between post-test level of knowledge among farmers with their educational status $\chi^2=12.468$, (at $P=0.05$ level of significance). *Conclusion:* This study concludes that VAT was definitely effective teaching method in improving the knowledge level on agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers working in agriculture field.

Keywords: Effectiveness, VAT, Agriculture safety, Health hazards, Farmers

1. Introduction

Agriculture is essential for good health. There is a bidirectional link between agriculture and health, agriculture influences health and health influences agriculture. Agricultural workers suffer markedly higher rates of accidents and fatal injuries than other workers, with very few resources available for compensation. One of the difficulties in dealing with agriculture is that it is a very complex and heterogeneous sector. Even so, compared to workers in other sectors, agricultural workers are still under-protected. Occupational safety and health in agriculture need to be addressed with a well-defined strategy and must be integrated into a rural development policy. Integration into the primary health care structure is strongly recommended.²

Agriculture provides opportunities to improve as well as pose risks to health. The toll on human health that results from improper agricultural practices includes considerable economic losses such as the cost of mortality, productive capacity lost due to premature death and morbidity resulting from hospitalization and health care services, both public and private. Finally there is the intangible cost of pain, suffering, anxiety and reduction of the quality of life.³

A farmer spends more than third of his waking daily life time at field, and carries the effects caused by working condition back to home. The family and social life also reflect in his work. The working population is one on which the entire community is dependent, the quality of life of this section of population determines the economic security and social security of the community.⁴

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the agricultural sector is one of the most hazardous to health worldwide. Agricultural work possesses several characteristics that are risky for health: exposure to the weather, close contact with animals and plants, extensive use of chemical and biological products, difficult working postures and lengthy hours, and use of hazardous agricultural tools and machinery. The agricultural sector and health sector should develop and build on ways of working with farmers to grow crops that promote healthier cultivation practices and reduce exposure to hazards. Health-sector staff, meanwhile, should document health problems and identify the greatest hazards, help explain the health reasons for such changes, and monitor changes in health with improved production methods.⁵

More than any other occupational group, agricultural workers are exposed to a tremendous variety of environmental hazards that are potentially harmful to their health and well-being. Farmers and farm workers suffer from increased rates of respiratory diseases, noise-induced hearing loss, skin disorders, certain cancers, chemical toxicity, and heat-related illnesses. There are precautions that can be taken to minimize or eliminate these potential hazards.⁶ It is found that the agriculture workers have very little knowledge about the health hazards and Agriculture safety. Hence the investigator felt a need to give a Video Assisted teaching among agriculture workers to promote Agriculture safety.

2. Literature Survey

A cross sectional descriptive study carried out to in Fadan-Daji (FD), Kaduna state, Nigeria. A sample size of 250

farmers was obtained. Results revealed that most farmers experienced chest pain/tightness, cough, dizziness, reddening of the eyes; sneezing and rheum more often following the use on their farms. This study further revealed that farmers in the studied communities (31.6%) resorted to self-medication ranging from analgesics, to over the counter antihistamines, whilst 23.6% reported that they ingest milk as antidote. 32.4% did nothing about it while only 12.4% of the respondents visited a health facility. 54.4% of FD farmers used no form of personal protective devices (PPDs). This study concludes that the root problem faced with the FD like the average farmer of the developing world is lack of relevant education in terms of ethical use and disposal of agrochemicals which has made a significant number of FD farmers more susceptible to the agrochemical side effects resulting from its use.⁷

A survey on 335 farm enterprises throughout New South Wales was examined, focusing specifically on farmers' perceptions about major hazards on Australian farms. The data collected from participating enterprises clearly demonstrate that there is a disconnect between what farmers perceive as the risks on their farm and what hazards and risks cause the highest rates of fatalities in Australian agriculture. However, a frequency analysis of identified risks or hazards by study participants, rated tractors at 20th, with ATVs even further down the list at 27th; just 11 of the 335 enterprises rated ATVs as a risk on their farms. The most frequently reported injury agent by study participants was livestock handling and stockyards, followed by silos and chemical handling.⁸

