



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2023; 12(2): 3223-3228
© 2023 TPI

www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 13-12-2022

Accepted: 29-01-2023

Aditya Pratap Singh
Ph.D. Scholar, Department of
Agricultural Economics, Sam
Higginbottom University of
Agriculture, Technology and
Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Dr. Ashutosh Kumar Srivastava
Assistant Professor, RNB Global
University, Bikaner, Rajasthan,
India

Dr. Amit Kumar Masih
Associate Professor, Department
of Agricultural Economics, Sam
Higginbottom University of
Agriculture, Technology and
Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:
Aditya Pratap Singh
Ph.D. Scholar, Department of
Agricultural Economics, Sam
Higginbottom University of
Agriculture, Technology and
Sciences, Prayagraj, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Studying the impact of women's participation, social status, and decision-making on agriculture in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district

Aditya Pratap Singh, Dr. Ashutosh Kumar Srivastava and Dr. Amit Kumar Masih

Abstract

The contribution of women in the field of agriculture in India has often gone unrecognized. Women play a variety of roles in agriculture, including as family agriculture laborers, co-farmers, farm managers, and entrepreneurs. They also work in various sub-sectors of agriculture and in allied non-farm work. Despite the many challenges and conflicts that women face, there are also many opportunities for them to improve their livelihoods and lead healthier lives. The study was carried out in the Teonthar block of the Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh, where 24 villages were chosen at random. In proportion to the number of homes in each category, 10 households from each village were picked from a sample of 240 respondents. The study's findings demonstrated that both women and men in farming households contribute significantly to agriculture and related activities, and that female agricultural labourers work in agriculture for pay. Age, literacy, livestock, size of landholding, and family structure are all factors that influence women's ability to make decisions. According to the study, increasing women's involvement in livestock-related activities and educational attainment can significantly boost their ability to make decisions, and policy action is required to make this happen.

Keywords: Women, decision making, participation, Rewa

Introduction

Women are a vital part of society, with a range of unique abilities and characteristics such as benevolence, adaptability, integrity, and tolerance. They have been actively participating in the socio-economic and domestic life of society since the beginning of humankind, making contributions to productivity and provision of services to families and communities. In India, women have traditionally been assigned roles as homemakers, while men are considered the primary breadwinners.

Poverty, illiteracy, underdevelopment, and unemployment are major issues faced by rural women in India. These problems are further exacerbated by the lack of attention given to women's labor force in agriculture by rural development initiatives. Women make equal contributions to livelihoods as men in all land-based enterprises, but unfortunately, rural development planners have largely ignored the needs and problems of women. Their capacity for multitasking is essential for agricultural production, economic vigour, food security, family welfare, and health. In order to bring rural women into the mainstream of agricultural development, it is important to focus on empowering them and addressing their specific needs. In Madhya Pradesh, rural women play a crucial role in the cultivation, breeding, and harvesting of crops. They also have significant knowledge and experience in fish farming and vegetable and pulse cultivation. Across India, rural women are often involved in agriculture as a primary occupation, earning a majority of their income from agricultural activities. However, there are some exceptions, such as in Punjab, Kerala, Maharashtra, and West Bengal, where rural women participate in non-agricultural activities at a higher rate. The percentage of women in the agriculture labour force is estimated to be around 45.3%, although this figure is likely an underestimate due to undercounting of unpaid family labor and bias in data collection methods. Despite their significant contributions, the roles and income generated by rural women in agriculture are often unrecognized and unrecorded. Rural women in Madhya Pradesh play a significant role in the agricultural sector, yet their contributions are often undervalued and unrecognized.

They are involved in a variety of tasks related to agriculture, including the most physically demanding and Labor-intensive ones such as animal husbandry and household duties. Research shows that 80% of all economically active women in the region are employed in the agriculture sector, compared to 63% of men. Despite their productive role in agriculture and related activities, traditional attitudes and beliefs continue to undermine the scope, diversity, and magnitude of their contributions.

