

ROLE OF GENDER IN AGRICULTURE IN RURAL AREAS OF PANCHMAHALS DISTRICT OF GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in Panchmahals district of Gujarat during 2010-11. The data were collected from 120 farm women, by adopting the proportionate random sampling method (PRSM). The results of study revealed that under agriculture related task, the majority of farm women performed storage of grain (74.17%) followed by seed grading (73.33), animal care (71.66), weeding (64.17 %), planting (46.67), harvesting (38.33) and application of manure and fertilizer (35.83 %). In the terms of decision making majority of farm women did not take any decision single handly. Farm women took single hand decision regarding livestock management (29.16 %) followed by farm supplies and inputs (29.16 %), area for different crops (18.33 %), maintenance of implements (14.16 %), capital management (11.16 %) and labour management (9.16 %). It could be concluded that the women of Panchmahals district of Gujarat were highly involved in all Agricultural practices. So it is need to develop suitable strategy and arranging adequate and timely training to women about modern technologies to make them more skilled for agricultural production.

INTRODUCTION

Women play an important role in agriculture and rural development. Women is the molder and builder of any nations destiny. They play a significant role in rural economy and make critical contributions to house hold production and consequently to national food security. Most of the women perform various type of work for their livelihood and agriculture to considered as the biggest unorganized sector. In agricultural women involved in various field operation which include land preparation, application of manures and fertilizers, seed sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting, threshing and storage etc. and they also involved in livestock production activities like feeding, cleaning, milking and fish farming along with child care and housekeeping activities.

The rural women have very busy schedule the day for her starts in the very early hours as the morning and works for 18 hours of more till night. The types of Agriculture activities carried out are considerable according to the social status, viz. Agricultural wage labors. Works in own farm and

supervised the farm work done by laborers. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them keeping this point in view the present study on role of Rural women in agriculture in Panchmahals district of Gujarat was under taken with following objectives viz. Socio economic status of rural women and their participation in agricultural activities and involvement in decision making in farm, livestock and home management respectively.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Panchmahals district of Gujarat state for data collection, four tehsil of the district, comprising of two tehsil (Goghamba and Jambughoda), belong tribal group and rest two non tribal tehsil (Godhra and Kalol) were selected for study. Six village from the each selected tehsil and five farm women from each village were selected randomly. Thus the data for study were collected from 120 farm women, 60 from each group by adopting the proportionate random sampling method (PRSM). The desired information, especially the work furnished by women in agricultural activities were collected by

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administering developed interview schedule and also by divert observation in the farmers field the collected data were subjected to basic statistical analysis as per Snedecor and Cochran (1989).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic: Socio economic status of the respondent is presented in Table-1. Perusal of data clearly indicate that majority of the respondent (60.00%) are belonging to middle age group. The results of the study are in agreement with the findings as reported by Ajith kumar and Sreekumar (1996) and P.Reeja George et al (2009) who reported that most studied of dairy farmers in their area were in the age group (26-55 year). The participants of young and high age group in the livestock production activities were found to be (28.33%) and (11.66%), respectively. The reasons behind this might be due to the health of old people and affected by climatic condition and engagement of young in other personal affairs. Middle age group have released and recognized livestock production as a suitable means of overcoming their financial hardship. Livestock production has been documented time and again as a suitable venture for women as it provides both income as well as employment on the homestead. The majority of respondents (65.83%) were illiterate and (19.17%) respondents acquired primary level of education, while (15.00%) having middle and above level of education in study area. Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main occupation of (63.33%) respondents followed by 20.00, 10.83 and 5.83 percent agriculture, animal husbandry and service, respectively. More or less similar results were also reported by Pathodiya (2000). The family's type of respondents (60.00%) is belonging to joint family, whereas (40.00%) were from nuclear family. The distribution of respondents based on their annual income. The majority of respondent were from middle income (Rs. 10000-30000) groups (65.00%). These results are in accordance with Ajith kumar and Sreekumar (1996). They have reported that the average annual income of 48% of farmers in Thrissur district was above Rs. 5000/-. Data revealed that most of the respondents (46.67%) had land holding size less than 1 hactar, among these (40.00%) having land holding size 1-2 hactor out of which $\frac{3}{4}$ land

Table 1. Socio-economic status of livestock rears women (n=120)

| S. No. | Particulars | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Age | |
| a. | Low(<25 years) | 34(28.33) |
| b. | Medium (26-50 years) | 72(60.00) |
| c. | High (>50 years) | 14(11.67) |
| 2. | Caste | |
| a. | SC | 22(18.33) |
| b. | ST | 46(38.33) |
| c. | Other | 52(43.33) |
| 3. | Education | |
| a. | Illiterate | 79(65.83) |
| b. | Primary (<5 th) | 23(19.17) |
| c. | Middle and above | 18(15.00) |
| 4. | Main Occupation | |
| a. | Agriculture | 24(20.00) |
| b. | AH | 13 (10.83) |
| c. | Agriculture +AH | 76(63.33) |
| d. | Service | 7(5.83) |
| 5. | Family Type | |
| a. | Nuclear | 48(40.00) |
| b. | Joint | 72(60.00) |
| 6. | Annual Income | |
| a. | Low (below Rs. 10000) | 11(9.17) |
| b. | Medium (Rs. 10000-30,000) | 78(65.00) |
| c. | High (above Rs.30,000) | 31 (25.83) |
| 7. | Land Holding | |
| a. | Landless | 16 (13.33) |
| b. | Marginal (<1 hectare) | 56(46.67) |
| c. | Small (<1-2 hectare) | 48(40.00) |