A study was conducted in Andhra Pradesh on level of Knowledge and Practice of safety pesticide use among various farm workers in agricultural field. Certain level of education and experience has contributed significant knowledge on safety use of pesticides which further has to make them to practice correct methods while applying pesticides. But no such practice has been identified which tells the need of special training to implement known safety measures rather than knowing further. Age and gender have not influenced their knowledge and practice on safety use of pesticides. Interestingly, farm workers who are working in closed farms had more knowledge than those of in open farms but both group of workers are practicing only half of the safety measures which are known to them. Hence, they extremely need a motivational programme rather than awareness programme.⁹

A study was conducted to assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices for hearing and respiratory health/safety among farmers in seven Midwestern states served by a federally funded Agricultural Center. The unit of study was farm operators ($N = 280$) randomly selected from a publicly available database of corn/soybean and hog farmers in seven Midwestern states. Findings revealed important knowledge gaps among respondents regarding (1) hazardous exposure sources; (2) long-term health consequences of noise/dust exposure; (3) proper selection/fitting of PPE. This study concludes that Public health nurses and primary care providers in rural communities should address specific knowledge gaps in order to enhance farmers' perceived understanding of their susceptibility to hazardous exposures.

Increasing farmers' knowledge through preferred venues may help to improve PPE effectiveness.¹⁰

A cross-sectional questionnaire study was conducted to assess the knowledge and practices associated with pesticide use in an agricultural community in Palestine, and to determine the prevalence of self-reported health symptoms related to pesticide exposure. The questionnaire was completed by 381 farm workers. Results showed that there was a significant positive correlation ($r = 0.323$; $P < 0.001$) between the knowledge and safety procedure scores. The most frequent self-reported toxicity symptoms associated with pesticide use were skin rash (37.5%), headache (37%), excessive sweating (24.9%), and diarrhea (21.3%). This study concludes that most farm workers in this district need more educational programs regarding the safety and use of pesticides. Legislation promoting the use of safer pesticides is also needed.¹¹

A study was conducted in Canada to evaluate the effectiveness of an agricultural health and safety program in reducing risks of injury. The Agricultural Health and Safety Network (AHSN), a mainly educational program that administered 112 farm safety interventions over 19 years. 5292 farm people associated with 2392 Saskatchewan farms. Results showed that after adjustment for group imbalances and clustering at the rural municipality level, the prevalence of all impact and outcome measures was not significantly different on farms grouped according to years of AHSN participation. The adjusted relative risk for agricultural injuries (all types) reported for the year before the survey was 0.99 (95% CI 0.74 to 1.32). This study concludes that there is a need for the agricultural sector to extend the scope of its injury prevention initiatives to include the full public health model of education, engineering, and regulation.¹²

3. Statement of the Problem

“A study to assess the effectiveness of VAT regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers in selected community setting at Meerut.”

Objectives of the Study:

- To assess the pre test knowledge regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers in selected community at Meerut.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the video assisted teaching by comparing pre test and post test knowledge scores regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers in selected community at Meerut.
- To find out the association between post-test level of knowledge regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers with their selected demographic variables.

Hypotheses:

H1-There will be significant difference between the pre test & post test knowledge score regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among farmers.

H2-There will be significant association between post test knowledge score and selected demographic variables among farmers

Assumptions:

- The Farmers may have less than adequate knowledge regarding agriculture safety and health hazards
- There is a need to provide adequate information regarding the agriculture safety and health hazards.
- Video assisted teaching is an effective way to improve the knowledge of the farmers regarding the agriculture safety and health hazards.