Justification and Importance of the Study

The participation and role of rural women in the labor force have been widely researched, with many studies highlighting the importance of their contributions to the rural economy. However, there are many challenges facing rural women in Madhya Pradesh that affect their work participation. Women are a vital part of the village economy in Madhya Pradesh and take on a variety of roles to sustain their livelihoods. Many rural women in Madhya Pradesh rely on agriculture as their main source of income, which is an unorganized sector in the region. Many of these women laborers are landless and belong to socially marginalized groups. Despite the seasonal nature of work in agriculture, there has been a significant increase in the number of agricultural laborers in recent years. The present study aims to investigate the utilization of women farm laborers in the agricultural sector of Rewa District in Madhya Pradesh. The study aims to gather in-depth information on the working conditions, employment issues, wages, economic contributions, and patterns of expenditure and savings of women agricultural laborers in the district. The study also aims to propose strategies for improving the working conditions of women laborers in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh. The study is entitled "An Investigation into the Utilization of Women Labor in Agriculture in Rewa District, Madhya Pradesh." with the following objectives.

Review of literature

Damisa *et al.* (2007) revealed that despite many social, economic, and other restrictions, women participate in agriculture at a high level and are very committed to their agricultural work. Overall, it was determined that the level of women's choice engagement on farms was moderate.

Farid *et al.* (2009) ^[4] discussed the considerable role that women perform in both farming and non-farming enterprises, especially in post-harvest activities, homestead gardening, livestock and poultry rearing, selling labour, etc. In general, it was thought that the involvement of women in agricultural choice was low to medium.

Acharya (2010) In Nepal, little is known about how socio-demographic factors affect women's autonomy in making decisions about their own health care, including buying things and visiting family and relatives. This study intends to investigate the relationships between women's status in the household and their autonomy in making decisions.

Bala (2010) revealed that although women participate and are engaged in practically all agricultural operations, there is wage discrimination even when they perform similar tasks to those performed by males. They are not taken into account for decision-making in farm activities despite their vast and active involvement in agriculture. He argued that women's contributions to agriculture will only be recognised when they actively work to expand their knowledge, acquire access to new information, and employ the majority of that information.

Rao (2011) ^[8]. The ramifications of women working in agriculture in Telangana, a region of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, are examined in this article. In a region where women make up the majority of the agricultural wage labour force, I contend that greater capital costs for growers as a result of liberalisation enhanced the incentive to manage wage expenses. Under such circumstances, women are under pressure to limit their ability to negotiate for greater compensation when they work in both their own cultivation and other people's fields for a wage, which contributes to the widening gender wage gap. Insofar as salaries influence intra-household bargaining power, the empowering impact of such women entering the workforce would be lessened. I offer some early evidence in support of this claim based on the NSS data that is currently accessible.

Azam (2014) ^[2] In this work, we examine the areas and levels of participation of women in agriculture using the empirical data that is currently accessible. According to overall figures, women make up around 81% of the agricultural labour force in India and about 43% of the agricultural labour force worldwide and in developing nations. Several agro-related activities are carried out by women. In India's rural areas, it has been observed that women devote almost 80% of their time to domestic work, agriculture, and related pursuits. In general, rural women have a heavier labour load than urban men, with a higher percentage of unpaid home chores including food preparation and water and fuel collection.

Memon Irfana (2015) ^[5] In Mirpurkhas, Sindh, in 2013, this study was carried out to examine the economic analysis of women's labour engagement in agricultural output. The study's findings revealed that the kharif (67-day) and rabi seasons were the times of year when women labourers were employed the most in agriculture (53 days). The agricultural labourers who were women received 120 days of employment each year. The majority of the labourers' days were spent weeding (64 days), followed by harvesting and post-harvest activities (34 days). For all operations other than harvest and post-harvest, they were paid in cash. They put in 7-8 hours of work each day. The summer, which is the off-season for agricultural in the study area, was when the majority of the women labourers' unemployed days (120 days) occurred.

