

A Case Study :

Productive resources and women empowerment

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It has been concluded that not only female independent access but their joint ownership was found to be negligible on land. Regarding education, 16.0 and 6.0 per cent male and female respondents were graduate and above. Where as fifty per cent female were found to be illiterate. 83.0 per cent male and 81.0 per cent female never attended any of the training where as 19.0 per cent female and 17.0 male attended one or other training. Cent per cent male were getting wages for their work where as approximately 1/3 females were paid workers and getting less salary/wages as compare to males. Over all female had low access and control to productive resources than male.

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries etc. It is a fact long taken for granted but also long ignored but at large they have remained as “invisible workers”. There is no denying the fact that women have suffered utter neglect and deprivation over centuries. But they have still made significant contribution in all walks of life. It was in this context that the United Nations had declared the ten years period ending 1985 as the decade for women with a view to ‘promote genuine equality between women and men; ensure the full integration of women and to enhance the contributions of women to the promotion of world peace’. It is a happy augury that women in general and rural farm women in particular since recently have been engaging due attention of the nation.

Gender is the process by which

males and females become men and women through the acquisition of culturally defined attributes of masculinity and feminity giving rise to sex stereotypes. Unlike sex which is a socially distinction, gender is a biological distinction which can be changed. It is a gender which determines the roles and functions of a female within the family. How gender affects the access to resources for the female require elaboration. Women are engaged in collection of fuel, fodder, dairy, poultry and kitchen households activities within the family. Consequently fundamental decision making regarding vital issues such as education, health care, expenditure of income on necessities, comforts, marriage of children, investment for permanent assets, earning from land are all taken by men. Therefore, the women left with little or no access to resources except her own self. Her situation is worsened due to limited mobility, illiteracy, poor health care, comparatively poor nutrition, fewer opportunities to acquire skill for self improvement, lack of ownership of land, property and assets and lack of access to institutionalized credit. Her productive role in generating income in the form of saving budgeting providing unpaid services goes unnoticed. Thus, the present study was conducted to explore the gender differences in assess to and control over productive resources.

The study was conducted in two randomly selected villages *i.e.* Dhigtana and Matershyam of Hisar district in Haryana state. Fifty couples from each village were selected randomly. To find out differential access to and control over productive resources, both husband and wife were interviewed. Thus, total sample size comprised of 200 respondents. Access to and control over productive resources

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