Conceptual Framework:

The present study was focused on assessing the knowledge regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among farmers by applying General System theory Developed by Ludwig Von Bertalanffy(1968) and Later modified by J.W Kenny (1999)

Operational Definition:

- 1)Assess- It refers to an activity to estimate the knowledge of farmer on the agriculture safety and health hazards.
- 2)Effectiveness- In this study it refers to improvement in knowledge regarding agriculture safety and health hazards in farmers working in agriculture as a result of VAT.
- 3)Video Assisted Teaching- it refers to a well prepared video made by a researcher to teach the farmers on Agriculture safety and health hazards.
- 4)Agriculture safety and health hazards- It refers to an area concerned with protecting the safety, health and welfare of people engaged in work or employment. The goals of agriculture safety and health programs include fostering a safe and healthy work environment.
- 5)Farmers - They refers to the persons who are living in the community and working in Agriculture areas of Meerut.

4. Methodology

- **Research Approach:** Evaluative approach was used to carry out the study.
- **Research Design** Pre-Experimental research Design (one group pretest and posttest design)
- **Setting:** The present study was conducted in Ghat villager Meerut.
- **Variables:**
 Independent variable: Video Assisted Teaching Programme on Agriculture safety and health hazards
 Dependent variable: Knowledge of Farmers.
 Extraneous variable: The extraneous variable under study are -Age , Gender, Religion, Education status, Type of family, Mode of work, Type of Animal house, Source of Information
- **Population:** Farmers working in Agriculture Field in selected Community at Meerut.
- **Sample** The sample of the present study consists of Farmers who are working in selected Community area at Meerut and meets inclusion criteria
- **Sample Size** The sample size of the present study comprises 60 farmers working in Agriculture Field in selected Community at Meerut
- **Sampling Technique** Non probability-Purposive sampling technique was used to collect the sample
- **Method of Collection of Data** Structured Questionnaire was used to collect the data.

5. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Frequency and percentage Distribution of sample characteristics N=60

Sl No	Variables	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
1	Age a) 19 – 24 yrs b) 25 – 30 yrs c) 31 – 36 yrs d) 37 yrs & above	6 16 21 17	10% 26.66% 35% 28.3%
2	Gender a) Male b) Female	60 0	100% 0%
3	Religion a) Hindu b) Muslim c) Sikh d) Christian	54 6 0 0	90% 10% 0% 0%
4	Type Of Family a) Nuclear b) Joint c) Extended	17 33 10	28.33% 55% 16.66%
5	Educational Status a) No formal education b) Primary school c) High school d) Senior secondary e) Degree and above	11 12 23 7 7	18.33% 20.00% 38.33% 11.66% 11.66%
6	MODE OF WORK a) Working in own land b) Working in lease/ relative land c) Working on daily basis	52 3 5	86.66% 5% 8.33%
7	Type of animal house? a) Pucca b) semi pucca c) kutcha	40 7 13	66.66% 11.66% 21.66%
8	Source Of Information a) Printed and electronic media b) Friends / Parents / siblings c) Health professional d) Any others specify.....	14 28 2 16	23.33% 46.66% 3.33% 26.66%

Majority (n= 35%) of the farmers were of aged between 31-36 years, 28.3% were of aged above 37, 26.6% were between the age of 25- 30yrs and 10% were from 19-24 years. All farmers are male (n= 100%). Maximum 90% of the farmers were belongs to Hindu religion and 10% of them were belongs to Muslim religion. Majority of the farmers (n=55%) belongs to joint family, (28.33%) belongs to the nuclear family and rest of farmers (n=16.66%) belongs to extended family. Majority (n=38.33%) of farmer’s education is high school, where as 20% were primary school, 18.33% were no-formal education, 11.66% were senior secondary and 11.66% were degree and above. Majority (n=86.66%) were working in own land where 8.33% were working on daily basis, and 5% were working in lease and relative land. Majority (n=66.66%) of farmers having pucca animal house, 21.66% of farmers having kutcha animal house and 11.66% of farmers having semi-pucca animal house. Majority (n=46.66%) of farmers were getting information from parents/ friend/ siblings, where as 26.66% from others, 23.33% from printing and electronic media, 3.3% from health professionals.