Damodaran (2021) ^[3]. This essay examines how women influence decisions about household spending, health care, purchases, visits, and access to credit. Based on information gathered from the National Family Health Survey, this study (NFHS-5). India's north, central, east, northeast, west, and south were among the geospace regions for which the analysis was presented. According to the report, women must ask men for permission before making decisions and must spend money from their own pockets. When it comes to taking care of their health, making purchases, and seeing loved ones, women in Chandigarh, Mizoram, and Nagaland are assuring a great deal of autonomy. In Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal, the majority of women are allowed to use money. Tamil Nadu women who own bank accounts have sizable bank accounts.

Misra Richa & Srivastava Shalini (2021) ^[6] India falls into the medium category of the gender inequality index, where it ranks 131 out of 188 nations. Women require intervention at numerous levels, and decision-making is a crucial component of that. Equal participation of women in decision-making, despite any limitations imposed by family or societal conventions, is a key aspect of empowerment. The results in

the context of India are contrasted with those from other regions of the world. The survey findings have significant social and policy implications for Indian women.

Research Methodology

This chapter's major goal is to discuss various techniques and methods used for choosing the study's area and location, sampling design, data collection techniques, variables under investigation, empirical measurements of those variables, and statistical techniques used for data analysis.

Locale of the Study

The background knowledge on the district chosen for the study and the location has been attempted to be discussed. This is crucial to the study's ability to compare the findings to the actual conditions being investigated.

Selection of Districts

Madhya Pradesh consists of 50 districts that are further subdivided into ten divisions, 342 blocks, and 34415 village panchayats. Because the researcher is familiar with the local language, culture, geography, and other facets of the district, Rewa was purposefully chosen as the subject of the study.

Selection of Blocks

Rewa city is located in the Hujurs block of the Rewa district, which is divided into nine blocks called Mangava, Naigarhi, Sirmaur, Jawa, Teonthar, Hanumana, Raipur Karchulian, and Mauganj. The maximum population area determined the order in which each block was placed. By using a random sample procedure, the block Teonthar was chosen from among them.

Selection of Villages

The Teonthar Block Development Office provided a list of the villages, which were then listed in ascending order. For the study, 5 villages were arbitrarily chosen from the Teonthar block.

Selection of household

The list of households for each of the selected villages was created based on the occupations that residents held. The occupational holdings of the households were organised into 4 unique size groupings, such as marginal (up to 1 hectare), small (1.01 to 2.0 hectare), medium (2.02 to 3.0 hectare), and big (beyond 3.0 hectare) farms, and were arranged in ascending order of their size. According to the number of households in each category, a sample of 20 households was chosen from each village.

Collection of the data and method of enquiry

Personal interviews were used as the major data collection method. For the aim of gathering data, a timetable was created in accordance with the stated objectives, and each of the respondents who had been chosen was personally contacted. The required information was gathered using a pre-tested interview schedule, which was subsequently tabulated in light of the stated objectives.

Period of study: The study period pertains to the agricultural year 2019-2020.

Analytical tools

Percentage: A fraction with a denomination of 100 is referred to as a "percentage," and percentage is also the name of its numerator. To get the percentage, frequency was multiplied by 100 and divided by the total number of responses.

$$P = \frac{X}{N} \times 100$$

Where,

P = Percentage

X = Participants' frequency

N = Total number of participants

Correlation

According to the requirements stated in the third and fourth hypotheses, the correlation coefficient r was calculated as follows to assess the relationship between two variables:

Where;

r - Coefficient of correlation between variables X and Y

X - Arithmetic mean of X variable

Y - Arithmetic mean of Y variable

The correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to +1. The correlation's sign, or the relative direction of changes in the variables, reflects the nature of the connection. In addition, a value closer to zero, regardless of its sign, indicates a lesser degree of correlation, whereas a value closer to one, regardless of its sign, indicates a higher degree of correlation. The significance of the correlation between the two variables was examined using the t-test'

