TRIBAL WOMEN'S WORK STRUCTURE AND TIME EXPENDITURE PATTERN IN HOUSEHOLD CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Neeta Lodha[1] & Dhriti Solanki[2]

ABSTRACT

In all the societies around the world it is the women who manage and perform household production. Researchers have pointed out that women devote 6-8 hours daily in household chores yet they remain unpaid. The paper aims to explore tribal women's time expenditure pattern in household care and maintenance in terms of work structure. Tribal women spent 534 minutes daily in household care and maintenance. Women in advanced region spent relatively more time in household care and maintenance as compared to backward region. Non-market respondents had more time to devote on household care and maintenance. Hence in place of cumbersome equipment simple, low cost, user friendly, subsidized technical equipment should be introduced for tribal women. Adequate effort should be made to impart necessary training and skill to women folk.

Key Words : Work Structure, HM, SP, VMP, OVMP.

INTRODUCTION :

The world around it is primarily women who manage and perform household production (Kaur, 1986). However, women's contribution here is regarded as supplementary, casual, optional and supporting . Policy makers and development functionaries who view the household as a consumption unit usually overlook it. However, the innumerable productive activities carried out mainly by women within the household sector are of critical importance for the survival, growth and development of the society. A number of studies have pointed out the time use pattern of rural women in household activities (Sharma, 1993). Most of these researches found women to be devoting 6-8 hours daily in household chores for which they remain unpaid. Women were found most active in domestic chores like cooking, washing, child care, house keeping and in economically extended activities like fetching water, fuel collection etc. while activities like shopping, budget making, investments were done by male members. Not much variation was found between tribal and non-tribal women regarding time devoted in household duties (Kaur, 1986).The household chores performed by women especially in developing countries have remained largely untouched by technological innovation and modernization particularly so in rural areas. Moreover, invariably the economic contribution of their labour in home escapes governmental statistics. This invisibility of women's household contribution is part of a cultural ideological system which views man as the primary breadwinner. It may also be a hangover of earlier social organization in which women were primarily responsible for subsistence so that women's contribution to the material reproduction of the family is not seen as economically meaningful .The present study aims to explore tribal women's time expenditure pattern in household care and maintenance in terms of work structure.

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1&2. Asstt. Prof., COHSc.,MPUA&T, Udaipur.

METHODOLOGY :

The study was based on descriptive design along with casual comparative component to determine the status of women in terms of time use pattern in household care and maintenance and women's work structure (HM, SP, VMP, OVMP). Multi-stage sampling design was adopted treating purposive random selection of blocks as the first stage, purposive selection of the villages on the basis of developmental programmes and infrastructure facilities as the second stage and random selection of tribal households as the third and final stage of sampling. A total sample of 300 household i.e. 150 from advanced and 150 from backward region were selected. Structured interview schedule was constructed to collect information related to tribal women's time devoted in four distinct spheres of work structure i.e. Household Care and Maintenance (HM), Subsistence Production (SP), Village Market Production (VMP) and Out of Village Market Production (OVMP). The unit of inquiry was tribal household and tribal women were key informants. Data were collected personally. Student 't'test was used to analyses the significant difference between time expenditure pattern of tribal women in household care and maintenance and their work participation in non market and market activities in terms of intra and inter regional basis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

Household work comprises of a multiplicity of activities resulting in production of goods and services, which enable the family to function as a unit. Several empirical research studies documented that women are responsible for a majority of the household work which is economically termed as unproductive since it is invisible / non-market oriented and unpaid (Sharma, 1993).

The time expenditure pattern of respondents categorized in relevant household work categories according to

work structure and region. Data on activities done by tribal women in a normal day was computed on the basis of frequency of activity performed (daily/weekly/monthly/ occasionally) and number of times it was performed (once, twice, thrice, four times or more).

Several empirical researches have stated that womenspent a substantial portion of their time in doing household work (Sharma, 1993). Household work comprises of multiplicity of activities like food preparation and allied tasks, cleaning utensils, care of house, clothes and family members, marketing, budgeting, account-keeping etc. The average time spent for household work by respondents was 236 minutes in a normal day. Moreover, it was striking to note that it was more in advanced region as compared to backward region (region A=240 minutes, region B=232 minutes). Significantinter regional variation was revealed between women's non-market (t=5.75, sig. level 0.01) as well as market (t=2.85, sig. level 0.01) participation and time spent on household work both being relatively higher inadvanced region.