Table 2: Comparison of Pre-Test and Post-Test Knowledge Score on agriculture safety and health hazards among farmers N=60

Knowledge	Pre-test		Post-test		Paired t-test
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Occupational health & its hazards	2.46	1.52	4.66	0.96	t- 9.50
Agricultural hazards	6.91	1.98	11	1.42	t- 13.00
Safety measures in agriculture practice	10.28	2.32	16.76	1.39	t- 18.572
OVER ALL	19.66	4.01	32.43	2.39	t- 21.29

t₍₅₉₎=2.00 at p=0.05 level of significance

The above table shows the comparison of Knowledge on agriculture safety and health hazards before & after V.A.T. In all the aspects farmers improved their Knowledge after the administration of V.A.T. The difference between pre and post- test Knowledge score is t=21.29 at p=0.05 level of significance and it is significant. Statistical significance was calculated by using paired 't' test. The computed paired 't' value (21.29, df = 59, at level of P=0.05) is greater than table value(2.000) which represents significant gain in knowledge through VAT. Hence the **hypothesis (H1) is accepted**.

Table 3: Knowledge Gain after VAT N=60

Knowledge assessment	% of Pre-test Knowledge	% of Post-test Knowledge	% of Knowledge gain
Occupational health & its hazards	41.11%	77.77%	36.66%
Agricultural hazards	49.40%	78.57%	29.17%
Safety measures in agriculture practice	51.41%	83.83%	32.42%
OVER ALL	49.16%	81.08%	31.92%

The above table shows the comparison of Knowledge on agriculture safety and health hazards before & after V.A.T. In all the aspects, farmers improved their Knowledge after the administration of V.A.T. The farmers gained the maximum Knowledge regarding agriculture safety and health & its hazards with the percentage of 81.08% and minimum Knowledge on agriculture safety and health & its hazards with 49.16%. Overall 31.92% percent of Knowledge gain is the net benefit of this study, which indicates the effectiveness of V.A.T (Video Assisted teaching).

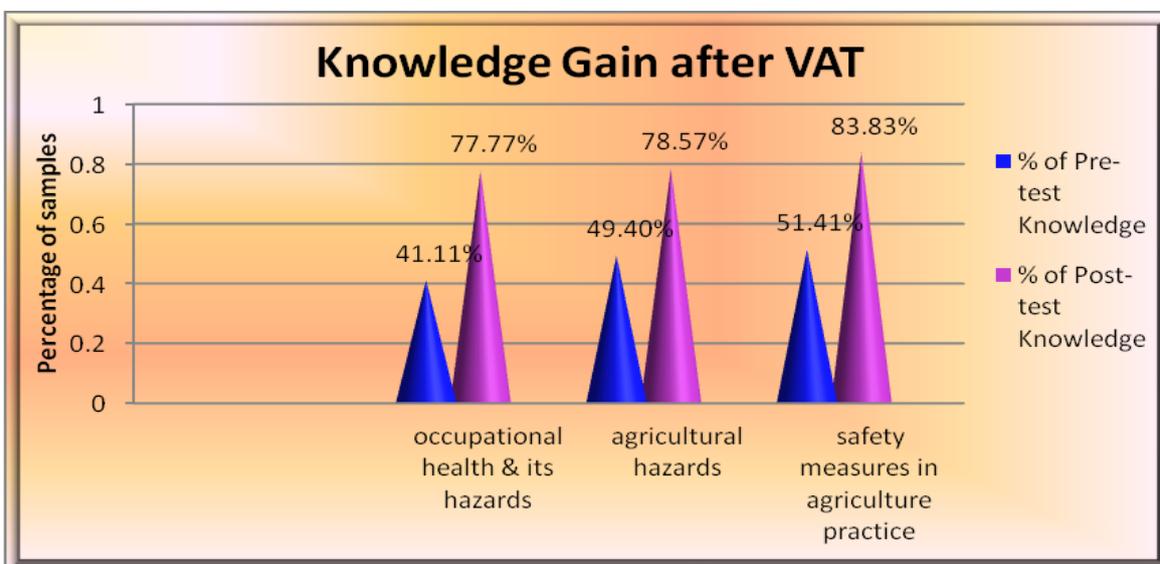


Fig: Multiple Cone Diagram Showing the Knowledge Gain after VAT

Table 4: Association between Post-Test Level of Knowledge and their Demographic Variables n=60

