

Socio-Economic Status and Participation of Farm Women in Various Agricultural Practices in Satna (M.P.)

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Abstract: That woman plays a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, postharvest operations, agro social forestry, fisheries, etc. is a fact long taken for granted but also long ignored. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture, no doubt, varies greatly from region to region. Even within a region, their involvement varies widely among different ecological sub-zones, farming systems, castes, classes and stages in the family cycle. But regardless of these variations, there is hardly any activity in agricultural production, except plugging in which women are not actively involved. In some of the farm activities like processing and storage, women predominate so strongly that men workers are numerically insignificant. (Agawam 2003) Studies on woman in agriculture conducted in India and other developing and under developed countries all point to the conclusion that woman contribute far more to agriculture production than has generally been acknowledged. Recognition of their crucial role in agriculture should not obscure the fact that farm woman continues to be concerned with their primary function as wives, mother and homemakers.

Present study was conducted in two blocs of district Satna with 120 farm women. There are three measure area of participation of farm women in agricultural activities.

Keywords: crop production, livestock production, horticulture, postharvest operations, agro social forestry, fisheries.

1. INTRODUCTION

Agricultural modernization means from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture transformation process. Modernization requires sophistication in mechanization, which is possible at relatively large scales of operations with capital and management constraints overcome. Marginal and small farmers are increasingly becoming part time, with absentee farmers, per urban farmers, wage earners on a part or full time basis. Industry and service sectors, trade and commerce unable to reduce land based livelihoods compel rural people to remain on land based livelihoods, forcing a steady increase in the number of land holdings but with average land holdings going down making mechanization more challenging and difficult. Scaling down of farm machines reduces mechanical advantages. Instead of owning farm machinery other than hand tools, such marginal farms can meet their needs through custom servicing. (If it is well developed).

India has made remarkable progress in agricultural mechanization technology. The country evolved a selective mechanization model using a power mix based on animate and inanimate power sources. The mix of power sources includes human beings, animal, power tillers; Mechanization (IAM) is power availability per unit area. The power availability is computed by taking both animals and inanimate power sources. Nearly 80 percent of the power in agriculture is contributed by inanimate power sources. Table 6 shows the farm power availability and density of different power sources in India. Table 8 shows the farm power availability versus food grain production. It is apparent from these tables that agricultural productivity is directly related to farm power availability. States with higher power per unit area also have higher food production. It is evident that higher power availability will have to be ensured in the states with

lower power availability. This is also true for rain fed areas, where the power availability is barely 0.54 kW./ha. The power availability in hilly areas is also quite low. The use of tractors and engines and electric motors were also increased. One of the globally used Index of agriculture irrigation pumps operated by electric motors and diesel engines are the indicators of the fact that use of mechanical power in India has increased many fold during the last two decades. Power availability was 0.32 kW/ha in 1965-66 and increased to 1.34 kW/ha in 2005-06 and needs to be increased to 2 kW/ha. The cultivable area per tractor was 2162 ha in 1965-66 and has come down to about 50 ha per tractor in 2005-06 with the addition of a large number of tractors. However, it is seen that the most popular model of tractor has a rating of 35 hp, which has a command area of about 15-20 ha.

Women have played and continue to play a key role in the conservation of basic life support systems such as land, water, flora and fauna. They have protected the health of the soil through organic recycling and promoted crop security through the maintenance of varietal diversity and genetic resistance. Therefore, without the total intellectual and physical participation of women, it will not be possible to popularize alternative systems of land management to shifting cultivation, arrest gene and soil erosion, and promote the care of the soil and the health of economic plants and farm animals. (Prasad & Singh 1992) Despite their importance to agricultural production, women face severe handicaps. They are in fact, the largest group of landless laborers with little real security in case of break-up of the family owing to death or divorce; inheritance laws and customs discriminate against them land reform and settlement programmers usually give sole title and hence the security needed for obtaining production credits to the husband. Agricultural development programmers are usually planned by men and aimed at men. Mechanization, for example alleviates the burden of tasks that are traditionally men's responsibility, leaving women's burdens unrelieved or even increased.

The excess burden of work on women (the double day of the farm work plus house work) also acts as a stimulus to have many children so that they can help out with chores from an early age. Extension workers almost exclusively aim their advice at men's activities and crops. In some regions, this bias may depress production of subsistence food crops (often women's crops) in favor of increased production of cash crops (often men's crops) in favor of increased production of cash crops (often men's crops) so that family nutrition suffers.

Keeping in view the above facts into consideration, the present investigation was undertaken with the following objectives:

Objectives:

- i. To study the socio-economic status of farm women.
- ii. To assess the extent of participation of farm women in various farms activities.