Table 1. Average Time Spent by respondents in household care and maintenance according to the work structure (minutes/normal day)

Time spent in household work	Advanced Region N=150					Backward Region N=150					Grand Total N=300
	HM n=20	SP n=45	VMP n=20	OVMP n=65	TOTAL N=150	HM n=2	SP n=106	VMP n=21	OVMP	TOTAL N=15	
Household Work	298.00	274.00	228.00	203.00	240.00	285.00	248.00	189.00	189.00	232.00	236.00
Sd	33.50	37.21	38.60	33.90	51.50	21.20	35.10	33.00	34.40	43.70	47.90
	t=11.85**					t=9.24**					t=13.09**
Care of Children	292.00	148.00	72.00	103.00	137.00	345.00	155.00	101.00	79.00	140.00	139.00
Sd	94.70	112.60	75.60	81.20	13.10	63.60	113.70	61.30	73.10	108.90	110.80
	t=5.69**					t=3.59**					t=6.39**
Social and Religious	54.00	63.00	21.00	14.00	35.00	23.00	26.00	10.00	11.00	22.00	28.00
Sd	57.00	46.20	13.20	7.10	39.90	10.60	18.10	1.10	3.00	16.80	31.30
	t=8.05**					t=5.35**					t=7.41**
Personal Care & Grooming Sd	44.00	39.00	33.00	34.00	36.00	38.00	37.00	30.00	31.00	35.00	36.00
	6.70	7.50	6.20	6.80	7.80	10.60	7.90	0.00	3.30	7.30	7.60
	t=5.79**					t=5.21**					t=6.51**
Economically Extended Act. Sd	129.00	92.00	99.00	89.00	96.00	135.00	96.00	74.00	93.00	93.00	95.00
	16.40	25.90	21.20	24.20	26.80	21.20	20.80	9.60	23.20	21.80	24.20
	t=2.79**					t=3.45**					t=3.84**
Total H M Time	817.00	616.00	453.00	443.00	544.00	826.00	562.00	404.00	403.00	522.00	534.00
Sd	323.25	205.35	302.55	256.60	247.90	388.40	329.90	218.15	257.50	319.30	328.85
	t=5.28**					t=2.92**					t=4.68**
Rest/Sleep	485.00	481.00	483.00	468.00	476.00	480.00	470.00	471.00	476.00	471.00	474.00
Sd	20.10	22.20	24.80	25.40	24.60	0.00	20.80	18.40	14.30	19.50	22.30
	t=2.68**					NS					NS
Leisure	138.00	97.00	126.00	78.00	98.00	135.00	73.00	82.00	61.00	73.00	86.00
Sd	47.20	50.40	73.60	59.50	61.40	21.20	59.60	27.10	44.60	57.40	60.60
	t=2.08*					NS					NS
Total Time	1440.00	1194.00	1061.00	989.00	1120.00	1440.00	1105.00	956.00	939.00	1065.00	1093.00

*Significant at 0.05 level probability.   ** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.   NS-Non significant

Advancement of region and exposure of tribal women among other castes had influence on their dietary pattern hence, time consumption on household work was more as compared to their counterpart. There is adequate research support to substantiate the hypothesis that as the participation of women increased in farm and other paid activities the time spent by them on household activities decreased or vice versa (Sharma, 1993). Lack of infra-structural facilities in backward region compels the respondents involved in productive activities to walk upto workplace which still limit the time spent for household work. Test results substantiated significant difference between respondents non-market and market participation and time spent on household work for the overall sample respondents (t=13.09, sig. level 0.01), advanced region (t=11.85 sig. level 0.01) and backward region (t=9.24, sig. level 0.01).

Analysis of time devoted to child care activities such as bathing, dressing, feeding, playing etc. which is a qualitative indicator of human resource development showed that overall an average of 139 minutes were spent on a normal day. Inter regional variation showed that slightly higher time was devoted to child care activities in backward region as compared to its counterpart (regionA=137 minutes, region B=140 minutes). Respondents involved in non-market activities were able to devote more timeon childcare activities in both the regions (region A=192.31 min., region B=158.52 min.) than those involved in market activities (region A=95.71 min., region B=90 min.). Test result showed significant difference between non-market and market participants and

time spent for

Table : 2 Student 't' test showing inter regional variation in respondents time spent on Household Care and Maintenance in minutes / normal day.

