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A study on existing livelihood systems and livelihood security of rural women in Telangana state

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Abstract

Livelihoods can be made up of a range of on-farm and off-farm activities that together provide a variety of procurement strategies for food and cash. Therefore, livelihoods are secure when households have secure ownership of or access to resources. The empowerment and development of rural women and sensitization of research and extension systems about their roles and contributions are important for sustainable growth in agriculture and management of household food security. It is this reason that emphasizes the need to develop understanding about the rural women, their potentials, awareness of household food security management and extent of participation in planning and decisions of different farm and home management works towards livelihood security. The result shows that majority (63.3%) of rural women beneficiaries engaged in non- farm activities of livelihood system. Majority (88.3%) of the respondents had medium level of occupational security, educational security (80%), social security (79.2%), health security (76.6%), habitat security (76.2%), than (65%) had medium level of food security.

Keywords: livelihood system, livelihood security, food security, occupational security, habitat security

Introduction

Agriculture and allied activities support livelihoods of nearly 70 per cent of India's rural population. In recent years, land based livelihoods of small and marginal farmers are increasingly becoming unsustainable, since their land has not been able to support the family's food requirements and fodder for their cattle. As a result, rural households are forced to look at alternative means for supplementing their livelihoods. Rural men and women, especially in poor households engage in diverse and multiple activities to improve their livelihoods by maximizing income generating activities, while minimizing vulnerability and risk and achieving other household objectives (improved health, nutrition and education *etc.*). Income generation simply means gaining or increasing income or money that an individual or business receives in exchange for providing a good or service after investing capital. It can also be defined as small scale projects that create an income source to individual beneficiaries or beneficiary group whilst promoting; the principal right of self-determination and the objectives of integration, reputation and re – integration (FAO, 2011) [2]. In (2010) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) [1] asserted that with the increasing male migration, women are becoming the sole producers of the food for the maintenance of the family, this shows that women play a major role in traditional activities such as subsistence food production, household chores, food processing, home crafts market trade etc.

Livelihoods are the means people use to support themselves, to survive, and to prosper. Livelihoods are an outcome of how and why people organize to transform the environment to meet their needs through technology, labor, power, knowledge, and social relations. Women comprise half of human resources and have been identified as key agents of sustainable development through holistic approach towards establishing new patterns and process of development that are sustainable. Households combine their livelihood resources within the limits of their content and use their institutional connections to pursue a number of different livelihood strategies. Such strategies can include various types of production and income generating activities like farming, Non-farm activities, formal sector employment or a combination of all these. In this context, an understanding of livelihood security of tribal women with a multidimensional approach was undertaken with the following objectives.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in four mandals (Geesukonda, Duggondi, Narsampet

and Parkal) of Warangal rural district by using Ex-post facto research design. A total of 120 rural women beneficiaries were selected by purposive sampling method. The data from the respondents were collected through personal interviews

with the help of the structured schedules and analyzed using standard statistical tools.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their livelihood systems (n=60)

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Agriculture alone	11	9.2
2.	Agriculture +Animal husbandry	33	27.5
3.	(Others)Non -farm activities	76	63.3
	Total	120	100.00

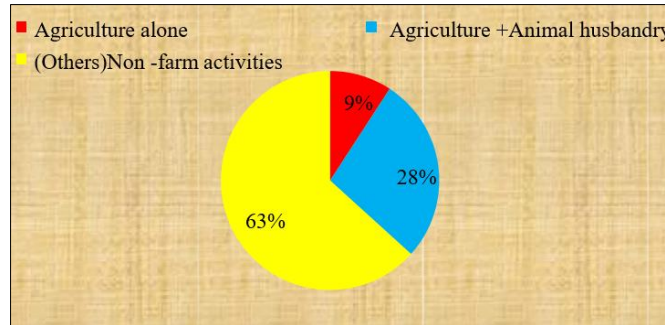


Fig 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their livelihood systems