Table 2. Role of farm women in Agricultural activities. (n=120)

| S. No. | Activity | Women (%) | Men (%) | Both (%) |
|--------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Land preparation | 7 5.83 | 87 72.50 | 26 21.67 |
| 2 | Application of manure and fertilizer. | 43 35.85 | 35 29.17 | 42 35.00 |
| 3 | Seed grading | 88 73.33 | 13 10.83 | 19 15.84 |
| 4 | Seed treatment | 8 6.66 | 79 65.83 | 33 27.50 |
| 5 | Seed sowing | 10 8.33 | 42 35 | 68 56.67 |
| 6 | Planting | 56 46.17 | 21 17.50 | 43 35.83 |
| 7 | Weeding | 77 64.17 | 19 15.83 | 24 20 |
| 8 | Plant protection (spraying) | 8 6.67 | 92 76.67 | 20 16.66 |
| 9 | Harvesting | 46 38.33 | 27 22.5 | 47 39.17 |
| 10 | Threshing | 29 24.17 | 36 30.00 | 55 45.83 |
| 11 | Storage of grain | 89 74.17 | 13 10.83 | 18 15.00 |
| 12 | Animal care | 36 30 | 71.67 4 | 3.33 25.00 |
| | Over all | 547 | 37.98 | 468 |
| | | 32.50 | 425 | 29.52 |

was rainfed and (13.33%) respondents were

Table 3. Role of women in decision making

| S. No. | Activity | Women (%) | Men (%) | Both (%) |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Area for different crops | 22 18.33 | 58 48.33 | 40 33.33 |
| 2 | Capital management | 14 11.66 | 63 52.5 | 43 35.83 |
| 3 | Farm supplies and input | 29 24.16 | 42 35 | 49 40.83 |
| 4 | Maintains of implements | 17 14.16 | 64 53.33 | 39 32.5 |
| 5 | Labour management | 11 9.16 | 89 74.16 | 20 16.66 |
| 6 | Marketing of Agri. Produce | 7 5.83 | 59 49.16 | 54 45 |
| 7 | Livestock management | 35 29.16 | 38 31.66 | 47 39.16 |
| 8 | Overall decision | 135 16.07 | 413 49.16 | 292 34.76 |

landless. In this situation income from livestock production play a major role for their subsistence in such type of rural areas.

Role of farm women in Agricultural activities

The survey results presented in Table-2 clearly shows that the role of women in agricultural activities predominantly.

The results of study revealed that under agriculture related task, the majority of farm women performed storage of grain (74.17%) followed by seed grading (73.33), animal care (71.66), weeding (64.17 %), planting (46.67), harvesting (38.33) and application of manure and fertilizer (35.83 %).

In other hand plant protection (76.67%) followed by land application (72.50 %), Seed treatment (65.83%), Seed sowing (35%) and harvesting (22.5%) were performed by male members of the family. While farm women and men jointly Performed seed sowing (56.67) followed by threshing (45.83%), harvesting (39.17), planting (35.83%), seed treatment (27.50) and animal care (25%).

Similar results were also reported by Lenin et al (2005) and Shing Beldev and Poonam Sharma also observed that in Mehaghliya women in larger proportion more than fifty (50) participated in as many as nine operation viz. Seed storage, weeding, harvesting, seed sowing, care of animal, marketing of products, threshing and winnowing, maintain

tools and implements and transportation, whereas men larger proportion participated in only six operations viz. Seed bed preparation, jungle cutting and burning watch and ward, using tools, and implements, transportation threshing and winnowing.

Role of Women in decision Making - In the terms of decision making majority of farm women did not take any decision single handly (Table. 3). Farm women took single hand decision regarding livestock management (29.16 %) followed by farm supplies and inputs (29.16 %), area for different crops (18.33 %), maintenance of implements (14.16 %), capital management (11.16 %) and labour management (9.16 %). In other hand farm men took single handed decision regarding to labour management (74.16 %) followed by maintenance of implements (73.33 %), capital management (52.5 %), marketing of agriculture produce (49.16) and area for different crops (48.33 %) respectively. While farm women and men on an average joint decision were mostly taken marketing of agriculture produces (45 %) followed by farm supplies and inputs (40.33 %), livestock management (39.16 %) capital management (35.33 %) and area for different crops (33.33). The overall farm men, farm women and both took decision (49.16 %), 16.07 % and 34.76 respectively.

CONCLUSION

The results indicate that the farm women can manage the agricultural in similar fashion to men, even without any formal training, but their skill can be enhanced by giving proper scientific guidance related to agriculture. There is a need of hour that the policy maker, extensive workers, voluntary organization and other agencies should give more attention towards rural women for better development of agriculture in Panchmahals districts of Gujarat trough proper education and by providing training and practical orientation and on the basis of learning by doing on different aspect of livestock production and their management in better way.

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