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Decision making power of farm women in farm activities of Ranga Reddy district

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Abstract

The study was planned to assess decision making power of the farm women in farm related activities. Exploratory study was conducted with focused group discussions and self-reported questionnaire were developed. The study was carried out in rural Telangana area of Ranga Reddy district. Major findings of the study analysis showed that women participation in decision-making regarding farm activities was significantly less.

Keywords: farm women, decision making, farm activities

Introduction

Agriculture is an engine of growth of poverty reduction in developing countries where it is the main occupation of the poor segment of the society. A woman makes essential contribution to the agricultural sector and rural economy in developing countries. Agriculture in India contributes about 13 per cent of GDP and is predominately a female activity. The dairy and animal husbandry sector of agriculture is totally dependent upon the women workforce. All most all the women in rural area can be considered as farmers in some senses as almost all of women are directly or indirectly engaged in agricultural activities such as agricultural labourer, working at the own farm and in dairying and animal husbandry etc. As majority of the agricultural works in the country comprises of the women, their role in the decision making in different agricultural activities need to be properly looked in to. Decision – making is a basic process that underlines all functions of the family and resource management. Rural women share abundant responsibilities and perform almost all duties in running the family, maintaining the households and attending widely various farm activities in rural areas. Women play an important role in control and supervision of farm production, horticulture, livestock and other productive work in agricultural sector (Censes; 2011). Despite women's critical contribution to the family income through productive activities, the recognition is not given to the women because of many social and economic factors which ultimately effect the women's contribution in agricultural sector. The overview of some of the studies in India showed considerable variation in women's involvement actively in decision making process in different parts of the country, especially in rural area.

In the modern age, the decision-making of the farm enterprises and family affairs should be done by all economically active family members in a democratic spirit (K.P. Wasnik, 2006)^[10]. Several studies conducted in India and abroad suggested that in order to increase the role of farm woman in decision making for agricultural production, dairy and other allied activities of technical nature, it is necessary to equip them with latest information so that they can play a vital role in decision making in the family (Puri 1971, Maria Mies, 1986, V. Shobha, 1987, Sethi 1991, Wasnik 2006, Kaur 2008, Khalida Jamali 2009, D. Devendra & *et al.* 2010)^[1-4, 6-8, 10]. The fact remains that female workers contribute significantly to household income across all farm sizes and their earnings are found crucial for landless and small farm households (Sethi 1991)^[7]. Yet, the status of female agricultural workers in decision making remains very poor. Female agricultural workers contribute significantly to household economy, but they lack education, health and other support services and often do not have access to economic resources. (Tuteja 2000)^[9]. The major decision makers in agricultural activities are men even though women perform more agricultural related activities than men. Even they are not consulted at the time of purchase of animals and change of crops (Nishu Bala, 2010)^[5].

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Methodology

Study area: The study of 200 farm families of different adopted villages of Maheshwaram mandal and Agricultural university farm women of PJTSAU, Hyderabad were selected for assessing the decision making power of the farm activities of the farm women.

Research design: An exploratory research design will be adapted.

Sample: 200 Rural women will be selected from 4-5 villages of Maheshwaram mandal.

Objectives of the study

- To analyze the role of women in decision making in

agricultural sector

- To assess the contribution of women in the decision making related to different expenditure activities of agriculture sector
- To observe the role of women in decision-making process of buying activities of agriculture sector
- To examine the role of women in decision-making in respect of livestock management and storage activities

Tools used for assessing the sample

Assessment of Decision making power of farm women in farm activities through self-structured questionnaire (which will be prepared by AICRP-HD component, PJTSAU, Hyderabad).

