

DRUDGERY OF FARMWOMEN IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OPERATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Drudgery is physical strains and hardship experienced by human beings. This is only a psychological phenomenon and there may be some difference in drudgery assignment and actual drudgery involved in performing any activity. To ascertain whether there is any difference in both, this study had been undertaken. The results of the study confirm that there is difference in assigning of drudgery and actual drudgery involved in activity.

Key words : Drudgery, Index, Assignment and Performance.

INTRODUCTION :

In India, about 86 per cent of rural women work in agriculture and allied activities (Borah, 1998). They provide much of the family labour to agricultural activities including animal husbandry. They spent about 294.34 and 87.17 minutes daily for large and small ruminants keeping, respectively. As most of the agricultural and animal husbandry activities are performed by farm-women through traditional technologies, their work efficiency is reduced and they face much drudgery. Although modern technologies have been introduced but they are monopolized by men and women have not been encouraged to take these technologies and hence they are still using traditional technologies. Begum (1991) have opined that drudgery ridden agricultural tasks are being taken by rural women so that they may supplement family income. As drudgery is physical strains and hardship experienced by human beings, this is only a psychological phenomenon. Thus, to assess whether there is any difference between drudgery assigned by rural women and actual drudgery involved in animal husbandry operation, this study was under taken.

METHODOLOGY :

For selection of sample representatives, multistage stratified random sampling was adopted. Kalyanpur and Sarsaul blocks of Kanpur were selected randomly at first stage and then from each block five villages were selected randomly. For selection of farm-women, only those households of selected villages having cattle, were identified first and then list of these households were prepared. From this list, 100 farm-women were selected randomly for study purpose. Structured schedule was prepared for collection of information from selected farm-women. Through personal interview, information was collected for assessment of actual drudgery involved

in animal husbandry operation, time spent, performance of activities and difficulty faced in performing activities were quantified by assigning scores. Drudgery assigned by rural women for different animal husbandry tasks in which their involvement was more than 60 per cent was also recorded. In order to calculate drudgery indices, seven animal husbandry operations depicted by pictures were shown to farm-women in pairs and through method of paired comparison given by Edward (1969) drudgery indices were calculated. Actual and assigned drudgery was compared and results were interpreted accordingly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The socio-economic profile of the respondents shows that 54.0 per cent respondents belonged to age group 40 years and above and 16.0 per cent between 20-30 years. About 67.0 per cent respondents were uneducated and 11.0 per cent were having education up to primary level. Regarding family income, 31.0 per cent families were earning Rs. 40,000-60,000 annually and 12.0 per cent between Rs. 20,000-40,000. About 44.0 per cent families were having up to 3 milch animals and 31.0 per cent were having 3 to 5 milch animals.

Table 1. Time spent and difficulty faced in predominance of animal husbandry activities

Activity	Average time spent in a year (hr)	Average performance score	Average difficult score
Fodder carrying	75.50	4.85	0.17
Chaffing fodder	75.50	4.65	0.15
Feed preparation	121.45	4.78	0.19
Milching	131.40	2.79	0.10
Cleaning animal shade	51.48	3.16	0.12
Dungs making	61.50	4.13	0.11
Milk products preparation	135.36	2.35	0.08

Per day participation of respondents in various animal husbandry activities was observed and it was found that respondents of landless families have participated more in numbers than respondents of other

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categories of land holding in animal husbandry operations like fodder carrying, feed preparation, chaffing and cleaning animal shades. It was also observed that respondents of landless families on an average spent 3 hours 30 minutes per day. 'Total time taken in fodder carrying, feed preparation and milk products preparation were 75.50, 121.454 and 135.36 hours annually. Jain (1991), Varma (1989) and Singh *et al.* (1986) have also observed similar findings. The average performance and difficulty scores were the highest for fodder carrying of activities (Table 1).

Table 2. Drudgery assigned and actual drudgery involved in animal husbandry activities

Activity	Drudgery assigned		Actual drudgery	
	Scale value	Rank	Per cent	Rank
Fodder carrying	1.21	I	56.67	II
Chaffing fodder	0.978	II	54.67	III
Feed preparation	0.507	III	65.67	I
Milching	0.109	VI	54.33	IV
Cleaning animal shade	0.464	IV	37.67	VII
Dung's making	0.184	V	46.33	VI
Milk products preparation	0.00	VII	57.67	V

Women respondents have assigned the highest drudgery to fodder carrying activities and the lowest to milk products preparation. The reason of assigning highest drudgery to fodder carrying was that carrying load on their heads creates strained movements of eyes and neck, as they feels (Table 2). It was observed that there is difference in assignment of drudgery and actual drudgery involved in the activities. Those activities which have involved more actual drudgery have been assigned

more favourable by the respondents. The reason is assignment of drudgery is psychological whereas 'actual drudgery' involved is physical phenomenon. Hence, difference may exist between 'assignment' and actual drudgery involved.

Table 3. Percentage distribution of elderly according to economic independence

Afflicted with	Per cent distribution	
	Male	Female
Fully independent	61.43	12.86
Partially dependent on others	22.86	50.00
Fully dependent on others	15.71	37.14

Physiological problems—Elders, generally, have more psychological problems than youngsters. Their worries, tensions and anxieties enhance when their children got married and leave them to live alone. In this study about 63.71 per cent male elders were worried about old age security, 38.57 per cent worried about children's adjustment in jobs and 47.14 per cent worried about their own and of spouse health. The male elders have more worries and tensions and this is the reason why female elders have better mental health. Dwivedi (1998) has also found that irrespective of age, women have better mental health.

CONCLUSION :

On the basis of findings of the study, it may be concluded that male members were more submissive than female members because they do not give much attention to trivialities. It was also observed that male elders have more worries and tension on account of which they have no sound mental health.

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