Mean

The formula below was used to get the mean by dividing the total number of cases by the sum of the scores:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n Xi}{N} \quad [i=1, 2, 3, \dots, n]$$

Where,

X = Mean

Xi = Sum of all the scores in a distribution

n = Number of respondents

N = Total number of respondents

Standard deviation

The variance's square root is what it is. The standard deviation can be represented graphically as follows:

$$S.D. = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \left[\sum Xi^2 - \frac{(\sum Xi)^2}{n} \right]}$$

Where,

S.D. = Standard deviation of sample

Xi = each of the score in turn

n = Total number of scores in the distribution

‘t’ test

The significance of the difference between the means of the two categories of respondents in terms of their scientific temperament was examined using the t test. The formula below was used to calculate "t."

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{n_2}}}$$

$$S^2 = \frac{(n_1 - 1)S_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)S_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}$$

\bar{X}_1 = Mean of first sample

\bar{X}_2 = Mean of second sample

S_1 = $(1/(n_1-1))\sum(x_1 - \bar{x}_1)^2$ variance of first sample

S_2 = $(1/(n_2-1))\sum(x_2 - \bar{x}_2)^2$ variance of second sample

n_1 = Total number of observation in first sample

n_2 = Total number of observation in second sample

d.f. = $n_1 + n_2 - 2$

Results and Discussion

Agriculture Worker Participation by Women

Land and related resources control the majority of men's and women's income-generating activities in rural areas. In addition to these, every family needs a certain minimum level of revenue to cover daily expenses. The family is the fundamental unit of production in all communities where agricultural output solely depends on the use of family labour. As a direct source of income that guarantees their survival, agriculture is essential for a farmer's family. Agriculture-related activities like raising animals are regarded as sources of secondary income because they supplement the family's

primary source of income or consumption.

The third category of job is house-related work, where workers are not paid for their labour if it is done for their own family. Work done for one's own family has a use value as opposed to an exchange value. Women's job is viewed as having less importance and low trade value. In Indian communities, men are expected to engage in tasks that have a direct economic benefit. Some activities in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district are typically only allowed for men, while others are only allowed for women. A woman's role is to do housework. Agriculture is frequently referred to as a man's profession.

The ladies of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa area are heavily active in agricultural work. Their level of involvement and personality vary according to the different agricultural production systems. The way that women participate in agricultural activities varies depending on how much land the farmers own, and they can have a variety of jobs in the industry, from managers to labourers.

The researcher had gathered all the trustworthy data on how much time was spent by every family member on domestic tasks, livestock management, and agricultural operations. For analysis objectives, pertinent data on activities relating to agriculture was gathered.

Participation of Family Labour in Agriculture

In agricultural enterprises, the need for labour and the use of family members vary by activity and from season to season. The percentage of family members who engaged in a given agricultural activity served as a proxy for the participation rate. The ratio of adult members who participate is determined using individuals who are over the age of 15.

Work Participation in Paddy Cultivation

Table 1: Participation of Families in Paddy Crop Cultivation by Activity (Per cent)

Type of Activity	Female	Male	Boy/Girl (Above 15 Years)	Total
Land Preparation	72 (30.00)	120 (50.00)	48 (20.00)	240 (100.00)
Dung Spraying	62 (25.83)	134 (55.83)	44 (18.83)	240 (100.00)
Nursery	96 (40.00)	82 (34.16)	62 (25.83)	240 (100.00)
Transplanting	108 (45.00)	37 (15.41)	95 (39.59)	240 (100.00)
Irrigation	23 (9.58)	123 (51.25)	94 (39.17)	240 (100.00)
Weeding	98 (40.83)	54 (22.50)	88 (36.66)	240 (100.00)
Fertilizing	58 (24.16)	170 (70.84)	12 (5.00)	240 (100.00)
Pesticide Spraying	66 (27.50)	153 (63.75)	21 (8.75)	240 (100.00)
Loading	14 (5.84)	170 (70.82)	56 (23.34)	240 (100.00)
Buying of Inputs	10 (4.16)	127 (52.92)	103 (42.92)	240 (100.00)
Sale of Crop	35 (14.58)	143 (59.58)	62 (25.84)	240 (100.00)
Hiring of Labour	56 (23.33)	115 (47.91)	69 (28.75)	240 (100.00)
Total Average	698 (24.24)	1428 (49.58)	754 (26.18)	2880 (100.00)

