

ROLE OF MEN AND WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING PROCESS IN PADDY AND SUGARCANE CULTIVATION

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ABSTRACT

The study was designed to appraise the role of gender in decision making in paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation. The result revealed that the majority of the men and women had higher and moderate level of decision making about practices of paddy cultivation respectively however, in case of sugarcane the majority of the men had higher level of decision making ability and majority of women had poor level of decision making ability.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone among the India's developmental concerns and is regarded as the largest sector of the country's economy. It is a way of life for millions of farm families. This working force found either directly or indirectly depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Today, still nearly 74 per cent of the country's working force depends on agriculture out of which 41.8 and 32.2 per cent is from rural and urban areas, therefore, it is recognised as the biggest unorganized sector of India. Decision-making and accurate performance of all activities helps in making an enterprise more viable, feasible, and profitable. Before performing any operation/activity/task one has to think over various options available to him/her and selects only those which are simple, profitable, compatible, and relatively better. If a person before implementing a task plans and decides about various activities, he/she can produce excellent result. For creating a more equitable and for the interest of the society an urgent need is being felt for gender related data in various sectors including agriculture so as to build a better understanding and proper balancing of resources and there by creating a more favourable gender relations and better

work environment.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in the dominated areas of paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation of Navsari district of Gujarat state. Among the five talukas Navsari and Gandevi were selected for the study. Five villages were selected from each talukas at random. Thus, the study was carried out in ten villages. The list of farm families who have at least five years of experience of paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation were obtained from the *Talati-cum-Mantri* of respective villages and out of it ten men and women respondents were scrutinized by using simple random sampling method. The man and woman of selected farm families were basically husband and wife in relation. In all, the total sample size for the study was two hundred.

FINDINGS

1 Role of gender in decision making about paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation

1.1 Decision making about paddy cultivation

The data regarding decision making in paddy is presented in table 1.

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Table 1 : Distribution of men and women according to their level of role in decision making about paddy cultivation practices

n=200

Level of role decision making	Men		Women		Pooled	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Poor level of decision making	00	00.00	47	47.00	47	23.50
Moderate level of decision making	44	44.00	53	53.00	97	48.50
Higher level of decision making	56	56.00	00	00.00	56	28.00

 \bar{X} : 19.48

SD: 10.40

The data presented in the table 1 indicated that the majority of the men (56.00 per cent) and women (53.00 per cent) had higher and moderate level of decision making followed by, 44.00 and 47.00 per cent of men and women had moderate and poor level of decision making. In general, nearly half of the respondents (48.50 per cent) had moderate level of decision making, followed by 28.00 and

23.50 per cent of men and women respondents had higher and poor level of decision making, respectively.

1.2 Decision making about sugarcane cultivation

The information regarding decision making about sugarcane crop cultivation is presented in table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of men and women according to their level of role in decision making about sugarcane cultivation

n=200

Level of role decision making	Men		Women		Pooled	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Poor level of decision making	00	00.00	59	59.00	59	29.50
Moderate level of decision making	32	32.00	41	41.00	73	36.50
Higher level of decision making	68	68.00	00	00.00	68	34.00

 \bar{X} : 16.34

SD:8.92

The data presented in the table-2 indicates that majority of the men (68.00 per cent) had higher level of decision making ability followed by, 32.00 and zero per cent of them falls in moderate and poor level of decision making categories. However, the majority of women (59.00 per cent) had poor level of decision making ability followed by 41.00 and zero per cent of them falls in moderate and higher categories. In general, nearly equal distribution of respondents was observed in decision making process in different sugarcane practices.

2 Relationship between personal, social, economic, communicational and psychological characteristics and decision making of gender

It is evident from the table 3 that the age of men (0.210**), education of women (0.274**), family size of women (0.558**), family type of women (0.313**), farming experience of women (0.245**), social participation of women (0.274**) and training received by women (0.369**), economic orientation of women (0.208**), scientific orientation of women (0.325**), risk orientation of women (0.331**), management orientation of men (0.229**) and women (0.321**), progressivism of men (0.220**) and women (0.292**), and achievement orientation of men (0.234**) and women (0.320**) found highly significant correlation with their decision making about paddy cultivation.

However, family type of men (-0.248**) was found

negative but highly significant with their decision making about paddy cultivation.

On the other hand, age of women (0.187), education of men (0.188), caste of men (-0.059) and women (0.011), family size of men (0.136), occupation of men (0.143) and women (0.088), annual income of

men (-0.145) and women (-0.0731), land holding of men (0.109) and women (0.046), farming experience of men (-0.096), social participation of men (-0.145), innovativeness of men (0.188) and women (0.185), urban contact made by men (-0.068) and women (-0.024), training received by men (0.121), economic orientation of men (0.001), scientific