Area of Household Maintenance	W.S.	Region A		Region B		't' df Value	
		Mean	Sd	Mean	Sd		
Household Work	N M	281.38	37.76	248.69	35.25	5.75**	171
	M	208.88	36.63	189.00	2.89	2.89**	125
	Total	240.00	51.50	232.00	43.70	1.45NS	298
Care of Children	N M	192.31	126.31	158.52	115.84	1.80NS	171
	M	95.71	80.99	90.00	68.35	0.39NS	125
	Total	137.00	13.10	140.00	108.90	0.23NS	298
Social & Religious Activities	N M	60.23	49.95	25.94	17.99	6.48**	171
	M	15.65	9.40	10.50	8.15	3.77**	125
	Total	35.00	39.90	22.00	16.80	3.68**	298
Personal Care and Grooming	N M	40.54	7.62	37.02	7.96	2.86*	171
	M	33.76	6.68	30.50	2.39	2.88**	125
	Total	36.00	7.80	35.00	7.30	1.15NS	298
Economically Extended Act.	N M	103.38	28.96	96.72	21.46	1.73NS	171
	M	91.35	23.91	83.50	20.14	1.83NS	125
	Total	96.00	26.80	93.00	21.80	1.06	298
Total HM Time	N M	677.85	264.48	566.87	332.97	2.29*	171
	M	445.35	268.15	402.50	238.64	0.80NS	125
	Total	544.00	247.90	522.00	319.30	0.67NS	298
Rest	NM	482.23	21.65	470.19	20.65	3.65**	171
	M	471.53	20.05	473.50	16.67	0.45NS	125
	Total	476.00	24.60	471.00	19.50	1.95NS	298
Leisure	NM	110.23	53.27	74.15	59.70	4.01**	171
	M	89.29	66.31	71.50	52.30	1.52NS	125
	Total	98.00	61.40	73.00	57.40	3.64**	298

NS=Non Significant
Significant at 0.05 level of probability
** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

child care activities of overall (t = 6.39, sig. level 0.01), advanced (t = 5.69, sig. level 0.01) and backward region respondents (t =3.59, sig. level 0.01). The differentials between regions as well as for the overall sample were however non-significant.

Time expenditure on social and religious activities was 28.00 minutes in a normal day. More time was spent on social and religious activities in advanced region as compared to backward region (region A=35 minutes, region B=22 minutes) which can be due to better facilities and opportunities. Students 't' test indicated significant regional variation in time spent on social and religious activities (t = 3.68, sig. level 0.01) both with respect to market (t=3.77, sig. level 0.01) and non-market respondents (t=6.48, sig. level 0.01). Advancement of the region and imitation of upper castes enticed respondents to devote more time on social and religious activities. Time expenditure on social and religious activities was highest among SPs (sphere II) of both the regions as compared to other categories. Intra work structure analysis revealed significant difference between non-market and market participants and their time spent on social and religious activities among overall sample respondents (t=7.41, sig. level 0.01) as well as within the advanced (t=8.05, sig. level 0.01) and backward

regions (t=5.35, sig. level 0.01).

Tribal women spent on an average 36.00 minutes on personal care and groomin grooming (t=2.88, sig. level 0.01). Advancement of the region and urbanization made respondents to be more conscious of personal upkeep hence they spent more time in it. Intra work structure analysis revealed that respondent's non involvement in market activities gave her greater time for personal care and grooming as compared to those involved in market participation. Student 't' test revealed significant difference between non-market and market participants and time expenditure on personal care and grooming for overall (t=6.51, sig. level 0.01), advanced (t=5.79, sig. level 0.01) and backward region respondents (t=5.21, sig. level 0.01). This time spent on personal care and grooming by non-market respondents was significantly higher than their counterpart.

