

GENDER SENSITIVENESS IN ANIMAL REARING PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

Animal rearing is the second main occupation of Indian farm families and makes a big contribution by providing regular income for their livelihood. Therefore, the present study has been conducted to find out the gender involvement in planning and performing the various activities of animal rearing in Jhansi district of U.P. For that purpose 200 farm families were interviewed and found that most of the decisions were taken by both male and female farmers by consulting each other (48.50%) whereas only 18.30 per cent female farmers took decisions. The overall contribution of female farmers in performing heavy activities was higher (36.14%) followed by both male and female farmers. Same trend was also observed in case of moderate activities. In light type of activities, the overall contribution of male farmers was found higher (38.50%) than the contribution of female farmers (27.50%) and both male and female farmers (34.00%). Therefore, it is recommended here to explore the causal factors for the low participation of female farmers in the decision-making and take immediate steps for empowering them by providing latest scientific knowledge and skill through effective and appropriate channel so that they can help, motivate and influence the male farmers in taking accurate decisions for making the business more profitable.

Key words: Gender; Workload; Decision making; Animal rearing

INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including crop production, livestock rearing, horticulture, post harvest operations, agro-social forestry, fishery, etc. (Ghosh *et.al*, 2000). It has been found that whether it is shifting cultivation, subsistence and low output agriculture, women work harder than men though they are paid less (Bhatti and Singh 1987). With so much of contribution by women in agriculture, it is unfortunate that agrarian Indian society relegated women to the exclusive role of worker rather than active decision maker. Power, authority and decision-making issues seem to rest exclusively with the males and eventually women acquired a role slowly, which lost its dignity, respect and values (Kumari Anupama *et.al*.2002).

Decision-making and accurate performance of all activities helps in making an enterprise more viable, feasible and profitable. Before performing any operation / activity/ task a person thinks over various options available to him/her and select only those which are simple, profitable, compatible and relatively better. If a person before implementing a task, plans and decides about various activities, he/she can produce excellent results. But in case of agriculture, due to gender bias, farmwomen, a significant contributor in various activities are being kept away from the role of decision maker. Animal rearing is the second main occupation of farm families in Bundelkhand region and makes a big contribution by providing regular income for their livelihood. Hence, keeping all these facts in view the present investigation was conducted to find out the gender involvement pattern in planning and performing the various activities of animal rearing.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Jhansi district of U.P. Eight villages (one village from each block) were randomly selected for investigation. From each village 25 farmwomen from small, medium and large land holding category were selected by applying proportionate random sampling technique. A total of 200 respondents were interviewed with the help of pre-tested interview schedule. An exhaustive list of decisions as well as activities involved in animal husbandry was prepared and participation of male and female farmers was taken in terms of male, female and both. The workload on each activity was computed on the basis of the perception of male and female farmers in terms of heavy, moderate and light

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Workload wise distribution of male and female farmers in animal husbandry: In case of heavy activities of animal husbandry (Table 1) female farmers were doing cleaning of animal shed (69%), dung cake preparation (91%) and collection and bringing of fodder (46%). Male farmers mostly took animals for grazing (76.5%) and carrying animals at the time of calving (49%) while both male and female were almost equally involved in doing chaffing of fodder (71.5%) and carrying of sick animals (51%).

As far as moderate type of activities are concerned again the participation of women farmers was on higher side as they were providing feed and fodder to animals (47%), carrying of animals at home (50%) and milk product preparation (89%) while male farmers look after mainly breeding work (36%) and marketing of milk and milk products (72.5%). Both male and

female farmers were found to be doing milking of animals (47%). In light type of activities, female farmers were found to be doing chaffing by chaff cutter (8%) and male were found to be taking animals to the doctor (40%).

Table 1. Activity wise gender participation in animal rearing practices (N=200)

S.No.	Activities	Male	Female	Both
(A) Heavy				
1	Collection and bringing of fodder	19	46	35
2	Chaffing of fodder	12.5	16	71.5
3	Animal grazing	76.5	12.5	11
4	Care of sick animal	37.5	11.5	51
5	Care at the time of calving	49	7	44
6	Cleaning shed	13.5	69	17.5
7	Dung cake preparation	5	91	4
8	Over all	30.43	36.14	33.43
(B) Moderate				
1	Breeding	71	9	20
2	Providing fodder & water	17	36	47
3	Collecting dung	4	82	14
4	Milking	36	22	42
5	Milk product preparation	9	77	14
6	Marketing of milk & milk product	72.5	5	22.5
7	Over all	32.64	39.57	27.79
(C) Light				
1	Care at home	14	36	50
2	Calling doctor	59	11	30
3	FYM preparation	42.5	35.5	22
4	Over all	32.36	36.50	31.14

Decision making pattern of farm families in animal husbandry:

There were 15 major decisions, generally taken by the farmers. As far as the participation of male and females farmers in decision making process is concerned, the data in Table 2 clearly indicates that majority of the male farmers were taking decisions related to type and time of breeding ((55%), type of health care facilities to be availed (52%) and type of vaccination to be done (52%). In case of female farmers, in majority of cases they were taking decisions related to type and quantity of milk products to be prepared (54%) and type and quantity of milk products to be sold (44%). Rest of the decisions were taken by both male and female farmers by consulting each other as they were found taking decisions related to procurement of inputs (40%), number and types of animals to be reared (51%), treatment of animals at household level (50%), care of sick animals (55%), care at the time of

calving (60%), type, size and location of cattle shed (57%) and quality of milk to be retained and sold (46%).

Table 2. Gender participation in decision making on animal rearing practices (N=200)

S.No.	Decisions	Male	Female	Both
1	Procurement of input	45	9	46
2	Breeding (type, time of breeding)	55	9	36
3	Feeding (type, quantity, time of feeding)	33	17	50
4	Rearing of animals (No., type of animal)	43	6	51
5	Health care measures	52	5	43
6	Vaccination (type of vaccination to be done)	52	5	43
7	Treatment of animals at household level	46	4	50
8	Care of sick animals	35	10	55
9	Care at the time of calving	30	10	60
10	Construction of cattle shed (type, size, location of cattle shed)	33	10	57
11	Maintenance of shed (maintenance of cleanliness, sanitation of shed)	25	18	57
12	Quantity of milk to be retained/ sale	12	42	46
13	Type and quantity of milk product to be prepared	10	54	36
14	Type and quantity of milk product to be retained/ sale	13	44	43
15	Purchase and sale of animals	36	5	59
	Pooled	34.67	16.53	48.80

CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded that women farmers were performing more heavy and moderate type activities than male and both male and female jointly but their participation is lowest in the area of decision making. It is recommended here to explore the causal factors for the low participation of female farmers in the decision-making and take immediate steps for empowering them by providing latest scientific knowledge and skill through effective and appropriate channel so that they can help, motivate and influence the male farmers in taking accurate decisions, making the business more profitable.

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