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Role of farm women in decision making process related to vegetable, cultivation practices

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Abstract

Thus, women's participation in decision-making is the prerogative of the males as head of the farm families. It also appeared that any decision taken was strongly influenced by the attitude and opinion of their female partners. Therefore, a proper understanding of the complexity of the decision-making process in rural farm families and ascertaining the role of farm women in the process will help in toning up agricultural, vegetable cultivation, modernization in the country as well as transformation of rural family life. In spite of this fact, women share most of the family responsibilities and perform wide range of duties based research. It can be stated the increasing number of rural women in India are not simply housewives but are in the fact farmers.

Keywords: Farm management, empowerment, decision making, positive correlated

Introduction

Agriculture has got a prime role in Indian economy so, it is considered as back bone of our country. Indian trade is deeply associated with agriculture sector and their related goods, contribute 10.23 per cent in total export of the country. Agriculture is not only responsible for food supply to 121 million population but also around 15.70 per cent of country's GDP with tremendous domestic and export marketing potential (Source: Indian Agriculture at a Glance, 2010-11). The women is the backbone of agriculture workforce but world wide her work had mostly been unpaired. She force the most tedious and back braking tasks in agriculture animal husbandry and home. In extension activities the women is now the centre point and activities are being keeping her in view. Decision making is the process of consciously choosing courses of action from available alternatives and integration of them for the purpose of achieving the desired goal. It is well known fact that the success of rural development process largely depends the participation of people at large irrespective of sex. The problem of involving women's participation in the development process are now catching the attention of planners and policy maker because of increasing imbalance generation out of development process.

Material and Methods

This chapter deals with the methods and procedures used for the study.

Location of the study

The study was conducted in Jabalpur district which is situated in the centre of Madhya Pradesh. It lies between 22.49° and 24.08° North latitude and 79.21° and 80.53 ° East longitudes, at an altitude of 394 m above sea level. The district population is 21, 51,203, out of which 11, 27,307 are males and 10, 27,307, are females. The literary level is around 75.68 per cent. The average density of the population is 380 per sq km. The total geographical area of the district is 5, 19,757 ha.

Age

Age was operationalised as the number of years an individual has completed at the time of interview and was measured as per actual chronological age of an individual. The categories developed were as:

S. No.	Categories	Scores
1.	Young age	Up to 35 years
2.	Middle age	36 to 55 years
3.	Old age	Above 55 years

Annual Income

It refers to the annual income of the respondents in rupees

earned through all the sources of occupation. Accordingly, the respondents were classified into three categories:-

S. No.	Categories	Scores
1.	Low	(Rs. 40000 to 80,000)
2.	Medium	(Rs. 80,001 to 1,20,000)
3.	High	(Rs. 1,20,001 to 1,60,000)

Dependent Variable

Decision Making

Decision making is a process which involves the mental

process of management in which an individual evaluates the alternative line of conduct related to farm. Decision making lies in the heart of management.

S. No.	Categories	Scores
1.	Low	(10 to 16) score
2.	Medium	(17 to 22) score
3.	High	(22 to 28) score

Sources, instruments and methods of data collection

Sources of Data Collection

Primary Data: The respondents of the selected villages were the primary source of data collection. The primary data were collected personally by the researcher by interviewing the selected respondents with the help of structured and pre-tested interview schedule.

Secondary data

The secondary data were obtained from the various government offices like District Agriculture Office, Tehsil office, Block development office and magazines and publications etc.

Instruments and methods of data collection

The interview schedule was designed for collecting the relevant information of selected variables. The questions in interview schedule framed were simple, clear and directly related to the purpose of the study and were arranged in

logical sequence. The data were collected personally with the help of a pre tested interview schedule from respondents in Panagar block, in order to be sure of the correctness in response.

Processing and Statistical Analysis Data

Data collected were qualitative as well as quantitative. The quantitative data were interpreted in terms of percentage and qualitative data were tabulated on the basis of approved categorization method as described earlier. The following statistical techniques were used in the study in the study. Percentage, Mean, Chi-square, Rank order.

