

PARTICIPATION PATTERN OF RURAL WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

A rural woman contributes a lot in the household production system by participating in agriculture activities, different income generating activities like teaching, selling matters etc. and family as well as social activities which are an essential part of rural economy. To study the participation pattern of rural women in household production system, an experiment with ex post facto research design was conducted in three talukas named Vansda, Chikhali and Khergam of Navsari district. Two villages from each taluka were selected randomly. From one village twenty rural women as respondent were selected. The interview schedule was prepared and pre-tested to collect the data. Total 120 respondents were surveyed through personal interview technique from their home, farm, office or any other workplace. It was found that majority of the rural women had medium to low level of participation in household production system with medium level of participation in farm activities, home activities, off farm activities and communal activities.

Keywords: rural women, household production system, farm activities, off-farm activities, home activities, communal activities, participation

INTRODUCTION

The woman in its quite a number of roles as mother, wife, daughter, grandmother, daughter-in-law helps in household affairs to increase the economy (Bhimani *et al.*, 2020). Rural women are the precious resources for agricultural development. Rural women are the invisible lifeline of the agrarian rural community. They are not only the pioneer of the home but they give incomparable contribution in farming activities also. Even, to sustain the economic condition of household, they participate in non farming or income generating activities. The community is nothing without women. It is difficult to explain the situation, success of any community without considering the participation of rural women in progress of society. So, in this way rural women participate in household production system.

Household works are subjected to encompass everything, which is completed to organize and care for a family and a home, consisting of normal domestic, and 5 social work and also monetary work, which are carried out while last at home. As a way as the women's daily works are concerned, they are ordinarily undefined and thought as responsibility alternatively than a work. Pattern of participation in household production system has four major patterns as following:

Pattern 1

Participation of rural women in farm activities like land preparation, sowing, crop protection activities, irrigation, intercultural operations, harvesting and post harvesting as well as some marketing activities. In most of the activities women are actively involved as cultivators or as supervisor or as agricultural labourers. The role of women has always been a multi-dimensional and significant as women have performed well in case of agricultural activities, domestic activities, marketing 2 activities as far as labour requirement is considered. No operation in field is beyond them.

Pattern 2

Participation of rural women in home activities like cleaning the house, purchase of household articles, kitchen management, child and family care, collection of forest by products like honey, leaf debris, fire wood etc. and laundry activities. The presence of a woman is most seen, felt and skilled in the family. In reality the woman is most visible at home. In our country women play a pivotal position in the household and the community, shouldering all the duties presenting for the needs and comforts of the male individuals of the family and the children, running the household, managing inside the restrained budget.

Pattern 3

Participation of rural women in off farm/ income generating activities like agricultural and non-agricultural wage employee, tailoring, dairy keeping, tiffin service, shop keeping, handicraft , agro based activities, petty trades etc. For rural households dwelling at subsistence levels, off-farm work helps to increase farm income, diversify against risk, and enhance returns to training. We treat participation in off-farm employment as an economically-motivated and socially and mediated activity. Rural women by participating in income generating activities (IGAs) help to change the livelihood of the poor family in phrases of living condition, housing, nutrition, savings, dress, clinical treatment, health, sanitation, liberalization and training.

Pattern 4

Participation of rural women in communal activities like marriage function, food preparation on social functions, family gathering, parents meeting, religious activities etc.

In this way rural women’s participation in agriculture, different occupations like teaching, selling matters etc. and family activities are income generating as properly as expenditure saving. A rural woman contributes a lot in the household production system, which is an essential part of rural economy.

OBJECTIVE

To assess the participation pattern of rural women in a household production system

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Navsari district of south Gujarat region during the year 2018-2019. Out of six talukas of Navsari district three talukas Viz., Vandsa, Chikhali and Khergam were selected for the study. This district was selected purposively because there are maximum rural women who are working on the entire four participation pattern. Two villages from each taluka were selected randomly. From one village twenty rural women as respondent were selected. Thus, total 120 respondents from three talukas were selected for study.

An interview schedule was developed by covering all dependent and independent variables. The personal interview method was used to collect the data regarding participation in all four major pattern i.e participation in farming activities, participation in home activities, participation in off farm activities and participation in communal activity. By counting the pooled data of all four patterns, the participation

in household production system had calculated. The data collected through interview schedule was transferred in the master sheet. The statistical tools i.e. frequency, rank, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, correlation coefficient (r) were used to derive the inference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pattern 1

Participation in farm activities

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to participation in farm activities

(n = 120)

Sr. No.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Percent
1	Low (up to 11.72 score)	31	25.83
2	Medium (11.73 to 91.49 score)	65	54.17
3	High (above 91.49 score)	24	20.00

Mean score=51.61

S.D.= 39.88

The data presented in table 1 revealed that 54.17 per cent of rural women had medium level of participation in farm activities followed by 25.83 per cent and 20.00 per cent had high and low level of participation, respectively. So, majority of the respondents (74.17 %) had medium to high level of participation in farm activities.

