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## Decision making process of farm women in agriculture, dairy and house related activities in Bikaner district of Rajasthan

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### Abstract

Women are an important part of human life. Women makeup one-third of the workforce needed to work in agriculture and share trade. It plays an important role in family activities. It is often felt that their participation is limited and their decision making power is very limited. In the management of the family, most rural women generally take care of food preparation, taking care of all family members, preparing for drinking water, cleaning the house, cleaning after meals, doing laundry, taking care of children, preparing for firewood, sewing, etc. in rural areas women are involved in land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting, etc. it is equally involved in post-harvest work such as food storage as well as pre-harvest agricultural work. They are similar in preparing seeds, tillage, seeding, fertilizing, mowing, weeding, planting together, replanting, hulling, threshing, drying, storing grain and feed, marketing produce and harvesting crops, fruits and vegetables.

**Keywords:** Decision making, farm women

### Introduction

Women are an important part of human life. Women make up one-third of the workforce needed to work in agriculture and share trade. They play an important role in home, agriculture and other activities. Women play an important role in animal husbandry as managers, decision makers and skilled workers. They help with farming, taking care of animals, supervising milking and doing property management related work. They are equally skilled at preparing seeds, tillage, seeding, fertilizing, cutting fodder, weeding, co-sowing, planting, husking, threshing, drying, storing grain and feed, marketing crops and harvesting crops, fruits and vegetables (Ahmed & Hussain, 2004) <sup>[1]</sup>. They also participate in the planning, decision-making and monitoring of projects. Women's participation in the family and agriculture depends on the social, cultural and economic conditions of the region. There are also great differences in the participation of different agricultural systems, castes, classes and economic prosperity in different regions and even within the same region. Despite many restrictions, women from low-income families migrated to work due to the severe financial crisis, while women from middle families came to find work to downsize and improve their lifestyle.

This study was carried out in Bikaner district. There are seven panchayat samiti in Bikaner district, of which two panchayat samities, Bikaner and Lunkaransar Panchayat samities are chosen. Three gram panchayat were selected using simple random sampling technique in Bikaner and Lunkaransar Panchayat samiti. From 6 gram panchayats of the two Panchayat samities, one village is selected from each gram panchayat. Using a simple random sampling technique, a sample of 20 rural women from each village participated in agriculture were selected.

The interview form was designed to collect about rural women's decision-making style in agriculture. Dairy and household.

### Objectives of investigation

To study the extent of decision making pattern of rural women in agriculture, dairy farming and household activities.

### Methodology

The study was purposed in Bikaner District of Rajasthan. From seven panchayat samities of Bikaner district, Bikaner and Lunkaransar panchayat samities were selected purposely.

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From Forty gram panchayat in Bikaner panchayat samiti three gram panchayat were selected with lottery method namely Gussaisar, Gadhwal, Jalwali and thirty gram panchayat in Lunkransar panchayat samities three gram panchayat were selected with lottery method namely Hansera, Dhierera, Bamanwali. One village from each gram panchayat were selected for the research. 20 women from each village will be selected from farm family which were actively involved in

agricultural activities.

**Results and Discussion**

**Decision making process of farm women in agriculture, dairy and household**

The data on decision making pattern of farm women with respect to agriculture, dairy and housing activities are depicted in following aspects:

**Table 1:** Ranking of respondent’s decision making process in agriculture activities

n=120

S. No.	Activities	Extent of decision making process of rural women in agriculture		
		Mean	S D	Rank
1.	Level of crop production	2.11	0.55	III
2.	Cropping pattern to be followed	2.04	0.55	IV
3.	Method to be used for sowing	1.91	0.42	IX
4.	Using plant protection measures	2.16	0.65	II
5.	New implements to be used for production	1.98	0.42	VIII
6.	Money to be spend on purchase of machines, seeds and implements	1.08	0.33	XII
7.	Paying wages to labours	2.02	0.27	VI
8.	Purchase of land	1.85	0.35	X
9.	Purchase of insecticides and weedicide	1.00	0.00	XIV
10.	Installation of tube well	1.06	0.25	XIII
11.	Method of the storage	2.49	2.0	I
12.	Farm credit	2.00	0.0	VII
13.	Investment of added profit	2.03	0.40	V
14.	Adoption of high yield varieties	1.20	0.54	XI

It is evident from the Table No. 1 that in decision making process in agriculture activities rural women achieved highest score in method of storage (MS 2.49), using plant protection measures (MS 2.16) with rank order ‘I’ and ‘II’ followed by level of crop production (MS 2.11), cropping pattern to be followed (MS 2.04), investment of added profit (MS 2.03), paying wages to labours (MS 2.02), farm credit (MS 2.00), new implements to be used for production (mean score 1.98), method to be used for sowing (MS 1.91), purchase of land (MS 1.85), adoption of high yield varieties (MS 1.20), money to be spend on purchase of machines, seeds and implements (MS 1.08), installation of tube well (MS 1.06) ranked as III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XIII respectively. The lowest ranked is obtained by rural women in and purchase of insecticides and weedicide (MS 1.00) with rank XIV.

\*MS- Mean Score.

**Table 2:** Dispensation of the respondents according to their overall decision making process in agriculture activities

n=120

S. No.	Category	f	%
1.	Low (below 28)	20	16.7
2.	Medium (29-34)	68	56.7
3.	High (above 34)	32	26.7

Mean= 31.12, S.D. = 2.93

Table 2 showing that most of rural women (56.7%) had medium decision making power whereas 26.7 percent were falling in the category of high participation in decision making process. Only 16.7 percent rural women were coming into the lower category of decision making pattern.

