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CONSTRAINTS FACED BY FARM WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND ALSO IN DECISION MAKING AND SEEK THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION

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ABSTRACT

India is a country of great tradition, where social customs and norms exert a firm grip over the behavioral patterns of individuals. Women constitute one of the most important and dynamic but deprived and long neglected sections of the Indian society. For the present study Prayagraj district is selected by purposive sampling because the participation of women in agriculture is comparatively more than the other districts of Uttar Pradesh. There are 20 blocks in the selected district out of that, Kaudihaar block is selected by purposive sampling because maximum numbers of women are engaged in agriculture. One hundred twenty farmers were selected from 8 villages. Data were collected by using pre-tested schedule and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools. Lacks of family support, lack of knowledge, dominance of male members in the family are the constraints faced by farm women. Farm women faced major constraints in decision making process about various agriculture related activities were: social/cultural norms and lack of self confidence in decision. Empowerment of women in developing countries like India will lead the nation to a breaking issue of humanist thinking for globalization. The major suggestions offered by farm women to overcome the constraints were more technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to farm women and training should be imparted at village level.

Keywords: Women, Knowledge, dominance, constraints etc.



INTRODUCTION

The role of women has to be visual and as described in the words of Tagore in chitra, “I am not goddess to be worshiped, nor yet the object common pity to be brushed aside like a moth within difference, if you desire to keep me by your side in the path of danger and daring, if you allow me to shave the great duties, of your life then you will know my true self”. It acknowledged that women is the first agriculturist in the world. When men were basically hunters, it was the woman who collected the grains, fruits, and cooked food for the man and after the domestic animals like cattle, sheep, goats, poultry etc. throughout the history of man till today, woman directly or indirectly influenced the course of agriculture and animal husbandry. In developing countries like India 81percent of the rural women depends upon agriculture either as cultivators or as labourers and participate in several activities, such as sowing, transplanting, weeding, fertilizer application, plant protection, thinning, harvesting processing selling, winnowing, storing, looking after the animals, kitchen gardening etc.

Several of these operations are exclusively carried out by women only. The role of women in agriculture varies on the socio-economic status of the families, regional differences, cropping and animal husbandry patterns etc. The nutrition of the family entirely depends upon the vision and the activities of the women. while woman plays most significant role in agriculture, her participation is taken for granted in the male dominated societies India achieved self reliance in food grains with the ushering in of green-revolution. Since independence, we tripled the population of food grains which is helping us not only to meet the internal requirements but also to build up large quantities of buffer stocks to meet any exigencies. We increased production of wheat, rice, cotton, potato, milk, meat, fish, poultry products etc...several folds in the last few decades of our independence.

The ICAR has also initiated and sponsored programmes and projects in home science mainly with the purpose of helping rural women overcome malnutrition, disease and socio-economic



constants involved in their development. At all India coordinated research project on home science is being operated at 6 centers in the country viz., Ludhiana, Hisar, Udaipur, Pantnagar, Hyderabad and Dharwad.

The ICAR has initiated four transfer of technology project viz. National Demonstrations Project, Operational Research projects, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and lab-to-lab programme which are all ready serving the farming communities by making new technologies available in their dear-steps. The KVKs and the ORPs on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are specially directed towards development of socio-economically deprived class of farmers including from women.

The council has established 24 KVKs in Andhra Pradesh which impart necessary skills to the practicing farmers and farm women girls in agriculture and allied professions like poultry keeping fisheries, piggery, sericulture, mushroom cultivation, goatry, rabbitry etc..the farm women and rural girls are also trained in the preparation of nutritional but low cost recipes from locally available food materials, post harvest-technology, storage of grain, failoring, knitting etc...in the last one decade, the kvks have organized 4.65% training programmes exclusively for farm women and rural girls. These training programmes have benefited over 1,22,000 female participation in different skills.

According to Swaminathan, the famous agricultural scientist, some historians believe that it was woman who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. While men went out hunting in search of food, women started gathering seeds from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fibre and fuel. Women are considered to be pioneers in all sorts of development, as they play a key role in shaping the character of young generation whom we call as the future of the nation. Women contribute nearly equally along with men. In the economic development of our country and hence the prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of women.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Kaudihaar block of Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh. Descriptive research design was followed for the analysis. The study was based on primary & secondary data. The data was collected from respondents by using the pre structured interview schedule. Data analysis is done through frequency and percentage distribution using statistical tools.

For calculating percentage, frequency was multiplied by 100 and divided by total number of Respondents.

$$P=X/N\times 100$$

Where,

P= Percentage

X= Frequency of the Respondents

N= Total number of Respondents

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Constraint in participation of farm women:

The constraint reported by the farm women in respect of participation process indicated that the constraints are of varied type and in-various intensity also. The details of constraints were listed in table 1.



Table. 1: Constraints perceived by farm women in participation process.

S. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Maximum time devotion in household work	80	66.66	IV
2.	Family norms	75	62.50	V
3.	Lack of knowledge	90	75.00	II
4.	Perplexity of time for farm and home activities	35	29.16	XII
5.	Afraid of work performance	40	33.33	X
6.	Dominance of male members in the family	70	58.33	VI
7.	No permission to women for work performance due to younger age	30	25.00	XIII
8.	Lack of confidence to agricultural activities	38	23.33	XI



9.	Lack of information about the resources of availability and use of it	50	41.66	VIII
10.	Lack of proper guidance	60	50.00	VII
11.	Inability in anticipating them possible repercussions of the work performance	45	37.50	IX
12.	Physical stress and strain	85	70.83	III
13.	Lack of family support	95	79.16	I
14.	Non interested in agricultural activities	25	20.83	XIV
	Average	58.43	48.09	

Table 1 indicates the constraints perceived by the farm women in their participation in agricultural activities. The average percentage of further constraint perceived by farm women in their participation was 48.09. The percentage of one, two, three, six, ten, twelve and thirteen



were higher than the percent of average i.e. 48.09. This means that these seven constraints were more important as compared to other.

As per the frequency level of farm women opinion in respect of constraints confronting in participation process and got rank accordingly, the item wise were lack of family support rank first, lack of knowledge rank second, physical stress and strain rank third, maximum time devotion in household work rank fourth, family norms rank fifth, dominance of male members in the family rank sixth, lack of proper guidance rank seventh, lack of information about the resources of availability and use of it rank eighth, inability in anticipating them possible repercussions of the work performance rank ninth, afraid of work performance rank tenth, lack of confidence to agricultural activities rank eleventh, perplexity of time for farm and home activities rank twelfth, No permission to women for work performance due to younger age rank thirteen and non-interested in agricultural activities rank fourteenth respectively.

Constraint in decision making pattern of farm women:

The decision making in agricultural process is the important task for resource use efficiency and managerial skill. Table 2 represents the constraints by women in decision making pattern.

Table. 2 Constraints perceived by farm women in decision making pattern.

S. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Maximum time devotion in household work	80	66.66	IV
2.	Family norms	75	62.50	V
3.	Lack of knowledge	90	75.00	I
4.	Perplexity of time for farm and home activities	35	29.16	XIII



5.	Afraid of making any improvement in farming	40	33.33	XI
6.	Dominance of male members in the family	70	58.33	VI
7.	Lack of education	86	71.66	II
8.	No permission to take decisions due to younger age	30	25.00	XIV
9.	Lack of confidence to take Decision	38	23.33	XII
10.	Inability to take decision due to contingent problems	55	45.85	IX
11.	Lack of information about the sources of availability of resources to solve the Problems	60	50.00	VIII
12.	Inability in diagnosing the problems about which decisions is to be taken	65	54.16	VII
13.	Lack of adequate information about the solution to problems	25	20.83	XV
14.	Lack of proper guidance for taking decision	45	37.50	X



15.	Inability in anticipating then possible repercussions of the decision taken	85	70.83	III
	Average	58.60	48.28	

The average percentage of further constraint perceived by farm women in their decision making pattern was 48.28. The Percentage of one, two, three, six, seven, eleven, twelve and fifteen were higher than the percent of average i.e. 48.28. This means that these eight constraints were more important as compared to other.

As per the frequency level of farm women opinion in respect of constraints faced by them in respect of decision making in agricultural activities and got rank accordingly, the item views were lack of knowledge rank first, lack of education rank second, inability in anticipating then possible repercussions of decision taken rank third, maximum time devoted in household work rank fourth, family norms rank fifth, dominance of male members in the family rank sixth, inability in diagnosing the problems about which decision is to be taken rank seventh, lack of information about the sources of availability of resources to solve the problems rank ninth, lack of proper guidance for taking decision rank tenth, afraid of making any improvement in farming ranked eleventh, lack of confidence to take decision rank twelfth, perplexity of time for farms and home activities rank thirteenth, no permission to take decision due to younger age rank fourteenth and in last, lack of adequate information about the solution to problems rank fifteenth.

Suggestions expressed by farm women regarding participation and decision making pattern.

1. Training
2. Education
3. Separate school
4. Parent co- operation
5. Good transport facility
6. Proper guidance



7. Family support
8. Creating interest towards agriculture

The average percentage of further constraint perceived by farm women in their suggestions was 65.10. The percentage of one, two, four, five and six, were higher than the per cent of average i.e. 65.10. This means that these five constraints were more important as compared to other.

As per the frequency level of the suggestion expressed by the farm women training module is fully necessary in agricultural activities. Overall 75.00 per cent farm women suggest that they required the training of modern technology in agriculture and this was in first rank. As per the other suggestions expressed by the farm women the education which was suggested by 72.50 per cent farm women, this was in second rank, parents co- operation was suggested by 71.66 per cent farm women, this was in third rank, proper guidance was suggested by 68.33 per cent farm women, this was ranked fourth, good transport facility was suggested by 66.66 per cent farm women ranked fifth, family support was suggested by 62.50 per cent farm women ranked sixth, creating interest towards agriculture was suggested by 58.33 per cent farm women ranked seventh and separate school was suggested by 45.83 per cent farm women ranked eighth.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that India is a country of great tradition, where social customs and norms exert a firm grip over the behavioral patterns of individuals. Women constitute one of the most important and dynamic but deprived and long neglected sections of the Indian society. It was found that Farm women faced major constraints in decision making process about various agriculture related activities were: social/cultural norms and lack of self confidence in decision. The major suggestions offered by farm women to overcome the constraints were: more technical guidance regarding scientific farming should be given to farm women and training should be imparted at village level. It was suggested that Efforts should be need to raise the literacy rate of rural women through adult education programme. Area specific cottage and allied agricultural



industries should be developed where in rural women could develop their skills and Appropriate training for raising skill should be given to farm women according to their need.

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