

Women Participation and Time Utilization in Agricultural Activities

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Abstract

Women are a vital part of Indian economy. Over the years, there is a gradual realization of the key role of women in agricultural development and their vital contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, processing, nutrition, sericulture, fisheries and other allied sectors. The present study was conducted in Kanpur Nagar during 2011-2012. Multistage random sampling technique was adopted for the study. Total 120 respondents were selected from the village namely Laxamanpur and Bhakheriya. The data were analyzed and tabulated according to statistically. Out of total respondents, 40.0 per cent of male and 35.0 per cent of female respondents were belonged to 30 to 40 years age group, whereas 51.7 per cent of male and 80.0 per cent of female respondents were belonged to OBC caste. Followed by 68.3 per cent of male and female respondents were belonged up to junior high school education level.

Key words: Participation and time utilization

Introduction

Women are a vital part of Indian economy. Over the years, there is a gradual realization of the key role of women in agricultural development and their vital contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, processing, nutrition, sericulture, fisheries and other allied sectors. Women form the backbone of agriculture, in India, comprising the majority of agricultural laborers, women have been putting in labor not only in terms of physical output but also in terms of quality and efficiency. Women are critical to the well-being of farm households. Aside from raising children, women are expected to prepare all meals, maintain the homestead and assist in crop and animal production, all the while tending to the general health of their families. Perhaps, ironically, it is because women have so many responsibilities that they have been overlooked by agriculturalists and policy makers – it has been more convenient to label men as farmers and women as child raisers and cooks.

In truth, women are involved in all aspects of agriculture, from crop selection to land preparation, to seed selection, planting, weeding, pest control, harvesting, crop storage, handling, marketing and processing. Whatever the reason for this neglect, the importance of developing farming technologies relevant to women has only recently been recognized.

Rural women form the most important productive work force in the economy of majority of the developing nations including India. Agriculture, the single largest production Endeavour in India,

contributing about 18 per cent of GDP, is increasingly becoming a female activity. Agriculture sector employs 4/5th of all economically active women in the country. 48 per cent of India's self-employed farmers are women. There are 75 million women engaged in dairying as against 15 million men and 20 million in animal husbandry as compared to 1.5 million men.

Garousi (2005) The family is considered to be the main social unit in which one experiences the first stages of socialization and also the first instances of sexual inequalities. The kind of relationship between parents, their share of economic, social, cultural and symbolic resources makes an unequal image of different sexes in one's mind and gradually this inequality seems natural to a normal person. If the traditional sexual patterns are accepted by the woman, two consequences arrive; first, the woman accepts and affirms her low position and the inequality and second, she as the main person involved in the children's socialization, passes the belief on, to the next generation. Both the consequences maintain and reproduce the inequality inside the family and then in the society.

According to INDAP (2009), participation in associations should help small farmers achieve economies of scale, reduce transaction costs, provide access to technical and management services, negotiate production and input volumes that are attractive to the market, initiate post-harvest management and develop value added products.

Objective: To study the participation and time utilization of the respondents in agricultural activities.

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Methodology

To complete the above objective the research methodology employed and the study was conducted in Kanpur Nagar district during 2011-12. Multistage random sampling technique was selected. Kanpur Nagar divided in 10 blocks. Shivrajpur block was selected randomly a two village namely Laxamanpur and Bhakheriya were selected from the selected block. Total 120 respondents were selected for the present study. The collected data were subjected to statistical analysis for which statistical tools, percentage, weighted mean, correlation coefficient and ranks were used.

Results and Discussion

The Table 1 shows that majority 40.0 per cent of male and 35.0 per cent of female respondents were belonged to age group 30 to 40 years. Where as maximum 68.3 per cent of male and 58.3 per cent of female respondents were belonged to 6 members and above category in family size. Followed by maximum 51.7 per cent of male and 30.0 per cent of female respondents were belonged 2.5 to 5.0 acres land. While maximum 51.7 per cent of male and 40.0 per cent of

female respondents were belonged to Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000. Followed by maximum 51.7 per cent of male and 80.0 per cent of female respondents were belonged to OBC category. Where as maximum 68.3 per cent of male and female respondents were belonged up to junior high school education.

