RESEARCH NOTE

Factors Affecting the Role of Women in Farming and Allied Activities

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out Rewa Block in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh. Random sampling procedure was selected total 80 women. The data were collected by personal interview schedule. The data were analysed using appropriate statistical tools such as: X^2, percentage. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the women were in middle age group having up to primary , large land holding , OBC category, Pakka house , low annual income , joint family, married , farming and private sources of drinking water. The dependent variables were role of women in farming and allied activities. The Independent variables were to socio-economic profile of women like as: age, education, caste, type of family, Occupation, Annual income, had non-significant association with the role of women in farming and allied activities.

***Key words:** Women; Role; Farming; Allied activities;*

Rural women are active agents of economic and social change and environmental protection who are, in many ways and to various degrees, constrained in their roles as farmers, producers, investors, care givers and consumers. They play crucial roles ensuring food and nutrition security, eradicating rural poverty and improving the well-being of their families yet continue to gender based stereotypes and discrimination that deny them equitable access to opportunities, resources, assets and services. Rural women perform numerous labour intensive jobs such as weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds from fibre, keeping of livestock and it's other associated activities like milking, milk processing, preparation of ghee etc. Details of activities taken up by women in agriculture in farming activities are as follow: sowing, nursery management, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, fertilizer application, plant protection, harvesting, winnowing, storing etc. In allied activities are as follows: - dairy and cattle rearing, grading of grains, nursery production, value addition etc. As farmer's women in subsistence production ensure the survival of millions of people in every part of the world. Women, in sustenance economies, are producing and reproducing wealth in partnership with nature, as experts in their own right with environmental knowledge of natural processes. Women's livelihood strategies and there means of food security are diverse and difficult, from cleaning up seed, to cultivating the field crops, to house gardening and forests and wastelands. These alternate modes of knowledge and livelihood are not known to conventional agricultural scientists, who cannot associate women's expertise, information, work and skills with society, food security and the creation of wealth. More than half of the world's food is grown by women.

In rural India, the percentage of women who depend on agriculture for their livelihood is as high as 84%. Women make up about 33 per cent of cultivators and about 47 per cent per cent of agricultural labourer's. In 2009, 94 per cent of the female agricultural labour force in crop cultivation were in cereal production, while 1.4 per cent worked in vegetable production, and 3.72 per cent were engaged in fruits, nuts, beverages, and spice crops. The minister noted that in 2016-17 21 techniques related to women were evaluated and 2.56 lakh women were trained in agriculture-related fields like sewing,

manufacturing, value addition, rural handicraft, animal husbandry, beekeeping, poultry, fisheries, etc. "At least 30 per cent of the funds are being earmarked for women under various schemes and programmes and development related activities. The current emphasis in the government is on formation of women self-help groups (SHGs) to connect them with micro-credit through activities like capacity building Singh stated.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh. One district was taken on the random basis. Rewa district is divided into 9 block only one block Rewa were selected randomly. Under the Rewa block 210 village out of these, four villages namely, Duari, Judmaniya, Vidwa and Maidani were selected. From each village 20 respondents were selected for the study. A total of 80 respondents were finally chosen randomly for the study. The data were collected through pre structured interview schedule.The quantitative data were interpreted in terms of per centage and qualitative data were tabulated on the basis of approved categorization methods as described earlier. The data collection were analysed like : Per centage , Chi-square (X^2)- test , Weighted mean.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Socio-economic profile of the respondents : The data in Table 1 exhibit that , 76.25 per cent belonged to middle age group, where as 16.25 per cent were from old age group, and 7.5 per cent were from young age group. Great majority of women respondents (31.25%) were found to be in up to primary school and remaining lowest 18.75 % high school level. Highest 43.75 per cent of the respondents had large size of land holding. 57.5 per cent belonged to OBC category and lowest 5 per cent belonged to schedule tribe. 53.75 per cent had joint family. 82.5 per cent belonged to farming and 17.5 per cent had farming with job.

Association between socio –economic characteristics of respondents and their role in farming and allied activities:

Table 2. Shows that out of 6 respondents who were from young age group, 6.25 per cent had low role of women, 2.5 per cent exhibited high,1.25 per cent showed medium in farming and allied activities.

Out of 61 respondents belonging to middle age

Table 1. Socio-economic profile of selected respondents. (N=80)

Variables	No.	%
Age		
Young	6	7.5
Middle	61	76.25
Old	13	16.25
Education		
Illiterate	22	27.5
Up to primary	25	31.25
Up to high school	15	18.75
Intermediate & above	18	22.5
Size of land holding		
Small (Up to 1 hectare)	21	26.25
Marginal (1.1 to 2 ha.)	24	30
Large (above 2 ha.)	35	43.75
Caste		
General	27	33.75
OBC	46	57.50
Schedule caste	3	3.75
Schedule tribe	4	5.00
Annual income		
Low (Up to Rs 50,000)	27	33.75
Medium (Rs 50,001 to 70,000)	21	26.25
High (Above Rs 70,000)	32	40.00
Types of family		
Nuclear	37	46.25
Joint	43	53.75
Occupation		
Farming	66	82.5
Farming + Job	14	17.5

group, 33.75 per cent showed low role of women,25 per cent showed medium role of women where as only 17.5 showed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