Table 2: Family Labour Participation in Wheat Crop Cultivation, by Activity, as a Percentage (Percent)

Type of Activity	Female	Male	Boy/ Girl(Above 15 Years)	Total
Land Preparation	38 (15.34)	118 (49.16)	84 (35.00)	240 (100.00)
Dung Spraying	45 (18.76)	127 (52.91)	68 (28.33)	240 (100.00)
Irrigation	39 (16.25)	108(45.00)	93 (38.75)	240 (100.00)
Sowing	39 (16.25)	128 (53.33)	73 (30.42)	240 (100.00)
Weeding	180 (75.00)	15 (6.25)	45 (18.75)	240 (100.00)
Fertilizing	48 (20.00)	120 (50.00)	72 (30.00)	240 (100.00)
Pesticides	44 (18.33)	134 (55.83)	62 (25.84)	240 (100.00)
Harvesting	66 (27.50)	126 (52.50)	48 (20.00)	240 (100.00)
Threshing	62 (25.84)	96 (40.00)	82 (34.16)	240 (100.00)
Carrying of Grain	46 (19.16)	103 (42.91)	91 (42.93)	240 (100.00)
Carrying of chaff	35 (14.58)	143 (59.58)	62 (24.84)	240 (100.00)

Cleaning of Grain	56 (23.33)	115 (47.91)	69 (28.75)	240 (100.00)
Storage of grain	72 (30.00)	120 (50.00)	48 (20.00)	240 (100.00)
Buying Input	62 (25.83)	134 (55.83)	44 (18.83)	240 (100.00)
Sale of crop	96 (40.00)	82 (34.16)	62 (25.83)	240 (100.00)
Hiring of labour	20 (8.33)	170 (70.83)	50 (20.84)	240 (100.00)

Table 3: Percentage of Family Members Engaged in Each Activity Related to Animal Care

Type of Activity	Female	Male	Boy/ Girl (Above 15 Years)	Total
Fetching Fodder	95 (39.58)	108(45.00)	37 (15.42)	240 (100.00)
Cutting Fodder	143 (59.58)	62 (25.84)	35 (14.58)	240 (100.00)
Feeding Fodder	120 (50.00)	72 (30.00)	48 (20.00)	240 (100.00)
Watering Animal	134 (55.83)	44 (18.33)	62 (25.84)	240 (100.00)
Cleaning Animal	124 (51.66)	66 (27.50)	50 (20.83)	240 (100.00)
Cleaning Shed	170 (70.82)	56 (23.34)	14 (5.84)	240 (100.00)
Removing Dung	103 (42.91)	46 (19.16)	91 (37.91)	240 (100.00)
Making dung Cake	143 (59.58)	35 (14.58)	62 (25.84)	240 (100.00)
Milking	69 (28.75)	115 (47.91)	56 (23.33)	240 (100.00)
Processing of Ghee	108 (45.00)	37 (15.41)	95 (39.59)	240 (100.00)
Sale of Milk	23 (9.58)	123 (51.25)	94 (39.17)	240 (100.00)

