

Decision Making Profile of Women of Ummednagar Village of Jodhpur District

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Ummednagar village of Tehsil Mandore of Jodhpur district. The following study was designed to ascertain the component wise decision making profile of woman of arid region of western Rajasthan. In case of livestock related decisions, it is evident from the data that most of the decisions about breeding (66.66%), feeding (83.33%) as well as management of cattle were taken jointly (85.33%). In case of health parameters like consultation, vaccination and control of parasites were taken by their male counterparts. In case of household provisions the decisions were dominated by female members. The study revealed that active participation of female members (52.78%) was observed regarding decisions related to food for family. In case of farm credit, investment of added profit and adoption of innovative technologies the role of male counterparts was dominated and participation of female members was very low or negligible.

Key words: Livestock, Household, Parasite, Vaccination, Decision making

In traditional village community women have been playing crucial role not only in agriculture but in allied activities such as various nonfarm operations, livestock and domestic activities. However they do participate in all sorts of activities their participation in decision making observed generally as supportive only. The pattern of decision making profile of women varies across the regions. Thus, the identification of role of woman in the decision making process of various farm and nonfarm activities is very important. Thus it is expected that all decisions related to agriculture, livestock, domestic and miscellaneous will be taken jointly. So, a study was designed to ascertain the component wise decision making profile of woman of arid region of western Rajasthan.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Ummednagar village of tehsil Mandor of Jodhpur district which falls in the arid zone of western Rajasthan. Most of the basic community facilities were made available in the village except in some scattered settlements where drinking water supplied by public health engineering department were not connected. The area was, by and large, single

cropped barring a very few irrigated wells where *Rabi* crops are grown to a limited extent. The village was selected purposively under the transfer of technology programme supported by CAZRI, Jodhpur. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the respondents from Ummednagar village of Jodhpur district. Data were collected through a specially designed interview schedule developed for this study given by Puri (1972) and Acharya and Benett (1982) with some necessary modifications, observations, case studies, participatory rural appraisal etc. from 36 farm families representing different caste and land holding category and from different clusters (settlements).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is evident from the data presented in Table -1 that most of the decisions about breeding, feeding as well as management of cattle were taken jointly. In case of breeding decision related to no. of cattle (66.67%) were taken jointly whereas decisions related to breed of cattle (77.78%) and AI of cattle (69.44%) were taken by male members. With regard to feeding, type and quantity of feed (50.00%) and storage of fodder (83.33%) were decided jointly whereas quantity of

concentrate (55.55%) was decided by female members. The finding was also supported by Upadhyaya and Intodia (2007). With respect to health of cattle, the decisions related to vaccination (86.11%) and consultation with veterinary doctor (94.44%) were taken by male members which may be due to lack of knowledge and less exposure of females within the village society. Study by Raj & Kishore (1991) reported that in diffusion and adoption of agricultural innovation farmers take advise of their wives in farming, livestock and household activities. Upadhyaya & Intodia(2007) reported that most of the decisions about activities related to breeding, feeding and management were taken jointly. However, Kaur and Singh (2008) reported that majority of women had low level of participation in decision making in breeding practices of dairy farming practices. Katiyar et al. (2008) reported woman were less involved in taking decision related to storage and marketing.

In case of Control of external parasites (33.33%) took decisions jointly whereas (41.67%) of females took decisions individually which may be attributed to the better exposure of female members regarding care of diseased animals. In case of management aspect of dairy animals the observed response clearly indicates that decisions related to type of house (83.33%), flooring of animal shed (50.00%) were taken jointly whereas method of milking (66.67 %) was dominantly decided by female members.

In case of household activities it was observed majority of the decisions regarding clothing (66.67%), education of children (72.22%), marriage of children (100%), construction/repair of house (69.44%), purchase of household appliances (55.55%) etc were taken jointly. Regarding decisions related to medical care of family it was observed that in 50 % cases the decisions were taken by male members only and in another half of the families it was taken with joint concern of both. The choice for the food for family was totally dominated by females (80.55%). Kumari (2002) and Upadhyaya & Intodia (2007)d reported that in cooking decisions were taken by women.

In case of miscellaneous activities like farm credit it was observed that the source of borrow (72.22%) was chosen by male members whereas the amount to be borrowed (75.00%) was decided jointly. Regarding investment of added profit and adoption of innovation like, high yielding varieties (86.11 %), fertilizer (91.66%), insecticide/ pesticide (97.22%), the decisions were taken primarily by male members.

Table 1. Participation in decision making in livestock activities

Activities	Jointly	Male only	Females only
<i>Rearing & breeding cattle</i>			
No. of cattle	66.67	27.78	5.55
Breed of cattle	16.67	77.78	5.55
AI of cattle	19.44	69.44	11.11
<i>Feeding</i>			
Type & quantity of feed	50.00	16.67	33.33
Quantity of concentrate	27.78	16.67	55.55
Storage of fodder	83.33	2.78	13.89
<i>Health</i>			
Vaccination	13.89	86.11	-
Consulting veterinary doctor	5.55	94.44	-
Control of external parasite	33.33	25.00	41.67
<i>Management</i>			
Type of house	83.33	2.78	13.89
Flooring of animal shed	50.00	5.55	44.44
Milking method	30.56	2.78	66.67

Table 2. Participation in decision making in household activities

Activities	Jointly	Male only	Females only
Food for family	13.89	6.67	80.55
Clothing	66.67	16.67	6.67
Education of family	72.22	27.78	-
Medical care	50.00	50.00	-
Marriage of children	100.00	-	-
Construction/repair of house	69.44	30.56	-
Purchase of household appliances	55.55	33.33	11.11
Others(furniture for house)	66.67	33.33	-

Table 3. Participation in decision making in miscellaneous activities

Activities	Jointly	Male only	Females only
<i>Farm credit</i>			
Source of burrow	27.78	72.22	-
Amount of borrowing	75.00	25.00	-
<i>Investment of added profit</i>			
On farm goods	16.67	83.33	-
On house hold goods	33.33	66.67	-
<i>Adoption of innovation</i>			
High yielding varieties	13.89	86.11	-
Fertilizer	8.33	91.67	-
Insecticides/pesticides	2.78	97.22	-

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that most of the decisions related to livestock, household and allied activities were

taken jointly by female members and their male counterpart at whole. However, the decisions related to selection of breed and health care practices were male dominated due to their technical knowledge. In household activities the decisions related to purchase of goods and construction etc were male dominated rest of the activities like food, clothing, marriage and education was done by female members. Their counterpart male members mostly took decisions that require technical competence.

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