In case of 13 respondents belonging to the old age group,7.5 per cent showed low role of women, 6.25 per cent showed medium role of women, where as only 2.5 per cent possessed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

Table shows that out of 22 respondents who were from illiterate, 15 per cent had low role of women, 6.25 per cent exhibited medium, 6.25 per cent showed high in farming and allied activities. Out of 25 respondents belonging to up to primary education category, 17.50 per cent showed low role of women, 7.5 per cent showed medium role of women where as only 6.25 showed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

Table 2. Association between socio –economic characteristics of respondents and their role in farming and allied activities

Variables	Role of women							
	Low		Medium		High		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Age								
Young	05	6.25	01	1.25	00	2.50	06	7.50
Middle	27	33.75	20	25.00	14	17.50	61	76.25
Old	06	7.50	05	6.25	02	2.50	13	16.25
Education								
Illiterate	12	15	05	6.25	05	6.25	22	27.5
Up to primary	14	17.50	06	7.50	05	6.25	25	31.25
High school	05	6.25	05	6.25	05	6.25	15	18.75
Intermediate & above	07	8.75	06	7.50	05	6.25	18	22.50
Caste								
General	15	18.75	07	8.75	05	6.25	27	33.75
OBC	18	22.50	16	20.00	12	15.00	46	57.50
SC	02	2.50	01	1.25	00	00	03	3.75
ST	03	3.75	01	1.25	00	00	04	5.00
Types of family								
Nuclear	21	26.25	09	11.25	07	8.75	37	46.25
Joint	17	21.25	14	17.50	12	15.00	43	53.75
Occupation								
Farming	33	41.25	18	22.50	15	18.75	66	82.50
Farming + job	05	6.25	05	6.25	04	5.00	14	17.50
Annual income								
Low (Up to Rs. 50000)	16	20.00	06	7.50	05	6.25	27	33.75
Medium (Rs. 50001 to 70000)	10	12.50	06	7.50	05	6.25	21	26.25
High (above Rs. 70000)	12	15.00	13	16.25	07	8.75	32	40.00

In case of 15 respondents belonging to up to high school, 6.25 per cent showed low role of women, 6.25 per cent showed medium role of women, where as only 6.25 per cent possessed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

In case of 18 respondents belonging to up to intermediate and above, 8.75 per cent showed low role of women, 7.50 per cent showed medium role of women, where as only 6.25 per cent possessed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

Table 2 shows that out of 27 respondents who were from general, 18.75 per cent had low role of women, 8.75 per cent exhibited medium, 6.25 per cent showed high in farming and allied activities.

Out of 46 respondents belonging to OBC, 22.50 per cent showed low role of women, 20.00 per cent showed medium role of women where as only 15.00 showed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

In case of 3 respondents belonging to SC, 2.50 per cent showed low role of women, 1.25 per cent showed medium role of women, where as only 0 per cent possessed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

In case of 04 respondents belonging to ST, 3.75 per cent showed low role of women, 1.25 per cent showed medium role of women, where as only 0 per cent possessed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

Table further shows that out of 37 respondents who were from nuclear family, 26.25 per cent had low role of women, 11.25 per cent exhibited medium, 8.75 per cent showed high in farming and allied activities.

Out of 43 respondents belonging to joint family, 21.25 per cent showed low role of women, 17.50 per cent showed medium role of women where as only 15.00 showed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

Table shows that out of 66 respondents who were from farming, 41.25 per cent had low role of women, 22.50 per cent exhibited medium, 18.75 per cent showed high in farming and allied activities.

Out of 14 respondents belonging to farming + job, 6.25 per cent showed low role of women, 6.25 per cent showed medium role of women where as only 5.0 showed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

Table 2 also shows that out of 27 respondents who were low annual income, 20.00per cent had low role of women, 7.50 per cent exhibited medium, 6.25 per cent showed medium in farming and allied activities.

Out of 21 respondents belonging to medium annual income, 12.50 per cent showed low role of women, 7.50 per cent showed medium role of women where as only 6.25 showed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

In case of 32 respondents belonging to high annual income, 16.25 per cent showed medium role of women, 15.00 per cent showed low role of women, where as only 8.75 per cent possessed high role of women in farming and allied activities.

Table 3. Association between socio –economic characteristics of women and their role in farming and allied activities

Characteristics	χ^2
Age	0.011
Education	2.989
Caste	1.057
Types of family	2.072
Occupation	0.943
Annual Income	9.287

Table 3 indicated that the χ2 test was applied to the data the calculated χ2 value 0.011, 2.989, 1.057, 2.072, 0.943 and 9.287 was found to be non- significant at 1 d.f. (3.841) and 5% level of non -significant about role of women in farming and allied activities. Hence the null hypothesis might be accepted and it could be concluded that there was no significant association between age, education, caste, types of family, occupation and annual income and role of women in farming and allied activities.

CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded that majority of the respondents belongs middle age group Followed by up to primary level of education, large size of land holding, OBC group, high annual income, high sources of information, pakka types of houses, nuclear types of family, married life, farming occupation. It was found that the age, education, caste, type of family, occupation, annual income had non -significant association with the role of women in farming and allied activities.

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