2. METHODOLOGY

Satna district Selected purposively for the study. District Satna consist of eight blocks. Out of eight blocs two blocks have been selected randomly. For the selecting the villages, a list of all villages of selected blocks was the prepared and five villages were selected randomly from each block. The name of villages selected for the study were (1) Paldev (2) Pindra (3) Tendipatwania (4) Lalpur (5) Devlaha from Manjhawan block and (1) Pahadi (2) Beldwara (3) Itma (4) Dhatura (5) Kherwa from Maihar block. For the selection of respondents, lists of all the categories of farm women were prepared and selected 3% farmers from each village by the help of proportionate random sampling method. Thus, total 120 farmers have been selected for the present study. For the collection data well-structured schedule and scales have been used and information were collected through interview method. For statistical analysis average, Percentage, standard deviation and correlation coefficient were used.

3. FINDINGS

Table-1 Socio-economic characteristics of the farm women

S.No.	CHARACTERISTICS	No.	PERCENTAGE	
1	Age	Young(Up to 36)	32	27.00
		Middle(37 to 59)	60	50.00
		Old(60 and above)	28	23.00
2	Education	Illiterate	19	16.00
		Primary	28	23.00
		Junior High school	27	22.00

		High school	16	13.00	
		Intermediate	15	13.00	
		Graduate	08	07.00	
		Post Graduate	07	06.00	
3	Caste	Scheduled Tribes	12	10.00	
		Scheduled Caste	24	20.00	
		Other Backward Caste	46	38.00	
		General Caste	38	32.00	
4	Family type	Joint	64	53.00	
		Nuclear	56	47.00	
5	Family size	Small (Up to 4)	38	31.00	
		Medium (5 to 10)	62	52.00	
		Large (10 and above)	20	17.00	
6	Holding size	Marginal farmers (up to 1 hec.)	24	20.00	
		Small farmers (1.1 to 2 hec.)	30	25.00	
		Medium (2.1 to 6 hec.)	46	38.00	
		Large (6.1 and above)	20	17.00	
7	Irrigation sources	Owned	38	31.00	
		Hired	32	27.00	
		Natural	50	42.00	
8	Occupation	Agriculture	Main	69	58.00
			Subsidiary	40	32.00
		Agriculture labour	Main	19	16.00
			Subsidiary	14	12.00
		Services	Main	14	12.00
			Subsidiary	00	00.00
9	Annual income	Up to 50000	79	66.00	
		50001 to 100000	23	19.00	
		100001 to 150000	07	06.00	
		150001 to 200000	06	05.00	
		200001 and above	05	04.00	
10	Housing pattern	Pakka	31	26.00	
		Mixed	39	32.00	
		Kucha	48	40.00	
		Hut	02	02.00	
11	Farm power	Bullock	25	20.00	
		Tractor	19	16.00	
		Tube well	38	31.00	
		Pumping set	32	28.00	
12	Transportation materials	Cycle	71	60.00	
		Bullock carts	11	10.00	
		Bike	45	37.00	
		Jeep/Car	09	07.00	
		Tractor	19	15.00	
		Trolley	12	10.00	
13	Communication media	Radio	02	02.00	
		Television	51	42.00	
		News paper	18	15.00	
		Mobile phone	78	66.00	
14	Social participation	No participation	101	84.00	
		Participation of one organization	18	15.00	
		Participation of two organization	01	01.00	
15	Scientific orientation	Low (Up to 22)	24	20.00	
		Medium (23 to 26)	61	51.00	
		High (27 and above)	35	29.00	
16	Economic motivation	Low (Up to 23)	14	12.00	
		Medium (24 to 27)	78	65.00	

		High (28 and above)	28	23.00
17	Risk orientation	Low (Up to 21)	36	30.00
		Medium (22 to 25)	72	60.00
		High (26 and above)	12	10.00

It is clear from the results (table 1) that out of 17 criteria of the socio-economic status scale among the respondents, the Maximum numbers of respondents had belonged to middle age group, maximum number of respondent had educated to primary level, maximum respondents belonged to OBC categories, maximum respondents adopted joint family system, maximum respondent's family had middle size, maximum numbers of respondents belonged to middle farmers categories, maximum respondents dependents to natural irrigation resources, agriculture had main sources of occupation, maximum houses had mixed type, tube well had main sources of farm power, cycle had main source of transportation, mobile phone had main source of communication media, maximum respondents had no social participation, maximum numbers of respondents had medium level of scientific orientation, maximum numbers of respondents had medium categories of economic motivation and maximum numbers of respondents had medium risk orientation categories respectively.

Table-2 Participation of farm women in various farm activities

S.No.	Categories	Participation		
		Extent of participation (%)	Participation of women in care of animal (%)	Participation of women in home and farm (%)
1	High	23.00	40.00	32.00
2	Medium	40.00	32.00	43.00
3	Low	37.00	28.00	25.00
Total		100.00	100.00	100.00

It is clear from (table-2) that the 40 percent of farm women participate in medium categories of extent of participation, maximum number of farm women (40%) high categories of participation in care of animal and forty-three percent of respondents participate in medium categories of participation of women in home and farm.

4. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the age, family type, family size, communication media and transportation materials had no relationship with participation whereas education, caste, occupation, income, farm power, social participation, economic motivation, scientific orientation and risk orientation had direct influence with participation of respondents.

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