

DAILY WORK SCHEDULE OF RURAL WOMEN OF JUNAGADH DISTRICT

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INTRODUCTION

Women perform variety of tasks both on farm as well as at home. They have not only to attend to various field operations like transplanting, weeding crops and scaring birds but also are practically in complete charge of many harvest and post harvest operations like harvesting, threshing, winnowing and storage.

Attending the farm animals and saving farm waste for use either as fuel or manure all have been predominantly considered as work of women. The entire management of livestock starting from cutting, collection, carrying and chaffing of fodder; to feeding and milking; preparation of milk products; cleaning cattle shed; collection of urine and cow dung for manure pits; preparation of cow dung cakes and their storage; are done by women.

Over and above food preparation, rural women also do all cleaning operations like removal of stones, de-husking and other laborious household duties. Thus, they carry a great deal of work in agriculture as well as in livestock management. The present study is therefore, planned to know the daily work schedule of the rural women.

METHODOLOGY

The present was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat State. Two talukas and five villages from each taluka were selected at random. Using proportionate random sampling technique, 105 respondents were selected from the 10 selected villages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results regarding time spent by rural women on household task, livestock management and agricultural operation are presented below:

AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON HOUSEHOLD WORK

Ten different types of activities were earmarked, in which rural women remain engaged for their daily, weekly and seasonal works. The information regarding this aspect is presented in Table 1.

A perusal of Table 1 reveal that on an average; 6.23 hours were spent by rural women in completing the household chores daily of which maximum time i.e. 2.53 hours were spent on cooking and serving food. On the other hand, very less time i.e. 17 minutes were spent in bringing water.

Rural women spent 1.45 hours for care of their children. It was observed that older women are to look after young children. Women spent only 1.24 hours for activities related to their personal care.

Washing clothes is generally done every alternate day. Women were found spending 52 minutes for this task. This clearly indicated that on an average 26 minutes/day were being consumed for washing the clothes.

The weekly work include ghee making, plastering floors, drying and cleaning grains, etc. Rural women took up drying and cleaning of grains on weekly basis. The average time spent on ghee making,

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Table 1: Average time spent by rural women on household tasks N = 105

Sr. No.	Household work	Hours Spent		
		Daily	Weekly	Seasonal
1.	Cleaning and arranging house	0.55	-	-
2.	Washing clothes	0.26	-	-
3.	Bringing water	0.17	-	-
4.	Cooking and serving	2.35	-	-
5.	Churning milk and ghee making	0.21	0.50	-
6.	Preparation of non-perishable food (pickles, dal, papad, masala, etc.)	-	-	20-25
7.	Plastering floors	-	1.16	-
8.	Grain storage (drying, cleaning etc.)	-	1.19	14-15
9.	Child cares (bathing, feeding, make them ready for school, etc.)	1.45	-	-
10.	Personal cares (taking meal, rest, etc.)	1.24	-	-
TOTAL		6.23	2.85	34-40

plastering floors, and grain storage was 0.50, 1.16, and 1.19 hours per week respectively.

The household activities carried seasonally include preparation of non-perishable foods (making dal, papad, pickles, masala, etc.) and grain storage (drying and cleaning) which accounted for 20-25 hours and 14-15 hours per season respectively.

TIME SPENT IN LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

The data regarding time spent by the rural women on livestock management are presented in Table 2. The data in Table 2 reveal that on an average, rural women spent 3.49 hours per day for animal based tasks. It has been observed that very little

time (31 minutes) was spent on bringing fodder for the cattle because most of the rural women were found living at the farms. On the other hand, women were found to spend higher time (1.40 hours) in cleaning cattle shed, dung collection, dung removing, and in making dung cakes.

TIME SPENT ON AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The data presented in Table 3 show that agricultural work was seasonal. During the peak season of harvesting operations, rural women spent 7.30 hours in the field, which is almost a full day. The operations include harvesting the crop, collecting the crop, threshing winnowing, drying & cleaning of

Table 2: Average time spent by rural women in livestock management N = 105

Sr. No.	Livestock activities	Hours spent (daily)
1.	Cleaning cattle shed, dung collection, dung removing, making dung cakes, etc.	1.40
2.	Feeding cattle, watering cattle, cattle milking, etc.	1.37
3.	Bringing fodder for the cattle	0.31
TOTAL		3.49

Table 3: Average time spent by rural women on agricultural activities N = 105

Sr. No.	Agricultural work	Time spent (hours)
1.	Pre sowing and sowing operations	
	1. Application of manure	5.31
	2. Maintenance of agricultural implements	0.39
	3. Selection and treatment of seeds	1.50
	4. To help farmers at sowing time	6.43
2.	Intercultural operations	
	1. Filling gaps after transplantation	3.50
	2. Irrigation	1.33
	3. Weeding	7.12
	4. Fertilizer application	3.32
	5. Watching standing crop	1.22
3.	Harvest and post harvest operations	
	1. Harvesting the crops	7.30
	2. Collecting the crops	7.30
	3. Threshing	7.30
	4. Winnowing	7.30
	5. Drying and cleaning grains	7.30
	6. Storing and treating the grains of the seeds	7.30
TOTAL		73.93

grains, storing and treating the grains & seeds. As a result, during peak season, women could not pay any attention to her daily work including taking care of her children.

The analysis of data on time spent by rural women for pre sowing and sowing operations were carried out and the results are depicted in the table 3. It has been observed that the average time spent by rural women for application of manure was 5.32 hours and for maintenance of agricultural implements was 0.39 hours. The corresponding values for the other operations viz., selection and treatment of seeds and to help farmers at sowing time were 1.50 hours and 6.43 hours respectively.

It was further observed that for various intercultural activities like filling gaps after transplantation and weeding; rural women were spending 3.50 hours and 7.30 hours respectively. It was also observed that in the absence of male members, the women

contribute 3.32 hours for fertilizer application and 1.33 hours for irrigation. Elderly people of the community exclusively take the job of watching standing crop for nearly 1.30 hours.

CONCLUSION

Rural women were found to spend 6.37 hours a day in completing household chores and 3.49 hours per day on animal based tasks. During the peak season of agriculture, women spent almost full day for various agricultural operations. The present study clearly indicated that in addition to household tasks, the rural women contribute a lot in various agricultural operations. The rural women also perform most of the animal based tasks.

Hence, they should be trained in various skills related to scientific farming and dairying. It will help to boost up present agricultural production.