Table3: Relationship between personal characteristics of men and women and their decision making about paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation

n=200

Sr. No.	Personal characteristics	Correlation coefficients (r)					
		Paddy			Sugarcane		
		Men	Women	Pooled	Men	Women	Pooled
1	Age	0.210**	0.187	0.291**	0.262**	0.190	0.293**
2	Education	0.188	0.274**	0.201**	0.187	0.329**	0.203**
3	Caste	-0.059	0.011	-0.002	0.099	0.061	0.018
4	Size of family	0.136	0.558**	0.011	0.0586	-0.186	0.001
5	Type of family	-0.248**	0.313**	0.039	0.191	0.316**	0.066
6	Occupation	0.143	0.088	0.338**	0.172	0.140	0.349**
7	Annual income	-0.145	-0.0731	-0.025	0.140	-0.106	-0.005
8	Land holding	0.109	0.046	0.017	0.127	-0.008	0.009
9	Farming experience	-0.096	0.245**	0.359**	0.214**	0.196*	0.375**
10	Social participation	-0.145	0.274**	0.654**	0.185	0.254**	0.661**
11	Innovativeness	0.188	0.185	0.253**	0.187	0.185	0.250**
12	Urban contact	-0.068	-0.024	0.353**	0.081	0.059	0.381**
13	Training received	0.121	0.369**	0.568*	0.208**	0.260**	0.557**
14	Economic orientation	0.001	0.208**	0.293**	0.233**	0.301**	0.321**
15	Scientific orientation	0.097	0.325**	0.230**	0.185	0.350**	0.232**
16	Risk orientation	0.193	0.331**	0.389**	0.222**	0.256**	0.375**
17	Management orientation	0.229**	0.321**	0.416**	0.227**	0.341**	0.414**
18	Progressivism	0.220**	0.292**	0.354**	0.192	0.249**	0.339**
19	Achievement orientation	0.234**	0.320**	0.301**	0.203**	0.278**	0.285**

NS = Non significant

* = Significant at 0.05 level

** = Significant at 0.01 level

orientation of men (0.097) and risk orientation of men (0.193) found non-significant with their decision making about paddy cultivation.

In case of pooled data, the respondents age (0.291**), education (0.201**), occupation (0.338**), farming experience (0.359**), social participation (0.654**), innovativeness (0.253**), urban contact (0.353**), training received (0.568**), economic orientation (0.293**), scientific orientation (0.230**), risk orientation (0.389**), management orientation

(0.416**), progressivism (0.354**), and achievement orientation (0.301**) found highly significant correlation with their decision making about paddy cultivation.

It is manifest from the table 3 that the age of men (0.262**), education of women (0.229**), family size of women (0.316**), farming experience of men (0.214**), social participation of women (0.254**), training received by men (0.208**) and women (0.260**), economic orientation of men (0.233**)

and women (0.301**), scientific orientation of women (0.350**), risk orientation of men (0.222**) and women (0.256**), management orientation of men (0.227**) and women (0.341**), progressivism of women (0.249**), and achievement orientation of men (0.203**) and women (0.278**) found highly significant correlation with their decision making about sugarcane cultivation.

However, farming experience of women (0.196**) was found significantly correlated with their decision making about sugarcane cultivation.

Whereas, the age of women (0.190), education of men (0.187), caste of men (0.099) and women (0.061), family size of men (0.0586) and women (-0.186), family type of men (0.191), occupation of men (0.172) and women (0.140), annual income of men (0.140) and women (-0.106), land holding of men (0.127) and women (-0.008), social participation of men (0.185), innovativeness of men (0.187) and women (0.185), urban contact made by men (0.081) and women (0.059), scientific orientation of men (0.185) and progressivism of men (0.192) found non-significant with their decision making about sugarcane cultivation.

In case of pooled data the respondents age (0.293**), education (0.203**), occupation (0.349**), farming experience (0.375**), social participation (0.661**), innovativeness (0.250**), urban contact (0.381**), training received (0.557**), economic orientation (0.321**), scientific orientation (0.232**), risk orientation (0.375**), management orientation (0.414**), progressivism (0.339**), and achievement orientation (0.285**) found highly significant correlation with their decision making about sugarcane cultivation.

CONCLUSIONS

1 The majority of the men and women had higher and moderate level of decision making about practices of paddy cultivation. Whereas, the majority of the men had higher level of decision making ability and majority of women had poor level of decision making ability in sugarcane

cultivation practices. The probable reason might be that Indian society is a male dominated society where women are not independent fully to take such decision in agriculture.

- 2 The age, management orientation, progressivism, achievement orientation, of men were found positively significant and type of family had negative but significant correlation while, the education, size of family, type of family, farming experience, social participation, training received, economic orientation, scientific orientation, risk orientation, management orientation, progressivism, achievement orientation of women were found significantly correlated with their decision making about paddy cultivation.
- 3 The age, farming experience, training received, economic orientation, risk orientation, management orientation and achievement orientation of men were found significantly correlated while, the education, type of family, farming experience, social participation, training received, economic orientation, scientific orientation, risk orientation, management orientation, progressivism and achievement orientation of women were found positive and significant correlation with their decision making about sugarcane cultivation.

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“What, precisely, is ‘thinking’? When, on the reception of sense impressions, memory pictures emerge, this is not yet ‘thinking’. And when such pictures form sequences, each member of which calls forth another; this too is not yet ‘thinking’. When, however, a certain picture turns up in many such sequences, then-precisely by such return -it becomes an organizing element for such sequences, in that it connects sequences in themselves to each other. Such an element becomes a tool, a concept. I think that the transition from free association or ‘dreaming’ to thinking is characterized by the more or less preeminent role played by the ‘concept’. It is by no means necessary that a concept be tied to a sensorily cognizable and reproducible sign (word) but when this is the case, then thinking becomes thereby capable of being communicated.”

- Albert Einstein