Participation in Domestic Work

Table 4: The proportion of family members who work at home

Type of Activity	Female	Male	Boy/ Girl (Above 15 Years)	Total
Fetching Water	103 (42.91)	46 (19.16)	91 (37.91)	240 (100.00)
Fetching Fuel	35 (14.58)	143 (59.58)	62 (24.84)	240 (100.00)
Cooking Food	120 (50.00)	48 (20.00)	72 (30.00)	240 (100.00)
Grinding of grains	134 (55.83)	44 (18.33)	62 (25.84)	240 (100.00)
Cleaning Grain	126 (52.50)	48(8.75)	66 (27.50)	240 (100.00)
Cleaning Utensils	174 (72.50)	10 (4.16)	56 (23.34)	240 (100.00)
Washing Clothes	103 (42.91)	46 (19.16)	91 (37.91)	240 (100.00)
Cleaning House	123 (51.25)	23 (9.58)	94 (39.17)	240 (100.00)
Child Care	220 (91.68)	10 (4.16)	10 (4.16)	240 (100.00)
Teaching Children	95 (39.59)	108 (45.00)	37 (15.41)	240 (100.00)
Going to Market	35 (14.58)	143 (59.58)	62 (24.84)	240 (100.00)
Stitching Clothes	230 (95.84)	02 (0.83)	08 (3.33)	240 (100.00)

Women's economic participation in work and domestic tasks: The majority of family responsibilities fall to the females, who also participate in financial activities relating to farming and animal husbandry. Women work more hours than men when all activities are included. To calculate the contribution of women to the economy, two different estimations have been developed. To determine the worth of their work, their working hours on household and economic matters are first multiplied by typical salaries. Second, based on the number of hours each gender worked, the total household income from all sources was divided between men and women.

Impact of women's participation in agriculture on their social status and decision making:

In the growth of agriculture and related industries, such as primary agricultural production, live-stock production, floriculture, post-harvesting activities, agroforestry, aquaculture, etc., it is highlighted that women play a substantial and essential role. This is a fact that has been ignored throughout history despite being known for a very long time. In developing nations around the world, women receive less favourable treatment than men. Women are denied equitable access to the land structure and extension services in the social and political systems that are dominated by men. New agricultural initiatives or technologies may not be accepted if women are not consulted or if their unique

capabilities and responsibilities are not taken into account. This section identified the influence of rural women's decision-making on their social position. The key elements influencing women's ability to make decisions have been discovered.

Table 5: Decision making pattern of farm women in agriculture

Activity	Decision – makers (%)		
	Male	Female	Joint
Crop Production			
Crop Selection	66.00	2.67	31.33
Land Selection	43.33	0.83	55.83
Application of pesticide	83.33	2.67	14.00
Sale of output in market	80.83	1.67	17.50
Purchase/sale of land	24.17	3.33	72.50
Land tenancy	31.67	5.00	63.33
Livestock activities			
Purchase/sale of animals	9.16	9.16	81.67
Selection of animal breed	37.4	9.16	53.44
Arrangement of fodder	0.76	57.25	41.20
Sale of milk in market/self-consumption	0.76	54.96	44.27
Financial Management			
Financial Management	37.33	1.33	61.33
Borrowing/lending of money	53.33	0.67	46.00
Purchase of household items	14.00	18.00	68.00

Table 6: Factors affecting decision making power of rural women

Variable	Coefficient	p-value
Economic status	0	0.066
Size of landholding	-0.003	0.025
Nuclear Family	0.052	0.008
Literate	0.025	0.115
Age Below 21	-0.112	0.015
Age Between 21-35	-0.058	0.023
Age Between 35-50	-0.035	0.128
Livestock	0.185	0.000
Constant	0.203	0.000

Prob>F=0.0000 R- squared=0.4276, adjustment R – Squared = 0.3951

Root MSE= 08522, AIC = 304.3403 and BIC = 277.2446

A comprehensive investigation of the decision-making process reveals that, in the majority of families, choices about the ownership of property, the buy, sale, or breed of animals, as well as household financing, were made jointly by the husband and wife. The majority of decisions about livestock were made by women. Decisions about milk consumption, sales, and the arrangement of fodder are made by women in the majority of households. Females are therefore permitted to make judgements in areas that are related to their family responsibilities, but their influence in economic and agricultural decision-making is minimal. Analysis showed that the elements influencing a woman's decision-making include her age, her level of education, her family structure, and her caste. There is a definite need for policy action based on the pattern and factors influencing women's decision-making. Increased involvement in livestock-related activities and female educational achievement can greatly boost a woman's ability to make decisions.