Demographic variable		Moderate		Good		Total	Pearson chi square test
		n	%	n	%		
Educational status	No formal education	3	27.27%	8	72.72%	11	χ²=12.468 df=4 P=0.05 Significant
	Primary school	4	33.33%	8	66.66%	12	
	High school	3	13.04%	20	86.95%	23	
	Senior secondary	0	0.0%	7	100.0%	7	
	Degree and above	1	14.28%	6	85.71%	7	

The above table shows the association between socio-demographic variables and the post-test level of Knowledge of agriculture safety and health hazards among farmers. Chi-square test was computed to determine the association between the post test knowledge score with the selected demographic variables. It showed that there was no significant association between the post test knowledge scores regarding selected variables like age, gender, religion, type of family, mode of the work, type of animal house and source of information. But only association found with the educational status χ^2 value was 12.468, P=0.05 which shows

that there is significant association with the post test knowledge scores. Hence the **hypothesis (H2) is accepted**.

6. Conclusion

The study illuminates that maximum farmers had inadequate knowledge before the administration of VAT on Agriculture safety and health hazards. After exposure to VAT, Subjects shown tremendous increase in the level of knowledge. The mean post test knowledge score is higher than the mean pre

test knowledge scores and it statistically significant with the help of paired t test. The study result shows that the post test knowledge score was non-significant to age, gender, religion, type of family, mode of the work, type of animal house and source of information, where as it was only significant to the educational status. These associations were proved with the help of Pearson Chi square test. Finally Video assisted teaching programme has proven its effectiveness.

7. Nursing Implication

The findings of the present study have implication for Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, Nursing Practice, and nursing Research.

Nursing Education: This is a model for nursing educator, nursing lecturer, and clinical instructor to teach the student in the classroom as well as in the community settings regarding agriculture safety & health hazards among the farmers working in the community area & technique used to improve the knowledge level among farmers working in community field. Nurse educator can use this intervention as a routine class or topic in the colleges and community settings.

Nurse Administration: Administrator should facilitate the development & implementation of strategies to improve the knowledge level among farmers working in agriculture field by utilizing the study result, administrator can facilitate an environment for the farmers to cope with the stressful & complicated situation. This intervention is a educative & administrative aspect in the community area. Nurse administrator can use this knowledge to supervise the nursing staffs in implanting improve knowledge technique to improve level of knowledge among the farmers.

Nursing Practice: Community health Nurses can identify the level of knowledge of the farmers regarding agriculture safety and health hazards by structured interview questionnaire. Community health Nurses can organize certain techniques to improve the knowledge among farmers. This intervention make the Community health Nurses more competitive in providing care to the farmers working in agriculture field. This intervention to be more skillful and good rehabilitator in her profession. Counseling session can be conducted for the farmers working with the agriculture field to maximize the knowledge level of farmers. The data can also helpful in planning and implanting various other interventions for dealing with the farmers working in agriculture field.

Nursing Research: This study will be a benchmark in the nursing profession and nursing research. It has took great challenges in conducting the study by using various methods and techniques. There is a need to conduct further research on various other intervention programmes on agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers. Similar study can be replicated in large population, with completely new sample, to generate more valid and reliable data. In the field of research this study can be conducted for the advantages of farmers working in agriculture field. There is a need to

conduct further research studies in this field, especially in the Indian context.

8. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are offered for future research.

- The study can be replicated on a larger sample to validate the findings and make generalizations.
- The study can be done to as a true experimental research design to assess the effectiveness of VAT regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers.
- The study can be done to assess the effectiveness of VAT on knowledge, attitude and practice regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers.
- A comparative study can be done to assess the effectiveness of VAT regarding agriculture safety and health hazards among the farmers in rural and urban areas.
- A study can be replicated with many other interventions like STP, PTP, Information booklet and self instructional module.

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