Economically extended activities like fetching of water, collection of fuel, cow-dung and twigs, making cow-dung cakes, repairing of house and reutilization of worn out clothes consumed 95 minutes in a normal day. Inter-regional variation showed slight difference in time spent by respondents on economically extended activities in both the regions (region A=96 minutes, region B=93 minutes). In backward region more time was spent on fetching water from well and hand pump, repairing of house etc. whereas in advanced region due to deforestation and lower number of livestock possession respondents spent more time in collection of fuel and cow dung. Further, it was found that in the advanced region numbers of handpumps were more and were situated near their habitats which accounted for less time consumption. On the contrary in backward region the number of hand pumps were less, and many of them were not in working condition and were situated far off which necessitated respondents to travel about 2-3 kilometers. As a result, a lot of time was spent in fetching water. Less time was devoted to economically extended activities by respondents involved in market production in backward region (region A=91.35 min., region B=83.50 min.). In advanced region less time was devoted to economically extended activities by respondents involved in OVMP and SP. Hence it can be said that least time was spent by respondents involved in paid activities on economically extended activities in both the regions. Test results also indicated significant difference between non-market and market participation of women and time spent on economically extended activities among overall sample (t=3.84, sig. level 0.01), in advanced (t=2.79, sig. level 0.01) and in backward region (t=3.45, sig. level 0.01) respondents.

An analysis of the overall household workload of the respondents relating to household care and maintenance like food preparation, cleaning utensils, care of house and clothes, collecting fuel and fetching water indicated that

tribal women were usually overburdened with monotonous household chores and they performed all the tedious and endless work without grumbling as they considered it as their normal duty. On an average women spent 534 minutes daily on HM (sphere I). Similar findings were reported by Devdas et.al. (1988) that the burden of household works on the home maker is 7.30 hours to 10 hours. Women in advanced region spent relatively more time on household care as compared to backward region (region A=544 minutes, region B=522 minutes). Significant regional variation was revealed regarding time spent on household care and maintenance by non-market respondents (t=2.29,sig. level 0.05). This can be attributed to landlessness of the respondents in advanced region hence they have more time for household care and maintenance. Thus it can be said that women involved in productive activities spent less time on household chores as compared to non-working women. Significant variation was revealed between non-market and market participating respondents and time spent on household work for the overall sample (t=4.68, sig. level 0.01), advanced (t=5.28, sig.level 0.01) and backward region respondents (t=2.92, sig. Level 0.01). It can be concluded that non-market respondents had more time to devote on household care and maintenance.

On leisure activities an average of 86.00 minutes was devoted on a normal day. Availability of leisure time for respondents was more in advanced region as compared to backward region (region A=98 minutes, region B=73 minutes). Inter regional difference was found to be significant in time expenditure for leisure activities (t=3.64,sig. level 0.01). This can be attributed to availability of more time among respondents in advanced region due to landlessness as well as better infra-structural facilities. Moreover, significant regional variation was also found between non-market respondents and time expenditure on leisure activities (t=4.01,sig. level 0.01). This was due to more time available to respondents of HM category in advanced region. In advanced region chatting with family members, relatives, friends, television watching within house and neighbourhood was a common practice whereas in backward region apart from chatting, going

to 'mela', watching 'gavri' (tribal dance) were prevalent. Leisure time was least among respondents involved in productive activities in both the regions especially among OVMPs and was highest among HM category of both the regions. Intra work structure analysis showed significant difference between non-market and market activities regarding time spent on leisure activities in advanced region (t=2.08, sig. level 0.05). Respondents involved in non-market activities had more leisure time in advanced region.

In rest/sleep tribal women spent on an average 474 minutes daily. Slightly higher time was spent on rest/sleep in advanced region as compared to backward (region A=476 min. region B=471 min). Inter regional variation was showed significant between non-market participants regarding time spent on rest/sleep (t=3.65, sig. level 0.01). Non-market respondents spent more time on rest/sleep in advanced region whereas in backward region higher time was spent on SP hence, time from rest and sleep was curtailed. Intra work structure analysis showed that in advanced region HM category respondents devoted more time on rest/sleep whereas in backward region not much variation was found in time devoted by respondents on rest/sleep. Intra work structure analysis showed significant difference between non-market and market participants only regarding time spent on rest /sleep in advanced region (t=2.68, sig. level 0.01).

CONCLUSION :

Thus it can be concluded that no less important is the factor of operation and application of material contraptions. Although the tribal woman performs a multiplicity of tasks pertaining to household and subsistence production she tends to dissociate herself from these jobs as the use of technical equipment increases because of the lack of resources and knowledge. This inability often creates a sense of inferiority among them. Adequate efforts should be made to impart necessary training and skill to the women folk through demonstrations, exhibitions, fairs, plays etc. about the use and handling of the equipment efficiently. All this needs to be done in a non-bureaucratic and interesting manner so that the target group feels attracted towards it.

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