From the Fig.1 it is clearly indicated that majority (63.3%) of rural women belonged to non- farm activities and (27.5%) belonged to Agriculture + Animal husbandry, followed by (9.2%) agriculture alone. The findings revealed that majority of the rural women beneficiaries were actively involved in non- farm activities, this might be due to no proper irrigation land for agriculture and agriculture + animal husbandry, by which they could get sufficient fodder all-round the year for animals and marketing channels for their

produces, these reasons might have contributed to non-farm activities by more number of beneficiaries in selected villages. It entail that, Government organization had encouraged the appropriate income generating activities based on their resources and their interest, ability to manage and also motivation level. This was supported by the results of Yusuf *et al.* (2015) [4].

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on their livelihood security from Government organization (n=60)

S. No	Category	Livelihood security											
		Food security		Occupational security		Habitat security		Educational security		Health security		Social security	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Low	4	6.7	2	3.3	6	10	5	8.3	8	13.3	7	11.7
2	Medium	38	63	46	76.7	40	66.7	40	66.7	35	58.3	39	65
3	High	18	30	12	20	14	23.3	15	25	17	28.3	14	23.3
	Total	60	100	60	100	60	100	60	100	60	100	60	100

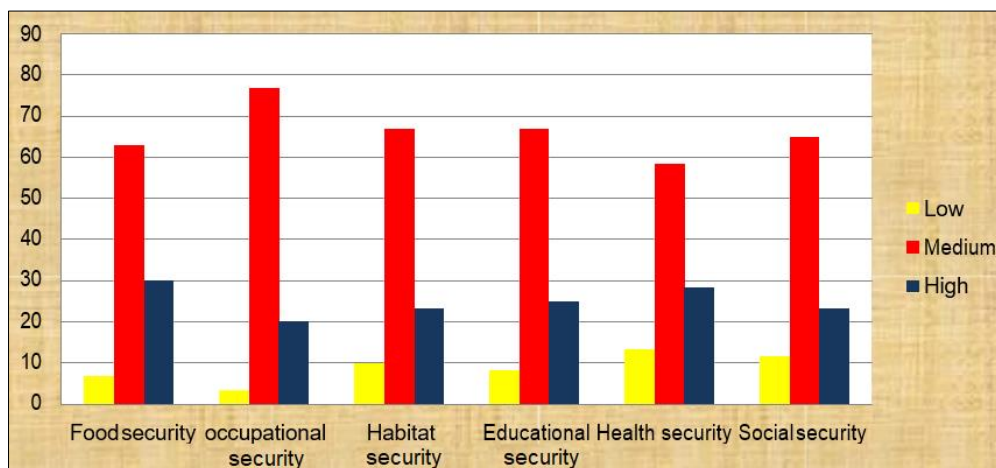


Fig 2: Distribution of the respondents based on their livelihood security from Government organization

From the fig 2, it is clearly depicted that Majority (63%) of the respondents had Medium level of food security, and High

levels (30%), followed by low level (6.7%).With regard to occupational security, (76.7%) of the respondents had

Medium level and (20%) had high, Followed by (3.3%) of them had Low level. In case of habitat security, (66.7%) had medium level and (23.3%) were in High followed by 10% had low level. Most of the respondents (66.7%) had medium level and (25%) had high and followed by (8.3%) of them had low level of educational security. Majority (58.3%) of the respondents had Medium level, (28.3%) had High level followed by (13.3%) had low level of health security. With respect to social security, Majority (65%) of the respondents had medium level, followed by high level (23.3%) and (11.7%) low level of social security. Rural women beneficiaries in the study area are involved in income generating activities, majority of the respondents agreed with the fact that they were getting loans of minimum Rs.50,000/-

by government organization. The Government organization provides alternative employment opportunities to earn income and reducing the drudgery. The flow of income is spread across different seasons because of diversified agri enterprises followed; this has certainly contributed for the medium and higher securities when compared to income earned by their earlier livelihood practices. This incremental income could have contributed to creation of different assets such as human asset, physical asset, financial asset and ultimately to food security. This was supported by the results of Krishna Prasad (2005) reported that majority of the farmers had medium sustainable rural livelihoods (73.33%) followed by high (13.75%) and low (12.92%).

