

RESEARCH NOTE

Analysis of Constraints Facing by Farm Women during Agricultural Activities in Varanasi District (U.P.)

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Paper Received on May 06, 2020, Accepted on September 03, 2020 and Published Online on October 01, 2020

ABSTRACT

The study assessed the socio economic profile and constraints in participation of farm women in agricultural activities. Random sampling procedure was used in selecting 120 women who were residents of Varanasi district. Data were collected with a set of structured schedule and were analyzed using mean, percentage and standard deviation. Results indicated that majority of respondents were aged between 32-61 years and were educated till high school. Majority of respondents owned marginal size of land holding and belonged to medium sized family. Maximum number of farm women had medium annual family income between Rs. 50, 000 to 4,00, 000. Major constraint responded by farm women was inadequate technical knowledge.

Key words : Constraints; Participation; Farm women;

Women play tectonic role in agricultural and rural sectors in our country. Their participation in home and farm activities depends upon several factors such as social, cultural and economic condition in area. It also varies from region to region and even within a region, their involvement varies widely among different farming system, castes, classes and socio-economic status (Kada and Kada, 1985). In spite of several social and cultural restrictions, women of low income households are found working outside their home due to severe economic pressures, while women of the medium and high income household seek employment in order to decrease dependency and to increase the standard of living. Formation of SHGs, Mahila Mandal needs to be encouraged to increase their knowledge and skill, so that their participation in various practices will remove drudgery and supplement nutrient requirement (Mishra et. al., 2009).

Although rural women are involved in almost all agricultural operations, yet they are technically less competent due to limited exposure to outside world. This has compelled them to follow the old practices which results in poor work efficiency. Specialized need based and skill oriented training can build up technical

competency among rural farm women. It is estimated that women are responsible for 70 per cent of actual farm work and constitute up to 60 per cent of the farming population (Choudhary and Singh, 2003). Despite women significant and crucial role in agriculture and allied field, they have very limited access to agricultural information and services and have less control over their earnings. The role of the farm women as sheer task masters need to be evaluated to decision makers, to make them aware of their capabilities and expertise gained through experience and to develop self-confidence, sense of equality and thus elevate their status in the decision making process (Goduppa et. al, 2012).

METHODOLOGY

Considering the importance of farm women in agricultural production, this study was conducted in Varanasi District of Uttar Pradesh. Out of the 8 blocks in Varanasi district, two villages from two blocks each were randomly selected. A total of 120 respondents were selected for the purpose of study and data was collected from the farm women by using interview schedule. The responses for constraints in participation of women in agricultural activities were recorded and converted to

quantitative scores using Garrett Ranking Technique. Garrett Ranking Technique provides the ranks for the constraints based on their severity from the respondent’s point of view. Garrett formula for conversion of ranks into percent is:

$$\% \text{ Position} = 100 \times \frac{R_{ij} - 0.5}{N_j}$$

Where,

R_{ij} = Rank given for i^{th} constraint by j^{th} individual

N_j = Number of constraint ranked by j^{th} individual

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints in participation of women in agricultural activities : Table 2.1. shows that majority of respondents (54.2%) felt that lack of time management in household chores and farm activities effected their participation to some extent, 36.7 per cent farm women felt that this problem effected their participation to a large extent and 9.1 per cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities.

Majority of respondents (73.3%) felt that resistance from family affected their participation to some extent, 18.4 per cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities and 8.3 per cent farm women felt that this problem affected their participation to a large extent.

Majority of respondents (63.3%) felt that lack of education effected their participation to a large extent, 28.4 per cent farm women felt that this problem effected their participation to some extent and 8.3 per cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities.

Majority of respondents (74.2%) felt that inadequate technical knowledge effected their participation to a large extent, 20.0 per cent farm women felt that this problem effected their participation to some

Table 2. Percent Positions and corresponding Garrett Table Value

Rank	% Position [100(R-0.5)/8]	Garrett value
I	100(1-0.5)/8	6.25
II	100(2-0.5)/8	18.75
III	100(3-0.5)/8	31.25
IV	100(4-0.5)/8	43.75
V	100(5-0.5)/8	56.25
VI	100(6-0.5)/8	68.75
VII	100(7-0.5)/8	81.25
VIII	100(8-0.5)/8	93.75

extent and 5.8 per cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities.

Majority of respondents (76.7 %) felt that society norms effected their participation to some extent, 19.2 per cent farm women felt that this problem effected their participation to a large extent and 4.2 per cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities.

Majority of respondents (69.2%) felt that male dominance effected their participation to some extent, 25.8 per cent farm women felt that this problem effected their participation to a large extent and 5.0 per cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities.

Majority of respondents (60.0%) felt that lack of capital effected their participation to some extent, 31.7 per cent farm women felt that this problem effected their participation to a large extent and 8.3 per cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities.

Maximum number of respondents (42.5%) felt that lack of mobility effected their participation to a large extent, 39.2 per cent farm women felt that this problem effected their participation to some extent and 18.3 per

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to constraints in participation of farm women in agricultural activities

Problems	To a large extent	To some extent	Not at all	Weighted mean
Lack of time management	44(36.7%)	65(54.2%)	11(9.1%)	1.28
Resistance from family	10(8.3%)	88(73.3%)	22(18.4%)	0.90
Lack of education	76(63.3%)	34(28.4%)	10(8.3%)	1.55
Inadequate technical knowledge	89(74.2%)	24(20.0%)	7(5.8%)	1.68
Society Norms	23(19.2%)	92(76.7%)	5(4.2%)	1.15
Male dominance	31(25.8%)	83(69.2%)	6(5.0%)	1.21
Lack of capital	38(31.7%)	72(60.0%)	10(8.3%)	1.23
Lack of mobility	51(42.5%)	47(39.2%)	22(18.3%)	1.24

cent farm women felt that this problem did not affect their participation in agricultural activities.

Table 2 shows the conversion of ranks into percent position and Garrett value associated with specific percent position values.

Table 3. Garrett Ranking of constraints in participation of farm women in agricultural activities

Factors	Totale Score	Mean Score	Garrett Rank
Lack of time management	7065	70.65	III
Resistance from family	3500	35.00	VIII
Lack of education	7520	75.20	II
Inadequate technical knowledge	8694	86.94	I
Society Norms	4533	45.33	VII
Male dominance	5034	50.34	VI
Lack of capital	5903	59.03	V
Lack of mobility	6421	64.21	IV

Table 3 shows that the most severe constraint was inadequate technical knowledge (mean score 86.94), lack of education ranked as 2nd (mean score 75.20), lack of time management in household chores and farm

activities was calculated as 3rd rank (mean score 70.65), lack of mobility got 4th (mean score 64.21), lack of capital ranked as 5th (mean score 59.03), followed by male dominance at 6th rank (mean score 50.34), society norms at 7th rank (mean score 45.33) and resistance from family ranked as 8th (mean score 35.00).

CONCLUSION

120 respondents were selected for the study and all were women. Majority of respondents belonged to middle age group of 32-61 years. Educational status of respondents ranged from illiterate to post graduates. Majority of the respondents were high school educated. Majority of respondents were having marginal size of land holding. Majority of respondents were from medium sized family. Maximum number of farm women had medium annual family income between Rs. 50, 000 to 4,00,000. Inadequate technical knowledge was ranked as 1st, followed by lack of education, lack of time management in household chores and farm activities, lack of mobility, lack of capital, male dominance, society norms and resistance from family.

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