

RESEARCH NOTE

Participation and Time Spent by Tribal Farm Women in Agriculture and Household Activities

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INTRODUCTION

Women in general spend on an average 30 per cent of their time in unpaid household work without any assistance from men folk. Although women have a very important and crucial role in various stages of agricultural production with household and animal husbandry activities. Mujal *et al.* (1985) stated that about 60, 90 and 95 per cent of women in farm families participated in crop production, dairy and household activities, respectively.

The tribal population in Gujarat is 14.23 per cent whereas in Panchmahals district of Gujarat State have tribal population more than 41.76 per cent of the total population. Tribal women play a significant role in Indian agriculture. Ofcourse, tribal women are most probably illiterate. We have conducted this study to know the participation and time spend by tribal farm women in agriculture and household activities and collected information from the Panchmahals district of Gujarat State.

The specific objectives of the study were as follows :

1. To identify the activities performed by tribal farm women.
2. To know the time utilization pattern of tribal farm women.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in five talukas of Panchmahals district i.e. Devgadhi Baria, Zalod, Dahod, Limkheda and Santrampur, where population is totally tribal. Two villages from each Taluka and 15 tribal farm families from each village were selected randomly. One active tribal farm woman from each selected tribal farm family was considered as the respondent for the study. The data collected by presenting interview schedule containing operations on farm and household activities. The information related to farm activities were recorded only for kharif season.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Participation and time spent by Tribal Women on Farm Activities :

Highest level of participation by tribal women was observed in the weeding (98.67 per cent), harvesting (97.34 per cent) and soil preparation and manuring (96.67 per cent) operation.

Regarding the time utilization pattern, it is evident from Table 1 that, time spent in weeding of crop fields (220.58 hrs.) was the highest. Least time was spent on seed treatment (2.55 hrs.). Total 615.41 hours (76.9 man days) were spent by tribal women on different farm activities in the

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Table 1. Participation and time spent by tribal women on Farm Activities

				N = 150
Sr. No.	Activities	No.	Percent	Average time spent (in hours)
1.	Soil preparation and manuring	145	96.67	53.24 (6.7)
2.	Seed treatment	61	40.67	2.55 (0.32)
3.	Sowing	136	90.67	49.36 (6.2)
4.	Transplanting	114	76.00	41.40 (5.2)
5.	Fertilizer application	28	18.67	5.95 (0.7)
6.	Weeding	148	98.67	220.58 (27.6)
7.	Watching the birds	48	32.00	38.70 (4.8)
8.	Harvesting	146	97.34	114.65 (14.3)
9.	Processing and storage	120	80.00	60.14 (7.5)
10.	Marketing	84	56.00	28.84 (3.6)
Total				615.41 (76.9)

study areas. Though the research work pertaining to the participation and time spent by tribal women on farm activities is limited. The results of Shashikala *et al.* (1990) regarding the time utilization of farm women towards various farm operations was in line with these results.

Participation and Time Spent by Tribal Women on Household Activities :

It is evident from Table 2 that, overall participation of Tribal women was found to be more in case of cooking and serving the

food (96.67 per cent). This was mainly because women whether from rural or urban, tribal or non-tribal area, are considered primarily as home makers. They have to perform other routine activities like caring children (90.00 per cent), cleaning the house (87.34 per cent), fetching water (86.67 per cent), washing clothes (85.34 per cent), cleaning the utensils (82.67 per cent) and shopping (45.34 per cent) for major portion of their time. Similar findings were also reported by Masur (1985) and Shashikala *et al.* (1990). Tribal women have

Table 2. Participation and time spent by tribal women in Household Activities

Sr. No.	Activities	No.	Percent	Average time spent/year (in hours)
1.	Cooking and Serving the food	148	96.67	1168.00 (146.0)
2.	Fetching water	130	86.67	310.4 (38.8)
3.	Caring children	135	90.00	630.35 (78.8)
4.	Cleaning the house	131	87.34	182.5 (22.8)
5.	Cleaning the utensils	124	82.67	263.75 (33.0)
6.	Washing clothes	128	85.34	22.45 (27.8)
7.	Shopping	68	45.34	19.50 (2.4)

to devote their time towards the routine household activities which are inevitable for a women, Chakravarti (1975) rightly quoted that : "Man works from sun to sun, but women's work is never done."

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

The findings indicate that considerable percentage of Tribal women of Panch-

mahals district performed the activities both at home and on the farm, which consumed a greater portion of their time. This implies the need for developing appropriate technologies which consume less of their time and also requires training to the tribal women on such technologies, is equally important so that they find pleasures in doing these activities.