Table 1: Decision making power of farm women in farm activities

S. No.	Activity	Only wife	Both wife & husband	All the family members	Only husband
I. Agricultural activities					
1	Selection of seed	12 (6%)	42 (21%)	58 (29%)	88 (44%)
2	Deciding area under each crop	10 (5%)	36 (18%)	62 (31%)	92 (46%)
3	Introducing new crop variety and adoption of new farm practices	10 (5%)	30 (15%)	50 (25%)	110 (55%)
4	Type of farming	14 (7%)	32 (16%)	74 (37%)	80 (40%)
5	Financial credit from money lenders	8 (4%)	16 (8%)	40 (20%)	136 (68%)
6	Deciding farm equipment or machinery	11 (5.5%)	22 (11%)	48 (24%)	119 (59.5%)
7	Quantity and type of fertilizers to be used on the farm	9 (4.5%)	27 (13.5%)	44 (22%)	120 (60%)
8	Hiring farm labourers	8 (4%)	12 (6%)	39 (19.5%)	141 (70.5%)
9	Using plant protection measures	10 (5%)	14 (7%)	33 (16.5%)	143 (71.5%)
11	Marketing of farm products	8 (4%)	12 (6%)	24 (12%)	156 (78%)
12.	Purchase of Animals	9 (4.5%)	18 (9%)	30 (15%)	143 (71.5%)
13	Sale of Animals	11 (5.5%)	22 (11%)	40 (20%)	127 (63.5%)
14	Purchase of Land	12 (6%)	32 (16%)	68 (34%)	88 (44%)
15	Sale of land	10 (5%)	30 (15%)	64 (32%)	96 (48%)
Decision regarding land					
16	a. Acquisition	10 (5%)	38 (19%)	52 (26%)	100 (50%)
	b. Sell the land	12 (6%)	44 (22%)	60 (30%)	84 (42%)
17	Decision regarding Enterprise selection	8 (4%)	22 (11%)	36 (18%)	134 (67%)
18	Decision related to attending a training programme	6 (3%)	18 (9%)	26 (13%)	150 (75%)
Buying activities					
19	a. Purchase of lands	10 (5%)	32 (16%)	42 (21%)	116 (58%)
	b. How much land to be purchased	9 (4.5%)	32 (16%)	44 (22%)	115 (57.5%)
	c. Purchase of seed	10 (5%)	36 (18%)	48 (24%)	106 (53%)
	d. Purchase of Animal fodder	11 (5.5%)	34 (17%)	40 (20%)	115 (57.5%)
	e. Type of machine to be purchased	8(4%)	20 (10%)	30 (15%)	142 (71%)
	f. Purchase of type of small agricultural implement	10 (5%)	24 (12%)	35 (17.5%)	131 (65.5%)
	g. Purchase of insecticides and weedicides	8 (4%)	28 (14%)	30 (15%)	134 (67%)
Expenditure activities					
20	a. Money to be spend on purchase of machines	9 (4.5%)	27 (13.5%)	33 (16.5%)	131 (65.5%)
	b. Money to be spent on purchase of seeds	10 (5%)	22 (11%)	30 (15%)	138 (69%)
	c. Money to be spent on purchase of implements	10 (5%)	22 (11%)	29 (14.5%)	139 (69.5%)
	d. Paying wages to labourers	8 (4%)	30 (15%)	39 (19.5%)	123 (61.5%)
Storage activities					
21.	a. Quantity to be stored	9 (4.5%)	28 (14%)	34 (17%)	129 (64.5%)
	b. Crop to be stored	10 (5%)	31 (15.5%)	38 (19%)	121 (60.5%)
	c. Place where the quantity should be kept	9 (4.5%)	30 (15%)	44 (22%)	117 (58.5%)
	d. Method of the storage	8 (4%)	18 (9%)	34 (17%)	140 (70%)
Crop cultivation					
22.	a. Crop Selection	8 (4%)	20 (10%)	36 (18%)	136 (68%)
	b. Land Selection	8 (4%)	18 (9%)	42 (21%)	132 (66%)
	c. Application of pesticide	7 (3.5%)	14 (7%)	33 (16.5%)	146 (73%)
	d. Sale of output in market	5 (2.5%)	16 (8%)	39 (19.5%)	140 (70%)
	e. Purchase/sale of land	7 (3.5%)	25 (12.5%)	35 (17.5%)	133 (66.5%)
	f. Land tenancy	7 (3.5%)	28 (14%)	33 (16.5%)	132 (66%)
Financial management					
23.	a. Financial Management	10 (5%)	31 (15.5%)	52 (26%)	107 (53.5%)

	b. Borrowing/lending of money	9 (4.5%)	38 (19%)	56 (28%)	97 (48.5%)
	c. Purchase of farm items	8 (4%)	35 (17.5%)	42 (21%)	115 (57.5%)
	Livestock management activities				
24.	a. Buying of livestock	7 (3.5%)	29 (14.5%)	38 (19%)	126 (63%)
	b. Number of livestock to be kept	8 (4%)	32 (16%)	43 (21.5%)	117 (58.5%)
	c. Selling of livestock	7 (3.5%)	30 (15%)	39 (19.5%)	124 (62%)
	d. Cultivation of fodder for livestock	7 (3.5%)	30 (15%)	37 (18.5%)	126 (63%)
	II. Veterinary & allied activities				
1.	Tending of Animals	6 (3%)	38 (19%)	44 (22%)	112 (56%)
2	Maintenance and care of farm animals	8 (4%)	42 (21%)	64 (32%)	86 (43%)
3	Feeding to animals	22 (11%)	42 (21%)	55 (27.5%)	81 (40.5%)
4	Cleaning and dis infecting of Sheds	32 (16%)	46 (23%)	49 (24.5%)	73 (36.5%)
5	Bathing of Animals	28 (14%)	40 (20%)	52 (26%)	80 (40%)
6	Supplying Drinking animals to them	24 (12%)	36 (18%)	44 (22%)	96 (48%)
7	Isolating and attending to Sick calves and adult animals	22 (11%)	32 (16%)	36 (18%)	110 (55%)
8	Mulching of Cows and Buffaloes	36 (18%)	52 (26%)	54 (27%)	58 (29%)
9	Feeding of Birds	32 (16%)	48 (24%)	50 (25%)	70 (35%)
10	Collection of Bird Eggs	34 (17%)	48 (24%)	52 (26%)	66 (33%)
11	Marketing of Livestock products	20 (10%)	34 (17%)	44 (22%)	102 (51%)
12	Marketing of eggs	26 (13%)	45 (22.5%)	50 (25%)	79 (39.5%)
13	Obtaining bank loans and credit for framing, Dairy and Poultry etc.	8 (4%)	28 (14%)	40 (20%)	124 (62%)
14	Repayment of Loans	6 (3%)	20 (10%)	28 (14%)	146 (73%)
15	Consultation with veterinary Doctor regarding sick animals.	5 (2.5%)	28 (14%)	40 (20%)	127 (63.5%)