Results

The data collected for the purpose of the study is presented according to the objectives framed for investigation and have been presented under the following sub-heads:-

Age

Table 1: Distribution of farm women according to their age

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Young (Up to 35 years)	40	36.36
2.	Middle (36 to 55 years)	45	40.90
3.	Old (Above 55 years)	25	22.74
Total		110	100.00

Thus, it can be inferred from the data that higher percentages of farm women were of middle age group.

Annual Income

Table 2: Distribution of farm women according to their annual income

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (Up to Rs.80,000)	35	31.81
2.	Medium (Rs. 80,001 to 1,20,000)	50	45.45
3.	Large (Above Rs. 1,20,000)	25	22.74
Total		110	100.00

Table 3: Distribution of farm women according to their management orientation

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (11 to 15 Score)	24	21.83
2.	Medium (16 to 20 Score)	58	52.72
3.	High (21 to 25 Score)	28	25.45
Total		110	100.00

The data presented in Table 4, indicates the distribution of respondents according to their management orientation. It is clear from the data that out of the total 110 respondents, 52.72 per cent had medium level of management orientation, 25.45 had high level and 21.83 per cent had low level of

management orientation. Thus, it can be concluded that Higher percent of (52.72%) respondent had medium level of management orientation.

Market orientation

Table 4: Distribution of farm women according to their market orientation

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (1 to 3 Score)	45	40.90
2.	Medium (3 to 4 Score)	39	35.45
3.	High (5 to 6 Score)	26	23.65
Total		110	100.00

The data of table 5 shows that out of the total 110 respondents, 40.90 per cent had low level of market orientation 35.45, per cent had medium level and 23.65 had high level of market orientation Thus, it can be concluded that

higher percentage of the respondents (40.90%) had low level of market orientation.

Thus, it can be concluded that Higher percent (40.90%) of respondent had low level of market orientation.

Table 5: Association between Market orientation of farm women and their role in decision making process

S. No.	Market orientation	Role in decision making process			
		Low	Moderate	High	Total
1.	Low	23 (51.11)	12 (26.66)	10 (22.23)	45 (100.00)
2.	Medium	09 (23.07)	35 (64.10)	05 (12.83)	39 (100.00)
3.	High	08 (30.76)	13 (50.00)	05 (19.24)	26 (100.00)
Total		40	50	20	110

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentage)

$X^2= 12.441$, Significant at 0.05 level of probability with 4 d. f., Table Value is 9.49

The data presented in table 6 reveals the association between market orientation of farm women and their role in decision making process. It is evident from the data that out of total 45 respondents with low Market orientation, 51.11 per cent had low, 26.66 per cent had moderate and 22.23 per cent had high role in decision making process. In case of total 39 respondents with medium Market orientation, 64.10 per cent had moderate, 23.07 per cent had low and 12.83 per cent had

high role in decision making process. While in case of total 26 respondents with high Market orientation, 50.00 per cent had medium, 30.76 per cent had low and 19.24 per cent had high role in decision making process. The calculated value of chi-square 12.441 was found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability. Thus it can be concluded that there was significant association between market orientation of farm women and their role in decision making process.

Table 6: Distribution of farm women according to their role in decision making

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (10 to 16 Score)	40	36.36
2.	Medium (17 to 22 Score)	50	45.46
3.	High (22 to 28 Score)	20	18.18
Total		110	100.00

Thus, it can be concluded that higher percent of (45.46%) respondent had had medium role in decision making.

Table 7: Distribution of farm women according to their role in decision making process related to vegetable operations

S. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Nursery management	48	43.63	XI
2.	Land preparation	22	20.00	XIV
3.	Selection of seed	60	54.54	VII
4.	Seed treatment	90	81.81	IV
5.	Sowing time of seed	98	89.09	III
6.	Gap filling	88	80.00	V
7.	Plant protection measures	68	61.81	VI
8.	Irrigation	37	33.63	XIII
9.	Weeding	110	100.00	I
10.	Use of manure	44	40.00	XII
11.	Use of fertilizer	54	49.09	X
12.	Picking	107	97.27	II
13.	Transportation	57	51.81	VIII
14.	Marketing	38	34.54	XIII

Table 8 pertains to the role of farm women in decision making process related to different vegetable operations. It is

evident from the above table that most of the farm women (100%) were participating in the weeding practices, as

compared to other activities in the farm operations, followed by picking (85.00%), grain storage (97.27%), sowing time of seed (89.09%), seed treatment (81.81%), gap filling (80.00%), plant protection measure (61.81%), selection of seed (54.45%), transportation (51.81%), use of fertilizer (49.09%), nursery management (43.63%), use of manure (40.00%),

marketing (34.54%) and land preparation (20.00%).

