

## EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN FARMING AND NON FARMING OPERATIONS

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Women as a nuclear force of family discharges many fold jobs including the family management relentlessly day and night. Besides that her equal or even more participation in farming and non-farming operations well established fact. Her role in any manner is not less important than at male members but so far as her remuneration and honour is concerned, she always experiences gender bias. They participate in decision making process, money management, farm and dairy management etc. and as also substantially contribute towards the labour force required in the farm. Women participate in agriculture, allied and house hold activities in varying degrees. However, their participation is maximum in household activities followed by allied and agriculture. Singli 1994. Similarly many studies have concluded that rate of wage, participation in, decision making standard of living, participation in socio-economic and political affairs are almost insignificant for women. Through a few of the operations related to horticulture specially vegetable cultivation and dairying etc. have relatively major role of women and their earning but still, they have limited role in decision making in economic matters.

The research pertaining to participation of rural women in agriculture farming and non-farming activities in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh was conducted in Morar block with the following objectives :

- (i) To know the extent of participation of women in agriculture-farming and non-farming activities.
- (ii) To workout the relationship between some selected socio-personal characteristics of women and extent of participation.

### METHODOLOGY :

The present study was carried out in Morar block of Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh. Five villages were selected randomly from rural block. From each village 16 rural women were selected by simple random sampling. Thus the total sample constituted 80 rural women, who were involved in agriculture, dairy management allied and household activities. The analysis of socio-personal characteristics was based on the total score observed by a respondent in terms of percentage and finally the extent of participation was classified as low (upto 20%) medium 21 to 50% and high (51 & above %). With a view to know the relationship between socio-personal characteristics and extent of participation, 10 characters viz., Age, Caste, Education status, Land holding, Annual income, Cattle head, Cosmopolitaness., Attitude toward self employment, social participation were selected and data were subjected to correlation analysis.

**Findings :** The success of the various agricultural development activities and their relatively allied activities largely depends on the participation of rural women and decision made by farm families. The extent of participation of rural women in different activities are presented in table-1.

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Table 1. Extent of participation in agriculture and Non-agriculture farming

Extent of Participation	Number of respondents (N = 80)			
	Agril.	Dairy	Allied activities	Household activities
Low (upto 20%)	18 (22.5)*	35 (43.75)	9 (11.25)	Nil
Medium (21 to 50%)	40 (50.0)	30 (37.5)	36 (45.0)	25 (31.25)
Large (51 & above %)	22 (27.5)	15 (18.75)	35 (43.75)	55 (68.75)
Total	80 (100)	80 (100)	80 (100)	80 (100)

\* Figures in brackets represent percentages.

**1. Extent of participation in Agriculture :** It is clear from the table 1., that a maximum of 50 percent of the farm respondents had medium category followed by 22.5 percent and 27.5 percent in low and high-level participation categories respectively. On the other hand, Maximum participation in agriculture was by medium category followed by low and high group categories.

It is further observed that the majority of the medium category farm respondents of rural women only participate in agricultural activities while high category farm women participate less in agriculture activities due to some male dominated operations.

**2. Extent of participation in Dairy management :** Dairying as non-land augmenting enterprise requires limited labour force and can be managed with the help of family labour including women. Table-2 revealed that the maximum women participation was found under low and medium farm women participation i.e. 43.5 percent and 37.50 percent accordingly. Whereas, high category domestic women contribution only 18.75 in their dairying operation. Thus, data analysis confirm that the low and medium level categories. rural women continue to have their major share in daily management and decision making regarding this enterprise.

**3. Extent of participation in Allied activities :** It could be inferred from table that 89 percent of rural women participate in allied activities from medium to high level category i.e. 45 percent medium level and near about 44 percent high level category respectively. While only 11 percent women participation had been found under low level category. It is further reveals that the women participation under medium and high category level have to their major contribution in domestic activities and family affairs.

**4. Extent of participation in house hold activities :** Majority of women (69 percent) participation was found under large category level and 31 percent had medium level of participation in household activities whereas under low level category of extent of participation, a null score was obtained. This analysis expressed that rural women still have to bear major responsibility towards home management, irrespective of their participation in agricultural activities and dairying management. this is due to minimum role of male in house hold activities and rural women dominate their house activities throughout the year.

**Correlation of Analysis :** The correlation coefficients indicating the relationships between extent of participation and selected socio-personal characteristics have been furnished in table 2.

It is observed from the table 2. that nine characteristics of the respondents viz. age, caste, educational status, land holding, annual income, cattle head, cosmopolitaness, attitude towards self employment and social participation had shown a varying correlation with extent of participation in different farming activities.

Table 2. Relationship between socio-personal characteristics and extent of participation.

Characteristics	'r' value			
	Agril.	Dairy	Allied activities	Household activities
Age	0.089	0.167 *	0.192 *	0.186 *
Caste	-0.349 **	-0.267 **	0.820 *	0.723 **
Education status	-0.319 **	-0.564 **	-0.642 **	-0.775 **
Land holding	-0.068 **	-0.219 **	-0.498 **	0.581 **
Cosmopolitaness	-0.266	-0.752 **	-0.594 **	-0.670 **
Attitude towards	-0.068	0.203 *	-0.352 *	0.206 *
Annual income	-0.401 **	-0.683 **	-0.568 **	-0.636 **
Cattle head	-0.195 **	-0.234 **	-0.290 **	-0.681 **

\* & \*\* Significantly at 5 and 1 percent probability level respectively.

It is observed from the table that the relationship between age and extent of participation in agricultural and dairy farming was not significant whereas all other variables were shown negatively and highly correlated.

Similarly correlation between socio-personal characteristics and extent of participation in allied and household activities are concerned with age and caste were significantly and positively correlated while rest of the variables were negatively and highly significant correlated.

It may be concluded that except age and caste all the other variables are highly correlated but negative direction under all the agricultural and non-agricultural activities.

### CONCLUSION :

The extent of participation is affected by the majority of the characteristics viz; age, caste, land holding cosmopolitaness and cattle head. However their participation is maximum in allied and household activities. It is also found that the rural women participate in agriculture, dairying, allied and household activities in varying extent.

### REFERENCES :

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