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their livelihood security from Non- Government organization (n=60)

S. No	Category	Livelihood security											
		Food security		Occupational security		Habitat security		Educational security		Health security		Social security	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Low	8	13.3	12	20	10	16.7	11	18.3	12	20	9	15
2	Medium	42	70	41	68.3	42	70	43	71.7	40	66.7	41	68.3
3	High	10	16.7	7	11.7	8	13.3	6	10	8	13.3	10	16.7
	Total	60	100	60	100	60	100	60	100	60	100	60	100

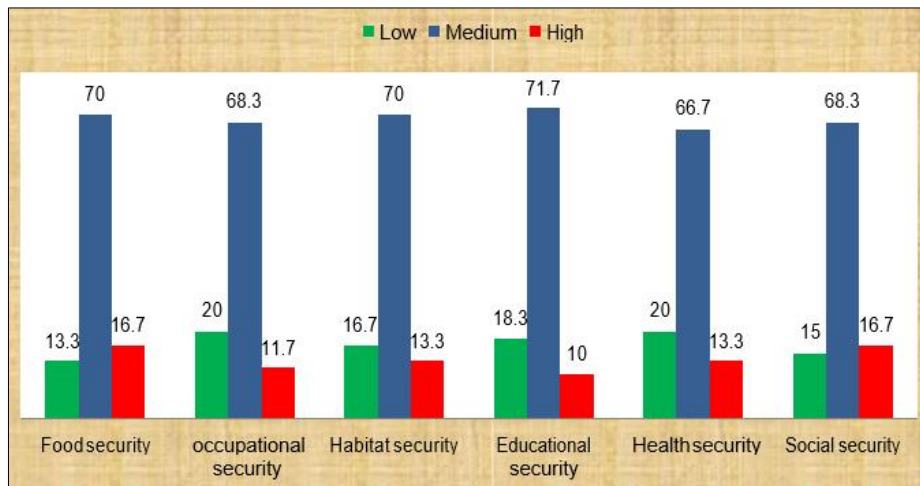


Fig 3: Distribution of the respondents based on their livelihood security from Non-Government organization

From the Fig 3 it is clearly indicated that Majority (70%) of respondents had medium level and (16.7%) had high, followed by (13.3%) had low level of food security.(68.3%) of the respondents had medium level followed by (20%) had low level and (11.7%) had high level of occupational security.(70%) of them had medium level and (16.7%) had low level, followed by (13.3%) had high level of habitat security.(71.7%) had medium level,(18.3%) had low followed by (10%) had high level of educational security.(66.7%) of them had medium level and (20%) had low level followed by (13.3%) had high level of health security.(68.3%) of the respondents had medium level and (16.7%) had high level followed by (15%) of them had low level of social security. Based on the findings it is suggested that, non-governmental organizations have to give more emphasis on women participation. This will make them to get aware of day to day technological developments and the impact of adoption of

those scientific practices on their enterprises and in turn enhances their livelihood.

Conclusion

The livelihood systems and livelihood security of rural women beneficiaries in the study area are primarily dependent on combinations of Agriculture, Agriculture + Animal husbandry and non-Farm activities. In order to ensure women’s productive and effective participation in their development, intensive and sustained training on an on-going basis should be given. Livelihood security among rural women that government organization 66.7 percent medium followed by high 16.7 percent of the livelihood security while Non-government organization 65per cent of the had livelihood security. Further, it is concluded that for livelihood to be ensured, women from various households have to continuously contribute to their household needs either

materially or financially. Livelihood security of rural women were observed more benefited from government organization when compare to non-government organization.

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