

Rural Women's Role in Decision Making Related to Agricultural and Livestock Activities in Jaipur District

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in two panchayat samities (Dudu and Jalsu) selected randomly from Jaipur district of Rajasthan. From the selected panchayat samities five villages from each panchayat samiti were selected by using simple random sampling and finally 120 respondents were selected. The data were collected with personal interview schedule. The finding of the study revealed that majority (73.33%) of rural women had medium participation in decision making agricultural activities. The aspects wise role of rural women in decision making related to agricultural activities, they had near to equally participation in livestock related decision and farm related decision and statement wise role of rural women in decision making related to agricultural activities, they played important role in "Management of labour" in farm related decision and in livestock related decision they played important role in "Retaining milk and other milk products for family consumption". There was no significant difference between the rural women of Dudu and Jalsu panchayat samities with respect to their role in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities.

Keywords: Agricultural and livestock activities, Decision-making, Role, Rural women

INTRODUCTION

Women play a pivotal role in agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (2011), women farmers account for more than quarter of the world's population. In Indian society, women have a multi dimensional role. The largest numbers of women in India are engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or as supervisors or as agricultural labourers. Doss (2011) clearly showed that women comprise about 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force globally. They are the main participants in various agricultural operations like seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, application of manure, storage of seeds and food grains and post harvest home level processing (Chayal *et al.*, 2010). Moktan and Mukhopadhyay (2012) found that

farm women had participated in all identified agricultural activities to a great extent. extent of women involvement was maximum in operations like transplanting, weeding, harvesting and storing (Nain and Kumar, 2010). Apart from all these they are also involved in bringing fodder from field, chaff cutting, feeding and cleaning of cattle, maintaining cattle shed, compost making etc. Women play a significant role in the agricultural labor force and in agricultural activities (ESA, 2011). Livestock is generally considered a key asset for rural livelihoods. Rural women play critical, diverse roles in livestock and agricultural production in the rural economies of developing countries as unpaid workers. However, their involvement as decision makers regarding various agricultural and livestock activities is still dubious. The work of women is seldom recognized and they are kept out of all important decision making processes. In rural

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areas women's participation rate in agricultural and livestock management activities is high as compared to men (UNDP, 1997). They have no or very little power to take decisions due to many reasons like lack of education, lack of mobility, lack of control over resources, low level of awareness of their civic/human rights, lack of credit facilities from the Government etc. (FAO, 2003 and Habib, 2000). Women belonging to low socio-economic strata are actively engaged in agricultural labour. There is a need to enhance women participation in decision making regarding agricultural and Livestock activities. The picture of rural women is that of a submissive, illiterate, ignorant, assess female, who has been trapped in web of traditions and customs. The desirable socio-economic development can be achieved only when women educated, empower and motivated to adopt new techniques. Education is an important weapon to fight ignorance, illiteracy and unemployment and it is increase women's confidence and courage and their economic contribution enable them to participate in decision making process.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. From selected district, two panchayat samities (Dudu and Jalsu) were selected randomly by using simple random sampling. From the selected panchayat samities five villages from each panchayat samiti were selected by simple random sampling. From 10 selected villages 120 respondents were selected by proportionate random sampling technique. The data were collected by using personal interview schedule. The collected data were analyzed by using following statistical tools such as mean score, standard deviation, Mean Percent Score & Z test.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 reveals that majority (73.33%) of rural women had medium participation in decision making related to agricultural activities, whereas 15.00 per cent had low and remaining 11.67 per cent rural women had high participation in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities. In case of panchayat samiti wise, in Dudu panchayat samiti majority (66.67%) of rural women had medium participation in decision making related to agricultural activities, whereas 26.67 per cent had low and remaining 6.66 per cent rural women had high participation in decision making related to agricultural activities. In Jalsu panchayat samiti majority (80.00%) of rural women had medium participation in decision making related to agricultural activities, whereas 16.67 per cent had high and remaining 3.33 per cent rural women had low participation in decision making related to agricultural activities.

Table 2 shows that near to equally important role was played by the rural women in livestock related decision making with MPS 52.86 and was ranked first and the second important role played by the rural women in farm related decision making with MPS 52.31. In Dudu panchayat samiti, rural women play an important role in farm related decision making with MPS 49.81 and was ranked first. The second important role played by the rural women in livestock related decision making with MPS 47.81. In Jalsu panchayat samiti, rural women play an important role in livestock related decision making with MPS 57.94 and was ranked first. The second important role played by the rural women in farm related decision making with MPS 54.81.

