

Research Note :

CONSTRAINTS IN PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN WATERSHED PROGRAMME

Seema Yerpude¹ & N.K. Khare²

Community wise, women's participation in agriculture is highest among the tribals followed by scheduled castes. But surprisingly, the have not received due attention on the part of researcher. There are ten major scheduled tribes in our country. About half of their population is in the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgrah and Orissa.

Tribal women actively participate in watershed practices like soil water conservation, improved crop production practices, practices for fodder, fuel and vegetable production and other allied activities like poultry, goat rearing, small scale industries etc., but at the same time, their participation is affected by some constraints i.e. education, economic and practical constraints etc.

To enhance the extent of participation of tribal women in watershed programme, it is necessary to solve these constraints. In view of this, the study was undertaken with the following objectives :

1. To know the constraints in extent of participation of tribal women in watershed programme.
2. To suggest measures to improve participation of tribal women in watershed programme.

METHODOLOGY :

Kundam block in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh was purposely selected for the study because it is only block having tribal population and the watershed programme

under operation by non-governmental organization i.e. "Tarun-Sanskar". Out of 19 adopted villages, 7 villages were randomly selected. From each selected village, 10 per cent beneficiaries i.e. 120 were selected randomly. The beneficiaries were personally interviewed with the help of pre-tested interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

The main constraints faced by the tribal women in watershed programme were categorized into three groups of constraints viz. Educational, Economical and Practical.

1. Educational constraints—These included constraints about improved techniques, lack of training institute, lack of guidance by female extension worker.

2. Economical constraints—These included constraints like lack of finance facilities, high input cost like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

3. Practical constraints—These included constraints like lack of irrigation facilities, fragmentation of land holding.

The above table depicts the rank order of constraints in participation of watershed programme as perceived by beneficiaries. It is evident from the data that majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 24.16 per cent thought that the main constraints in participation is lack of guidance by female extension workers was ranked 1st, 16.67 per cent beneficiaries had the problem lack of irrigation facilities it was

1. Student (M.Sc. Ag.), 2. Associate Professor, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur.

Table-Constraints in participation of tribal women in watershed programme.

S. No.	Constraints	Frequency	(%)	Rank
1.	lack of knowledge about improved techniques	15	12.50	V
2.	Lack of guidance by female extension worker	29	24.16	I
3.	Lack of irrigation facilities	20	16.67	II
4.	Lack of finance facilities	16	13.33	IV
5.	Lack of training institute	12	10.00	VI
6.	Fragmentation of land holding	10	8.33	VII
7.	High input cost like seeds, fertilizer and pesticides	18	15.55	III

ranked II and, 15 per cent beneficiaries had the problem of high input cost, 13.33 per cent and 12.50 per cent beneficiaries told that main problem is lack of finance facilities and lack of knowledge and improved techniques respectively was ranked IV and V. Remaining had the problem that lack of training institute

and fragmentation of land holding respectively. Similar findings were reported in the studies of Singh et al (1998) and Tailor et al (1998).

SUGGESTIONS :

1. Project must be based on local needs of farm women and conditions of the particular area i.e. land topography, budding and soil conditions on the basis of participatory approach.
2. Female extension workers should contact to farm women regularly as to provide technical guidance timely to them.
3. Early maturing high yielding varieties and fertilizers should be made available to the beneficiaries timely in sufficient quantity and on subsidized rate.
4. Training programs should be conducted on the basis of the requirements of the beneficiaries and also have practicability.

CONCLUSION :

Lack of guidance of female extension worker, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of education were the important constraints felt by the tribal farm women in participation of watershed practices. Therefore it is suggested that the concerning organization and department should timely give these facilities.

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