

## **PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL FARM WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Empowerment of the Farm Women in Decision Making is a need of the time in agrarian country like India, where farming is a family occupation. Thus study was designed to appraise the participation of tribal farm women in decision making related to home, farm and animal husbandry practices. Results of the study revealed that tribal farm women play dominant role in making decisions related to animal husbandry enterprise. Whereas, they found recessive in decisions regarding farm operations. It is amazing to note that except home decoration, in most of the areas of home management, the decision was dominated by male.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Farm Women is an integral part of the human Society. Women contribute one third labour force required for farming operations and allied enterprises. They have been playing significant role in Home, farm and Allied activities.

In Indian context farming is a family occupation. Farm Women is an associate to her husband in various activities has greater role in Decision making process. Thus, the timely and judicious decision making ability of the farm family have a direct bearing on the development of agriculture sector. Empowerment of the farm women in decision making is a current need of the time in an agrarian country like, India. Tribal women of southern part of Gujarat, though illiterate, contributing a lot to the agricultural development in the region. It is therefore imperative to study the pattern of such tribal women in decision making related to home, farming and livestock operations. The study was conducted with an objective to appraise the participation of tribal farm women in decision making related to home, farm and animal husbandry enterprise.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Navsari district of South Gujarat is a tribal district. The present study has been undertaken particularly on the role of tribal women in agriculture and animal Husbandry in the Navsari District. Among the five talukas of the district, two talukas viz., Navsari and Gandevi were selected randomly for the study. Three villages were selected from each talukas at random. Thus, the investigation was carried out in six villages. Twenty tribal farm women from each village was selected randomly from the list of the women engaged actively in agriculture enterprise. Thus, study was comprised of 120 tribal farm women. The response of respondents regarding the decision making was collected.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Involvement of the tribal farm women in decision-making**

#### **Decision making about home management:**

The data on decision making pattern of the tribal farm women with respect to home management, farm management, and animal husbandry management are

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**Table 1 : Tribal farm women's involvement in the process of decision making for home management n=120**

Home management	Only self		Husband		Alongwith family (Joint decision)		Not related	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Construction of new house	00	00	30	25.00	85	70.83	05	4.17
Decoration of house	95	79.17	05	4.17	20	16.67	00	-
Children's education	02	1.67	70	58.33	40	33.33	08	6.67
Children's occupation	02	1.67	55	45.83	48	40.00	15	12.50
Children's marriage	03	2.50	10	8.33	98	81.67	09	7.50
House repair	05	4.17	95	79.17	20	16.67	-	--
Purchasing of household articles	08	6.67	62	51.67	50	41.67	-	-
Selling and purchasing of ornaments	06	5.00	23	19.17	91	75.83	-	--
Selection and preparation of food	85	70.83	05	4.17	30	25.00	-	--
Borrowing money for home management	07	5.83	93	77.50	20	16.67	-	-
Repayment of loan	04	3.33	80	66.67	12	10.00	24	20.00
Manner of saving	02	1.67	75	62.50	43	35.83	-	--

**Table 2 : Tribal farm women's involvement in the process of decision making for farm management n=120**

Farm management	Only self		Husband		Alongwith family (Joint decision)		Not related	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Deciding area to be sown under different crops	05	4.17	75	62.50	40	33.33	—	—
Introduction of a new crop variety	04	3.33	99	82.50	17	14.17	—	—
Selection of seed	03	2.50	78	65.00	39	32.50	—	—
When to irrigate fields	01	0.83	105	87.50	06	5.00	08	6.67
Quantity and type of fertilizers used on the farm	—	—	102	85.00	12	10.00	06	5.00
Using plant protection measures	01	0.83	92	76.67	05	4.17	22	18.33
Hiring farm labours	—	—	25	20.83	80	66.67	15	12.50
Buying farm machinery / equipment	02	1.67	96	80.00	22	18.33	—	—
Installing oil engine and electric motor	—	—	80	66.67	40	33.33	—	—
Buying and selling of land	—	—	34	28.33	86	71.67	—	—
Borrowing money for farm operations	—	—	84	70.00	36	30.00	—	—
Selling of surplus farm produce	03	2.50	47	39.17	70	58.33	—	--

depicted in Table 1, 2 and 3. It is apparent from the Table 1 that tribal farm women were taking self decision in case of decoration of house (79.17 per cent) and selection and preparation of food (70.83 per cent). The husband dominated decision making events

were repair of house (79.17 per cent) followed by borrowing money for home management, repayment of loan, manner of saving, education & occupation of children and construction of new house, etc.

**Table 3 : Tribal farm women's involvement in the process of decision making for animal husbandry n = 120**

Animal husbandry	Only self		Husband		Alongwith family (Joint decision)		Not related	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Selection of animal breed	07	5.83	29	24.17	72	60.00	12	10.00
Selection of fodder and feed	98	81.67	04	3.33	06	5.00	12	10.00
Sale and purchase of animals	13	10.83	15	12.50	78	65.00	14	11.67
Sale of milk and its products	63	52.50	08	6.67	18	15.00	31	25.83
Keeping size of herd	42	35.00	15	12.50	48	40.00	15	12.50

Joint decision was dominated in case of children's marriage (81.67 per cent) followed by selling and purchasing of ornaments (75.83 per cent), construction of new house and manner of saving.

#### **Decision making about farm management:**

The data with regard to the decision making of rural farm women in farm management (table 2) indicated that majority of the decisions regarding farm management were not performed by tribal farm women. These include when to irrigate the fields (87.50 per cent), quantity and type of fertilizers to be used in the farm (85.00 per cent) introduction of new crop variety, buying farm machinery/ equipment, using plant protection measures, borrowing money for farm operation, installing oil engine, electric motor and pumps, selection of seed, deciding area to be sown under each crop etc. The findings are supported by the results of the study of Reddy and Rashid (1999).

The joint decision was made only in case of buying and selling of land (71.67 per cent) followed by, hiring farm labourers (66.67 per cent), buying and selling of land and selling of surplus farm produce.

It can be concluded that the tribal farm women did not play a dominant role in making important decisions of farm management.

#### **Decision making about animal husbandry:**

It was observed from table-3 that the decisions about selection of fodder and feed was dominated by tribal farm women (81.67 per cent) followed by sale of milk and its products. The joint decisions were for sale and purchase of animals (65.00 per cent) followed by selection of animal breed and keeping the size of herd.

It can be concluded that the important decisions regarding animal husbandry were dominated by tribal farm women themselves. The husbands remain recessive in decision-making regarding animal husbandry. The findings of the present study were in confirmity of the findings reported by Praveena et. al. (2005).

#### **CONCLUSION**

The inference can be drawn from the findings that adivasi farm women were taking self decision incase of decoration taking of house and selection and preparation of food. Rural farm women play recessive role in making important decisions related to farm management whereas the decisions regarding animal husbandry enterprise was dominated by them.

#### **REFERENCES**

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