Table 1: Distribution of rural women according to their overall role in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities

Role in decision making	Dudu panchayat samiti (n=60)	Jalsu panchayat samiti (n=60)	Overall (n=120)
Low (up to 24 score)	16(26.67)	2(3.33)	18(15.00)
Medium (from 24 to 35 score)	40(66.67)	48(80.00)	88(73.33)
High (above 35 score)	4 (6.66)	10 (16.67)	14 (11.67)
Total	60(100.00)	60(100.00)	120(100.00)

Mean = 29.93, S.D. = 5.19 (Figures in the parentheses indicate percentages)

Table 2: Aspects wise distribution of rural women according to their role in decision making related to agricultural activities

Decision making activities	Mean percent scores					
	Dudu (n=60)	Rank	Jalsu (n=60)	Rank	Overall (n=120)	Rank
Farm related decision	49.81	I	54.81	II	52.31	II
Livestock related decision	47.78	II	57.94	I	52.86	I

It is revealed from Table 3 that the most important role played by the rural women in farm related decision was under “Management of labour” (MPS 80.55) followed by “Retaining the crop produce for household consumption” (MPS 78.66), “Area allocation to each crop” (MPS 66.94), “Time of harvesting” (MPS 66.38), “Storage of the farm produce” (MPS 65.55), and “Time of sowing” (MPS 55.83). While, decision making like “Selection of the crop (a) Type and number of crops to be taken in a crop season, variety of seeds” (MPS 45.55), “Purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides etc.” (MPS 44.44), “Taking advise from extension workers regarding improved package of practice” (MPS 43.88), “Purchase of farm machinery/ implements or agricultural land” (MPS 29.16), “Source for purchase of the inputs” (MPS 27.77), “Selling the produce (a) Time (b) Rate (c) Source” (MPS 24.71) were found to be under the category of ‘less important’ role played by the rural women in farm related decision making. Similar findings have also been reported by Masur (2000); Parveen (2007); Pandey *et al.* (2011); Nain and Kumar (2010) and Chayal *et al.* (2013). The most important role played by the rural women in farm related decision in Dudu panchayat samiti was under “Management of labour” (MPS 77.77). The second most important role played by the rural women was under “Retaining the crop produce for household consumption” (MPS 75.55) followed by “Storage of the farm produce” (MPS 65.00), “Time of harvesting” (MPS 62.22), “Area allocation to each crop” (MPS 60.55), “Time of sowing” (MPS 48.33), which were ranked, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth, respectively. While, decision making like “Selection of the crop (a) Type and number of crops to be taken in a crop season (b) Variety of seeds” (MPS 45.55), “Purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides etc.” (MPS 40.55), “Taking advise from extension workers regarding improved package of practice” (MPS 38.88), “Purchase

of farm machinery/implements or agricultural land” (MPS 30.00), “Source for purchase of the inputs” (MPS 27.77), “Selling the produce (a) Time (b) Rate (c) Source” (MPS 25.55) were found to be under ‘less extent’ category of role played by the rural women in farm related decision making in Dudu panchayat samiti. Farm related decision in Dudu panchayat samiti was under “Management of labour” (MPS 83.33). The second most important role played by the rural women was under “Retaining the crop produce for household consumption” (MPS 81.66), followed by “Area allocation to each crop” (MPS 73.33), “Time of harvesting” (MPS 70.55), “Storage of the farm produce” (MPS 66.11), “Time of sowing” (MPS 63.33), which were ranked, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth respectively. While, “Taking advise from extension workers regarding improved package of practice” (MPS 48.88), “Purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides etc.” (MPS 48.33), decision making like “Selection of the crop (a) Type and number of crops to be taken in a crop season (b) Variety of seeds” (MPS 45.55), “Purchase of farm machinery/implements or agricultural land” (MPS 28.33), “Selling the produce (a) Time (b) Rate (c) Source” (MPS 26.66) “Source for purchase of the inputs” (MPS 21.66), were found to be under ‘less extent’ category of role played by the rural women in farm related decision making in Jalsu panchayat samiti.

Further, the most important role played by the rural women in livestock related decision was under “Retaining milk and other milk products for family consumption” (MPS 88.33). The second most important role played by the rural women was under “Number of animals to be kept” (MPS 82.77) followed by “Construction of cattle shed” (MPS 68.60), “Selling the milk and other product (a) Rate (b) Source” (MPS 63.05), which were ranked, Third and Fourth respectively. While, “Selection of cattle breed” (MPS 31.38) and “Insurance of

Table 3: Distribution of rural women according to their role in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities

