

Impact of Participation of Rural Women in Agriculture Activities

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ABSTRACT

The present study was investigating the participation of rural women in agriculture activities. The study on participation of rural women in agriculture activities in Bhind District. Data were collected from rural women's that were selected randomly from each selected 6 villages to make a sample size of 120 rural women, by using a structured questionnaire. The result of study showed that Constraints faced by rural women during operation of agriculture activities are Male dominance (60.00%), suggestion Loan should be granted for farm activities (55.83%) and there is significant relation between personal and socio economic traits i.e. Education, Farming experience, Annual Income, size of Land holding, Extension participation etc. and Age and Marital status is not significant relationship between personal and socio economic traits with their participation of rural women in agriculture activities.

Key words: Rural women; Constraints; Agricultural activities;

In Indian society, women have a multi dimensional role. For the last few years, programmes for women have been receiving particular attention under community and rural development programmes. The desirable socio-economic development can be achieved only when women in large are stimulated and motivated to accept and adopt new techniques.

Women contribute about 3/4th of the labour required for agricultural operations. Their involvement in agricultural operations is besides their usual domestic work. Most of the contributions made by women to the farm sector also goes unaccounted as they are not directly paid. The contribution of female labour is towards agricultural production is always more than the male labour in all types of landholding size. Rural women play a significant role in agriculture activities such as seeding, transplanting, weeding fertilizer application, plant protection, harvesting, processing, storage etc. Several of these operations are carried out by women only. Their involvement in agriculture varies from region to region and also among different ecological zones, farming system, caste, class and socio-economic status of families.

The focus of this study therefore, is to Impact of Participation of Rural Women in Agriculture Activities

in Bhind District. The specific objectives are to:

- (i) To study the extent of participation of rural women in agricultural activities.
- (ii) To analyze the relationship between socio-personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological traits with participation of rural women in agriculture activities.
- (iii) To find out the constraints faced by rural women during operation of agriculture activities and obtain the suggestions for enhancing the capabilities of participation of rural women.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Bhind district. The District is situated in Chambal region in the northwest of the state. The sampling frame for this study consists of the cooperative farmers that acquired loan/ credit facilities for their food crop farms with the assistance of the farmer cooperative societies. From the list of these cooperative farmers, 120 farmers were selected through simple random sampling technique from 6 villages. The data were collected from primary sources as well as secondary sources. Primary data was collected through the use of a structured questionnaire, copies of

which were administered on the 120 farmers selected for the study. Data were analyzed using frequency distribution, percentages, and correlation coefficient.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before sowing: Out of 120 rural women, participation was found in weeding (72.50%) and it ranked first, closely followed by harvesting (59.16%) and sowing in the field (51.16%). Similar findings have been reported by *Sarita (2011)* and *Mishra (2013)*.

Table 1. Participation of rural women in different agricultural activities (N=120)

Activities	No. (%)	Rank
<i>Before sowing</i>		
Land ploughing	51 (42.50)	IV
Selection of seed	40 (33.33)	V
Sowing	62 (51.16)	III
Manure & Fertilizer	38 (31.66)	VI
Irrigation	34 (28.33)	VII
Weeding	87 (72.50)	I
Plant protection	23 (19.16)	VIII
Harvesting	1 (59.16)	II
<i>After harvesting</i>		
Winnowing	67 (55.83)	I
Storage	43 (35.83)	II
Marketing	31 (25.83)	III
<i>Household activities</i>		
Cooking	67 (55.83)	I
Knitting & stitching	41 (34.16)	III
Child care	62 (51.66)	II
<i>Livestock activities</i>		
Cleaning cattle shed	65 (54.16)	II
Animal vaccination	29 (24.16)	IV
Treatment of animal disease	25 (20.83)	V
Milking	57 (47.50)	III
Dung cake	85 (70.83)	I
<i>Marketing activities:</i>		
Selling of crops	30 (25.00)	III
Selling of agriculture products	35 (29.16)	II
Selling of dairy products	50 (41.66)	I

After harvesting: Out of 120 rural women, participation was found in Winnowing (55.83%) and it ranked first, closely followed by storage (35.83%). A similar finding has been reported by *Mishra (2013)* and *Bhattacharjee (2015)*.

Household activities: The rural women participation was found in cooking (55.83%) and child care (51.66%). A similar finding has been reported by *Mishra (2013)*.

