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Factors affecting contribution and decision- making power of farm women in agriculture, dairying and housing activities in Bikaner district of Rajasthan

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Abstract

Women in rural areas are involved in land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting etc. and included food storage after harvest, participate equally in pre harvest farming. 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. Women are an important part of human life. Women make up one third of the workforce needed to work in agriculture and share trade. It plays an important role in family activities. They often feel alike women's participation is blocked and they have very less power of decision making. In terms of family management, the country women is usually involved in preparing meals, caring for all people of the family, making drinks, bringing water, cleaning the hoe, cleaning after meals, washing clothes, taking care of children, bringing water, weeding, planting, weeding, harvesting, etc., such as food storage after harvest. Participate equally in preharvest farming. They are similar in preparing seeds, tillage, seeding, fertilizing, mowing, weeding, planting together, replanting, hulling, threshing, drying, storing grain and feed, marketing of harvested crops, fruits and vegetables.

Keywords: Affecting factors, contribution, decision making, farm women

Introduction

Female are equally important as male in the world's food production. Because in most of the rural areas, female as farmers; usually takes the responsibility and someone in charge of the crops. "Dr. MS Swaminathan, The famous agricultural Scientist, some historians believe that it was women who first domesticated crop plant and thereby initiated the art and science of farming." 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 a key role in home, agriculture and other activities. Women play a vital role in animal husbandry as leaders, decision makers and skilled workers. women help with farming, herding animal, supervising milking and doing housing management related work.

A farm woman faces different stages in her life. Women living in rural areas cannot work outside the home due to social and cultural barriers. It plays an important task in family exercise. It is often felt that their participation is reduced and their decision making power is severely limited. In terms of family management, the country women is usually involved in preparing meals, caring for all family members, preparing local drinks, cleaning the house, cleaning after meals, washing clothes, taking care of children, bringing water, preparing oil, sewing, etc.

The role of women has always been diverse and important, as women excel in agriculture, domestic activities and trade. It is estimated that women make up 70% of actual farmers and 60% of the agricultural population. (Chayal *et al.* 2013) [1]. But still majority of rural women have not given due importance in taking decisions regarding agriculture, dairy and household. Most of decisions are taken by head of the family and rural women are not involved in taking decisions or giving any suggestions. Sometimes they themselves are not much interested in taking various decisions regarding household aspects, farm and dairy but sometimes inspite of their interest in various aspects they are not felt important in decision making process. The decision making process is an important part of every family because the functioning of family management depends on the effectiveness of the decision making process. This is why involvement of women in decision-making is very important because women play an crucial role in all professions related to farm, dairy and household are all involved and often going

well. Therefore, timely decisions and the ability of farmers directly affect the development of agriculture. Empowering rural women in decision making is an urgent need in an agricultural country like India. Therefore this research was taken to imperative study of the pattern of rural women in decision making related to housing, agriculture and dairy farming and at the same time study was conducted to study the extent participation of rural women in farming, dairying and house related tasks. This research was conducted in Bikaner district.

Methodology

The research was carried out in Bikaner region of Rajasthan. There are seven panchayat associations where Bikaner and Lunkaransar panchayat units were chosen deliberately because no such research has been done in this area before and the area is well known to researcher. From 40 gram

panchayats in Bikaner panchayat samiti, 3 gram panchayat was selected such as Gussaisar, Gadhwala, Jalwali and from 30 gram panchayats in Lunkaransar panchayat samiti, 3 gram panchayat was selected such as Hansera, Dhierera, Bamanwali. One village was selected from each selected gram panchayat based on the random sampling technique. Therefore, 6 villages were selected for this evaluation. Using a simple random sampling technique, 20 rural women were selected from agricultural household from each village. Create interview schedule to gather information about contribution of farm women in agriculture, dairy and housing aspects and their decision making patterns.