Table 2 reveals that correlation coefficient between participation and time utilization of the respondents in agricultural activities in *Kharif* farming operation of male respondents was positively correlated with land size (0.2812*), income (0.3150*) and education (0.2802*) and *Kharif* farming operation of female respondents was positively correlated with income (0.2860*), *rabi* farming operation of female respondents was positively correlated with land size (0.2609*) and income (0.2855*) and *rabi* farming operation of female respondents was positively correlated with education (0.2730*). *Zaid* farming operation of male respondents was positively correlated with income (0.2653*) and *Zaid* farming operation of female respondents positively correlated with age (0.2693*), land size (0.2632*) and income (0.2589*), dairy activities of male respondents

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to socio economic status

Parameter	Male		Female	
	Frequencies	Per cent	Frequencies	Per cent
Age				
Up to 30 years	6	10.0	7	11.7
30 to 40 years	24	40.0	21	35.0
40 to 50 years	15	25.0	14	23.3
50 & above	15	25.0	18	30.0
Family size				
Up to 5 members	19	31.7	25	41.7
6 members & above	41	68.3	35	58.3
Size of land				
Up to 2.5 acres	24	40.0	34	56.7
2.5 to 5.0 acres	31	51.7	18	30.0
5.0 to 10 acres	4	6.6	8	13.3
10 acres & above	1	1.7	-	-
Income				
Up to Rs. 30,000	19	31.7	24	40.0
Rs. 30,000 – Rs. 40,000	31	51.7	24	40.0
Rs. 40,000 – Rs. 50,000	9	15.0	11	18.3
Rs. 50,000 & above	1	1.6	1	1.7
Caste				
General	15	25.0	7	11.7
OBC	31	51.7	48	80.0
SC/ST	14	23.3	5	8.3
Education level				
Illiterate	18	30.0	18	30.0
Up to Junior High School	41	68.3	41	68.3
Above Junior High School	1	1.7	-	-
Only read and write	-	-	1	1.7

Table 2: Correlation coefficient between time utilization of respondents in rabi, kharif and zaid crop and independent variable

Variables	Male					Female				
	Kharif	Rabi	Zaid	Dairy	Home	Kharif	Rabi	Zaid	Dairy	Home
Age	-0.2226	-0.1781	-0.1231	0.1969	0.0178	0.1455	0.0982	0.2693*	0.0056	0.1674
Family size	0.1958	0.1303	-0.0304	0.1160	0.0497	-0.3137	-0.1812	0.1602	0.1076	+0.2778*
Land size	0.2812*	0.2609*	0.0619	-0.0913	-0.2189	+0.0565	+0.1333	0.2632*	0.0148	0.0753
Income	0.3150*	0.2855*	0.2653*	+0.2722*	-0.2453	+0.2860*	-0.1785	0.2589*	0.0283	0.1001
Caste	0.1016	0.0396	-0.0248	0.0031	0.0936	0.0304	0.0726	0.0220	-0.0299	0.0198
Education	0.2802*	0.1326	0.1677	+0.1919	-0.2802	+0.0229	0.2730*	+0.1419	0.1066	+0.3054*

positively correlated with income (0.2722*), home making activities of female respondents positively correlated with income (0.2722*), home making activities of female respondents positively correlated with family size (0.2778*) and education (0.3054*) of the respondents. And correlation coefficient between participation and time utilization of the respondents in agricultural activities in *Kharif* farming operation of male respondents was negatively correlated with age (-0.2226) and *Kharif* farming operation of female respondents was negatively correlated with family size (-0.3137), *rabi* farming operation of male respondents was negatively correlated with age (-0.1781) and *rabi* farming operation of female respondents was negatively correlated with family size (-0.1812), income (0.1785), *Zaid* farming operation of male respondents was negatively correlated with age (-0.1231), family

size (-0.0304), and caste (-0.0248). Dairy activities of male respondents were negatively correlated with land size (-0.0913) and dairy activities of female respondents negatively correlated with caste (-0.0299), home making activities of male respondents were negatively correlated with land size (-0.2189), income (-0.2453) and education (-0.2802) of the respondents.

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