Summary

Findings from a multiple regression analysis were utilised to identify the factors affecting women's involvement in agriculture. The degree to which women participate in farm production was shown to be substantially correlated with age, educational attainment, marital status, occupation, type of family, and agricultural operations. Age, educational attainment, and occupation of women were substantially correlated with degree of engagement at the 1% level of significance. This indicates that the women's increased age, level of education, and occupation encouraged them to engage in agriculture. Bawa *et al.* (2010) obtained comparable outcomes. This is so that the women can have some degree of financial independence and activity independence as a result of age and education. Additionally, it was discovered that women's participation in agriculture is unaffected by their marital status.

The choice of crop, application of insecticides, and sale of commercial produce are decisions made only by male members in around 66%, 83%, and 80% of the households, respectively. However, decisions were typically taken jointly by husband and wife in the majority of households for the other decision categories, such as field selection, property purchase/sale, and land leasing. The research also reveals that very few families include women in farm-related decision-making. The data reveals that joint decision-making happens in 82% of households when buying or selling an animal and in 53% of households when deciding on an animal's breed. This pattern of decision-making for livestock production activities is reflective of the pattern of decision-making in

households. The female members of the household make decisions on the arrangement of the feed and the selling of the milk in the market in about 57% and 55% of households, respectively. As a result, choices about animal husbandry are either made solely by women or jointly by a husband and wife. In livestock, males alone have a comparatively little amount of decision-making authority.

Conclusion

Thus, a comprehensive review of decision-making patterns demonstrates that, in the majority of families, choices relating the purchase, sale, breeding of animals, and household financing were made jointly by the husband and wife. The majority of decisions about livestock were made by women. Decisions about milk consumption, sales, and the arrangement of fodder are made by women in the majority of households. Females are therefore permitted to make judgments in areas that are related to their family responsibilities, but their influence in economic and agricultural decision-making is minimal. Analysis showed that the elements influencing a woman's decision-making include her age, her level of education, her family structure, and her caste. There is a definite need for policy action based on the pattern and factors influencing women's decision-making. Increased involvement in livestock-related activities and female educational achievement can greatly boost a woman's ability to make decisions.

References

1. Archarya, *et al.* Women's autonomy in household decision-making: a demographic study in Nepal, *Reproductive Health*, 2010, 7(15).
2. Azam Khan Mohd, Nagma Shadad. Women participation in India, *International Journal of physical and Social sciences*. 2014;4(3):273-290.
3. Damodaran, women in decision making roles in India: An analytical study, *Human Rights International Research Journal*. 2021;9(2):101-109.
4. Farid, Nature and extent of rural women's participation in agricultural and non-agricultural activities, *Agric. Sci. Digest*. 2009;29(4):254-259.
5. Memon Irfana. Women Labour Participation of Agricultural Production in Sindh Pakistan, *Journal of Resources Development and Management*. 2015;10:87-97.
6. Misra Richa, Srivastava Shalini. Decision Making as a Contributor for Women Empowerment: A Study in the Indian Context, *Journal of comparative Asian development*. 2021;1(18):79-99.
7. Sunitha NH, *et al.* Role of farm women in Indian agriculture, *IJPS International journal of plant sciences*. 2018;13(2):265-270.
8. Rao, Work and Empowerment: Women and Agriculture in South India, *Journal of Development Studies*. 2011;47(2):294-315.
9. Women Participation in Agricultural Production: A Probit Analysis, *Journal of Applied Sciences*. 2007;7(3):412-416.