S. No.	Decision making activities	Mean percent scores					
		Dudu panchayat samiti (n=60)	Rank	Jalsu panchayat samiti (n=60)	Rank	Overall (n=120)	Rank
(A) Farm related decision							
1.	Selection of the crop (a) Type and number of crops to be taken in a crop season (b) Variety of seeds	45.55	VII	45.55	IX	45.55	VII
2.	Area allocation to each crop	60.55	V	73.33	III	66.94	III
3.	Purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides etc.	40.55	VIII	48.33	VIII	44.44	VIII
4.	Source for purchase of the inputs	27.77	XI	21.66	XII	24.71	XII
5.	Time of sowing	48.33	VI	63.33	VI	55.83	VI
6.	Management of labour	77.77	I	83.33	I	80.55	I
7.	Taking advice from extension workers regarding improved package of practice	38.88	IX	48.88	VII	43.88	IX
8.	Purchase of farm machinery/implements or agricultural land	30.00	X	28.33	X	XII	X
9.	Time of harvesting	62.22	IV	70.55	IV	66.38	IV
10.	Retaining the crop produce for household consumption	75.55	II	81.66	II	78.60	II
11.	Selling the produce (a) Time (b) Rate (c) Source	25.55	XII	26.66	XI	26.10	XI
12.	Storage of the farm produce	65.00	III	66.11	V	65.55	V
(B) Livestock related decision							
1.	Number of animals to be kept	76.11	II	89.44	II	82.77	II
2.	Selection of cattle breed	25.55	V	37.22	V	31.38	V
3.	Construction of cattle shed	66.66	III	70.55	IV	68.60	III
4.	Taking loans for the purchase of new animals	14.44	VII	20.00	VI	17.22	VII
5.	Insurance of animals	19.44	VI	17.77	VII	18.60	VI
6.	Retaining milk and other milk products for family consumption	81.11	I	95.55	I	88.33	I
7.	Selling the milk and other product (a) Rate (b) Source	51.11	IV	75.00	III	63.05	IV

animals" (MPS 18.60), "Taking loans for the purchase of new animals" (MPS 17.22), were found to be under the category of 'less extent' role played by the rural women in livestock related decision. Similar findings have also been reported by Cherian (2001) and Bhanotra *et al.* (2015). The most important role played by the rural women in livestock related decision in Dudu panchayat samiti was under "Retaining milk and other milk products for family consumption" (MPS 81.11) as it was perceived to the highest extent by rural women. The second most important role played by the rural women

was under "Number of animals to be kept" (MPS 76.11) followed by "Construction of cattle shed" (MPS 66.66), "Selling the milk and other product (a) Rate (b) Source" (MPS 51.11), which were ranked, Third and Fourth, respectively. While, "Selection of cattle breed" (MPS 25.55) and "Insurance of animals" (MPS 19.44), "Taking loans for the purchase of new animals" (MPS 14.44), were found to be under 'less extent' category of role played by the rural women in livestock related decision in Dudu panchayat samiti. The most important role played by the rural women in livestock related decision

Table 4: Comparison between Dudu and Jalsu panchayat samities in decision making (n=120)

Panchayat samities	Sample size	Mean score	S.D	'Z' Value
Dudu	60	26.94	2.35	2.01 ^{NS}
Jalsu	60	29.82	3.12	

NS = Non-significant

in Dudu panchayat samiti was under "Retaining milk and other milk products for family consumption" (MPS 95.55). The second most important role played by the rural women was under "Number of animals to be kept" (MPS 89.44) followed by "Selling the milk and other product (a) Rate (b) Source" (MPS 75.00), "Construction of cattle shed" (MPS 70.55) which were ranked, Third and Fourth respectively. While, "Selection of cattle breed" (MPS 37.22), "Taking loans for the purchase of new animals" (MPS 20.00) and "Insurance of animals" (MPS 17.77), were found to be under 'less extent' category of role played by the rural women in livestock related decision in Jalsu panchayat samiti.

To find out the significance difference in role of rural women in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities between these two panchayat samities, 'Z' test was done and the results are presented in the Table 4. Calculated 'Z' value was found less than the tabulated value which is statistically non-significant. It means that there was no significant difference between the rural women of Dudu and Jalsu panchayat samities with respect to their role in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities. It might be because of that rural women of both panchayat samities were having less education, social participation and extension contacts, so they don't have much participation in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities. These findings are supported by Manhas (2018).

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that there is a need to enhance women participation in the decision-making regarding agricultural and livestock activities. Education is an important weapon to fight ignorance, illiteracy, and unemployment and the educational facility should be

provided to females to enhance their capabilities in the rural areas. The result of present study showed that the majority of rural women had medium participation in decision making related to agricultural activities. The aspects wise role of rural women in decision making related to agricultural activities, they had near to equally participation, in livestock related decision and farm related decision) and statement wise role of rural women, majority of rural women had highest participation in "Management of labour" in farm related decision making and majority of farm women had highest participation in "Retaining milk and other milk products for family consumption" in livestock related decision making. There was no significant difference between the rural women of Dudu and Jalsu panchayat samities with respect to their role in decision making related to agricultural and livestock activities.

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