Livestock activities: Out of 120 rural women,

participation was found in making dung cake (70.83%) and cleaning cattle shed (54.16%) the finding is more of less in accordance with the findings has been reported by *Mishra (2013)*.

Marketing activities: Out of 120 rural women, participation was found in selling of dairy products (41.66%) and selling of agriculture products (29.16%). A similar finding has been reported by *Singh (2011)* and *Mishra (2013)*.

Table 2 concerning data about participation of rural women in overall agricultural activities. Out of 120 rural women respondents 60.83 per cent had medium level 18.33 per cent had high level and 22.50 per cent rural women who had low level of participation. *Mishra (2013)* support this finding.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their extent of participation in overall agricultural activities

Category	No.	(%)
Low	27	22.50
Medium	73	60.83
High	22	18.33
Total	120	100.00

Table 3. Correlation coefficient of extent of participation of rural women in agricultural activities with their traits

Traits	('r') value
Age	0.035 ^{NS}
Education	0.425 ^{**}
Marital status	0.025 ^{NS}
Farming experience	0.227 ^{**}
Annual Income	0.330 ^{**}
Land holding	0.364 ^{**}
Extension participation	0.381 ^{**}
Source of information	0.286 ^{**}
Attitude towards agriculture	0.295 ^{**}
Knowledge about agriculture activities	0.330 ^{**}

** Significant at 1% level of probability

* Significant at 5% level of probability

Table 3 reveals this study the relationship of socio-personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological traits of rural women with their level of participation in agricultural activities, the values of zero order correlation coefficient was calculated and are presented depicts the variables viz. education (0.425^{**}), farming experience (0.227^{**}), annual Income (0.330^{**}), extension participation (0.381^{**}), source of information (0.286^{**}) attitude towards agriculture (0.295^{**}) and knowledge about agricultural activities (0.330^{**}) was

found to exercise significant bearing on level of participation in agricultural activities. Age (0.035^{NS}), marital status (0.025^{NS}) did not exert any association with level of participation in agricultural activities. A similar finding has been reported by *Mishra (2013)* and *Bhattacharjee (2015)*.

Table 4 reveals that majority of respondents facing constraints i.e. family norms (69.16%), Male dominance (60.0%), Lack of credit (58.33%), Lack of awareness (53.33%), High cost of critical inputs (49.16%), Inadequate technological knowledge (45.83%), Lack of exposure and extension contact (45.00%) and Lack of storage facilities (43.33%).

Table 4. Constraints faced by rural women during operation of agriculture activities

Constraints	No.	%
Male dominance	72	60.00
Lack of exposure and extension contact	54	45.00
High cost of critical inputs	59	49.16
Lack of awareness	64	53.33
Family norms	83	69.16
Inadequate technological knowledge	55	45.83
Lack of storage facilities	52	43.33
Lack of credit and capital	70	58.33

Table 5 reveals that most of the question was asked to rural women for obtaining their suggestion, if any, so they can increase their existing level of participation in agriculture. Out of total 120 respondents, 55.83% Loan should be granted for farm activities, 46.66 per cent rural women felt the need of subsidy on seeds, fertilizer and pesticides etc., 44.16% Extension exposure, 43.33%

Storage facilities should be available, 41.66% Training and demonstration should be conduct and Provide latest information about agricultural innovation, 32.50 per cent Supply of inputs through co-operative society at village level and Government should be given emphasis for women empowerment. These findings are in conformity with the findings of *Mishra (2013)* and *Kumar, et al (2016)*.

Table 5. Suggestions for enhancing the capabilities of participation of rural women

Suggestions	No.	%
Subsidy should be given for seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and other inputs	56	46.66
Extension exposure	53	44.16
Loan should be easily available for farm activities	67	55.83
Training and demonstration should be conduct	50	41.66
Supply of inputs through co-operative society at village level	39	32.50
Provide latest info. about agril innovation	50	41.66
Storage facilities should be available	52	43.33
Govt. should be given emphasis for women	39	32.50

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that education was found highly significantly associated with participation of rural women in agricultural activities with their selected traits. The study reveals that major constraints faced by rural women in agriculture male dominance, no knowledge about improved technology was the most important problems affecting the participation of rural women in agriculture activities. The respondents more suggested Loan should be easily available for farm activities.

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