

Participation of Tribal Farmwomen in Decision Making

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. The tribal farmwoman shares with her husband the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker, by helping in all other agricultural operations. Keeping this fact in mind, the present study was carried out to find out the extent of Participation of tribal farmwomen in decision making. The result of the study revealed that slightly more than half of the respondents' families made the decision on cultivation of crop jointly by husband and respondents. Nearly half of the respondents' families made the decision on marketing of produces jointly by husband and respondents. Slightly more than half of the respondents alone made the decision on storage of grains for home consumption and other purposes. Nearly three-fourth of the respondents' families made the decision on animal husbandry jointly by husband and respondent. In more than half of the respondents' families, the decision was made jointly by husband and respondent with respect to expenditure pattern.

Keywords: decision making, Tribal farmwomen

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest industry in India contributing to the source of livelihood for over 70 per cent of population. Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. In some of the activities, she is relatively more efficient than man. Dahod is one of the ITDP areas of Gujarat State, where various administrative measures have been adopted through large number of tribal development and welfare programmes under Tribal Area Sub Plan (TASP). Since, independence huge fund have been diverted by the Central and State Government through different agencies with a view to uplift their living standard and bringing them into the main stream of nation. Even after lapses of more than 50 years of independence the progress of tribal farmwoman is not yet upto the level of expectation in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry as she is continued to be in a state of neglect. Being illiterate and ignorant, she is over exploited. A victim of man made system, she is hardly considered equal to man in wage and

social status. Keeping in view the above said facts and information about the tribal farmwoman's situation and her multiple roles in agriculture and animal husbandry a study on Participation of tribal farmwomen in decision making in integrated tribal development project area of Dahod district of Gujarat state ' was undertaken.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas of Dahod district of Gujarat in 2006. Out of seven talukas of the district, five talukas namely (1) Dahod (2) Zalod (3) Limkheda (4) Garbada and (5) Dhanpur were selected purposively for this study. Out of total villages of each selected taluka, two villages were randomly selected comprising total ten villages from five selected talukas kof ITDP Dahod. From each village, 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus, total sample of 200 respondents were selected for the present study.

The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. The interview schedule was translated in to Gujarati language and pre-tested in the field on a separate 20 non-sampled respondents. On the basis of

pre-testing, necessary modifications were made in the final draft and used as the instrument for data collection.

The respondents were asked about their participation in decision making related to farm operations, animal husbandry activities and expenditure pattern. Decision making was grouped into five groups, viz., husband and wife jointly, wife alone, neighbour and friends, husband alone and relatives taking decision.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Extent of participation of tribal farmwomen in decision making

In order to plan and carry out farm and home programme successfully in tribal area, there is need to know whether decision taken by tribal farmwomen was at individual level or joint decisions. To determine the decision making pattern, the decision makers were categorised into five groups, namely (i) husband, (ii) respondent (iii) husband and respondent (iv) neighbour and friends and (v) relatives. The data in this regard are presented in Table 1.

Farm business related tasks

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their participation in decision making

n = 200

Sr. No.	Particulars	Decision making				
		H	R	H+R	N & F	Re
I	Farm business related tasks					
(a)	About cultivation of crop	79 (39.50)	05 (2.50)	107 (53.50)	09 (4.50)	00 (0.00)
(b)	Marketing of produces	84 (42.00)	06 (3.00)	103 (51.50)	07 (3.50)	00 (0.00)
(c)	Storage of grains	36 (18.00)	104 (52.00)	60 (30.00)	00 (0.00)	00 (0.00)
II	Animal husbandry	44 (22.00)	16 (8.00)	140 (70.00)	00 (0.00)	00 (0.00)
III	Expenditure pattern	71 (35.50)	15 (7.50)	114 (57.00)	00 (0.00)	00 (0.00)

H = Husband alone, R = Respondent alone, H + R = Husband and Respondent, N & F = Neighbour and Friends, Re = Relatives

(Figures in parenthesis indicates percentages)

About cultivation of crop

Nearly half (53.50 per cent) of the families made the decision on cultivation of crop jointly by husband and respondents followed by 39.50 per cent by husband alone, whereas 2.50 per cent by respondents alone. While in 4.50 per cent of the families decisions were made by neighbour and friends on cultivation of crop which comprises the selection of crop, selection of variety, selection of area for crop, crop rotation, sowing time, purchase of seeds, purchase and use of manures and fertilizers, purchase and use of insecticides and pesticides, time and method of weeding, requirement and selection of labour, adoption of modern (recommended) agricultural technology, time of harvesting and storage of seeds.

Marketing of produces

Nearly half (51.50 per cent) of the respondents stated that decision was made by jointly (husband and respondent) on marketing of the produces which involves how much to sell, place for sell and rates at which produce should be sold. In 42.00 per cent of the families, the decision was made by husband alone, whereas 3.00 per cent of respondents indicated these decision was made by them on this aspects. While 3.50 per cent of the respondents stated that neighbours and friends helped them in taking decisions on marketing of produces.

Storage of grains

More than half (52.00 per cent) of the respondents alone made the decision on storage of grains for home consumption and other purposes, followed by 30.00 per cent of the respondents stated that the decision was made jointly by husband and respondent. While in 18.00 per cent of the families, decision on these aspects was made by husband alone.

Animal husbandry activities

Nearly three fourth (70.00 per cent) of the families made the decision on animal husbandry which involves selling price of milk and milk product, purchase and sale of animals, type and quality of fodder for animals jointly by husband and respondent followed by in 22.00 per cent of the families decision on these aspects was made by husband alone. While 8.00 per cent of the respondents stated that the decision on the same aspects was made by themselves alone.

Expenditure pattern

In more than half (57.00 per cent) of the families, the decision was made jointly by husband and respondent with respect to expenditure on food and clothes, sale and purchase of land and amount to be spent on labour work. Whereas 35.50 per cent of the respondents stated that decision was made by their husband on expenditure pattern. While 7.50 per cent of the respondents made the decision themselves alone on these aspects.

The findings are supported by findings of Shirolkar (1993), Patel et al. (1995), Pattanaik (1996) and Sheokand et al. (1999).

CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the study that nearly half (53.50 per cent) of the families made the decision on cultivation of crop jointly by husband and respondents, followed by 39.50 per cent by husband alone, whereas 2.50 per cent by respondents alone. While in 4.50 per cent of the families decisions were made by neighbour and friends on cultivation of crop. Nearly half (51.50 per cent) of the respondents stated that decision was made by jointly (husband and respondents) on marketing of the produces which involves how much to sell, place for sell and rates at which produce should be sold. In 42.00 per cent of the families, the decision was made by husband alone, whereas 3.00 per cent of respondents indicated these decision was made by them on this aspects. More than half (52.00 per cent) of the respondents alone made the decision on storage of grains for home consumption and other purposes, followed

by 30.00 per cent of the respondents stated that the decision was made jointly by husband and respondent. Nearly three fourth (70.00 per cent) of the families made the decision on animal husbandry which involves selling price of milk and milk product, purchase and sale of animals, type and quality of fodder for animals jointly by husband and respondent, followed by in 22.00 per cent of the family decision on these aspects was made by husband alone. In more than half (57.00 per cent) of the families, the decision was made jointly by husband and respondent with respect to expenditure on food and clothes, sale and purchase of land and amount to be spent on labour work.

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