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Socio-personal characteristics of farm women in Navsari district of south Gujarat

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Abstract

The study was conducted during April-June 2018 in Navsari district of Gujarat state. The main focus of the investigation is on decision making ability among the farm women of Navsari district of South Gujarat. Data were collected from a randomly selected sample of 100 farm women of Navsari district of Gujarat. It can be concluded that nearly half of the respondents belonged to middle age groups with secondary level of education, had farming and animal husbandry as their major occupation, were members of joint family, had small size of land holding, possessed moderate farming experience with membership in more than one organization. Further, they fell in medium annual income category. They had moderate risk orientation, management orientation, extension contact, mass media exposure and had moderate economic motivation, scientific orientation and fair cropping pattern.

Keywords: Socio-personal, decision making, farm women

Introduction

Historically, it is believed that it was women who first domesticated plants and animals, and initiated the art and science of farming. While, men were out for hunting in search of food, women started collecting seeds from the native flora and began cultivating plants for the purpose of food, fodder, and fuel. Farm women played a pivotal role in encouraging the agricultural growth and thus enhancing the production. Over the years there has been a gradual increase in the contribution of farm women towards agricultural and dairying activities. Farm women since centuries are involved in agriculture and dairying activities.

Studies conducted on farm women revealed that farm women played a significant role in decision making in agriculture and dairying activities. As per the census of 2011, the total number of female workers in India is 149.8 million out of which 121.8 million live in rural areas while the remaining 28.00 million live in urban areas. Among the 149.8 million female workers, 35.90 million female workers are working as cultivators, 61.50 million are agricultural labors whereas 52.40 million are engaged in agriculture and allied activities.

Objective

To study the socio-personal profile of farm women.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Navsari district of South Gujarat during the year 2018-2019. Navsari district is located in the south eastern part of Gujarat state in the coastal lowland along Purna River. The main focal point of investigation is decision making ability of farm women of Navsari district. The district comprises of six talukas viz., Chikhli, Gandevi, Jalalpole, Navsari, Vandsa and Khergam. All the six talukas were selected purposively considering total number of farm women. 100 villages were selected through proportionate random sampling. One farm women was selected at random through simple random sampling method from each village. Thus 100 farm women were selected as respondents from 100 respective villages. The data were collected by personal interview method. Statistical tools viz., frequency and percentage were used to analyze the data.

Result and Discussion

The data present in Table 1 revealed that 49.00 per cent of the farm women belonged to middle age group, followed by 43.00 per cent in young age and 08.00 per cent from old age group.

Nearly 44.00 per cent of the farm women had secondary level of education followed by 37.00 per cent and 19.00 per cent having primary level and college and above education respectively.

It can be observed from the data present in Table 1 that majority 67.00 per cent of the respondents had farming and animal husbandry as their major occupation, 19.00 per cent had farming alone as major occupation while the remaining 14.00 per cent had farming and animal husbandry along with service as major occupation. Majority of the respondents

(62.00 per cent) had joint family while 38.00 per cent belongs to nuclear family. Nearly 50.00 per cent of respondents had medium land holding followed by 36.00 percent and 14.00 per cent of respondents having small and big size of land holding respectively.

It is apparent from table 1 that 52.00 per cent of the respondents had moderate farming experience followed by 31.00 per cent and 17.00 per cent having lower and higher farming experience respectively.

Table 1: Socio-personal characteristics of farm women (n = 100)

Sr. No.	Socio-personal characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Age			
1.	Young (Up to 35 years)	43	43.00
	Middle (36-50 years)	49	49.00
	Old (Above 50 years)	08	08.00
Education			
2.	Primary level	37	37.00
	Secondary level	44	44.00
	College and above level	19	19.00
Occupation			
3.	Farming alone	19	19.00
	Farming + Animal husbandry	67	67.00
	Farming + Animal husbandry + Service	14	14.00
Family type			
4.	Nuclear family	38	38.00
	Joint family	62	62.00
Land holding			
5.	Small land holding	36	36.00
	Medium land holding	50	50.00
	Large land holding	14	14.00
Farming experience			
6.	Lower farming experience	31	31.00
	Medium farming experience	52	52.00
	Big farming experience	17	17.00
Annual income			
7.	Low (Up to ₹ 50,000)	33	33.00
	Medium (₹ 5,0000 to ₹ 1,00,000)	47	47.00
	High (Above ₹ 1,00,000)	20	20.00
Mass media exposure			
8.	Lower mass media exposure	24	24.00
	Moderate mass media exposure	62	62.00
	Higher mass media exposure	14	14.00
Extension contact			
9.	Lower extension contact	09	09.00
	Moderate extension contact	86	86.00
	Higher extension contact	05	05.00
Social participation			
10.	No membership in any organization (0 score)	00	00.00
	Membership in one organization (1 score)	07	07.00
	Membership in more than one organization (2 score)	66	66.00
	Holding position in organization	27	27.00
Scientific orientation			
11.	Lower scientific orientation	31	31.00
	Moderate scientific orientation	49	49.00
	Higher scientific orientation	20	20.00
Economic motivation			
12.	Lower economic motivation	25	25.00
	Moderate economic motivation	48	48.00
	Higher economic motivation	27	27.00
Risk orientation			
13.	Lower risk orientation	22	22.00
	Moderate risk orientation	76	76.00
	Higher risk orientation	02	02.00
Management orientation			
14.	Higher management orientation	14	14.00

	Moderate management orientation	66	66.00
	Lower management orientation	20	20.00
	Cropping pattern		
15.	Poor cropping pattern	06	06.00
	Fair cropping pattern	70	70.00
	Good cropping pattern	24	24.00

The data presented in table 1 shows that 47.00 per cent of respondents belonged to medium annual income, followed by 33.00 and 20.00 per cent of them had low and high annual income. Majority (62.00 per cent) of the respondents had moderate mass media exposure followed by 24.00 per cent and 14.00 per cent of them had lower and higher mass media exposure respectively. Majority of farm women (86.00 per cent) had moderate extension contact, followed by lower (09.00 per cent) and higher (05.00 per cent) extension contact. Majority (66.00 per cent) of the respondents had membership in more than one organizations followed by 07.00 per cent of them had membership one organization only 27.00 per cent of them were holding the position in respective social organization. Nearly half of respondents (49.00 per cent) had moderate scientific orientation followed by 31.00 and 20.00 per cent of respondents had lower and higher scientific orientation. Nearly half (48.00 per cent) of the respondents had moderate economic motivation followed by 27.00 per cent and 25.00 per cent had higher and lower economic motivation. Majority (76.00 per cent) of the respondents had moderate risk orientation followed by 22.00 per cent and 02.00 per cent had lower and higher risk orientation. Majority (66.00 per cent) of the respondents had moderate management orientation followed by 20.00 per cent and 14.00 per cent had higher and lower management orientation. Majority (70.00 per cent) of the respondents had fair cropping pattern followed by 24.00 per cent and 06.00 per cent had good and poor cropping pattern.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that nearly half of the respondents belonged to middle age groups with secondary level of education, had farming + animal husbandry as their major occupation belongs to joint family, had small land holding possessed moderate farming experience. Nearly half the respondents belong to medium annual income category had moderate mass media exposure, extension contact, membership in more than one organization. Further, they had moderate scientific orientation, economic motivation, risk orientation, management orientation and fair cropping pattern.

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