Pattern 2

Participation in home activities

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to participation in home activities

(n = 120)

Sr. No.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Percent
1	Low (up to 51.22 score)	15	12.50
2	Medium (51.23 to 77.14 score)	96	80.00
3	High (above 77.14 score)	09	7.50

Mean score=64.18

S.D.= 12.96

Table 2 revealed that 80.00 per cent of rural women had medium level of participation in home activities followed by 12.50 per cent and 7.50 per cent had low and high level of participation, respectively. So, majority of the respondents (87.50 %) had medium to high level of participation in home activities.

Pattern 3

Participation in off farm activities

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to participation in off farm activities (n=120)

Sr. No.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Percent
1	Low (up to 21.24 score)	14	11.67
2	Medium (21.24 to 53.03 score)	81	67.50
3	High (above 53.03 score)	25	20.83

Mean score=37.13 S.D.=15.90

Table 3 revealed that 67.50 per cent of rural women had medium level of participation in off farm activities followed by 20.83 per cent and 11.67 per cent had high and low level of participation, respectively. So, majority of the respondents (79.17%) had medium to high level of participation in off farm activities.

Pattern 4

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to participation in communal activities (n = 120)

Sr. No.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Percent
1	Low (up to 38.37 score)	19	15.83
2	Medium (38.38 to 65.03 score)	83	69.17
3	High (above 65.03 score)	18	15.00

Mean score=51.70 S.D.= 13.33

Participation in communal activities

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to participation in household production system (n = 120)

Sr. No.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Percent
1	Low (up to 146.91score)	33	27.50
2	Medium (146.92 to 262.34 score)	61	50.83
3	High (above 262.34 score)	26	21.67

Mean score=204.63 S.D.= 57.71

Table 4 revealed that 69.17 per cent of rural women had medium level of participation in communal activities followed by 15.83 per cent and 15.00 per cent had low and high level of participation, respectively. So, majority of the respondents (84.17%) had medium to high level of participation in communal activities.

Participation pattern of rural women in household production system

The data presented in table 5 revealed that 50.83 per cent of rural women belonged to medium level of participation group with respect to all four major pattern of household production system followed by 27.50 and 21.67 per cent of rural women belonged to low and high level of participation group, respectively. So, majority of the rural women (72.50 %) were having medium to high level of participation in household production system.

The probable reason for this result might be that most of the rural women were actively participating in all the home activities as well community activities. But some rural women who were actively participating in all the farm activities, they had very low level of participation in off farm activities and vice-versa due to burden of work. This finding was in line with the finding of Patel (2016) and Ku (2017) Chandravadia et al. (2021).

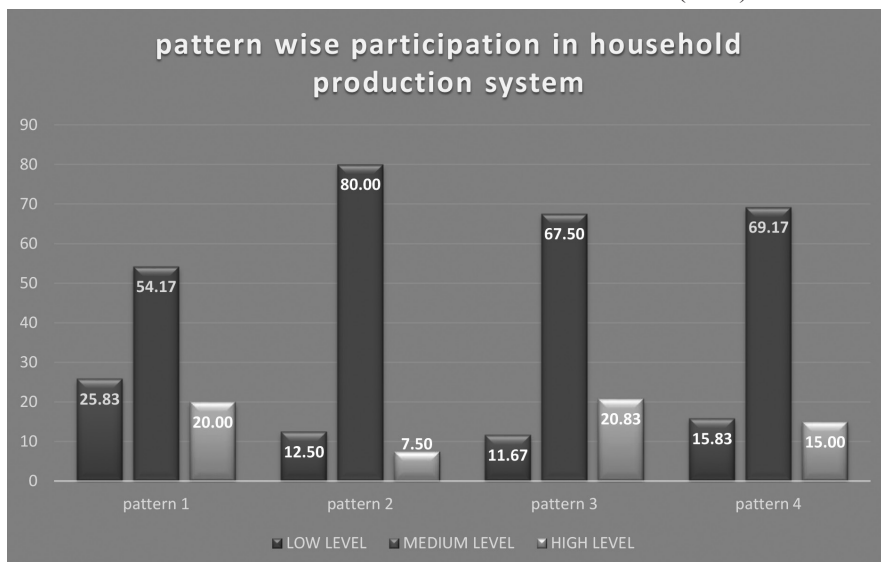


Fig. 1: Distribution of respondents according to pattern wise participation in household production system

CONCLUSION

The conducted study shows that majority of the rural women had medium to low level of participation in household production system with medium level of participation in farm activities, home activities, off farm activities and communal activities.

IMPLICATION

The psychological variables such as risk orientation, innovativeness, market orientation and self-confidence had contributed significantly to the prediction of participation of rural women in major four patterns of household production system. It has proved that participation of rural women could be improved through change in their psychology. It is, therefore, recommended that more efforts should be made by the government, non-government and other organizations so as to enable the rural women to change their psychology in positive direction. Education, training, personal visits, effective communication through mass media and demonstrations are some of the important and effective ways of changing rural women's psychology from traditional to modern way of thinking.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict between authors.

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