Association between dependent and independent variables of farm Problems affecting the decision making process of farm women

Table 8: Distribution of farm women according to problems affecting in decision making

S. No	Problems	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Higher time consumption for households work.	40	36.36	VIII
2.	Management of time for farm and home activities	52	47.27	V
3.	Family norms	36	32.72	X
4.	Poor economic status of the family	54	49.09	IV
5.	Male dominance	86	78.18	I
6.	Lack of education	63	57.27	III
7.	Inability of take decision	38	34.54	IX
8.	Lack of proper guidance for taking decision	34	30.90	XI
9.	Lack of information about the solution to problem	48	43.63	VI
10.	Lack of knowledge	46	41.81	VII
11.	No knowledge about improved technology	76	69.09	II
12.	High cost of farm material	31	28.18	XII
13.	Lack of marketing facilities	29	26.36	XIII
14.	No permission to take decision due to younger age	28	25.45	XIV

The data in table 8 represent the problems faced by farm women in decision making in vegetable operations. The problems as reported by the farm women are presented on the basis of responses as reported by the respondents. The frequencies of differential respondents were worked out on percentage basis and ranked accordingly. The result indicated that 78.18 per cent respondents reported male dominance in decision making in vegetable operations. This problem was ranked first. The second major problem reported by 69.09 per cent respondents was no knowledge about improved technology. The third problem reported by 57.27 per cent respondents was lack of education. The fourth problem reported by 49.09 per cent respondents was poor economic status of the family. The fifth problem reported by 47.27 per cent respondents was no management of time for farm and home activities. The sixth problem reported by 43.63 per cent respondents was lack of information about the solution to problem. Some other problems perceived by the respondents according to percentage-wise are lack of knowledge, higher time consumption for household work, inability to take decision, family norms, lack of proper guidance for taking decision, high cost of farm material, lack of marketing facilities and no permission to take decision due to younger age.

Discussion

The major problem reported by the respondents such as male dominance, no knowledge about improved technology, lack of education, poor economic status of the family, no management of time for farm and home activities, lack of information about the solution to problem, lack of knowledge, higher time consumption for household work, inability to take decision, family norms, lack of proper guidance for taking decision, high cost of farm material, lack of marketing facilities, no permission to take decision due to younger age.

Summary and Conclusion

Decision making is one of the most important dimensions of human life. Every individual is confronted with problems of decision making in all walks of life. Every action is the result of conscious or unconscious mental make up of an individual.

The important role of farm women in the decision making process is crucial in selection of varieties of crops, seed treatment, sowing of seed, application of manures and fertilizers, weeding, plant protection measures, cleaning of farm produce, storing the seed and processing of farm produce. In other allied enterprises like dairy enterprises, poultry and fisheries, women also play important role in joint decision making process. Women were consulted by their husband or men in determining the leasing out of land, purchase and sale of farm machineries etc. Vegetables play a vital role in the maintenance of human health and make the diet nutritive and balanced. A balanced diet is essential to sustain good health and Vegetables are so common in human diet that a meal without a vegetable is supposed to be incomplete. Madhya Pradesh is the second largest Vegetable state in India. The total area under vegetable crop is about 8, 54,442 hectares and production is 20,72,077 lakh tonnes (2009-10) in Jabalpur district the area under Vegetable crops is 55,935 ha. and production is 5,75,011 tonnes. where as the Patan Block of Jabalpur covered maximum area under vegetable crops 6,806 ha and production 69,862 tonnes. Note (Source -Deputy Director Office of Horticulture Department Jabalpur 2009-10) With the modernization of agriculture, competence of women enhancement is must. For an economically and ecologically sustainable agriculture, the involvement of farm women is absolutely essential,

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