

TOPIC-INVOLVEMENT OF GENDER IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Women constitute at least one third of the country's economically active population, particularly in the unorganized sector and specifically in the agrarian sector. Genders are being played a significant role in agriculture & rural development. In order to provide maximum employment to the 'Genders', create golden opportunity.

Women in agriculture make up a substantial portion of the Indian rural population. Like men, they are engaged in farm operations like seed treatment, sowing, manuring, intercultivation, harvest & post harvest technology. Apart from these, women participate in various forms of processing and marketing of agricultural product. Mainly they are engaged in agricultural operations in three ways depending on the socio-economic status of their family and regional factors. They work as a- Paid labour, b- cultivators doing labour in their own land and c- managers of certain aspect of agricultural production by way of labour supervision, participatory in post harvest processing etc.

This is especially of large parts of our country, which are still rural. As India is primarily an agricultural country and large sections of the rural population are denied basic education due to lack of resources infrastructure and sometimes even basic vision of the local communities, our society has remained underdeveloped. (Acc. to the world Development Report-2000-2001) The caste system in India separated people into economic

and social strata by birth. This rigid hierarchy remained largely in place for many countries, despite periodic challenges from social and religious reform movements.

In this context, a study were taken with the following objectives :

1. To study the genders based on caste category in agriculture.
2. To study the comparative activities related to agriculture and rural development.
3. To study the constraints of gender participation in agriculture and rural development.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in purposively selected block Ranipur of Mau district (U.P.) four villages were randomly selected from the village list of the block for the study. Thus, there were 100 respondents in total for the study undertaken. The structured pre-tested interview schedule was used for collecting the needful information and for analyzing and interpretation of data, the appropriate statistical measurements were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table-1 indicate that a majority of the respondents (40.50%) belonged to scheduled caste category while the backward caste, forward caste, other and scheduled tribe were 39.21%, 11.29%, 5.60% and 3.40% respectively.

Similar finding have been reported by Bose and Santipriya (1961)

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Table 1. Distribution of respondents (Gender) based on caste category in agriculture

No. of respondents	Gender caste Category				Others
	Forward caste	Backward caste	Scheduled caste	Scheduled tribe	
Total N(100).	11.29 (25)	39.21 (30)	40.50 (30)	3.40 (7)	5.60 (8)

Table 2. Comparative activities related to agriculture & rural development

S. No.	Activities related to agriculture and rural development	Man (percentage)	Women (percentage)
A.	AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES		
1.	Preparation of fields	93	07
2.	Ploughing fields	99	01
3.	Fuel, fodder & water	08	92
4.	Weeding	20	80
5.	Sowing /Transplanting	25	75
6.	Threshing	88	12
7.	Winnowing	20	80
8.	Harvesting	50	50
9.	Storage	15	85
10.	Transporting	55	45
11.	Marketing	80	20
12.	Agro-processing	05	95
13.	Animal husbandry	20	80
14.	Agricultural labour	50	50
15.	Preparing food for labours	35	65
16.	Feeding the family	02	98
17.	Making of garland	10	90
	AVERAGE	39.70	60.29
B.	RURAL ACTIVITIES		
1.	Head of family (instructor, decision maker & guide)	90	10
2.	Social worker	86	14
3.	Extension agent (communicator, problem identifier & solution & motivator)	85	15
4.	Rural leader (Advisor, planner, organizer & supervisor)	70	30
5.	Social participation (Gram Panchayat, chhetra samiti, Jeela Parisad, Co-operative society, Rural radio forum & Youth Club)	65	35
	AVERAGE	80	20

Table-2 indicates that as compare to man, women contribution is more (60.29%) out of 17 activities and man contributes (39.70%) in agricultural but vice-versa man contribution is more (79%) out of 5 activities and women contributes (21%) in rural activities. Out of 10 activities, three major women activities found with agriculture were (1) Feeding the family (98%) (2) Agro-processing (95%) & (3) Fuel, fodder & water (92%). Similarly but vice-versa, out of 5 activities, man contribution more as compare to women, three major man activities

were (1) Head of family (90%) (2) Social worker (86%) & (3) Extension agent (85%) respectively.

Table 3. indicates that out of 14 constraints, 9 constraints were observed major by the gender majority in agriculture and rural development. Out of which main three constraints Viz. (1) Lack of education in rural (92.75%), (2) Castism (87.50) and (3) Low wages (85.25%) respectively, felt by almost all the members of the genders communities.

Table 3. Constraints of Gender participation in Agriculture and rural activities

S.No.	Constraints	Percentage	Rank
1.	Social barrier	80.50	IV
2.	Castism	87.50	II
3.	Low wages	85.25	III
4.	Lack of education in rural	92.75	I
5.	Lack of women education institution	75.00	VII
6.	Lack of women health centre	69.25	VIII
7.	Self cultural view	65.75	XI
8.	Lack of adequate training	68.50	IX
9.	Fields away from village	57.25	XIII
10.	Lack of finance institution	59.75	XII
11.	Mentally torcher	66.25	X
12.	Fragmentation of land	50.25	XIV
13.	Lack of advice and guide from change agent.	75.50	VI
14.	Burden of home work	77.75	V

CONCLUSION

There is more doubt that the Indian women has traveled a long away on the route to

equality and liberty. The journey has been facilitated by constitutional guaranties and administrative safeguards. However, the speed has been a little too slow and there is still a long distance to travel. The different caste class, education, social, political barrier have broken down.

Suggestion :

1. I Wish women participation should be as often an men.
2. Wages should be equalized as men.
3. Work should be recording to their choice
4. The barrier of caste, education, social superstitions, as well as political should be broken down.
5. Provides training opportunity for learning & changing their psychology, therefore it is essential that establishment of educational institutions as well as health centers in rural areas.

In order to follow above suggestions required well extension workers.

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