The data presented in Table 1 has been explains the role of women in decision related in agricultural activities of selection of seed has been entirely taken by husband (44%), All the family members 29%, both husband and wife 42% and only wife decision taken 6%. In deciding area under each crop maximum husband has taken the decision (46%), all the family members 31%, both husband and wife 18% and only wife taken decision only 5%. In Agricultural activities some activities maximum decisions entirely taken by husbands such as Introducing new crop 55%, Type of farming 40%, Financial credit from money lenders 68%, Deciding farm equipment or machinery 59.5%, Quantity and type of fertilizers to be used on the farm 60%, Hiring farm labourers 70.5%, Using plant protection measures 71.5%, Marketing of farm products 78%, Purchase of Animals 71.5%, Sale of Animals 63.5%, Purchase of Land 44%, Sale of land 48%, Decision regarding land Acquisition 50%, Sell the land 42%, Decision regarding Enterprise selection 67%, Decision related to attending a training programme 75%. In related to buying activities Purchase of lands 58%, land to be purchased 57.5%, Purchase of seed 53%, Purchase of Animal fodder 57.5%, Type of machine to be purchased 71%, Purchase of type of small agricultural implement 65.5%, Purchase of insecticides and weedicides 67%.

The decisions regarding In Expenditure Activities maximum decisions taken by husband, partially involved in all the family members and minimum decisions taken by only wife such as Money to be spend on purchase of machines 65.5% decisions taken by husband, 16.5% all the family members taken decisions, only 4.5% decision taken by wife. In Money to be spent on purchase of seeds 69% Husbands taken decision, Money to be spent on purchase of implements 69.5% Husbands taken decision, Money to be spent on purchase of implements 69.5%, paying wages to labourers 61.5% decisions taken by Husband.

The decisions regarding In Storage Activities maximum decisions taken by husband, partially involved in all the family members and minimum decisions taken by only wife such as Quantity to be stored 64.5% decisions taken by husband, 17% all the family members taken decisions, only 4.5% decision taken by wife. In Crop to stored 60.5%

Husbands taken decision, Place where the quantity should be kept 58.5% Husbands taken decision, Method of the storage 70%, decisions taken by husband.

In Crop cultivation such as Crop selection maximum decisions taken by husband, partially involved in All the family members and Both husband and wife minimum decisions taken by only wife such as Crop Selection 68% decisions taken by husband, 18% all the family members taken decisions, 10% taken by both husband and wife, only 4% decision taken by wife. In land Selection 66% husbands taken decision, Application of pesticide 73% Husbands taken decision, Sale of output in market 70%, Purchase/sale of land 66.5%, Land tenancy 66% decisions taken by Husband.

The decisions regarding In Financial management maximum decisions taken by husband, partially involved in All the family members and minimum decisions taken by only wife such as Financial Management 53.5% decisions taken by husband, 26% all the family members taken decisions, only 5% decision taken by wife. In Borrowing/lending of money 48.5% Husbands taken decision, Purchase of farm items 57.5% Husbands taken decisions.

The Decision's regarding Livestock management activities Majority of the decisions taken by the head of the family Husband such as Buying of livestock 63%, Number of livestock to be kept 58.5%, Selling of livestock 62%, Cultivation of fodder for livestock 63%. Minority of the Decisions taken by the farm women regarding the Livestock management.

The decisions regarding to Veterinary & Allied activities the figures present a very depressed picture of women. In case of Tending of Animals only 3%, Maintenance and care of farm animals only 4%, Feeding to animals 11%, Cleaning and dis infecting of Sheds 16%, Bathing of Animals 14%, Supplying Drinking animals to them 12%, Isolating and attending to Sick calves and adult animals 11%, Mulching of Cows and Buffaloes 18%, Feeding of Birds 16%, Collection of Bird Eggs 17%, Marketing of Livestock products 10%, Marketing of eggs 13%, Obtaining bank loans and credit for framing, Dairy and Poultry etc. 4%, Repayment of Loans 3%, Consultation with veterinary Doctor regarding sick animals only 2.5%.

Conclusion

The participation in decisions related to Agricultural activities has been very low women as compared to men. The educated women from the rural area should be involved in the training programme, workshop to motivate the rural agricultural women for enhancing their role in participation on the farm. Empowering women for participation in agricultural decision making and leadership in Ranga Reddy represent the most appropriate and effective way. Women must be directly involved in the development and implementation of the new technology. The situation has noticed worse in some area like making decision related to opting measures to increase production and buying and storing activities. So, some steps should be taken up to upgrade the managing power of agricultural women.

Efforts should be made to make the male of our society sufficient open-minded to accept the ability of the women in the field of planning and managing in case of farm related activities.

The involvement of females should be increased at every level of planning and decision-making to exploit the potential of the full population of India.

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