It can be revealed from the findings that rural women had less participation in decision making regarding purchasing of land, seeds, implements, installation of Tube well etc. whereas majority of rural women took decision in method of storage. Decision making regarding cropping pattern, plant protection measures, farm credit etc. were taken Jointly with husband

and other family members.

The result was supported by the findings of Tiwari and Tripathi (2014) [3].

**Table 3:** Allocation of respondents decision making process in dairy activities

n=120

S. No.	Category	Mean	S D	Rank
1.	No. of cattle	1.97	.37	VIII
2.	Selection of breed of cattle	1.97	.20	VIII
3.	Artificial Insemination of cattle	1.23	.46	XIII
4.	Types and quantity of feed	2.85	.35	I
5.	Quantity of concentrate	2.84	.44	II
6.	Storage of fodder	2.66	.52	V
7.	Vaccination	1.09	.28	XV
8.	Consulting veterinary doctor	1.19	.45	XIV
9.	Control of external parasites	1.28	.56	XII
10.	Type of house	2.61	.53	VI
11.	Flooring of animal shed	2.83	.41	III
12.	Milking method	2.74	.47	IV
13.	Buying feed for animal	1.60	.53	X
14.	Purchase and sell of animal	1.71	.48	IX
15.	Treatment of animal	2.25	.47	VII
16.	Insurance of animal	1.45	.53	XI

It is evident from the Table No.3 in decision making process in dairy activities the farm women achieved the highest score in types and quantity of feed (MS 2.85), followed by quantity of concentrate (MS 2.84) with rank ‘I’ and ‘II’. Other dairy farming like as flooring of animal (MS 2.83), milking method (MS 2.74), storage of fodder (MS 2.66), type of house (MS 2.61), treatment of animal (MS 2.25), no. of cattle and selection of breed of cattle (MS 1.97), purchase and sell of animal (MS 1.71) and buying feed for animal (MS 1.60), Insurance of animal (MS 1.45), control of external parasites (MS 1.28), AI of cattle (MS 1.23) and consulting veterinary doctor (MS 1.19) ranked as III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII and XIV places, respectively. The activity in

which farm women obtained low level of decision making process was vaccination (MS 1.09) ranked XV.

\*MS- Mean Score.

**Table 4:** Division of the respondents according to their overall decision making process in dairy activities

n=120

S. No.	Category	f	%
1.	Low (less than 30.18)	21	17.5
2.	Medium (31-34)	73	60.8
3.	High (above 34.5)	26	21.7

M = 32.34, SD= 2.16

Table No 4 shows that majority of respondents (60.8%) had medium decision making process whereas (21.7%) were falling in the category of high decision making. Only (17.5%) were coming in the low category of decision making.

It can be noted that majority of rural women took decision independently regarding fodder, housing and milking method. The was supported by the findings of Singh and Srivastava (2012) [2].

**Table 5:** Ordering of respondents decision making process in house related activities

n=120

S. No.	Activities	Extent of decision making process of rural women in housing		
		Mean	S.D.	Rank
1.	Food for family	2.90	0.30	II
2.	Clothing	2.96	0.18	I
3.	Education of family	2.00	0.00	VI
4.	Medical care of family	2.46	0.50	III
5.	Marriage of children	2.00	0.0	VI
6.	Construction of house	1.99	0.09	VII
7.	Purchase of household appliances	1.97	0.15	VIII
8.	Purchasing of ornaments	2.00	0.0	VI
9.	Expenditure on different items	2.00	0.0	VI
10.	Insurance	1.57	0.49	IX
11.	Loans	1.55	0.49	X
12.	Saving and Investment	2.28	0.59	IV
13.	Banking	1.41	0.71	XI
14.	Giving daan-dakshina	2.11	0.65	V

It is evident from the Table No 5 in decision making process in house related activities the respondents achieved the highest score in clothing (MS 2.96), food for family (MS 2.90) ranked I, II followed by medical care of family (MS 2.46), saving and investment (mean score 2.28), giving daan-dakshina (MS 2.11), education of family, marriage of children, purchasing of ornaments and expenditure on different items (MS 2.00), and purchase of household appliances (MS1.97), insurance (MS 1.57), loans (MS 1.57), banking (MS 1.41) ranked as III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI respectively.

\*MS- Mean Score

**Table 6:** Distribution of the respondents according to their overall decision making process in house related activities

n=120

S. No.	Category	f	%
1.	Low (below 27)	12	10.0
2.	Medium (28-30)	72	60.0
3.	High (above 30)	36	30.0

Mean = 29.24, S.D. 1.3

Table No 6 shows that more than half (60%) of the rural women had medium decision making in household activities. Thus, it indicates that the decision related to household were carried out jointly by family. 30 percent of the rural women had low decision making pattern in household activities. High decision making process of rural women had only 10 percent places, respectively.

It can concluded that most of decisions in household activities were taken jointly by the family members except food and clothing for family.

### Conclusion

It can be concluded from the findings that rural women had less participation in decision making regarding purchasing of land, seeds, implements, installation of Tube well etc. whereas majority of rural women took decision in method of storage. Decision making regarding cropping pattern, plant protection measures, farm credit etc. were taken jointly with husband and other family members. Majority of rural women took decision independently regarding fodder, housing and milking method. Most of the decisions in household activities were taken jointly by the family members except food and clothing for family.

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