Results and Discussion

Factors affecting contribution and decision making pattern of farm women in agriculture, dairy farming and household activities

Table 1: Factors affecting the contribution of farm women in agriculture, dairying and housing activities

n=120

S. No.	Variables	Agriculture	Dairy farming	Household
1.	Age	-.074 NS	.016 NS	-.181*
2.	Caste	-.064 NS	-.146 NS	-.055 NS
3.	Education	.231 NS	-.412 NS	.180*
4.	Land Holding	.544**	-.454**	-.069 NS
5.	Family Income	-.199*	-.465**	-.193*
6.	Social Participation	-.267 NS	.240**	-.465**
7.	Mass-media Exposure	.186*	.319*	.267**

- Significant at 5% level of probability
- ** Significant at 1% level of probability
- NS Non-Significant

The co-efficient of correlation values given in Table No. 1 revealed that age had negative correlation with participation of rural women in household activities at 5 percent level of probability while not have significant correlation with participation of respondents in cultivation and dairy farming activities. Education had positive and significant correlation with participation of rural women in household activities whereas with agriculture and dairy farming activities it had non significant correlation. The correlation of land holding with participation of respondents inn agriculture activities had positive and highly significant at 1 percent level of probability, with dairy farming practices it was negatively and highly correlated at 1 percent level of probability.

It is depicts in Table 1 that family income had negative and highly significantly correlated with involvement of farm women in agriculture and housing activities at 5 percent level of probability while with dairy farming activities it was negatively and highly significant correlated at 1 percent level of probability. Social participation had positively correlated with participation in dairy farming activities and negative

significant correlation with household activities at 1 percent level of probability. Whereas it had non significant correlation with participation of rural women in agriculture activities.

Mass media exposure had positive and highly significant correlation with contribution of farm women in agriculture and dairying activities at 5 percent level of probability and with household practices it also had positive significant correlation at 1 percent level of probability. Caste had non significant correlation with involvement of rural women in agriculture, dairying and housing activities.

So it was concluded that land holding, family income and mass-media exposure had significant correlation with participation of respondents in agriculture and dairy farming activities. Age, caste and education had non significant correlation with involvement of women in agriculture and dairy related activities. Social participation was significantly correlated with participation of respondents in dairy farming and household activities.

This data is evident by the findings obtained of Sharma *et al.* (2012) [3].

Table 2: Factors affecting the decision making power of farm women in agriculture, dairying and housing activities

n=120

S. No.	Variables	Agriculture	Dairy farming	Household
1.	Age	.202*	-.400**	-.318**
2.	Caste	-.225*	.252**	-.239**
3.	Education	-.059 NS	-.100 NS	-.197 NS
4.	Land Holding	.138 NS	-.106 NS	.160 NS
5.	Family Income	-.184*	.348*	.180*
6.	Social Participation	.245**	.205*	-.369
7.	Mass-media Exposure	-.184*	.266*	-.188*

- Significant at 5% level of probability
- ** Significant at 1% level of probability
- NS Non-Significant

It is shown from the Table No. 2 that age and caste was significantly correlated with decision making pattern of respondents in dairy farming and household activities at 1 percent level of probability and with agriculture activities 5 percent level of probability. The variables namely “education” and “land holding” had non significant relationship with decision making pattern of respondents in agriculture, dairy farming and household activities.

It is also clear from the table 2 that family income had significantly correlated with women living in rural areas have a 5% probability of making decisions about agriculture, dairy and household goods. Community involvement is a positive factor and not related to family business with respondents 1% likely to decide to farm and 5% to dairy farming.

So it was revealed that age, caste, family income, social participation and mass-media exposure had significant correlation with decision making pattern of rural women in agriculture, dairy and household activities. Education and land holding had non significant correlation with participation of rural women in agriculture, dairying and housing related goods. The result was supported by the findings of Naik *et al.* (2014) [2].

Conclusion

It was concluded that land holding, family income and media exposure had significant correlation with participation of respondents in agriculture and dairy farming activities at 5 percent and (1%) level of probability. Age, caste and education had non significant correlation with contribution of farm women in agriculture and dairying activities. Social contact was significantly correlated with participation of respondents in dairy farming and household activities.

It was revealed that age, caste, family income. Social participation and media exposure had significant correlation with interest of farm women in agriculture, dairying and house related activities at 5 percent and 1 percent level of probability. Education and land holding had non significant correlation with contribution of farm women in agriculture, dairying and house related activities.

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